

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting
held on 30th July 2007 in the
Roberts Room, Bridges Community Centre**

Present: The Chairman Councillor Mrs V Mitchell
Councillor Mrs M Atkins, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor T Christopher,
Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor D Stevens

In attendance: Mr David Cummings

Agenda Item	Details	Action
26.	<u>To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda:</u> None declared	
27.	<u>To receive apologies for absence:</u> Cllr Mrs C Pearce, Cllr L Robson and Cllr Mrs S White	
28.	<u>To approve minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2007 :</u> Approved with the amendment of Cllr Mrs Atkins: Item 15: Drybridge Park: Delete 'would' damage tree roots and insert 'could possibly'	
29.	<u>To review action summary and receive Town Clerk's report:</u> <u>Visit to Shared Space site:</u> Cllr Mrs Mitchell informed members that MPF had applied for a £5,000 grant to undertake an initial study but had not been successful. However, the Transport & Economics Group at WAG were interested in such a study and had requested a proposal from Hamilton-Baillie Associates; this was submitted last week. <u>Visit Shared Space site in the Netherlands:</u> Cllr Mrs Atkins reported that she had not been able to visit such a site on her recent trip to the Netherlands. <u>Replacement Life Belt at Monnow Bridge:</u> The Clerk has written to MCC requesting a replacement. Members requested this be followed up as a matter of urgency. <u>Working Party to consider 'Reclaiming our Town Centre':</u> Cllr Stevens agreed to convene the initial meeting; the emphasis would be to concentrate on strategic implications of projects <u>MCC Highways 'Regional Transport Plan':</u> Cllr Mrs Mitchell described the aims of the plan which all appeared to be very laudable. So far as Monmouthshire was concerned, it was noted that the County had the highest level of car ownership but had the worst access to facilities.	Clerk DS

Signature: _____

	<p>Obtain Information from OSS re availability of benches from other sources: Cllr Mrs Mitchell reported that the OSS does not maintain a list but passes possible sources to the Town Clerk. At present the only bench available is from the Green Dragon (once sufficient monies have been collected) but they require the bench to be located by the Old Bridge which already has two benches.</p>	
30.	<p><u>To Receive Correspondence:</u> <u>Air Quality in Monmouth Update:</u> Monitoring continues at the junction of the A40/A466 and a new monitoring site has been installed at the junction of Monnow Street and St John Street. The 2007 progress report is now available and can be accessed at: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/Monmouth/English/Environment_and_Planning <u>Request for Traffic Calming Measures in Hereford Road:</u> Members requested that evidence be produced that these were needed and felt that this was not a priority, noting that there was no school in the vicinity, there was already a speed camera sign, and the problem occurred only when there were no parked cars. It was suggested that a more suitable solution might be to redesign the road along Shared Space principles <u>Rural Development Plan for Wales Axis 3:</u> MCC is submitting Expressions of Interest on projects totalling £1 million a year over seven years; these include the Welcome Centre, refurbishment of the Savoy foyer, the Iron Bridge, and gate house on the Old Bridge. Members were advised that the deadline for Expressions of Interest was noon on 17th September. It was agreed to make the following submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of the riverbank between the two bridges and provision of seating • Work creation scheme for young people A proposal for a submission for a wall at the Gate House pub be referred to the Planning Committee</p>	<p>VM</p> <p>AD DS Clerk</p>
31.	<p><u>To Consider Forward Plan for 2007/2008:</u> Deferred to next meeting.</p>	LR
32.	<p><u>To Consider Further Proposals of the Litter Policy Working Group:</u> Cllr Mrs Atkins outlined the work undertaken to date and requested that letters be sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools – to seek information • Fast Food Outlets – reminding them of their responsibilities and suggesting alternative packaging • Voluntary Groups – encouraging and supporting them in their efforts • Official Bodies responsible for litter clearing in a particular area It was agreed that drafts of such letters be presented to the next meeting for approval.</p>	MCA
33.	<p><u>To Consider Draft Contract for Christmas Lights:</u> The proposed contract was agreed with the following additional items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lights should be put up as soon as possible after Remembrance Day and switched on as quickly as possible – this year preferably by Friday, 16th November and at the latest by the 23rd November • Testing is done well before installation • There is help on hand to sort problems while the lights are up • That the lights are taken down at a mutually convenient date </p>	Clerk

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34.	<p><u>To Consider Replacement of Bench outside Commerce House:</u> On closer inspection it had been decided that the bench could be repaired. A quote of £41.31 + VAT had been obtained for four slats. The expenditure was approved.</p>	Clerk
35	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u> <u>Lights in Drybridge Park:</u> Cllr Mrs Chivers reported that it would cost around £2,000 to rewire and get working the lights that became disconnected during the construction of Monnow Vale. It might be possible to share this cost with the NHS and MCC. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting under agenda item 'Local Area Projects'. <u>Parking on the Old Bridge:</u> Cllr Christopher reported that no action had been taken to enforce parking regulations on the Old Bridge as discussed with PC Smith at our last meeting as he had been on holiday since then. <u>Friends of the Earth:</u> Cllr Mrs Atkins reported that Friends of the Earth were active in Monmouth on the issue of dispensing with plastic bags and other issues. It was agreed that Cllr Were, who attends the FoE meetings, be asked to report at Town Council on their activities <u>Bench in Somerset Road:</u> Cllr Fletcher requested that the bench that was stolen from Somerset Road be replaced. It would have to be concreted into the ground. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting as a Local Area Project.</p>	Clerk Clerk
36.	<p><u>To Confirm Date of Next Meeting:</u> The next meeting will be held on 13th August 2007</p>	
Meeting Closed at 8.35 pm		

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____