

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting
held on 13th August 2007 in the
Community Room, Shire Hall**

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

In attendance: Mr Grahame Thomas, Mr Phil Bly, Mr Derek Jones

Agenda Item	Details	Action
37.	<u>To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda:</u> None declared	
38.	<u>To receive apologies for absence:</u> Councillor Mrs S Chivers Councillor Mrs S White	
39.	<u>To approve minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th July:</u> Approved and signed by the Chairman	
40.	<u>To receive 'Blue Plaque Scheme' proposal from the Civic Society:</u> Mr Grahame Thomas reported that a very good quote had been received from the Ned Heywood Workshop Gallery of £3,850 for the design, supply and fixing of eleven plaques of 450 mm diameter. They would be fired to 1280 degrees centigrade, would be harder than steel, unaffected by frost, the colour will never fade and with no maintenance should last for many hundreds of years. The Civic Society propose that the eleven plaques be placed in a trail to include Drybridge House, St Thomas' Church, Monnow Bridge, Great Castle House, White Swan Inn, Monmouth Priory, St Mary's Priory Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, the Savoy Theatre, Beaufort Arms and the Shire Hall. Members requested that the Shire Hall be part of a further tranche and be replaced by the Museum/Butter Market. It was agreed that lettering be in upper case and the text be in English and Welsh; there will be no cost for the translation. A planning fee of £86 is likely to cover all plaques (no fee is payable for listed buildings). Members requested that the plaques include a small space for the future incorporation of a microchip. It was agreed that the Civic Society, having obtained written approval from the owners of each building, should proceed with the project within the approved budget of £4,000.	

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	It was noted that CADW will match fund monies obtained from other sources. It is planned that the next tranche should include commercial premises such as the Robin Hood and it is hoped that these premises would be prepared to pay 50% of the cost. Eventually it is hoped that several Monmouth trails will be designed and that these will provide an added attraction to the town. Mr Thomas agreed to liaise with David Evans and Canon Pain in their ideas on further trails.	
41.	<u>To Review Action Summary and Receive Town Clerk's Report:</u> <u>Set up Working Party to consider 'Reclaiming our Town Centre':</u> In hand <u>Arrange refurbishment of town benches:</u> Apart from the bench outside Commerce House, all other benches will be repainted at a cost of £25 per bench. This work has started, with the town centre a priority <u>Repair of bench outside Commerce House:</u> In hand	
42.	<u>To Receive Correspondence:</u> <u>Mowing of St Mary's Churchyard:</u> Mr O'Donovan at MCC has replied to say that with a six figure reduction in his section's budget next year they are no longer able to undertake free grass cutting. It was agreed that we write to Canon Pain asking him to obtain quotes from local enterprises including Dave Smith at Greenfingers, Monnow Vale; hopefully these will be substantially lower than that from MCC <u>Litter in Chippenham Park:</u> Felicity de Bruler has requested that litter be cleared at the weekends in the children's play area; this is already in hand.	VM VM
43.	<u>To Consider Forward Plan for 2007/2008:</u> Deferred to next meeting.	LR
44.	<u>To Discuss 'Rural Development Plan for Wales Axis 3:</u> <u>Care of the riverbank between the two bridges and provision of seating:</u> It was agreed that we should include making good of the allotment road (Councillor Fletcher to provide quote). Councillor Dewhurst agreed to submit an expression of interest on behalf of the Committee. <u>Work creation scheme for young people:</u> Councillor Stevens described his 'Green Light' scheme to members which essentially is an extension of the business mentoring scheme undertaken at Monmouth Comprehensive. It would provide work creation for non-university young people and bring light industry into the town. The young people would have an opportunity to establish their own business with continued guidance from their mentor; they would be allowed to stay in the scheme for up to five years. Councillor Stevens agreed to submit an expression of interest on behalf of the Committee.	AD DS

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45.	<p><u>To Discuss Monmouth Flower Project:</u> Because Annette Baker could no longer undertake the project due to her commitments with the Connect 2 bid, it was agreed that the contract be formally terminated and the Town Council's remaining monies be returned. Accounts have been submitted to Councillor Stevens as Chair of Finance, and the monies to be returned amount to £1,571.24. The project would still have £1,000 Agenda 21 monies and £1,500 from the Monmouth Open Garden Scheme. Hopefully these monies could be put by the Monmouth Flower Project towards sustainable planting in and around the town. It was agreed that hanging baskets did not represent value for money and should not form part of a Council funded planting scheme. Councillor Mitchell proposed that a competition be held for a planting scheme for the planters and raised beds that would be judged on the basis of sustainability, year round interest, identity, appropriateness for the area, impact and minimal maintenance. It was agreed that this should proceed (For: 5; against: 1; abstention: 1). It was agreed that the judges should be Councillor Mitchell, Mrs Cheryl Cummings, and a representative of the Usk Flower Project. It was agreed that the Town Council would not provide a prize. It was also agreed that Councillor Mitchell circulate members with details of the competition to obtain approval, and, subject to this approval, details of the competition can be circulated prior to the next meeting of the Committee.</p>	<p>VM</p> <p>VM</p>
46	<p><u>To Further Discuss Local Area Projects:</u> <u>All weather path from Watery Lane to Bridges:</u> Councillor Atkins reported that this might now be funded from Section 106 monies <u>Cycle racks near the Old Bridge:</u> Cost required <u>Cleaning town furniture:</u> Cost required <u>Benches at bus stops on the Hereford Road and Dixton Road:</u> Councillor Dewhurst requested that a bench also be provided at the bus stop near the cemetery. Cost required <u>Refurbish town benches:</u> In hand <u>Mowing of St Mary's Churchyard:</u> Councillor Mitchell to write to Canon Pain as agreed under item 42 <u>Mowing of river bank between the two bridges:</u> To form part of an Axis 3 Expression of Interest as agreed under Item 44 <u>Litter pick Chippenham Field over the weekend:</u> In hand <u>Gravel path at entrance to playing fields in Rockfield:</u> Completed <u>Make good allotment road:</u> To form part of an Axis 3 Expression of Interest as agreed under Item 44 <u>Replace concrete post fence along Redbrook Road:</u> Agreed that the Boys' School be requested to do this <u>Refurbish garages in Woodland View:</u> It was noted that no progress could be made until MCC had completed its housing stock transfer arrangements; to keep on list <u>Mend lights in Drybridge Park:</u> In hand <u>Replace bench in Somerset Road:</u> Cost required.</p>	<p>CA</p> <p>VM</p> <p>AD</p> <p>VM</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD</p> <p>JF</p> <p>VM</p> <p>LR</p> <p>TC</p> <p>JF</p>

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47.	<p><u>To Consider Further Proposals from the Litter Policy Working Group:</u> It was agreed that the draft letters provided by Councillor Atkins were acceptable with the exception that Councillor Mitchell was not prepared to accept the proposed letter to schools; it was agreed that these should go out under the signature of the Town Clerk.</p>	Clerk
48.	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u> <u>Connect 2 Community Day:</u> Councillor Dewhurst requested that members support this; to be discussed at Town Council meeting on 20th August 2007</p>	
49.	<p><u>To Confirm Date of Next Meeting:</u> The next meeting will be held at 7 pm on 24th September 2007</p>	
<p>The Meeting Closed at 9.15 pm</p>		

Date: _____

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