

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
 15th December 2008
 in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

PRESENT: Chairman Councillor A Were
 Councillor R Bond, Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers,
 Councillor T Christopher, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Councillor J Fletcher,
 Councillor Mrs J Hall, Councillor M Jones and Councillor B Smith

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
86.	<u>To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda:</u> Councillors Christopher, Mrs Dewhurst, Mrs Smith and Mrs Were all declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 92 – Transition Monmouth	
	Standing Orders were suspended to allow for Agenda item 96 to be brought forward	
96.	<u>To consider current provision of Allotments in Monmouth:</u> Mrs Debbie McCarty from the One Stop Shop attended to explain the Authority's policy and answer members' questions. Members were advised that there is no budget for allotments. A paper for Cabinet is being prepared and Councillor Mrs Hacket Pain is now the Cabinet Member with responsibility for allotments. She plans to hold meetings for county Allotment Association representatives. 35 of the 60 allotments have been allocated in the last 3 years. Due to the Village Green status this makes evictions too costly to carry out. Monthly inspections are made in the growing season and Lorraine Bermingham's help with this was acknowledged. Notices are sent to allotment holders giving 28 days to cut back perennial weeds if they are taking over. The probation service is available to help new holders clear plots. It was agreed to write to Councillor Mrs Hacket Pain to ask about the possibility of MCC using the land at the Link Road site on a 5 year lease for short term allotments. This would help to alleviate the long waiting list.	Clerk
87.	<u>To receive apologies for absence:</u> Councillors Ms Edwards, Hayward and Robson.	

Initials _____

88.	<p><u>To approve minutes of the previous meeting dated 17th November 2008:</u> Minutes of meeting dated 17th November were approved and signed</p>	
89.	<p><u>To review Action Summary and receive Town Clerk's report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Williamsfield bin not yet sited. MCC to be reminded • Williamsfield Lane request re No Through Road sign. MCC to be reminded • Somerfield bench still dangerous and has offensive graffiti on the back. AD to check with the makers re repairs. Only recycled plastic benches to be sited in future. • Site for rubbish bins in Old Dixton Road and behind Queen's Head agreed with MCC Mr. Glyn Edwards. Cost will be £330 each plus fixing. • Cycle racks. Agree overall figure to include siting at next meeting. • Wormtech visit. Friends Of the Earth are arranging a visit and to Cardiff recycling depot and anybody interested can join them. Details will be circulated when available. • Benches along Monnow bank. It was agreed to wait for Environment Agency to agree new policy then meet on site to discuss position. • Skate Park. Quote of £3500 to move it. Surfacing would cost £22 per sq. metre 	<p>Clerk Clerk AD AW</p>
90.	<p><u>To receive correspondence:</u> No. 4 Write to Trevor Hooper to advise that Councillor Mrs Hackett Pain is setting up a county Allotment Committee.</p>	Clerk
91.	<p><u>To consider purchasing new dog waste bin for Vauxhall Field area:</u> To be deferred to next meeting</p>	
92.	<p><u>To consider match funding request from Transition Monmouth:</u> Members were concerned about approving this prior to seeing a copy of the leaflet and a request was made to see a draft leaflet. Decision deferred to next meeting.</p>	Clerk
93.	<p><u>To consider match funding floodlighting on St Thomas's Church:</u> It was agreed to defer this item due to a lack of information. Members requested that a quote be obtained so that costs could be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	SC/Clerk
94.	<p><u>To consider litter/dog bin for the Town Ditch area near Clawdd Du:</u> Decision deferred to next meeting.</p>	
	<p>8.10pm Councillors Mrs Chivers and Fletcher left the meeting</p>	

Initials_____

95.	<p><u>To review committee's expenditure:</u> Street Decorations budget will be overspent by £1328 once the invoices have been received and paid It was agreed to earmark £500 for cycle racks in the Town Centre Enhancement budget and to vire monies for the overspend from the Street Decorations budget from this budget head. To be put on agenda for next meeting. Heritage Scheme: Once the Blue Plaques have been paid for there will be an overspend of £716. Vire from Town Centre Enhancement budget once payment is made. Match Schemes budget at present has a balance remaining of £6590 unspent and uncommitted. Town Maintenance budget all allocated Approximately £8000 remains in budget</p>	
97.	<p><u>To consider de-commissioning festoons of Christmas star lights.</u> Members agreed to this and would consider what suitable replacements could be purchased early next year. It was agreed to ask the Contractor to dispose of them.</p>	Clerk
98.	<p><u>To consider management of the wildlife corridor at the Rockfield Road Estate:</u> Members were in agreement with the work undertaken to cut the hedges but felt that the shrubberies should be maintained according to advice from the MCC Biodiversity Officer to better accommodate wildlife. A letter should be written to MCC to that effect. Councillor Christopher advised the committee that following a meeting with Tim O'Donovan from MCC it was agreed to replace existing flat face grills across the culvert in Kingswood Road and Watery Lane with three sided grills for improved water flow and reduction in the gathering of debris.</p>	AW/Clerk
99.	<p><u>To consider Wye Valley AONB Management Plan consultation document:</u> Councillor Mrs Hall volunteered to identify sections in the document relevant to Monmouth and collate comments for a recommendation to be made to the next Full Council meeting in January. Members to send her comments.</p>	
100.	<p><u>To agree contents or Press Release:</u> It was agreed not to send one.</p>	
101.	<p><u>To agree items of business to be discussed at next meeting:</u> Budget for additional benches and possible bandstand Develop River Bank Area Agree budget for new cycle racks</p>	
102.	<p><u>To confirm the date of the next meeting:</u> Monday 26th January 2009 at 6.30pm</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Date: _____

Signature: _____