

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
9th March 2009
in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

PRESENT: Chairman Councillor Mrs 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 and Councillor B Smith

Councillor Mrs Smith chaired the commencement of the meeting in the absence of the chair.

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
122.	<u>To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda:</u> None declared	
123.	<u>To receive apologies for absence:</u> Councillor R Hayward and Councillor M Jones	
124.	<u>To approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting dated 26th January 2009:</u> Minutes of meeting dated 26 th January 2009 were approved and signed as correct Proposed: Councillor Bond Seconded: Councillor Mrs Hall For: 7 Against: 0 Abstention: 1	
125.	<u>To confirm a virement from Town Centre Enhancements to Heritage Schemes which is over budget by £866.00 and £855.00 to the Street Decorations budget</u> It was agreed unanimously to transfer the funds due to an overspend on the individual budget heads Proposed: Councillor Christopher Seconded: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst Unanimous	
6.35pm	Councillor Mrs Were arrived and took over chairing the meeting	

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129.	<p><u>To agree to set up a working party to consider Christmas Lights for 2009:</u> It was agreed that it would be better to have a small group that would be responsible for Christmas Lights. The group does not have delegated authority but must report back to the committee with its recommendations. Those on the working group are Councillors Fletcher, Bond, Mrs Chivers and Mrs Hall. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th March at 2.30pm</p>	Clerk
130.	<p><u>To consider providing a contribution towards additional lights in Drybridge Park:</u> After some discussion members agreed unanimously not to support a proposal to have additional lights in Drybridge Park. There was consensus that the park had sufficient lights and that an alternative route was available for pedestrians not wishing to walk through the park in darkness. It was agreed that the park should continue to provide as natural an environment as possible.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mrs Chivers Seconded: Councillor Fletcher Unanimous</p>	
	It was agreed to take items 131 and 135 together	
131. 135.	<p><u>To discuss the possibility of having a Town Bandstand:</u> <u>To consider developing the grassed area near the Cattle Market car park:</u> Members agreed that there was a need to consider an appropriate location if there was to be a bandstand. It was suggested that the grassed area near the car park would be a suitable site but that permission would need to be sought from MCC. Other considerations would need to be made in relation to materials, design and cost and enquiries should be made with the Town Band about possible match funding opportunities. Discussion also took place in relation to developing this site as an area for people to enjoy the riverbank. Seating and picnic tables were suggested as possible options to provide a location for visitors arriving at the bottom of town. It was agreed to set up a working party to look at the feasibility of pursuing this. The members on the working party are Councillors Christopher, Bright, Fletcher, Mrs Dewhurst, Mrs Smith and Mrs Were. It was agreed to have a site meeting on Tuesday 10th March at 5.00pm</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Christopher Seconded: Councillor Mrs Smith For : 8 Against: 0 Abstention 1</p>	

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132.	<p><u>To consider funding two benches for the Woodland View play area:</u> Members were advised that a regular group is meeting now and already raising funds to improve the play area. It was agreed to fund the purchase and installation of two new recycled plastic benches at a maximum cost of £1100.00 on the proviso that the Monmouthshire Housing Association take responsibility for the benches once in situ. It was agreed that monies to purchase these should be vired from the Transport Budget to Town Centre Enhancements.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst Seconded Councillor Bond Unanimous</p>	
133.	<p><u>To consider match funding for three benches in Wyesham:</u> It was agreed to support this request as part of a match funding arrangement if the CED's application is successful. The benches would be maintained by MCC once in situ. The members agreed to allocate £700.00 from the Match Scheme budget.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst Seconded: Councillor Mrs Smith For : 8 Against: 0 Abstention 1</p>	
134.	<p><u>To consider funding for an additional dog bin in Wyesham:</u> It was agreed to defer this item pending further investigations regarding the present arrangements. Members were also concerned about a suitable location for another bin in a largely residential area.</p>	
136.	<p><u>To consider provision of allotments at Dixton Field:</u> Members were reminded of the long waiting list of residents waiting to have an allotment. It was suggested that Dixton Field would provide suitable land for this purpose; however this could lead to a loss of amenity space. Members were reminded that whilst maintaining the area costs in excess of £1000.00 per annum this area is used for several high profile charity events and this would need to be considered in any future plans. Some members expressed concern about whether or not allotments would enhance this area of the riverbank or make it look untidy. There was a suggestion that trees would provide adequate screening. The general opinion was that this proposal would have a negative impact on this area and that it should be kept for the enjoyment of all townspeople. There was no support for the proposal but it was suggested that this would form part of the remit of the F&P working group which had been set up to look at the Council's assets.</p>	

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137.	<p><u>To discuss Highways issues and consider need to set up a working party:</u> Members agreed that a working party was not necessary. A suggestion was made that members provide the Clerk with a list of problem roads and areas prioritising them in order of importance with 1 being the most urgent and 5 the least urgent. This could then be collated and passed on to the Highways Dept. It was agreed that all information should be forwarded by 23rd March to provide time for a response from MCC before the next Environment meeting.</p>	Clerk
138.	<p><u>To discuss ways that the committee can support the work of the Nelson Garden Committee:</u> Members were advised that a community grant had been awarded to this organisation however the committee was unsure about what other support could be offered. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Trustees advising that requests for financial assistance to the Town Council would be considered in addition to specific requests for voluntary help.</p>	Clerk
139.	<p><u>To consider payment of £250.00 maximum for equipment hire to make good allotment road:</u> It was agreed that the allotment road was in need of urgent maintenance however members felt that it would be prudent to consider a long term solution rather than spend any more money trying to patch the road up. It has been hoped that remedial work could be undertaken and that MCC could provide planings from road surfaces but due to contractual difficulties this had not been possible. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for a permanent surface such as tarmac to be laid and then the committee would consider opportunities with other organisations for match funding. Members were in agreement that a long term solution would mean better access and provide more opportunities to develop this area. It was agreed not to go ahead with a temporary fix but to obtain quotes and make further enquiries about funding. Proposed: Councillor Christopher Seconded: Councillor Fletcher Unanimous</p>	Clerk
8.20pm	Councillor Bond left the meeting	
140.	<p><u>To consider match funding contribution of £1000.00 towards a feasibility study into potential uses for the Slaughter Houses:</u> The members agreed not to contribute any funding as the project was not considered viable on the grounds that it is in a poor location, there is no sunlight and that the units would provide limited opportunities. Some members were concerned about the association that this area has for many 'old Monmouthians' who can remember it when it was still a slaughter house. The Clerk was asked to write to MCC and suggest that the previous feasibility study should be re-visited in order to save costs. Proposed: Councillor Mrs Chivers Seconded: Councillor Fletcher</p>	Clerk

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	For: 0 Against: 5 Abstentions: 3	
141.	<p><u>To review expenditure for 2008/2009 and consider earmarking reserves for capital projects:</u></p> <p>The committee discussed earmarking monies for several projects including the dry stone wall at Llangattock Church and also the development of the grassed area near the Cattle Market car park. It was agreed that more information was needed regarding costings and it was therefore suggested that this item be deferred until the next meeting.</p>	
142.	<p><u>To agree contents or Press Release:</u></p> <p>Funding for additional benches at Woodland View Consider development of riverbank area near Cattle Market car park</p>	
143.	<p><u>To agree items of business to be discussed at next meeting:</u></p> <p>Provision of litter/dog bin at the rear of Somerfield</p>	
144.	<p><u>To confirm the date of the next meeting:</u></p> <p>Monday 20th April 2009 at 7.00pm</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Initials _____