

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 13th July 2009
in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

PRESENT: Chairman Councillor T Christopher
Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,
Councillor C Munslow, Councillor B Smith, Councillor Mrs S White
And Councillor Mrs A Were

IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Robson – Town Clerk
Sue Middleton from 'Overlooking the Wye' project

Mrs Middleton asked for members opinions about the removal of the railings that are on the riverbank at the quayside. It has been suggested that they be removed and replaced with stone benches that would not only act as a barrier for cars but also provide some much needed seating on the riverbank. A suggested design was circulated for members and Mrs Middleton explained that hopefully ceramic plaques could also be installed with further information about the quay. The Environment Agency has already given permission however this only relates to the implications in the case of flooding. Discussion amongst members was polarised regarding the potential safety problems of removing the fencing although it was noted that originally there would not have been fencing in this area when the quayside was first developed. Whilst this area is not the responsibility of the Town Council concern was expressed regarding potential liability in the event of an accident. It was agreed at this point to suspend Standing Orders in order to bring item no 32 forward up the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
32.	<p><u>To consider additional funding to purchase benches for the 'Overlooking the Wye' project to replace railings at Monmouth Quay:</u></p> <p>It was agreed in view of the suggestion from Mrs Middleton that further investigations should be made to establish who is responsible for this area, also a full Risk Assessment completed and then design and cost proposals. Once these details were available the committee would then consider whether to offer any financial assistance for the project.</p> <p>Standing Orders were re-instated</p>	

21.	<p><u>To receive declaration of interest of items on the agenda:</u> None received</p>	
22.	<p><u>To receive apologies for absence:</u> Councillor R Bond, Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor Mrs J Hall, Councillor R Hayward and Councillor M Jones,</p>	
23.	<p><u>To approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting dated 1st June 2009:</u> The minutes were confirmed correct and signed.</p>	
24.	<p><u>To review Action Summary and receive Town Clerk's report:</u></p> <p><u>Action Summary</u></p> <p>Offas Dyke Regeneration Strategy – On going</p> <p>Traffic Concerns near Waitrose – Follow up letter required</p> <p>CED'S Application – Although the application for new benches in the Wyesham area had been refused Councillor Mrs Dewhurst requested the committee's agreement that she could follow this up with Desree Mansfield from MCC</p> <p><u>Town Clerk's Report</u></p> <p>St Thomas's Church The Clerk reported that the request for finance for an additional light for St Thomas's church was on hold at present. Members were advised that other lines of enquiry were being pursued.</p>	<p>MJ</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>AD</p>
25.	<p><u>To receive correspondence:</u></p> <p>No 4 – Tim Bradfield MCC – Advised that a response from the Sports Association is still awaited but confirmed that moving the gate would need permission from WAG due to the status of this area being common land.</p> <p>No 5 - Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board: Members reported that the Waste Forum Meeting had been negative and that MCC had already made the decision to go ahead with the co-mingling recycling scheme. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Leader of MCC, Councillor Peter Fox to strongly object to this decision. It should raise the members' concerns about the wasted money and goodwill, also the possible expense of reverting back once the new scheme has been implemented. Also included in the letter should be a request that at the very least glass should be separated or it will contaminate other recyclable materials. Councillor Mrs White declared a personal interest in this correspondence item.</p> <p>No 14 – MCC . Response regarding request for information about what can be recycled at the Civic Amenity Site at Mitchel Troy.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

26.	<p><u>To confirm the Forward Plan for 2009/2010:</u> The forward plan was confirmed as correct and will form the basis of the agenda items for forthcoming meetings.</p>	
27.	<p><u>To consider Local Area Projects:</u> Members were asked what specific projects they would like to undertake during the term of this committee. The following is a list of those agreed items but not prioritised in any particular order.</p> <p>Millennium Wheel – The condition of the wheel has deteriorated. It was agreed that Ned Hayward should be contacted with a view to requesting a report of costs and suggested remedial action.</p> <p>Hereford Road – Concerns have again been raised regarding speeding traffic in this area. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of having a flashing traffic warning sign.</p> <p>Monk Street – The paving on this street is particularly bad and it was suggested that costings be obtained to refurbish this area.</p> <p>Wonastow Road – The paving adjacent to Bridges in this area is very poor and it was suggested that costings be obtained to refurbish this area.</p> <p>Kings Fee play area – A request was made for additional play equipment and a bench to be installed.</p> <p>Blestium St grassed area – A suggestion to instal picnic tables, litter bins and benches.</p> <p>Tree Planting – A request was made to plant three trees in the cattle market car park and one near the grandstand on the sports field. It was suggested that they should be native British trees.</p> <p>Blestium Street - A request was made to instal a bench near the coach parking area</p>	<p>SW</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD</p> <p>SC</p> <p>SC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>AD</p> <p>CM</p>
28.	<p><u>To receive report from ‘Christmas Lights’ working group:</u> The Clerk informed members that two meetings of the working group have been held. A design has been agreed in principle which will enhance the existing lighting scheme and also a new plan to instal 3ft artificial Christmas trees at a first floor level of retail premises at intervals along Monnow Street. Two suppliers have already been seen and are preparing quotes and a meeting with a third supplier will take place shortly. Once all of the information is available the working group will meet to consider the quotes and make a recommendation to the Environment committee for its approval.</p>	

29.	<p><u>To consider extending the remit of the working group to include other areas of town:</u> Members were asked to consider the addition of the area adjacent to the Slaughter Houses to make a riverside walkway from Priory Street to Castle House which could also take in St Mary's Church and the Regimental Museum. External funding could be available to improve this area through Tidy Towns, the Secret Millionaire Fund or Agenda 21 monies. It could be a project that would enhance this area and get rid of an ugly eyesore. Some members expressed concern, however it was agreed that at present the working group would limit its investigations to the viability of this proposal.</p>	
30.	<p><u>To confirm costs for servicing the engine of the water bowser, repairing the jockey wheel and purchase a rain cover:</u> Members agreed that the service of the engine should go ahead when convenient and that the jockey wheel should also be repaired. Agreement was also given to the purchase of a rain cover. A maximum of £150.00 was agreed as the budget to complete these works and the invoice would be paid from the main budget head.</p>	
31.	<p><u>To consider moving the planter from outside the toilet block to an alternative location:</u> Members were advised that the plants in this planter are suffering due to its location. Most of the plants have already died. It was suggested that a better position would be near the bus station. Councillor Mrs Smith agreed to investigate the area and suggest a suitable site that would take into account the optimum conditions for the plants to thrive.</p>	BS
33.	<p><u>To consider funding additional litter picking service on Chippenham:</u> Members were informed that litter picking services at Chippenham have been reduced due to cut backs in MCC's budget. The bins are now only being emptied on three days. Councillor Christopher has contacted MCC to identify the cost of additional litter picks. Members confirmed that this should go ahead during the period of the school summer holidays with effect from Sunday 19th July until 30th August at a cost of £88.15 per time on Sundays only. It was agreed that it is vital to keep this area looking tidy for both residents and visitors alike.</p>	
34.	<p><u>To agree contents of press release:</u> Councillor Christopher to write the press release to include: Litter Pick on Chippenham Plans to oppose MCC's amended plans for recycling and waste collection Increased scope of working group to include Slaughter House area Local area projects</p>	
35.	<p><u>To agree items of business to be discussed at next meeting:</u> Recyclable take away food cartons Replacement bins on Chippenham Field</p>	

36.	<u>To confirm the date of the next meeting:</u> Monday 24 th August 2009 at 6.30pm in Market Hall, Priory Street	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Date: _____

Signature: _____