

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 5th October 2009
in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Robson – Town Clerk, Sue Middleton from AONB,
Haydn Cullen Jones

Mrs Middleton circulated a detailed Risk Assessment that had been requested by members. This followed concerns about the removal of the railings that were on the riverbank at the quayside. It was proposed that following their removal they should be replaced with five locally sourced stone benches that would not only act as a barrier for cars but also provide some much needed seating on the riverbank. The members considered the risk implications and comparisons were made to quaysides and how the lack of barriers has been achieved successfully at other locations. Members discussed the implications of only having three benches installed and considered what other safety measures could be introduced. There was consensus that whilst the area would not be entirely risk free there would be measured controls in place. The committee was advised that there was only funding at present for three and if the planned five were to go ahead then AONB would request additional funding from the Town Council to complete the project. The cost is approximately £1000.00 each. However as no decision could be made it was agreed to place the request for further funding onto the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
53.	<u>To receive declaration of interest of items on the agenda:</u> None received	
54.	<u>To receive apologies for absence:</u> None received	

55.	<p><u>To approve and sign minutes of the previous meetings dated 24th August 2009 & 7th September 2009:</u> The minutes were confirmed correct and signed.</p>	
56.	<p><u>To review Action Summary and receive Town Clerk's report:</u></p> <p><u>Town Clerk's Report</u> Christmas Tree Scheme A meeting with the Conservation Officer flagged up some issues relating to the proposed scheme to have 32 individual trees. As Monnow Street is situated in the Conservation Area and there are many Listed Buildings the concern about applying for Listed Building Consent needed to be addressed. A pragmatic view has been taken, it has been agreed wherever possible that the bracket will be sited in the least obtrusive way and in many cases it will replace a previous bracket. It was agreed that due to the difficulties regarding the spacing and different height levels to change the scheme to have only white static lights. It is hoped that this will have a better overall impact than trying to introduce colour at this stage. It was agreed that any new lighting scheme could then consider the best options for introducing some colour.</p> <p>Map Stand – Oldway Centre Investigations are continuing regarding the manufacturing of a tactile map which will be incorporated into a visual one as well. The Clerk circulated a draft design and members were asked to make comments and provide any feedback by Oct 19th.</p> <p>Benches The two benches for the play area at Woodland View have been installed and are being widely used.</p> <p>Dixton Field As agreed at the last Environment meeting remedial work was undertaken and has now been completed. The deep ruts at the far end of the field would make access for vehicles into the field difficult with the possibility of damage occurring. A meeting took place between the Clerk, Councillor Bright and MCC and it was agreed to lay stone chippings into the ruts. The cost of completing this work was £79.84 and has been paid for from the Town Maintenance Budget. This was for the cost of the materials and a contribution towards a fork lift truck driver to move the chippings. Councillor Bright provided the manpower and completed the work prior to the Raft Race taking place.</p> <p>Bins There has been agreement under the 'Tidy Towns' initiative for 5 new bins for Chippenham to replace those recently vandalised. MCC will arrange installation in the near future.</p> <p><u>Action Summary</u> Wormtech Visit – A visit had been arranged for October but had since been cancelled. It was agreed to re-arrange as soon as possible.</p>	Clerk

	<p>Investigate schemes and grants for energy efficient and renewable schemes – It was agreed that the working group would consider what criteria was necessary prior to advertising this scheme for community buildings. Further information would be brought for discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>Offa’s Dyke Regeneration Strategy – Completed</p> <p>Millennium Wheel – New Hayward will be asked again to come and see the damage and quote for repairs.</p> <p>Hereford Road – investigate the possibility of having a flashing traffic warning sign – It was reported that MCC has already scheduled this work for Hereford Road and Dixton Road</p> <p>Wonastow Road – paving adjacent to Bridges in this area is very poor, obtain costings to refurbish this area – On-going</p> <p>Kings Fee play area – investigate cost of additional play equipment and a bench to be installed – It was reported that MCC has agreed to cover ongoing maintenance costs for a roundabout. This item will be included on the next agenda for further discussion</p> <p>Investigate further funding opportunities to purchase new benches for Wyesham – It was agreed that a new application would be made to ‘Tidy Towns’</p> <p>Bowen Gate – Agreement to ask Mr Blake to make arrangements for the painting of the gate once costs for materials have been investigated and approved</p> <p>Monk St Pavement – On going, confirmation is awaited of when the work is scheduled</p> <p>Measure existing pedestrian safety barrier at Field House Farm estate to ensure compliance with regulations – It would appear that there is ample room to instal barriers and on that basis it was agreed that a follow up letter should be sent with a sketch to show where the barriers are needed</p> <p>Arrange meeting of working group looking at recyclable takeaway food cartons and other alternatives – Investigations are under way with a plan to involve working with the takeaway outlets to try and reach an agreement to change to recyclable cartons – ongoing</p> <p>Investigate legislative powers to prevent littering, fines, responsibilities to provide litter receptacles – A report was read out that the Clerk had prepared regarding this issue. Members were sceptical that despite legislation to prevent littering, there appeared to be little that could be done as the Authority appears reluctant to issue Fixed Penalty notices. It was agreed that no further action should be taken.</p> <p>Tree Planting – Investigate cost to plant three trees in the cattle market car park and one near the sports grandstand – A quote has been obtained for the purchase of trees that would soften the car parking areas when planted. A 10 foot Alder costs £25.00. It was agreed to defer any further work on this but to incorporate it into the investigations that the working group are making into the grassed area near the car park.</p>	<p>AD/AW/BS</p> <p>SW</p> <p>SC</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>AD/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>JH</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>AD</p>
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57.	<p><u>To receive correspondence:</u> No 2 – MCC P Fox – It was reported that some of the information in the letter was based on research that was flawed. Councillor Mrs White declared a personal interest in this item. Standing Orders were suspended in order to allow Mr Cullen Jones to address the meeting. He advised that a petition would be handed in to the Chief Executive of MCC at a meeting that was due to be held the following day. It was hoped that by having this meeting it would avert the need to proceed with a request for a Judicial Review. Standing Orders were re-instated</p> <p>No 12 – WAG – A40 – Members considered that this was a disappointing response and expressed concern that it would appear that no party is willing to take responsibility for enforcement of the speed restriction. Discussions appeared to highlight inconsistencies relating to information referred to in the letter. Councillor Hayward reported that he had been liaising with the Police and would forward on all correspondence to the Clerk for further action to be taken. A request was made to Councillor Mrs White for this item to be discussed at a forthcoming CSAT's meeting.</p>	Clerk SW
58.	<p><u>To review the Committee's expenditure to date:</u> Noted</p>	
59.	<p><u>To consider donation towards an opening ceremony event for the switching on of the new lights on the Old Monnow Bridge:</u> Members were concerned that this would be perceived as not being a wise use of financial resources. It was agreed that this project was something that should be promoted as an excellent example of joint working. It is hoped that the Mayor and Chief Exec from MCC will officiate at the 'switch on' ceremony which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 20th October. The Town Band has been invited to play at the event. It was proposed that the Members should support this event by attending but that no donation should be offered for entertaining.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Bond Seconded : Councillor Mrs Chivers For: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1</p>	
60.	<p><u>To discuss and confirm the Budget for the Committee for 2010/2011:</u> After some discussion it was agreed to recommend the following budget to the Finance committee for approval</p>	

