

# Monmouth Town Council

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Monday 16th November 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 Mrs J Hall, Councillor R Hayward,  
Councillor C Munslow, Councillor Mrs B Smith and Councillor Mrs A Were

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Robson – Town Clerk, Councillor Mrs J Gunter

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
68.	<b><u>To receive declaration of interest of items on the agenda:</u></b> None received	
69.	<b><u>To receive apologies for absence:</u></b> Councillor J Fletcher , Councillor M Jones and Councillor Mrs S White	
70.	<b><u>To approve and sign minutes of the previous meetings dated 5th October 2009:</u></b> The minutes were unanimously confirmed correct and signed.	
71.	<b><u>To review Action Summary and receive Town Clerk's report:</u></b>  <b><u>Town Clerk's Report</u></b>  <b>Christmas Tree Scheme</b> Work is now well underway for the installation of the Christmas Lights and is on target for the switch on date of 1 <sup>st</sup> December. Repair work has taken place on the existing frames although it is anticipated that there will be repair work to the motifs needed next year. Following several site meetings it has now been agreed that the Christmas Tree will be erected outside the Oldway Centre. The concrete block is now in situ with the tree expected to be delivered during the coming week. It has been agreed with the Highways Officer not to fence the area off because if the barriers were to be removed they could be used to break shop windows and cause other damage.	

	<p><b>Map Stand – Oldway Centre</b>  Following further investigations into the provision of a tactile map this avenue of enquiry has now concluded that for a number of reasons it will not be practical. Therefore a visual map only will be provided along the lines of the other Town Maps and on the reverse side will be a brief potted history of Monmouth with photos showing some of the places of interest within the town. The map stand will be painted and the maps will have a Perspex cover to prevent any vandalism.</p> <p><b>Benches</b>  Following a joint venture between MCC and the Town Council it has been agreed to instal twelve benches that have been purchased using monies from the ‘Tidy Town Initiative’. These will be located in Chippenham Park, Kings Fee play area, near the Town Ditch, on the grassed area near the riverbank and at Wyesham. Permission is being sought from the relevant authorities before work can be carried out. It is anticipated that a further grant will be needed to cover the installation costs before any further work can be done.</p> <p><b>Action Summary</b>  <b>Consider provision of benches in Wyesham</b> – Completed  <b>Arrange service of Water Bowser</b> – Completed  <b>Arrange meeting of working group looking at recyclable takeaway food cartons</b> – No further meeting held  <b>Request that speeding on A40 is placed on the next CSAT'S agenda</b> – Notification has been received that this is not within their remit but a letter of support will be requested at the next meeting  <b>Wormtech Visit</b> – The visit for October had to be postponed due to other meetings. Another visit can be arranged for the New Year once the ‘purple sack’ scheme has commenced  <b>Measure existing pedestrian safety barrier at Field House Farm estate to ensure compliance with regulations</b> – Another letter is required once a sketch showing the measurements where the barriers are required is received  <b>Investigate opportunity for members of the public to purchase redundant telephone kiosks</b> – the response from BT confirms that this initiative is only open to local authorities and not private individuals</p>	
72.	<p><b><u>To receive correspondence:</u></b>  No 8 – The response from the Police regards speeding on the A40 was not accepted by the members. It was requested that another letter be written to highlight that the traffic survey was undertaken in an inappropriate location. The letter should also suggest that the size of the road signs indicating the speed limit should be increased as they are not compatible to the usage and speed of the road. The letter should ask for another traffic survey be done on each carriageway but not in a location where the traffic would naturally be slowed down between the traffic lights and the roundabout as this will provide an inaccurate reflection of vehicular speed.</p>	Clerk





	<p>Members agreed to this proposal and confirmed that £5000.00 should be made available for this scheme from the Match Funded Budget.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Bond                      Seconded : Councillor Mrs Hall  For: 9    Against: 0    Abstentions: 1</p>	
78.	<p><b><u>To confirm expenditure of £80.00 maximum for re-painting the Bowen Gates from the Street Decorations budget:</u></b></p> <p>Members agreed unanimously that this should be undertaken as soon as possible.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mrs Chivers      Seconded : Councillor Mrs Hall  Unanimous</p>	
79.	<p><b><u>To consider potential alternatives to raised bed sites at old Monnow Bridge site that will complement the Millennium Wheel:</u></b></p> <p>Members expressed disappointment that following the recent planting of this site within days the area had been vandalised and the plants destroyed. It was agreed to consider the possibility of having a design drawn up that could be used as a mosaic at floor level or a raised stone seat; some suggestions for designs were the town seal and the crest. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries with local artists to see if there was a willingness to undertake some initial designs as part of a community project.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mrs Hall      Seconded : Councillor Mrs Chivers  Unanimous</p>	
80.	<p><b><u>To confirm design and cost to develop the planting scheme in the area adjacent to the Bus Station</u></b></p> <p>A letter was read out from the Attik outlining some proposals to involve young people in developing this area. However as there was no firm commitment to the design of the scheme it was agreed that further consideration would need to be given before any funding was released. Members suggested that the scheme needs to be structured with plants that are sympathetic to the existing Henry V Scheme rather than planting summer annuals; however it was agreed that there needs to be a degree of flexibility regarding the choice. Members hoped that there would be benefits in involving young people in community activity.</p> <p>It was agreed to confirm £300.00 for plants from the Street Decorations budget</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mrs Hall                      Seconded : Councillor Hayward  For: 9    Against: 1    Abstentions: 0</p>	
81.	<p><b><u>To consider request from the Civic Society to contribute £100.00 to match fund new town maps to include the Blue Plaque Trail:</u></b></p> <p>Members were informed that there is a shortfall in funding of £200.00 to replace the maps in the stands. The Civic Society has contributed £100.00. It was agreed unanimously to donate £100.00 from the Match Funding budget.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Bond                      Seconded : Councillor Mrs Hall  Unanimous</p>	

83.	<p><b><u>To consider contribution of £80.00 for installation costs for bench at Beech Close:</u></b>  Councillor Fletcher has purchased a bench that he has installed at Beech Close. It was reported that MCC has agreed to be responsible for insurance and maintenance; however members wished for formal clarification that this is correct. The work has already been carried out by another contractor and the Clerk expressed concern regarding making a retrospective payment. The issue of whether or not this would encourage members of the public to instal benches and expect the Town Council to fund them was also the cause of unease. It was agreed to defer any decision until confirmation from MCC had been obtained.</p>	Clerk
84.	<p><b><u>To confirm costs and agree to purchase new lights for Christmas Tree:</u></b>  The Clerk advised members that negotiations had taken place with the Contractors to secure the best financial arrangement regarding the supply of new lights for the Christmas Tree. Confirmation has now been received that the contract price will not increase and will include the supply of the new lights. This has been made possible due to the reduction in work for the installation now that the starlight festoons are no longer part of the scheme.</p>	
85.	<p><b><u>To agree contents of press release:</u></b>  Councillor Christopher to write the press release</p>	TC
86.	<p><b><u>To agree items of business to be discussed at next meeting:</u></b>  As per Forward Plan  Planting at Leasebrook Lane  Provision of a local Bus service  Future plans for the Catalpa tree in St James Square</p>	
87.	<p><b><u>To confirm the date of the next meeting:</u></b>  Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 6.30pm in Market Hall, Priory Street</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_