

# Monmouth Town Council

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2010  
in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Councillor T Christopher  
Deputy Chair Councillor Mrs B Smith  
Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,  
Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor Mrs J Gunter, Councillor R Hayward,  
Councillor M Jones and Councillor Mrs A Were

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Mrs S White, Town Clerk Mrs Sue James

**Presentation given by Collette Mooney, Sustainable Development Engagement Officer, 10:10 Campaign**

The aim of the 10:10 campaign was outlined as being to get individuals, companies and institutions to reduce their carbon footprints by 10% during 2010. 10:10 would like to work with more councils and groups and are looking for further partners to develop projects with. Monmouthshire County Council is already signed up. Examples of work completed include school energy audits with modifications and suggestions being identified -such as reducing overheating. No finance is directly available but some community environment grants may be awarded.

**Presentation given by Deserie Mansfield, Tidy Towns Local Communities Coordinator**

An overview of the work undertaken on Clawdd-Du ditch was given. The aim was to place benches and support a clean- up of the ditch. A biodiversity research was commissioned and it was found that litter-picking could not be commenced without an in-depth survey. It is suggested that pond areas be developed and also that greater access and older fruit trees be added to the orchard area. Access issues should also be addressed to possibly put a walkway bridge through into the orchard. Maintenance cycles need to be changed with regard to biodiversity with wilder areas left. However no timescales have been allocated and the officer's role is soon to end. Discussions are hoped to continue across MCC departments and other groups such as Gwent Wildlife, along with volunteers to maintain. The council expressed concern and disappointment that members with local knowledge had not previously been aware of or included in the work. Reference was also made to Cadw as members wished to confirm their involvement. Previous history of the ditch development was given by council members. Councillor G Bright expressed concern that a reported drain blockage into the ditch has not been acted upon. Deserie Mansfield will check up on.

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
1.	<p><b><u>To receive declaration of interest of items on the agenda:</u></b></p> <p>None received</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>To receive apologies for absence:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor R Bond, Councillor Mrs J Hall, Councillor C Munslow</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>To elect the Chair of the Environment Affairs Committee:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor T Christopher elected unanimously  Proposed: Councillor M Jones  Seconded: Councillor Mrs B Smith</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>To elect the Deputy Chair of the Environmental Affairs Committee:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs B Smith elected unanimously  Proposed: Councillor T Christopher  Seconded: Councillor G Bright</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>To approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting dated 19/04/2010:</u></b></p> <p>The minutes were confirmed correct and signed.  Proposed: Councillor R Hayward  Seconded: Councillor J Fletcher  Abstention: 1</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>To review Action Summary and receive Town Clerk's report:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Town Clerk's Report:</u></b> Not given as new in post  <b><u>Action Summary:</u></b> Noted</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>To receive correspondence</u></b>  <b>No. 8</b> Open Spaces Society  Contribution request declined</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>To review the Committee's expenditure to date and to approve payments:</u></b></p> <p>i. Merlin Waste Invoice 31/3/10 and 30/04/10  Approved  ii. Earth Anchors Ltd Invoice no. 022250/1  Approved  iii. Singleton Court Invoice no. 639  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Approved</b></p> </p>	

<p>9.</p>	<p><b><u>To receive reports:</u></b></p> <p><b>a. To receive report from the Christmas decorations working group:</b>  Councillor Christopher reported working group met and decided to extend lights around Agincourt Square through into Monnow Street. Options to have lights all the way down the street, or from Lloyds Bank to Commerce House, have been discussed and quoted for. At present, the mini Christmas trees are stored at VM2, and other lights are stored at Centigrade – although this contract finished 31/3/10. Councillor Fletcher questioned the lights needing to be across the street. After discussion, it was decided to put lights along sides of buildings rather than across the street as a preferred and cheaper option.  Proposed: Councillor M Jones, Seconded: Councillor R Heyward  Agreed unanimously  It was then decided to spend the same on lighting as previously budgeted that would enable more lighting to be purchased. It was also agreed that permission must be obtained from property owners to go across the roofline and that the council should be informed before any work commences on the building to allow removal of property. Letters to be sent. Other quotes to be obtained.  Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor J Fletcher  Agreed unanimously</p> <p><b>b. To receive report from planting scheme supervisory working group</b>  Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst reported that Mike Frost had put in a variety of plants to keep the colours and blooms changing with season. There was some discussion over quality of displays but accepted that this is improving.  After discussion, the new working group will consist of Councillor Mrs S White, Councillor Mrs B Smith, Councillor Mrs J Hall and Councillor Mrs A Were.  Proposed: Councillor Mr T Christopher, Seconded: Councillor Mr R Heyward  Agreed</p> <p>Councillor T Christopher raised the issue of requests from Mr J Roocroft to plant and maintain some of the baskets/tubs (Correspondence No.4, No.9, No.10, No.22, No. 24).  After much discussion, it was agreed that as Peter Fox has delegated responsibility to the Town Council, and Roger Hoggins has confirmed this, (Correspondence No. 9 &amp; No. 10) Mr Roocroft may plant and look after the hanging baskets on the toilet block, but nothing else, with strictly no access to the roof, and must have insurance. There is no payment to be made for this work.  Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst  For : 4, Against: 0</p>	<p>TC/SJ</p>
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	<p>It was then proposed that Mr Roocroft could also use the empty containers over the old Monnow Bridge owned by MCC.  Proposed: Cllr G Bright, Seconded: Cllr A Dewhurst  After discussion, no vote was taken.</p> <p>An amendment was then proposed that Mr Roocroft be allowed to use only the baskets on the toilet block and nothing else. Also that this is only on the strict condition that proof of public liability insurance is provided to the Council before commencement.  Proposed: Cllr R Hayward, Seconded: Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst  This was voted upon and agreed</p> <p><b>c. To receive and report to CSATS working party:</b>  Councillor T Christopher stated that this item is placed on the agenda for information to be passed to CSATs via Councillor Hackett Pain.  The Monmouth Off Street Project, which has been supported in the past, was discussed – to be passed to CSATS.  Councillor Mr G Bright expressed grave concern at the setting alight of tarpaulin on the old Monnow bridge on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. The police and authorities have been contacted. The Town Council expressed concern over the lack of police officers on the beat.  To be passed to CSATS.</p>	<p>TC/SJ</p> <p>TC/SJ</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b><u>To discuss area at Millennium Wheel:</u></b></p> <p>Email has been sent to Ned Heyward and a Press Release to encourage people to send ideas should be published Weds 2/6/10.</p>	<p>TC</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b><u>To discuss the Installation of a light at St Thomas’s Church:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs S Chivers outlined the request for running and maintaining the light. The council agreed to give £100 to setting up the light (capital donation out of the match funding budget).  Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor Mrs B Smith  Unanimous  Also to be referred to CSATS as anti-social behaviour takes place in area.</p>	<p>SJ</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b><u>To discuss the watering of trees in Blestium Street Car Park:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst previously received permission to plant trees in Blestium car park and requested funding for watering. A quote has been received for watering weekly between May and September.  It was agreed to delay the tree planting until the Autumn to avoid need for weekly watering.  Proposed: Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Seconded: Councillor Mrs B Smith  Agreed unanimously  Councillor Mrs S White requested that the trees planted would not be elders – with associated problems. – To be discussed closer to the time.</p>	<p>AD</p>

13.	<p><b><u>To update the situation of the Stone Benches on Old Monmouth Quay:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor T Christopher has contacted Sue Middleton who confirms this will happen after the Monmouth Regatta – will confirm date.</p>	TC
14.	<p><b><u>To approve a grant for the Off Centre Players to purchase banners advertising Charles Rolls production:</u></b></p> <p>Apologies to be sent for delayed response. It was suggested that the Off Centre Players apply for a Community grant retrospectively Proposed: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Seconded: Councillor Mrs B Smith For: 3, Against: 6                      Not carried</p>	SJ
15.	<p><b><u>To discuss Town Councils responsibilities in regard to litter from business's (correspondence no.7):</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs A Were reported on the Cleaner Neighbourhood and Environment Act No. 5 - section 21 regarding street litter control notices. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of placing notices on the premises where litter originates from or prosecuting the offenders themselves. The possibility of introducing signs and the difficulties of enforcement were discussed. Suggestions that litter could be identifiable from different outlets were made, which could be used as leverage in a campaign. Sponsorship of litter bins and/or emptying of them could be encouraged. Paper takeaway containers were considered preferable to polystyrene. Specific littered areas of Monmouth such as the riverbank by the old Monnow Bridge were identified. It was proposed to write to Monmouthshire County Council asking for action and await a response.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Mr R Hayward, Seconded Councillor Mr J Fletcher                      Agreed unanimously</p>	SJ
16.	<p><b><u>To approve MCC's quotation of £87.82 per occasion for the cleaning of Chippenham Mead:</u></b></p> <p>This was only a slight increase on the cost for last year. Takes place on four days – 11/7/10, 15/8/10, 22/8/10 and 29/8/10. Proposed: Councillor Mr R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst Approved. 1 against</p>	SJ

17.	<p><b><u>To agree the future maintenance of benches donated by the Tidy Towns project:</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Council will take on the maintenance of the five benches once in position.  Proposed: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,  Seconded: Councillor R Hayward</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Unanimous</p>	
18.	<p><b><u>To discuss recommendations of the Zurich report of play equipment for Drybridge Park (Letter no.15):</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs B Smith read out the correspondence from Zurich Insurance (correspondence No. 17) detailing recommendations regarding the play equipment. These recommendations were noted, and also that insurance provided was not conditional upon their implementation. It was agreed to pass the report onto Mr R Griffiths to act upon.  Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor G Bright  Approved.</p>	TC/SJ
19.	<p><b><u>To discuss the 10:10 principle:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor T Christopher suggested a working group be formed to look at and report back on how the 10:10 campaign may apply to the Council.  Councillor Mrs A Were, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Councillor Mrs B Smith to form group. Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst cannot attend the Local Service Board Meeting 23/6/10 at Chepstow Racecourse and asked if any other councillor was available.</p>	
20.	<p><b><u>To agree contents of Press Release:</u></b></p> <p>Councillor R Hayward reported that the recovery of the Shire Hall Baton had been recorded by the press that morning when returned to the Town Clerk.</p>	
21.	<p><b><u>To agree items of business to be discussed at next meeting:</u></b></p> <p>To discuss Tidy Towns town ditch project.  Ryder Cup – Tidy Towns initiative pay for cleaning/pressure washing Streets of Monmouth in time for this event</p>	
22.	<p><b><u>To confirm the date of the next meeting:</u></b></p> <p>Date of next meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010  6.30 pm, venue to be confirmed</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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

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