

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 17 January 2010
at Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

PRESENT: Deputy Chair person Cllr Mrs B Smith

Cllr R Bond	Cllr G Bright
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst
Cllr J Fletcher	Cllr Mrs J Gunter
Cllr Mrs J Hall	Cllr B Hayward
Cllr M Jones	Cllr Mrs A Were
Cllr Mrs S White	

Mrs Penny Thomas of the U3A Gardening Group proposed ways of financing a colourful scheme in the town that could compete in "Britain in Bloom". She had been very impressed by the scheme in Wells sponsored by local companies and individuals for £100 or £150 p.a. Plaques on planters and lamp posts named the sponsors, encouraging community involvement. Watering was paid for by the Council. Mrs. Thomas had spoken to some Monmouth business people who seemed keen.

Cllrs pointed out that when tried previously, Monnow Street traders had been unresponsive, in spite of an offer of £5 per basket. The excellent Church Street hanging baskets were privately organised by the traders themselves. Their shops were almost entirely locally owned and the watering system had been maintained, unlike Monnow Street. Attik has taken on the neglected corner of the bus station and is to work on the beds in the Cattle Market next, an existing example of community involvement.

Mrs Thomas agreed to continue to talk to local traders. Renewing the contract will be discussed at the next meeting and her suggestions considered then.

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
112	To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda None received	
113	To receive apologies for absence Cllr C Munslow and Cllr T Christopher	

114	<p>To approve and sign minutes of the meetings held on 15th November 2010 (Location amended), and 1st December 2010</p> <p>Both minutes of the meetings held on 15 November and the 1st December 2010 were confirmed correct and signed Proposed: Cllr B Smith Seconded: Cllr Hall Unanimous</p>	
115	<p>To review action summary and receive the Town Clerk's report</p> <p>Monnow Bridge lights: Cllr Bright pointed out that the coloured light filters only worked on the Gate House side and asked that a letter be sent to the contractors asking why. Town Ditch: Cllr Bright asked for a letter to be sent to D. Mansfield asking for the trench to be filled in so that it can be strimmed in the summer.</p> <p>Town Clerk's Report Christmas Lights – Many compliments received on this year's Christmas lights in town. The lights are on a number of different timing systems which have been inherited. For more synchronised timing of all the lights to come on, it may be worth investigating any investment required for next year. We have also now had a satisfactory response from this year's contractors, Centregreat, with regard to working on Highways issues that have been raised, which will be corrected. Thanks are due to all who helped with the putting up and taking down the 2 large Christmas trees in town – especially those in-house – Rudolph Griffiths, John Blake, and Councillors Mr Gerry Bright and Mr Terry Christopher, and Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst sorting out acknowledgement signs. Swings - The new chains for the swings at Drybridge Park. We have finally received an adapter plate needed to allow the fitting of the new chains – required because of the age of the swings, so these will be in place shortly as per insurer's request.</p>	<p>TOWN CLERK</p> <p>TOWN CLERK</p>
116	<p>To receive Correspondence</p> <p>Letters: 2, 24, and 10 are items on the agenda Letter 19: Template of Plaque on the Quay, all agreed correct and very good Letter 28: Rat problem at the Town ditch discussed, Cllr Mrs White will deal with the problems at the ditch. Letters 33 & 34 regarding parking charges, this item on the next agenda All correspondence noted</p>	
117	<p>To discuss the request to install a safe crossing point on the Hereford Road</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Hall, Cllr Mrs Dewhurst and Cllr Mrs Smith joined Mrs Deborah Mather, to survey the junction with Osbaston Road before</p>	

	<p>and after school. The combination of vehicles and pedestrians was extremely worrying. Monmouth Comprehensive, Osbaston Church in Wales Primary school, HMSG and Monmouth School are all within approximately half a mile of the junction and their pupils were observed weaving through the traffic in a way that was sometimes terrifying. Cars which came downhill on the Hereford Road turning sharply into Osbaston Road could not see people crossing the road and there is an urgent need for the junction to be re-aligned. Passers by suggested where a crossing should be, with opposite the letter box being the simplest. It was also pointed out that, with so much queuing on the road already, a crossing would not affect already stationary traffic but would control speeding traffic. It would also enable pedestrians to see right across the road. At present stationary traffic obscures traffic movement in the opposite lane. Cllr Mrs Dewhurst proposed that the Clerk should write to Mark Youngman of MCC Highways Department expressing their concerns and asking for an acceptable solution before the inevitable accident happens.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Mrs Smith Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hall Unanimous</p>	TOWN CLERK
118	<p>To discuss the future of the Public Toilets in Agincourt Street</p> <p>MCC will rent the public toilets to us free of charge but MTC would have to pay for the maintenance and upkeep. Running cost figures given by Mr Roger Hoggins were £13,000 per year to open, close and clean twice daily £7,000 to open, close and clean once daily. The Beacon newspaper gave the results of their poll as 50% of people never use the toilets 5% use once a year and 18% use daily There has been no uptake of the offer by MTC to give £500 to local businesses for the public to use their facilities. Cllr Dewhurst suggested that the original suggestion of using the disabled toilets at Shire Hall should be put forward again. The committee will ask for the figures from the Monmouthshire Beacon and this item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting on Monday 7th February 2011</p>	
119	<p>To agree to purchase two memorial benches - for Jamie Gunn and Graham Powell:</p> <p>The Committee is still waiting for the written permission from the Punch House.</p>	
120	<p>To agree to reinstate the working group in regard to placing historical banners within the Town</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Dewhurst has made some enquiries already, there are banner holders available from the Ryder Cup</p>	AD /JG/BS

121	<p>To discuss the committees action in regard to the re-organisation of the Monmouth TIC</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst proposed that the clerk write to ask the cost of moving it to the designated area beside the Loggia of the Shire Hall immediately. It would determine how much its remote current location was the cause of its low usage and mean that the front desk was staffed. The letter should be copied to Nicola Smith, Kelly Beirne and County Cllr Greenland Proposed: Cllr Mrs Dewhurst Seconded: Cllr Mrs Gunter Unanimous</p>	TOWN CLERK
122	<p>To agree to pay additional £96.80 for new lights on small Christmas Trees:</p> <p>Agreed Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hall Seconded: Councillor Hayward Unanimous</p>	
123	<p>To agree contents of press release:</p> <p>Car parking issues and Tourist Information Centre</p>	
124	<p>To agree items of discussion for future meetings.</p> <p>600th Anniversary of Battle of Agincourt celebrations Car Parking New designation for Open Spaces What do MCC intend to do with the defaced Town Ditch Jubilee Field used for recreation</p>	
125	<p>To confirm date of the next meeting:</p> <p>Monday 7th February at 6.30pm, Market Hall, Priory Street</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45