

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 25 July 2011 at Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth**

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Mrs B Smith

Cllr G Bright	Cllr J Fletcher
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	Cllr Mrs J Gunter
Cllr Christopher	Cllr C Munslow
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	Cllr Mrs A Were

A presentation was given by Mrs Janet Brettle and Mr David Harrison on behalf of Friends of Monmouth Cemetery

- 150 donated trees have been planted, which also act as a screen against the neighbouring building development.
- There are two good hay areas to encourage bio diversity, which have just been hand raked by volunteers, as in previous years
- Three graves are in serious need of repair
- No burials have been allowed for over a year.

The Friends would like to know how they can help gain a working cemetery as they are constantly being approached by local people, very anxious to hear of any progress.

Agenda Item 18 was brought forward so that Mrs Brettle and Mr Harrison could be included in the discussion

Various suggestions were put, some of which were answered.

Q. Why not use the higher part of Vauxhall? **A.** Environment Agency assessment found the soil was unsuitable.

Q. Why had the water course not been re-directed?

Q Why had not the land been raised or drained?

Q Would the Friends support re-using old grave sites? **A.** No. On ethical and historical value grounds

Q. Why not use the land apparently available to the South of the Wonastow Road, on outskirts of Monmouth?

Q. Why not use land apparently available at Rockfield?

Q Did the Friends know that the LDP now formally states that MCC is takes moral responsibility for supplying burial sites? **A** No.

Q Did the Friends know how £50K allocated to find burial sites in 2009 had been spent?

A.No

Q. If St Mary's old graveyard could be used in the short term, would the Friends also approach the Clergy of all denominations for support? **A.** Yes

It was agreed to hold a public meeting, either after a Planning meeting in the Shirehall or in the Cemetery Chapel. Those to be invited: Friends of Monmouth Cemetery, Town Councillors, Local MCC Councillors, Cabinet Member, Local churches reps., MCC Officers.

Proposed: Cllr Munslow
 Approved unanimously

Seconded: Cllr Mrs S Chivers

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
1.	<p>To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Smith agenda Item 10 Cllr Mrs Dewhurst agenda item 10</p>	
2.	<p>To receive apologies for absence:</p> <p>Cllr R Hayward, Cllr Mrs S White</p>	
3.	<p>To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2010:</p> <p>The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed Unanimous</p>	
4.	<p>To review action summary and receive the Town Clerk’s report: Action Review</p> <p><u>Drybridge Play area</u> The new bench is now in position and the old one and old concrete base have been removed. The old bin has been concreted in its new position just outside the park gates. Thanks are due to Kevin Rees –Davies MCC for being so helpful with this. Woodchip has been delivered, although with hindsight probably more should have been ordered. The park looks much better for these improvements – see photos attached. I think it would be a good idea to have a notice stating that the play area is provided by Monmouth Town Council, as there has apparently never been any indication of this. I will try to provide quotes for the Committee’s consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>“Magic” roundabout</u> Discussion on Cllr Munslow’s work on the provision of a new roundabout on the A40 by the tunnels, started within the Community Committee, and although there is obviously some crossover between Environment and Community interest, it is probably best to retain discussion on this within one committee, being Community, to avoid duplication and confusion.</p> <p><u>Bench in Memory of Rifleman Jamie Gunn</u> The dedication service has taken place for the bench. A card has been received in the office from Mrs Gunn, Jamie’s mother, thanking the Council for all their work on this.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p>To receive Correspondence:</p> <p>Bench in memory of Mr John Edwards: Mr Horrocks has raised money for three benches they would like placed on Cinderhill car park. on the Riverbank. Amanda Perrin (MCC Highways) has also been approached. Environment Agency manage the riverbanks and will need to be consulted. A discussion took place as to suitability of site i.e. too steep and is it accessible? Arrange to meet with Mr Horrocks to discuss placement.</p> <p>Letter Number 10 MCC Tim Bradfield: Permission granted for bench at Kings Fee.</p> <p>Letter number 41 MCC Jim Keech: His wood would not be strong enough to support Catalpa tree and although they are ugly, metal supports are the most efficient. They were recommended by the consultants. The Committee decided to wait until the metal supports need replacing as cost of oak ones would be £3,000 Unanimous</p> <p>Letter 43 tree preservation: Clarification required as map does not correspond to the wording</p> <p>Letter Number 44 Shirehall cobbles. MCC Mike Booth: Repointing costs being sought .The Committee agreed to invite Mr Booth to a meeting in order to discuss the Shirehall Business Plan , where the cobbles and other Shirehall matters are included and can be resolved</p>	<p>SW CM JF</p> <p>Town Clerk</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>To review the Committee's expenditure to date:</p> <p>Noted</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>To receive reports:</p> <p>a. To receive from and report to CSATS working group Nothing to report</p> <p>b. From Battle of Agincourt Celebrations working group: Cllr Gunter will get in touch with the French Tourist Board to research the area and report back to the working party (CM,JG,SW,RH)</p> <p>c. From working group regarding litter from take-away outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza outlet in Church Street cleans everything up. • New chip shop in Priory Street is using mostly paper and very little polystyrene .No apparent litter. • Still a problem with polystyrene on and below the old Bridge, Cllr Smith and Cllr Dewhurst will speak with Monnow Chippie and King Kebab to raise concerns 	<p>JG</p> <p>AD,BS</p>

	<p>d. From banners and pennants for Monnow Street group: Cllr Mrs Dewhurst has collected information and quotes. An interim meeting is needed so that more specific quotes can be obtained. Working Party to meet at 5.45pm on Monday 1 August.</p> <p>e. From Floral working group: Tilted planters. The builders not willing to alter them as any props could be dangerous. Planters are looking colourful, but raised beds need weeding and dead heading Cllr Fletcher would like more colour in the raised beds</p>	AD,TC, AW,SW
8.	<p>To clarify and receive update on the possibilities of movement sensitive lighting only at Nailers Lane</p> <p>Roger Joy (MCC) could connect it to an existing pole. The cost to include dimming mechanism would be £5,805 with MCC meeting half of the costs and pay for the power. Essential to clarify whether the road has been adopted. Discuss at next meeting when information known</p>	Town Clerk
9.	<p>To discuss urgent parking issues at local beauty spots such as Monmouth Quay and Monnow Bridge.</p> <p>Monmouth Quay BS met with representatives from the Rowing Club. Environment Agency, Monmouth Canoe and MCC to discuss restricting parking on the river front. Propose the whole area, be '<i>no parking</i>' with lockable bollards which the Rowing Club and Canoe Club have a key. 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.</p> <p>Monnow Bridge Cllr Mrs Were has written to Superintendent Sutton, there seems to be some effect already although there has been no reply.</p> <p>"A "boards from the Gatehouse and tables and chairs outside Noodles are now adding the hazard of parked cars.</p> <p>Cllr Christopher will contact Cadw and Highways to request enforcement</p> <p>Bank below Monnow Bridge: Ask for the rocks/boulders to be reinstated, so parking is not possible at this hugely popular area which the three benches have improved</p>	TC Town Clerk
10.	<p>To consider match funding for an updated energy saving leaflet for Transition Monmouth Food Group up to £100.</p> <p>To be referred to the Community Grants Scheme</p>	Town Clerk

11.	<p>To set up a working Party for Christmas decorations</p> <p>Working party to consist of Cllr Munslow, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Chivers and Cllr Bond, Cllr Munslow will arrange the first meeting</p>	CM
12.	<p>To reinstate the bus stop at Agincourt Square</p> <p>Request a letter be written to Richard Cope and Colin Phillips to reinstate coach and bus stop by reducing the present Loading Only area. Proposed: Cllr Christopher Seconded Cllr Mrs Smith</p>	Town Clerk
13.	<p>To agree funding and from which budget heading, for a new bench at Kings Fee Recreation field at a cost of £515</p> <p>Funding agreed. Funds to be taken from Town Centre Enhancements budget heading Proposed: Cllr Mrs Dewhurst Seconded: Cllr Mrs Chivers Unanimous</p>	Town Clerk
14.	<p>To consider match funding of £425 to provide a further bin on Chippenham (MCC will also provide one and it would be emptied on MCC Schedule)</p> <p>Unanimous</p>	Town Clerk
15.	<p>To agree request from Monmouth Festival to borrow the Town Council's Water Bowser.</p> <p>Request granted as long as they understand it should not be used for drinking water Proposed: Cllr Bright Seconded: Cllr Munslow Unanimous</p>	GB
16.	<p>To approve Cllr J Fletcher to join the Floral working group</p> <p>Agreed</p>	JF
17.	<p>To discuss the new pedestrian crossing on the Hereford Road</p> <p>The Town Council is still very concerned that the area is dangerous. Cllr Christopher will write to Paul Keeble and Mark Youngman (MCC) to find out when the work will be completed to a safe standard</p>	Town Clerk
18.	<p>To discuss the presentation from Friends of Monmouth Cemetery See notes on Presentation</p>	

19.	To agree items of discussion for future meetings. Monnow Himalayan Balsam eradication programme Monmouth Quay Nailers Lane	
20.	To confirm date of the next meeting: Monday 5 th September 2011	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm