

Monmouth Town Council

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Environment Affairs meeting
held on Monday 28th November 2011
at Shire Hall Monmouth
for the purpose of transacting the following business**

PRESENT: Chair Councillor Mrs B Smith

Cllr R Bond

Cllr G Bright

Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst

Cllr J Fletcher

Cllr B Hayward

Cllr Mrs J Gunter

Cllr C Munslow

Cllr Mrs A Were

There was a presentation by Mr Robert Denny Chair of Monnow Rivers Association regarding Himalayan Balsam and its effect and control.

Mr Denny distributed a fact sheet to the committee. The main points being: the Association has been working to improve the habitats and water quality of the Monnow and its catchment area. After a full survey it has completed over 80km of improvements. 'Going Native' is the title of its unique project which aims to eradicate the invasive non native species: Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. It also aims to monitor and trap mink and where suitable re-introduce native species such as water voles, and white clawed crayfish.

By spraying Glyphosate close to the river and Arazon 90 away from the water's edge and following up by hand pulling, the group has succeeded in eradicating Balsam from the top of the river catchment right down to Pandy. During 2012 they hope to reach the Rockfield stretch and the rest of the Monnow down to the Wye during 2013. It was agreed that the association would contact the Town Council again on reaching the Monmouth area.

The question of funding was raised

A: Time and money from local fisherman, landowners, Environment Agency and a lot of voluntary work have been the main sources.

Q: How are the mink dispatched, once trapped?

A: The mink are shot. They are now eradicated as far down as Rockfield

Q: Are there any dangers to the public by spraying?

A: Only qualified supervisors work with volunteer and paid workers. The chemicals are harmless, once they touch the soil. Only careful hand spraying is done, often by standing in the river

Q: What effect do the chemicals have in the water?

A: This is a chemical recommended by the Environment Agency and it breaks down very quickly in the water with the quantities being kept to an absolute minimum.

Q. Where is a good example of native plant recovery following the spray and pull treatment?

A Either side of Kentchurch Bridge

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
1.	<p>To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda</p> <p>None received</p>	
2.	<p>To receive apologies for absence:</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Chivers, Cllr T Christopher and Cllr Mrs White</p>	
3.	<p>To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 November</p> <p>The minutes were confirmed correct and signed</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr R Hayward Seconded: Cllr C Munslow</p>	
4.	<p>To review action summary and receive the Town Clerk's report: Town Clerks report</p> <p>Signs The signs for the dog bins, gate to the Town Field, Drybridge play area, and the toilets are now ready, and will be collected tomorrow to be put up as soon as possible.</p> <p>Bench in memory of Graham Powell Mr Booth has provisionally agreed to a style the same as that for the bench in memory of Jamie Gunn, outside the Punch House. The idea is to not have it fixed, chained to the outside of one set of gates facing the Square. There is a slight step at the gates, so its presence would alleviate a tripping hazard, but the bench could be moved if necessary. Cost, including delivery etc, would be £571 + VAT if no ground fixings required.</p> <p>The authority for this payment will be put on the Full Town Council agenda for 5/12/11, as the initial resolution was made here on 19/7/10min45, but no costs agreed.</p> <p>Wording for Mr G Powell's bench 'In grateful memory of Graham Powell Macebearer (TBC)-2008 A Faithful servant of the Town'</p> <p>Christmas Trees and lights Robert Price and Travis Perkins kindly supplied and delivered the blocks and fencing today, and the Christmas trees are due to be delivered and erected early tomorrow morning. The lights will be put onto the trees probably on Thursday, and this is also when the rest of the Christmas lights will gradually be turned on.</p> <p>Benches in Memory of John Edwards Mr Alan Horrex has been updated and informed of progress, and will let us know how he wishes to proceed when he has spoken to others.</p>	

	<p>Action Review</p> <p>Bins for Chippenham: At a site meeting with a Tidy Towns representative, Cllr Smith and Cllr Dewhurst were advised that funding for bins may be found for two along the Waitrose side of the park. These bins will be constructed of metal with lids. (See Item 6. Minutes of 7 November 2011)</p> <p>In the meantime the replacement bin has been ordered for the unsightly burnt out one. Funding already allocated.</p> <p>Action: Town Clerk to inform MCC that the bin at Clawdd Du has been wrenched from its base and thrown into the ditch. It is not otherwise damaged and the bin at Agincourt Square has not been emptied for some time.</p> <p>Nailers Lane Lighting: Cllr Munslow has been in further contact with the residents. They do not wish to follow up any grants but are hoping to continue working directly with Roger Joy to improve the lighting</p> <p>Boulders to contain parking at the Quay on the Wye: See Agenda item 11</p> <p>Blestium Street/Waitrose exit: see correspondence</p> <p>Parking Issues on Monnow Bridge:</p> <p>Action: Cllr Christopher will contact CADW and Highways again as in July as the problem remains</p>	<p>Town Clerk</p> <p>TC</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>To receive Correspondence:</p> <p>Letter 15: concerns re traffic issues in Agincourt Square and lack of a crossing place. These are being considered by Vision Monmouth on which MTC has representation by Cllr Chivers and Cllr Dewhurst. Following discussion it was agreed we will agree a way forward to improve the Disability /unloading and short term parking allocation and enforcement of No Parking via the working party. Matters will include lack of use of loading bay, allocating a coach drop off point, moving the disabled bays to outside the Museum and possibly double yellow lines introduced outside the One Stop Shop/Iceland.</p> <p>Letter 21: Response from Environment Agency to David Davis MP re Cemetery space: the committee has queries about the Environment Agency understanding of MCC's burial needs.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Smith will forward the response to D McCarty (MCC) with a letter expressing the committee's concerns about what exactly was requested by MCC.</p>	<p>BS</p>

	<p>Letter 22 Drybridge Park concrete around pond: Mr R Hoggins believes it could be a problem of persistent damp and will ask an officer to price repair costs.</p> <p>Cllr Bright will also look into the situation as locals have questioned the overgrown and unmaintained appearance</p> <p>Letter 24 Mark Youngman letter re Hereford Road Crossing: Waiting for results of the traffic audit. Cllr Hayward has received a draft plan of a proposed crossing made after discussions with MCC Tree Officer Links Project, Town Council and Area Committee, and in the light of the traffic audit. Cllr Hayward to consult as many people as possible on the proposal.</p> <p>Action: this Committee will agree on its response once the drawings are available</p>	
6.	<p>To review the Committee's expenditure to date:</p> <p>Cllr Smith reported spending will be on target leaving no surplus this year.</p>	
7.	<p>To receive reports:</p> <p>a. To receive from and report to CSATS working group. No Report</p> <p>b. Battle of Agincourt Celebrations working group: No report</p> <p>c. Banners and pennants for Monnow St group: A quote has been received from Chillipeppers for the making erection and removal of 11 rectangular (lamp post banners and 19 smaller pennants. Action: Cllr Dewhurst to obtain two further quotations from different companies.</p> <p>d. Floral working group: The raised beds will be planted in February. Action: Cllr Bright will ascertain whether the donated snowdrops have been saved. The contractor is enthusiastic and pro-active; he has already notified the group about the diseased pansies he is dealing with.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>GB</p>
8.	<p>To discuss Monnow Rivers Balsam eradication programme</p> <p>Action: Cllr Mrs Smith will send a letter of thanks and ask Mr Denny to inform the committee when the project nears Monmouth.</p>	BS
9.	<p>To discuss requesting reinstatement of road markings at Wonastow Road</p> <p>Deferred until next meeting due to absence of relevant Councillors</p>	Town Clerk
10.	<p>To confirm order for further bin on Chippenham Mead near to Waitrose exit</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Mrs Were Seconded: Cllr Fletcher Unanimous in Favour</p>	

<p>11.</p>	<p>To discuss boulders to alleviate parking problems at Monmouth Quay</p> <p>Tim Bradfield has sent figures for placing boulders as Cllr Munslow's drawing, a cost of £4,000, other parties may be willing to contribute.</p> <p>Sustrans are fully aware of the situation so any development of the Monmouth Links will be co-ordinated with MCC, the Rowing Club, Safe Routes to School, Environment Agency and this Committee.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Mrs Smith will keep in touch with Gwyn Smith of Sustrans and Tim Bradfield in the New Year</p>	<p>BS</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>To discuss boulders to alleviate parking problems at Tudor Road</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Were is in contact with Dave Watkins, who is liaising with Monmouthshire Housing Association to ascertain responsibility. People are driving over a pavement to park on grass which is becoming a quagmire</p> <p>Action: Cllr Mrs Were will persist with until the problem is resolved.</p>	<p>AW</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>To discuss Town Ditch</p> <p>Mr Colin Phillips (MCC) is now in charge of the Town Ditch and Gwent Archaeology have been appointed to sift through the soil, recording finds and then re-instating the area. However the Landlord's written permission must be gained before a proposal to do the work can be put to CADW. Mr Phillips is ascertaining ownership as he is not sure that the affected area is all owned by MCC.</p> <p>Once the formalities are completed work should start in the New Year.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Mrs Smith will request an e-mail to confirm the above telephone conversation</p>	<p>BS</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>To discuss Improvements at Vauxhall Fields/Inglis Bridge entrance</p> <p>On Monday 5 December the Army's proposal to close the Bridge to traffic will be discussed.</p> <p>Meanwhile the matter of the state of the parking area is of concern. Cars are parking on the field well beyond the fenced off area, causing an increasing length of ruined grassland. Photos were circulated of the muddy pools of water and churned up grass. Cars drivers presently have the excuse not to keep within the amenity space because it is so rough, frequently flooded and broken up.</p>	

	Action: Cllr Mrs Dewhurst will continue to request Tim Bradfield or Glyn Edmunds to supply materials to fill in the broken up surface. Volunteers can probably be found to lay and compact it.	AD
15.	To agree items of discussion for future meetings. Wonastow Road Markings Jubilee working party report	
16.	To confirm date of the next meeting: 9 th January 2012	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm