

# Monmouth Town Council

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## Finance & Policy Committee

### **Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at The Shire Hall Monmouth**

**Present:** (Dep) Chairman Cllr Mr N Hacket Pain

Cllr Mr R Bond  
Cllr Mr G Bright  
Cllr Mr C Munslow  
Cllr Mrs J Gunter  
Cllr Mrs J Hall

Cllr Mrs Chivers  
Cllr Mrs B Smith  
Cllr Mr J Fletcher  
Cllr Mrs Dewhurst  
Cllr Mr M Jones

In Attendance: Mrs S James, Town Clerk

1. **To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda**  
None received
2. **To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies received from Cllr R Hayward and Cllr T Christopher
3. **To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.**  
Approved and signed  
Proposed: Cllr Mrs J Hall, Seconded: Cllr Mrs B Smith  
Unanimous
4. **To receive and approve the summary of expenditure**
  - i. To approve the accounts for payment between 15/11/11 and 14/12/11  
The Clerk highlighted payments to staff pensions, office shredder, and for Shire Hall renovation  
Approved  
Proposed: Cllr Mrs J Gunter, Seconded: Cllr Mrs B Smith  
Unanimous
  - ii. To review a statement of the bank reconciliations as at 30/11/11
  - iii. To review a statement of income from 15/11/11 to 13/12/11
  - iv. To receive report on committee's expenditure to 13/12/11.  
The rest of the accounts were noted and agreed.

**5. To receive correspondence (listed separately)**

Letter 10. The Public Catalogue Foundation request for an updated agreement in respect of the PCF/BBC Your Paintings website. This has been agreed in principal at a previous meeting and the additional request was explained and agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J Hall, Seconded: Cllr Mrs B Smith

Unanimous

Letter 11: "Welcome to Monmouth" website –emails/MTC. The Clerk explained that it appeared this site contained MTC information that had not been updated since 2008. It was agreed that it should be updated and the possibility of RSS feed looked into.

It was also suggested that the Council should have a Facebook page – to be discussed at a further meeting.

Letter 9: Welsh Government Proposed procedural changes for advertising road traffic regulation orders –consultation period 20 29/2/12. To be referred to Community Affairs committee.

Letter 12: Acknowledged and request for communication by email rather than paper noted.

**6. To consider action review summary and receive Town Clerk's report**

Action Review: Noted and updated

Clerk's Report: Mr Colin Phillips and Mr Paul Keeble have been invited to discuss issues with the Full Town Council on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan - specifically regarding the Wye Bridge and associated traffic problems in crossing between Wyesham and Monmouth Town, and also general regeneration issues in and for the town. The MCC officers are attending at the request of the Council, (made at Full Town Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September) and it has been agreed to give details of items/issues which Monmouth Town Council would like to raise and discuss with them before the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. To date, only 1 Councillor has given details of items for discussion.

- Update on visitor centre
- Any plans for the old Slaughter houses below Priory Street  
More feedback would be appreciated.

Cllr Mrs S Chivers asked how much time would be available for discussion and suggested a separate meeting would be better. The Mayor, Cllr G Bright confirmed at least half an hour would be given to discussion on 16<sup>th</sup> January, and it was agreed that a further, more specific meeting would be arranged at a later date as well, if appropriate.

**7. To discuss CSAT'S issues**

Cllr J Hall complimented the traffic warden who has been doing a good job.

Cllr G Bright raised concerns of bicycles being ridden without lights in the dark, and being ridden on pavements and alleyways causing danger to pedestrians as well as themselves. Vehicles parking on Vauxhall fields late at night

Footpath between Bridges and Watery Lane is lit by only 1 light –extra lighting needed. To be passed onto CSATs.

**8. To discuss advertising in good time for next year's elections**

A letter in the previous week's local paper was discussed, and it was confirmed that it contained inaccuracies – such as about co-option –that had taken place in the past as not enough electors had requested a vote, rather than as stated in the letter.

Advertisements had been placed in the past, but a lack of candidates has been the main problem. It was suggested that Agenda items 9 and 10 be tackled through a letter to the Editor of the local paper, giving details of the Town Councils work and achievements, and promoting a positive and informative view of the Council. The forthcoming election could be promoted and the work of Councillors, and their limited expenses, advertised.

A working group of Councillors Mrs A Dewhurst, Mrs B Smith, and Mr M Jones agreed to draft the letter which would be published in the local paper through the Town Clerk.

**9. To discuss communication of Town Councils work to the public**

Cllr Mr C Munslow had prepared a report on this item, which had been previously circulated to all members, suggesting various ways that the profile and work of the Town Council could be further promoted and visible to all residents.

After some discussion, including how many residents appear to view the council in terms of service delivery, but not necessarily as a pressure force to the unitary authority and representative of more local democracy.

It was agreed that the letter referred to under Agenda 9 be drafted and published, and the communication issue then be reviewed again.

**10. To confirm SLCC membership renewal at £157**

Confirmed

Proposed: Cllr N Hacket Pain, Seconded: Cllr R Bond

Unanimous

**11. To discuss and respond to Local Government Pension Scheme consultation on possible changes to employee contributions. (Details provided separately, closing date 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012)**

Details of the proposed changes and consultation had been previously circulated to all councillors, and the Clerk briefly outlined the two options suggested and potential impact on employee pension contributions.

This was noted by members and there was no response recommended to be made.

**12. To discuss and respond to consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill. (Details provided separately, closing date 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012)**

Details of the consultation had been previously circulated to all members. Some discussion took place regarding byelaws and parking on green areas, and more enforcement required. The consultation document was noted, and a response, specifically regarding enforcement of parking byelaws, was delegated to Cllr Mr N Hacket Pain.

**13. To discuss office computer issues**

The Clerk updated members on the problems still being experienced in the office regarding a reliable email system. Advice on alternatives had been sort from MTC IT contractor, which had been forwarded to MCC, although the best solution remains for MCC to manage their Firewall and port settings specifically for Monmouth Town Council. Cllr N Hacket Pain offered access to further IT support if required.

Item will be reported back on as progresses.

**14. Items of discussion for future meetings**

Office IT issues, Communication of Town Council's work, Monmouth Town Council Facebook page.

**15. To confirm date of next meeting:**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 7pm, Shire Hall, Monmouth

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm**