

Monmouth Town Council  
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## MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Held on  
**15 May 2006 at 7.00pm**  
In The Old Library Community Room

**Present:** Chairman The Mayor Councillor Mrs S Chivers  
Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs C Pearce, Councillor Mrs C Atkins, Councillor R Bond,  
Councillor G F W Buckland, Councillor T Christopher, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,  
Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor N Hackett Pain, Councillor Mr R Hayward,  
Councillor Mrs V Mitchell, Councillor S Roberts, Councillor L Robson,  
Councillor D Stevens, Councillor Mrs A Were and Councillor Mrs S White.

**In Attendance:** Mrs Sarah Robson Town Clerk and Mrs Jane Lloyd Clerical Assistant.

### 1. To Receive Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda:

None received.

**The Mayor Councillor Mrs S Chivers asked for a suspension of standing Orders to allow Mr David Evans to speak.**

Unanimous.

Mr Evans spoke regarding a petition signed by 155 people in favour of the Deputy Mayor Mrs C Pearce becoming Mayor for the year 2006/2007.

The retiring Mayor Councillor Mrs S Chivers gave a short speech thanking the people of Monmouth, family and staff for their help support and encouragement.  
(Copy available from the Town Clerks office if required).

### 2. To Elect the Mayor for the Coming Year:

Nominations were:

Cllr T Christopher

**Proposed:** Cllr S Roberts

**Seconded:** by Cllr R Bond

Cllr Mrs C Pearce

**Proposed:** Cllr T Buckland

**Seconded:**

Cllr Mrs C Pearce declined to accept the nomination and left the meeting.

Cllr L Robson withdrew the request for a secret ballot along with Cllr Mrs A Were who seconded the request.

**For:** 13

**Against:** 0

**Abstention:** 1

The Mayor Cllr T Christopher announced his charities for this years fund raising to be COMIC

Plant & Grow Project and

Monmouth Animal Homing and Rescue Group.

**3. Mayor Installation and Election of the Deputy Mayor:**

Nominations were:

Cllr R Bond

Proposed: Terry Christopher

Seconded: Cllr J Fletcher

Unanimous.

**4. To Name the Mayors Chaplain.**

The Mayors Chaplain will be The Reverend Canon Richard Pain.

**5. To Confirm the Date for the Civic Service:**

Confirmed as Sunday 11 June 2006.

**6. To Receive Apologies for Absence:**

None received.

**7. To Confirm & Sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April and 8 May 2006:**

Minutes of 3 April were confirmed correct.

**Proposed:** Cllr D Stevens

**Seconded:** Cllr N Hacket Pain

Minutes of 8 May 2006 were confirmed correct.

**Proposed:** Cllr B Hayward

**Seconded:** Cllr J Fletcher

Minutes of 8 May 2006 (Pink Paper) were confirmed correct.

**Proposed:** Cllr D Stevens

**Seconded:** Cllr N Hacket Pain

**8. To Receive the Town Clerks Report:**

1. HMS Monmouth has a new captain; Commander Tim Peacock has taken over on the ship with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The ship will be paying a visit to Cardiff in June and there is a planned affiliate's day which is anticipated will probably take place in the form of a tour around the ship and a reception on board in the Ward Room. At the moment the schedule has not been confirmed but Commander Peacock is expecting to visit Monmouth on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006, and have a meeting with The Mayor. The tour of the ship is expected to take place on the Saturday.
2. European Heritage Weekend will take place over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September this event is organised by Monmouth Civic Society. As part of the event The Shire Hall will be open between 2 – 5pm. Members of the public are invited to go to various places of interest in and around town including the Castle and Regimental Museum, The old Monnow Bridge, The Priory, The Methodist Church and The Roundhouse at The Kymin. The regalia will be on display in The Council Chamber, there will also be photographs on display, The Court Room will be open and also The Henry V Tapestry will be displayed to visitors. I will be asking for volunteers to help out in The Shire Hall during this time and will contact members again nearer the date.
3. Monmouthshire County Council arranged a CCTV meeting recently and invited representatives of all interested parties. The main purpose of the meeting was to agree the proposed changes that had been previously discussed, which needed to be incorporated into The Service Level Agreement. This went ahead as planned and Donna Sidnell has agreed to circulate the revised document shortly. Unfortunately there was nobody present from Caerphilly County Borough Council, who provide the monitoring facility, and to date they still have not provided any statistics or information that has been requested. Another meeting has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June to be held at the offices of Caldicot Town Council and it has been requested that someone from the monitoring facility is present at that meeting. Members present also asked for an agenda and minutes of the previous meetings, the revised SLA, and statistics concerning the effectiveness of the cameras, this information is to be made available at least one week in advance.

4. At the recent Environmental Affairs meeting it was agreed that members would conduct a survey of commuters to Monmouth who use the Glendower Street Car Park in order to try and establish the reasons why people aren't considering other 'greener options' of travelling into Monmouth. Councillor Mrs Atkins has prepared a questionnaire and would like any volunteers who would be interested in speaking to members of the public and collating their responses to let her know. It is proposed that people parking their vehicles will be asked to take part in the survey, and Councillor Mrs Atkins suggests that this could take place next week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 7.45 and 9.45. Please let Councillor Mrs Atkins know if you are available and would like to help out.

## **9. To Receive Correspondence:**

The Town Clerk brought to the attention of the committee letters received from the following:

- a) Ravine Wildlife: Regarding an event on 24 June 2006 to include a morning talk followed by afternoon visit to Goodrich, Doward or Symonds Yat.
- b) MCC regarding Welcome Centre: An open evening to be held on Thursday 18 May 5.00 – 6.00 pm at the One Stop shop, with one of the architect's available for information.

## **10. Reports & Issues:**

### **a) Environmental Affairs Committee:**

Chairman Cllr D Stevens talked about the great deal of work Cllr Mrs C Pearce had put into the Christmas lights project. It is proposed that this will include a number of lamp stand displays from the New Wye Bridge to the Priory, providing two gateways to the town. To be agreed by full Council due to the costs.

### **b) Community Affairs Committee:**

Main items from the last meeting but the main one was to consider the final plans for the civic awards which was received and supported well. Cllr L Robson thanked former Mayor Cllr Mrs S Chivers, The Town Clerk, her Assistant, fellow Councillors and Bridges for all their help in the preparation and organisation for the event.

He advised that he will be contacting a teacher at the Comprehensive school about the Duke of Edinburgh scheme which will be taking a group of children to Africa. The committee is considering whether to support this project that is being run for disadvantaged students.

Town Map: Looking into developing a map for knowledge of each ward giving other wards information and for committee reference.

The Committee has managed to bring everything in on budget this year.

### **c) Planning:**

Not many plans received as a new computer system being installed at County Hall is experiencing problems.

The Moat House, Hereford Rd: After a meeting and receiving views of the people that attended, the decision was made to approve the plan.

Cllr Mrs A Were will be stepping down at the next meeting but thanked the former Mayor, Town Clerk and her assistant for all their hard work, also all those who attended the meetings on a regular basis.

### **d) Finance & Policy Committee:**

The Committee is heavily dependant on the Town clerk who has coped admirably, a new accounts system is being installed which will make work easier for the Town Clerk and easier for members to understand the reporting system. Cllr Buckland would like to 'spike' the report that appeared in the press recently stating that the Town Council has been ludicrously overspending, he can assure that every penny spent is accounted for by the chairman of the committee, the finance and policy committee and the Town Clerk, money is not wasted.

The Committee is in the process of initiating talks with Monmouthshire County Council to try and get services devolved to the Town council that may be better managed on a local level. This will be a very long process and hopefully will go further next year.

e) **Monmouth Partnership Forum:**

A new group is being formed ' Friends of Monmouth Cemetery Group'.

Cycling and walking group going ahead with a design feasibility study for a professional local map with proposed routes linking parts of the town which will assist tourism and people getting around the town.

**11. Election of Committees:**

The Finance and Policy committee recommend approval to the full council. Chairman Cllr Buckland would urge every member of every committee to take full part in the actions and attend as many meetings as possible especially planning as if under five members attend it cannot form a quorum.

**12. To Confirm Meeting Dates:**

Confirmed.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at  
8.05 pm**