

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Held on 18 September 2006 At St James Community Hall, Wyesham, Monmouth at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Chairman The Mayor Councillor T Christopher
Councillor Mrs C Atkins, Councillor G F W Buckland, Councillor Mrs S Chivers,
Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor N Hacket Pain,
Councillor R Hayward, Councillor Mrs C Pearce, Councillor S Roberts,
Councillor L Robson, Councillor D Stevens and Councillor Mrs A Were.

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

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

Councillor Mrs C Pearce Item Number 5 Correspondence number 21

2. To Receive Apologies For Absence:

Councillor R Bond, Cllr Mrs S White and Cllr Mrs V Mitchell

3. To Confirm & Sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 August 2006

Confirmed Correct.

Proposed: Cllr T Christopher **Seconded:** Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst

Unanimous.

4. To Receive the Town Clerks Report:

1. Monmouthshire County Council Highways Department have recently replaced some of the cobbles at the side of the Shire Hall opposite the Kings Head. It was pointed out recently that this was a safety hazard and could cause a potential fall into the roadway.
2. It has been noticed that over recent weeks Heavy Goods Vehicles have been using the Cattle Market Car Park to park in overnight. This has become possible since the barrier preventing access for this type of vehicle had to be removed as it had been damaged beyond repair. The One Stop Shop has confirmed that new ones will be installed shortly but that this will involve digging up the entrance of the car park to have them installed. Although there is a town warden who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the regulations in the car parks, he only works between 9 and 5. There is no one on duty after this time with enforcement rights.

3. Following recent complaints about the parking of vehicles on the grassed area near the shop at Wyesham Road, I have made investigations with the Housing Dept who are responsible for this area. They have confirmed that a letter has been sent to a number of local residents pointing out that this area is not suitable for vehicles to park and also that it could be a danger to pedestrians. The Housing Dept are liaising with the Highways Dept as some suggestions have been made that for the residents that are affected by this order, parking on Wyesham Road is more hazardous to other road users and pedestrians than parking on the grassed area would be.
- 5. To Receive Correspondence that the Mayor Wishes to Place before the Council:**
 Monmouthshire County Council: Vacancy with MCC Admissions Forum.
 MCC Debbie McCarty: Monmouth Reading together book this year will be Jonnie and the Bomb by Terry Pratchett.
 Wye Valley AONB: Invitation for two Councillors to partake in the study tour, to cover an area north of Ross on Wye.
 Gwent Police Authority: Invite to one of three events re 2007 Local Policing Plan.
 One Voice Wales: National Training Strategy. Chairs of the committees were invited to look at the information and give feedback to The Clerk about training requirements for their committee.
- 6. Matters Raised by Members:**
 None received in writing
- 7. To Consider and Approve Reports & Minutes of Committees:**
- a. Planning Committee:**
 As per minutes. Lidl plans - Town Council in support of the Lidl development but wish following to be considered, access for pedestrians and vehicles needs improvement, outside appearance of building not suitable for AONB suggest screening with trees and shrubs, better pedestrian access from Wyesham, work to involve Safe Routes to School scheme.
 Application for Telephone mast in water board area at Mayhill.
 Town Council rejected this and MCC rejected out of hand, confirmed it will not go ahead.
- b. Environmental Affairs Committee:**
 As per minutes. Discussed Christmas lights and how to improve the Town Centre including Community Safety with discussions on how to improve communication and information around the town.
 Open Spaces - Disappointed with the decision by the C.S.A.T's who decided not to take action on the Town Councils request for a bylaw at Chippenham regarding the banning of glass, it is felt that the views of this council are not being taken on board by the County Council.
 Street Decorations – There will be a discussion regarding this years flowers shortly and it is felt that the MFP group would like more community involvement with this.
 Implementation of findings and recommendation of survey of town furniture - this includes dog waste receptacles, benches and bins etc. A survey is to be carried out listing where everything is located around the town
 Transport & Traffic Needs - It is felt that a policy is required to include environmental issues next meeting to be 17 October 2006 totally dedicated to transport and traffic 6.00 pm Shire Hall.

Councillor Mrs C Pearce gave a report on the progress of Christmas Lights to date, lights to highlight the entrances of the Town with column lighting on lamp posts through centre and spring loaded frames to be used on Shire Hall windows. As Shire Hall is a listed building only existing fixings can be used. The contractor will check old lighting and store all the decorations for the Town Council saving .The final draft will be faxed through tonight at 9.30 pm with the testing of the old lights to start in one week.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 27th September at 7.00 pm in The Shire Hall.

c. Community Affairs Committee:

As per Minutes. Next meeting will be held on 25 September and Christmas festivities will be discussed.

Play scheme - this item was postponed from last meeting, but Mike Moran will be addressing members at the forthcoming meeting.

The committee would like to know the opinions of local people as to the closure of the One Stop Shop cash desks and will be asked to contact the Town Council or their ward members.

Review of the carnival – A meeting is to be held on Wednesday 27 September.

Community Grants scheme - A total of £7,000 has been shared between the charity groups that applied and the next meeting will finalise details of the awards night.

d. Finance & Policy Committee:

Accounts 11 July - 17 August and bank statements approved correct with compliments to the Town Clerk for her efficient work. The substantial increase in the electricity bill for Shire Hall, Town Clerk has managed to resolve this with the County Council.

Review of the public services ombudsman and summary of Beecham report on delivery of local services in Wales. A working party has been established to discuss the progress of devolution of local services with the first meeting this Thursday 28 September which will be reported back to this council.

There was a review about the WAG guide lines for the provision of indemnity to councillors.

It was agreed to make a contribution of £150 to the Summer Film School which was a great success.

The internal auditor Mr Clive James to be reappointed once again to audit the accounts.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 9th October.

Proposed: Councillor Mrs S Chivers **Seconded:** Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst
Unanimous.

e. Monmouth Partnership Forum:

As per minutes. No meeting has been held.

f. Others:

Chamber of Commerce:

A discussion about the opportunities for businesses that could be gained by having the Ryder cup at Celtic Manor Newport next year took place.

Christmas Events: Putting together a combined community programme of events.

The Town Council have invited the Chamber of Commerce to the next Community Meeting to be held believing a view of integration between Town Council, Chamber and Wye Valley Tourism is necessary to have a successful Christmas event.

9. To Resolve to withdraw from the CCTV Service Level Agreement At The Earliest Point of Exit:

The CCTV system represents a significant expenditure to the town with £11,800 per year out of the precept which is approx 10% of the total. The Town Council is charged with giving good value for money and some members feel that this is questionable. The service level agreement is in place to ensure accountability so far no information regarding performance has been given. The system it is felt only gives comfort value and The Town Council is now being asked to renew this agreement. The partnership is run between MCC, Abergavenny, Caldicot ,Chepstow, Monmouth Town Councils and Caerphilly CBC.

Councillor Buckland asked for this item to be adjourned until the next meeting as a meeting of the CCTV user group is due to take place in early October. He believes it does have an effect on reducing the effect of crime in the town, in the beginning shop keepers reported that they had 30% less pilfering in general. Councillor Fletcher mentioned that he knew of an incident had taken place but nothing could be found on the CCTV cameras and that another incident took place in the town and it then took a month to request the film and due to high costs to process it the request was denied.

Councillor R Hayward pointed out that the scheme is to be updated and will be going digital, also in addition a viewing station would be available to the Police based in Monmouth. There are concerns that the police will give no commitment as to the effectiveness of the system and combined with poor management from Monmouthshire County Council over the last three years it has not been a good partnership. Councillor Hayward believed that if The Town Council's pull out of the agreement that Monmouthshire County Council will pull out and remove the cameras. He believes non payment would be a better option.

The vote was taken on the resolution.

Proposed: Councillor D Stevens

Seconded: Councillor T Christopher

For: 9

Against: 4

Against: 0

10. To Nominate Minority Authority Representative on the Governing Body of Wyesham Junior School:

One Nomination received from Councillor Mrs V Mitchell

Unanimous.

11. To Nominate Town Council Representative for G.A.V.O.:

Due to pressure of work Councillor D Stevens has had to resign.

Councillor R Hayward Proposed Councillor Mrs C Atkins.

Unanimous.

12. To Receive Questions From Members Of the Public:

E Mail received from J Given and J Martin re Play area at Woodland View.

The people of Wyesham were not informed that the play ground was being taken away, the area has always been a play area and now a load of concrete has been left there.

Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst: Explained that the Town Council would organise a site meeting with MCC Housing Department as it was an ideal site for children to play in safely as dogs and cars could not go there and has houses overlooking it. Councillor Mrs Dewhurst had contacted the Housing Department but as yet they had not come back to her.

Councillor L Robson: Confirmed that The Housing Dept has stated that the equipment was removed on Health & Safety grounds as they didn't come up to today's standard's again suggested site meeting with ward members, locals and the Housing Department to find out why no consultation was made.

Councillor N Hackett Pain: Believed leaflets were handed out requesting ideas from local residents on how the area should be used.

Mr & Mrs Hoyle Re Speeding Traffic.

In November 2003 it was promised that action would be taken against speeding vehicles doing speeds of up to 60 m.p.h. When a survey was completed by people of Wyesham out of one hundred and seven vehicles only three were under travelling at 30 m.p.h, 10% were doing more than 60 m.p.h. with others doing a top speed of at least 80 m.p.h. Speed activated signs were promised but due to a change in personnel Monmouthshire County Council overlooked placing the order for them and they have never been installed.

A lay by was created for the Police to use for speed checks but Police vehicle's have never been seen there. The Chief Constable a few years ago stated that speeding in this area should be looked at but to date nothing has been done and residents of Wyesham would like the backing of the Town Council.

Councillor D Stevens: Explained we had limited influence regarding Highways matters but the Town Council would write to them with copies to the Chief Executive of MCC and the Chief Constable in Monmouth, and at the request of a local resident also asking how many prosecutions have there been regarding speeding in this area. There was a request made for double white lines to the brow of the hill as some drivers are overtaking.

The Mayor Councillor T Christopher is having a meeting with Inspector Smith and will raise this issue with him.

Anon: Speeding in Wyesham Avenue: This is being used more and more as a short cut to Redbrook Road. One child has already been knocked down but fortunately was not badly injured.

Councillor Hackett Pain: Recognises the problems but speed bumps are now not favoured as they can be very noisy. It is being looked into to making the road narrow in certain places to slow traffic down.

13. Any Other Business:

Councillor J Fletcher: Asked if the yard behind the Britannia Inn public house could be cleared of debris and vegetation although it is not know who the owners are. It was suggested that this be brought to the attention of MCC Environmental Health.

Councillor Mrs C Atkins:

Would like to introduce Monmouth not only as a Fair Trade town but a Green Town as well. Asked members who agreed with her to sign a letter from herself to be sent for publication in the Monmouthshire Beacon asking the government for stronger measures to combat emissions by 70% by the year 2030.

14. To Agree Meeting Dates.

Agreed.

Next Town Council meeting to be held on 30th October 2006 at the Shire Hall.

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