

Monmouth Town Council

Mayor's Parlour,
Shire Hall,
Monmouth NP25 3DY

Tel: 01600 715662

Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk
www.monmouth.gov.uk



MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING Held on 8th May 2007 In the Community Room Shire Hall

Present: Chairman The Mayor Councillor T Christopher
Councillor Mrs M Atkins, Councillor R J Bond, Councillor G F W Buckland,
Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Councillor J Fletcher,
Councillor N Hackett Pain, Councillor R Hayward, Councillor Mrs V Mitchell,
Councillor Mrs C Pearce, 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 retiring Mayor Councillor T Christopher gave a short speech thanking his family Councillors, staff and the people of Monmouth for their help support and encouragement during his year of office.

2. To elect the Mayor for the coming year:

Councillor Buckland requested the election be by signed ballot as per The Standing Orders. Councillor Mrs S White asked if this would be a secret ballot or would the results be given and after a brief discussion Councillor Buckland withdrew his request and the vote was carried out with a show of hands.

The nominations were:

Councillor G F W Buckland and Councillor T Christopher

After being put to the vote the result was

Councillor G F W Buckland 6

Councillor T Christopher 8

Councillor T Christopher was duly elected Mayor of Monmouth and announced his charities for the year as being, The Shire Hall Stewards, St Mary's Spire Project and The Special Needs Unit at Overmonnow Primary School to raise funds for a new mini bus.

3. Mayor installation and election of the Deputy Mayor:

Nominations were:

Councillor R Bond: Proposed by: Cllr T Christopher

Councillor D Stevens: Proposed by: Cllr G F W Buckland

After being put to the vote the result was

Councillor R Bond 6

Councillor D Stevens 8

Councillor D Stevens was duly elected Deputy Mayor of Monmouth.

4. To name the Mayors Chaplain

The Mayors Chaplain will be The Reverend Canon Richard Pain.

The Reverend David McGladdery led the meeting in prayer in the absence of The Reverend Canon Richard Pain.

5. To confirm the date for the Civic Service:

Confirmed as Sunday 10th June at St Mary's Church, the time is to be confirmed.

6. To Receive Apologies for Absence:

Councillor S Roberts and Councillor L Robson.

7. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16TH April and 23rd April 2007.

The minutes of 16th April confirmed correct and the minutes of 23rd April confirmed correct.

Proposed by: Councillor D Stevens **Seconded by:** Councillor John Fletcher

For: 12 **Abstentions:** 2.

8. To Receive the Town Clerks Report (for information only):

1. There has been a change made with respect to the register of 'Declaration of Interest' due to a statutory instrument dated 2004 it is now no longer a requirement to keep a register of members interests. This had been superseded by the need to keep a register of declarations of interest which should be made at the commencement of every meeting. It is within the remit of the monitoring officer of the unitary authority to request sight of this register and forms part of the Code of Conduct 2001. Previously kept records cannot be destroyed and will be kept in the archives for future reference.
2. I have now received confirmation from the Welsh Assembly Government that the National Assembly has exercised its' powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and made an order to reduce the speed limit to 50mph on the A40 Newport - Worcester Trunk Road. It covers the section between the Gibraltar Tunnels and the Dixton Roundabout and comes into force with effect from Wednesday 16th May 2007. A copy of the order may be inspected at The One Stop Shop for a period of six weeks which commenced on 2nd May 2007.
3. The 1st Wyesham Scout Group will be holding its' AGM tomorrow, Wednesday 9th May at the Scout Headquarters off Wyesham Avenue. It will be held at 7.00pm and not 7.30pm as was previously advised. All members are welcome. There will be reports given by not only the leaders but also by some of the boys themselves and there will be refreshments provided afterwards by the Cubs.

9. To receive correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council:

Letter No 2 re launch of Wye Valley passport scheme launch was asked to be read before the council and the letter from Osbaston School in Wales regarding vacancy for governor due to resignation of Councillor D Stevens.

10. To consider and approve reports and minutes of the council's committees.

- a) **Planning Committee:** As per minutes.
- b) **Environmental Affairs Committee:** As per minutes. No report available.
- c) **Community Affairs Committee:** As per minutes. There was an informative talk given by County Councillor Mrs Hackett Pain regarding Wyesham play area which is still being progressed.
No comeback as yet from MCC regarding the summer play scheme, and this may have to be taken further.
A very successful Civic Award evening was held with all nominees receiving a certificate. The winners received a plate with a cheque for £200 to go towards their favourite charity which was provided by the Sponsors.
- d) **Finance & Policy Committee:** As per minutes.
A report was given by Jenny Lewis outlining the draft document 'Connections' which is a proposed framework to improve communications between Town and County Councils. The committee's opinion was that it was meaningless and this information was to be reported back to the Chief executive of MCC.
It was agreed to carry forward various sums to next year for earmarked expenditure. The Clerk requested that the numbering carry on consecutively on the agenda's and minutes from meeting to meeting and members agreed this.
It was approved that delegated authority should be given to the Town Clerk to pay expenses within the administration budget.
A recommendation that the complaints procedure produced by One Voice Wales should be adopted at the next Town Council meeting.
The budgets were agreed for £60 towards the Mayor Making reception this evening and £1,200 for the Civic Service.
The CCTV system is still operative although Monmouth Town Council is no longer making a contribution for it.
Shire Hall: Councillor Buckland has spent two full days trying to sort out the details of what is going to be done with the Shire Hall making sure that the Town Council gets what it needs from this.
Proposed by: Councillor Mrs S White **Seconded by:** Councillor J Fletcher
Unanimous.
- e) **Monmouth Partnership Forum:** A meeting has not been held since the last Town Council meeting however an extraordinary public meeting organised by the Forum with guest speaker Ben Hamilton Baille giving a presentation on 'Shared Spaces' which was well attended. This type of scheme mixes traffic and people and has the result of slower speeds with fewer accidents, doing away with street signs, pedestrian crossings and kerbs to create open spaces with everything interacting together. The Forum wants to capitalise on this and move it forward, MCC also seemed enthusiastic with the idea.
The Cycling and Walking Group met recently and gave a thorough report describing eight possible routes around Monmouth linking the communities of Monmouth through the means of cycling and walking.
- f) **Others:** None.

11. To appoint members to committees:

All members have already been notified of the selection and the final submission has been circulated. Members were asked to approve the appointments.

Councillor G F W Buckland requested to withdraw from Finance & Policy, Community and Environmental committees due to other commitments.

The Mayor thanked Councillor G F W Buckland for all his hard work.

Proposed by: Councillor R Hayward

Seconded by: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst.

Unanimous.

12. To agree meeting dates:

Agreed.

The next Town Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11th June 2007.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____