

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on 9 June 2008 at 7.00pm Market Hall Priory Street

PRESENT: Chairman the Mayor Councillor T Christopher
Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,
Councillor Ms C Edwards, Councillor Mrs J Hall, Councillor J Fletcher,
Councillor N Hacket Pain, Councillor M Jones, Councillor Mrs B Smith,
Councillor Mrs A Were, Councillor Mrs S White and Councillor Ms J Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sarah Robson Town Clerk and Mrs Jane Lloyd Clerical Assistant

17. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda:

None received

18. To receive questions from members of the public for a maximum of 10 minutes:

Sergeant Thorpe gave an update on police activities explaining that burglaries on commercial premises since the beginning of April had increased dramatically. A Police operation took effect for eleven days involving officers located throughout the town in plain clothes which resulted in one local man being apprehended and two others being found with stolen goods at their premises. One has been charged and one is on bail, all three people were known to the police. Purse dipping is still going on in Monmouth and groups from out of town are targeting Monmouth. The Police are still distributing lanyards to attach purses to hand bags along with posters. One man was caught regarding thefts from vehicles and two men were also caught for shoplifting.

19. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor R Bond, Councillor R Hayward and Councillor L Robson

20. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st April and 12th May 2008:

21 April 2008: Confirmed correct

12 May 2008: Confirmed correct with the following amendment

Page 1 Agenda Item 3: Councillor Mrs Chivers raised an objection to the manner in which the nomination was held

Proposed: Councillor Mrs S White

Seconded: Councillor Mrs A Were

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

21. To receive the Town Clerk's report:

1. There is a planned Public Meeting which will be held in the Priory, the date is yet to be confirmed which will be chaired by Monmouth & District Chamber of Trade and Commerce. It will predominantly be to discuss the implications for traders when the planned refurbishment of the Shire Hall commences. After the reaction recently when the security fencing was erected, there has been much concern over the effect of the proposed hoarding around the cobbles may have on trade at the top of town. It is hope that this can reassure local traders that the Chamber, MCC and Monmouth Town Council are working hard in co-operation to mitigate the effects that this work will have. It is proposed to outline the benefits of the renovation to residents and traders alike.

2. The Accounts for 2007/2008 have been closed off and the completion of the Annual Return is in hand and will be submitted well within the deadline of 30th September. Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 the External Auditors are required to set an appointed date. It has been set for Monday 29th September 2008. There will be an inspection period when local electors and their representatives have the right to question the auditor or make an objection to the accounts. The inspection period must be for 20 working days and must be advertised at least 14 days before the start date. The date of announcement will be 18th August and the commencement of the inspection period will be 1 September.
3. St Mary's Priory Church has organised a Flower Festival which will take place on 13th – 15th June between 9.30am – 6.00pm in the Church. The theme is 'Church and Town' and the proceeds will be in aid of the Church Spire Appeal. The cost to enter including a programme will be £3.00

22. To receive correspondence that the mayor wishes to place before the Council:

- Letter received from the Police regarding a joint action awareness meeting to be held at 12.30 on 25th June 2008 at Green Meadow Golf Club.
- Questionnaire received from One Voice Wales regarding level of satisfaction with Monmouthshire County Council services. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would complete this with The Mayor and Chairman of Finance & Policy.

23. Matters raised by members:

Nothing received in writing.

24. To consider and approve reports and minutes of the Council's committees:

a) **Planning Committee:** As per Minutes.

The main issue at the last meeting was the application for 145 new homes at Rockfield estate.
Next meeting to be held on 23rd June 2008

b) **Environmental Affairs Committee:** As per Minutes.

Part of the forward plan for this year is for all members to look at their wards and come back with ideas from there constituents.

The Annual Review will be written by the former chairman Mrs Vivien Mitchell and Mrs Mitchell has also agreed to maintain the planters in Monmouth for a period of two months until the project has been put out to tender.

The Chamber of Trade were looking for finance for a visitor guide, this has been deferred as there may be an opportunity of obtaining a guide free of charge.

Next meeting to be held on 14th July 2008

c) **Community Affairs Committee:** No meeting.

Next meeting is 16 June 2008

d) **Finance & Policy Committee:** As per Minutes.

Councillor Hackett Pain gave the report in the absence of the Chairman. The meeting was largely taken up with housekeeping matters. There was a discussion regarding the remit of the committee which it was agreed will not change.

There was a debate about the request for a further PCSO, this was deferred for Full Council and will be discussed at this meeting as agenda item 28

There was also a question regarding the viability of the meeting room and whether or not it meets H&S standards with the amount of people attending

It was agreed that funding given by this Council should be given to local rather than national institutions.

Next meeting to be held on 30th June 2008

Proposed: Councillor J Fletcher

Seconded: Councillor Mrs S White

Unanimous

e) **Monmouth Partnership Forum:** No meeting.

Next meeting date is 16th June 2008

f) **Others: Fairtrade** Councillor Mrs Smith confirmed that last weekend at a conference at Caerleon, it was announced that Wales was to be the first Fairtrade nation in the world.

The Town Clerk explained that this issue has been raised due to concerns expressed at the last Finance & Policy meeting. Members showed concern at the financial costs of the move; the breakdown was £740 for the removal fees, £25 for a public meeting and £75 to host the AGM at the Priory. It was agreed that the meeting room is not considered large enough for when members of the public in any number wish to attend

Councillor Mrs Chivers didn't think the Town Council was allowed to pay for the hire of rooms, the Town Clerk explained this was a misconception and that the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision for hire charges at a reasonable rate.

At this point Councillor Ms Edwards left the meeting

Councillor Mrs Dewhurst regarded that the meeting room provided by MCC at the rear of the Tourist Information Centre was not suitable for purpose and suggested although it would make more work for the Clerk that meetings should take place in wards in the Community.

Councillor Mrs Chivers asked the Clerk to find out more regarding maximum numbers permitted in the room provided.

Councillor Ms Edwards returned to the meeting

30. To propose to hold informal ward surgeries with constituents:

After a brief discussion it was agreed that this would be a good idea, it would enable an opportunity to explain to members of the public the differences between the County and Town Council and for questions to be posed to the ward members.

Proposed: Councillor T Christopher

Seconded: Councillor Mrs A Were

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

31. Any Other Business:

PC Andy Mason: Asked if members would consider inviting Mr Chris Norman to give a presentation of the improvements of the CCTV system. It was agreed to invite him to attend the next F&P meeting

Town Clerk: There will be a training course re Code of Conduct to be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 27th August 2008 at Rockfield Community Hall, this will also include an invitation to other local Community Councils in the area to attend.

Councillor Mrs B Smith: A Local Development Plan workshop will take place on 25th June at 6.00 pm at Bridges

One Stop Shop: There is a proposal to try and make the subway under the A40 more attractive and safe to use, four themes are to be considered. There will be a meeting taking place on Monday 23rd June at Bridges at 4.30 pm

Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst: The next Attik meeting is due to be held on 1st July at 6.00 pm. Members were advised that this year's Carnival will take place on the last Sunday in July.

Councillor Ms C Edwards: offered the use of her premises in Church Street for Town Council meetings as the restaurant is closed on Mondays. It was noted that the premises could not be used as licensed premises cannot be used for meetings.

Councillor Mrs S Chivers: Asked Sergeant Thorpe why an incident concerning children from the Comprehensive School reported drinking alcohol by the river at Vauxhall fields no response from the Police was made. The problem was not dealt with by the Police and Cllr Mrs Chivers was informed by the school that teachers are not insured to deal with problems outside of the school

32. To agree meeting dates: Agreed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2008/2009:

School Governing Bodies:

Osbaston:	Primary	Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst
Overmonnow:	Primary	Cllr Mrs S White
Kymin View:	Primary	Cllr J Williams
Fair Trade Steering Group:		Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst Mrs C Edwards & Cllr Mrs B Smith
One Voice Wales:		Cllr T Christopher & Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst
Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau:		Cllr T Christopher
Chamber of Commerce:		Cllr T Christopher & Mrs C Edwards
Monmouth Partnership Forum:		Cllr Mrs S Chivers Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst Mrs B Smith & Cllr M Jones
Monmouth Festival Committee:		Cllr T Christopher & Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst
Monmouth Charity:		Cllr Mrs S Chivers
Monmouth Youth Project:		Cllr G Bright (to accompany) Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst Cllr Mrs C Edwards (later) & Cllr Mrs J Williams
Wye Valley AONB:		Cllr N Hackett Pain & Cllr Mrs A Were
The Shire Hall Stewards:		Cllr R Bond Cllr Mrs S Chivers Cllr Mrs C Edwards Cllr J Fletcher & Cllr Mrs S White
Shire Hall Project Team		The Clerk & Cllr Mrs S Chivers
Shire Hall Project Board		Cllr N Hackett Pain