

# Monmouth Town Council

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on 24th November 2008 at 7.00pm at Bridges Community Centre, Drybridge Park, Monmouth

**PRESENT:** Chairman the Mayor Councillor T Christopher  
Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,  
Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor R Hayward, Councillor N Hacket Pain,  
Councillor Mrs J Hall, Councillor M Jones, Councillor Mrs B Smith  
And Councillor Mrs A Were

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

There was a brief presentation at the commencement of the meeting by Mr Barry Englefield representing the Attik. He gave an example of one child that regularly uses the facilities, this child experiences difficulties with school, there are issues at home and she has been involved with the Police and other agencies due to these problems. This was just one example of the type of children who attend, on average there are 50 young people at most sessions. The Attik provides a safe place to meet, it offers support and guidance, counselling, help with numeracy and literacy skills, young people's health care advice and help with finding a job. Often the children that attend are behaviourally challenged and this can cause barriers between the young people. It is staffed by Monmouthshire Youth Service which costs approximately £60k per annum, and the operating costs are £32k. It is vital that in order to keep the doors open many fund raising activities take place but in addition funding from other partners is crucial to secure the future of this service. Mr Englefield thanked the members of the Town Council for the continued financial support.

**82. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda:  
(as per The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(Wales) Order 2008)**

Councillors Mrs Dewhurst, Mrs Smith and Mrs Were all declared a personal interest in item 90 – Transition Monmouth

The Chairman requested that Standing Orders be suspended in order to invite Mr Simon Brown to speak about Transition Monmouth and also that item 90 be brought up the agenda.

**Proposed:** Councillor Christopher  
**Unanimous**

**Seconded:** Councillor Mrs Were

**90. To resolve to support in principle the Transition Town initiative and Monmouth Transition Town in particular**

Mr Simon Brown was welcomed and invited to address members.

Mr Brown introduced the concept of 'transition' as a re-localising of our economies, and the need to reduce the use of current energy sources and develop different sources. He reported that in Monmouth a local group had been set up and the launch of Transition Monmouth took place in the summer. The ground work would shortly begin on an energy descent plan which would consider improving resilience towards local energy sources, local food and jobs. He pointed out the importance of using the human ingenuity that had been evident in the development of the systems to date to develop a successor to oil. The Town Council was told that its role was central to this initiative in finding creative solutions to the issues that will face us in the future.

The members agreed to support the work of this initiative.

**Proposed:** Councillor Mrs Were

**Seconded:** Councillor Mrs Dewhurst

**For : 9    Against: 0    Abstentions: 2**

Standing orders were re-instated.

**83. To receive apologies for absence:**

Councillor R Bond, Councillor Ms C Edwards, Councillor L Robson and Councillor Ms J Williams

**84. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2008:**

The minutes were confirmed correct and signed.

**Proposed:** Councillor Mrs Hall

**Seconded:** Councillor Mrs Smith

**For: 10                    Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 1**

**85. To receive the Town Clerk's report: (for information only)**

1. The office will be closed over the Christmas Holiday Period after Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009. The agenda for the next full council meeting which is due on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January will be sent out on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. If there are any items of business that members wish to be included on that agenda please make sure that the Clerk is advised before that date.

**86. To receive correspondence that the mayor wishes to place before the council:**

There were two items of attention that were raised before the members:

Members are invited to attend a workshop to discuss proposed changes to electoral boundaries. This meeting would take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at The Bryn, Abergavenny. Would any member wishing to attend please let the Clerk know.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to bring to member's attention an item from Jenny Lewis from the One Stop Shop regarding the recent meeting to discuss the consultation process for the 'Vision Monmouth' document. All members had been issued with a copy but the Mayor wished to remind members of the timetable that had been suggested to progress this matter.

**87. To consider and approve reports and minutes of the council's committees:**

- a. Planning:** As per minutes of meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November. Councillor Mrs Chivers reported that the Planning Committee was benefiting from the strong and interested new members and that they were proving an asset to the committee. The recommendations were as per the minutes but the committee wished a note made of its objections to the retrospective plan that had been submitted for the Toll House on Drybridge Street. There will be a working group set up to consider the Local Development Plan. The Clerk was asked to liaise with members in setting up the initial meeting which would take place in the new year.  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- b. Environmental Affairs:** As per minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November Councillor Mrs Were reported that the two main items of discussion had been the provision of allotments and the setting of the budget for 2009/10. Consideration had also been given to a request for match funding for the lighting up of the old Monnow Bridge, which had been approved in principal.  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- c. Community Affairs:** As per minutes of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October Councillor Mrs Dewhurst reported that there had been a presentation at the last meeting from Mr Moran regarding the provision of Summer Play Activities and that the decision regarding funding the initiative would be deferred until the next meeting.  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008
- d. Finance & Policy:** As per minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November Councillor Hayward reported that the main body of the meeting had been taken up with routine matters. He reminded members that the meeting taking place next week would be considering the recommendation to Full Council in relation to the budget and requested that the chairs of the committees attend.  
Next meeting due to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008

**Proposed:** Councillor Mrs Chivers  
**Unanimous**

**Seconded:** Councillor Fletcher

**e. Shire Hall Renovation Project:**

Councillor Hackett Pain reminded members of the letter that had been sent to MCC outlining the terms of the payment of the Shire Hall monies. He advised that there had been no response and that he was still waiting for a meeting of the Project Board to be organised.

The next project team meeting will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**f. Shire Hall Stewards:** No report was given

**g. Monmouth Partnership Forum:**

Councillor Mrs Smith reported that the previous meeting had been to consider a response to the ‘Vision Monmouth’ document and that a lot of replies had been received for consideration. The attendees at the meeting felt that there was a lack of vision in the document and that it had not been introduced well. The meeting was focused on Monmouth being more economically and environmentally viable, and that the projects should fit with this criteria. A further written response is awaited.

**h. Others: N/A**

**88. To receive the member’s attendance summary of committee meetings:**

13th October to 10th November	Town Council	Environment Committee	Community Committee	Planning Committee	Finance & Policy	Planning Committee
	13th October	20th October	20th October	27th October	3rd November	10th November
<b>Cllr R Bond</b>	1	1		1	1	1
<b>Cllr G Bright</b>	1	APOL	APOL		1	
<b>Cllr S Chivers</b>	APOL	APOL	1	1	1	1
<b>Cllr T Christopher</b>	1	1	1	APOL	1	1
<b>Cllr A Dewhurst</b>	1	1	1	APOL	1	1
<b>Cllr Ms C Edwards</b>	APOL	APOL	APOL	APOL		APOL
<b>Cllr J Fletcher</b>	1	APOL	APOL	1	1	1
<b>Cllr NW Hackett Pain</b>	1				APOL	
<b>Cllr Mrs J Hall</b>	1	1		1		1
<b>Cllr B Hayward</b>	1	ABS		1	1	1
<b>Cllr M Jones</b>	1	1	1		1	
<b>Cllr L Robson</b>	1	ABS				
<b>Cllr Mrs B Smith</b>	1	1	1	1		1
<b>Cllrs Mrs A Were</b>	1	1	1	1	APOL	1
<b>Cllr Mrs S White</b>	1					
<b>Cllr Mrs J Williams</b>	ABS		ABS			

<b>Total In Attendance</b>	13	7	6	7	7+1	9
<b>Members on Committee</b>	16	13	10	10	9	10

Key

	Non member attendance
	Not on Committee
	Absent without Apologies

A copy of the summary was circulated to all members; some members expressed concern that despite every effort to encourage councillors to participate in council business it seemed that there were still some members who were not attending. Members should set a good example and should be reminded of their duties to attend, however concerns were raised by some that rather than trying to embarrass members into attending meetings it was preferable that co-operation and participation were used to encourage them.

**89. To consider failure by members to attend committee meetings without prior apologies ( as per Standing Order Appendix 2 paragraph 10):**

The Mayor explained that two members had been asked to account for their non attendance at committee meetings, however as they had both sent apologies it was confirmed that this item should be deferred to the next meeting, if necessary.

**91. To adopt the Model Publication Scheme:**

The Clerk advised members that the Information Commissioners Office required that all local authorities adopt the scheme by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. This will replace the current publication scheme that the Town Council operates. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure transparency and to make members of the public aware what documents are available for inspection. It also to encourage authorities to routinely make available through web based sources agendas and minutes. The document specifies a range of information that is available and how it can be accessed.

**Proposed:** Councillor Mrs Hall  
**Unanimous**

**Seconded:** Councillor Mrs Dewhurst

**92. To receive questions from members of the public:**

The Mayor advised members that the Clerk had sent an email to the Beacon offices to request that a notice be made of the meeting tonight, but that the request had not been carried out, subsequently there had been a poor response by members of the public attending. There was one member of the public present who declined the invitation to ask any questions.

**93. To consider items of business for discussion at the next meeting:**

The Clerk advised that there would be a resolution on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting to accept the continued absence from Council by one member due to ill health. Members were advised that this was a necessary requirement in order to ensure that the member did not become disqualified under the LGA 1972 for non attendance for a period of more than six months.

**94. To agree meeting dates:**

The next meeting scheduled will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.00pm in Market Hall, Priory Street

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_