

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on 5 January 2009 at 7.00pm In Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth

PRESENT: Chairman the Mayor Councillor T Christopher
Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,
Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor N Hacket Pain, Councillor R Hayward,
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
Mr & Mrs Roy Nicholas and Mr William Hall

Mr Brian Ramsey, Secretary of the Chamber of Trade gave a brief presentation on plans for the Ryder cup in 2010 and the Centenary of Charles Rolls. The main objective is to plan events themed along five or six activities that interested Charles Rolls, this to include cycling, ballooning and aviation. Rolls Royce has donated £46,000 towards providing an Education Research Worker who will be based at the Nelson Museum and Adventa have received funding of £20,000 for 'Spirit of Air'.

12 July 2010 is the centenary of Charles Rolls death, ideas for a memorial service are being explored and also a plaque being unveiled at Agincourt Square along with a rally of Rolls Royce vehicles to the Hendre and a fly past of the Rolls Royce owned Spitfire, this hoped to be followed by an evening event at the Rolls Golf Club.

Many events will be in conjunction with other events already taking place such as the Monmouth Music Festival on 25th July, hopefully by April/May this year all events will have been planned.

It was agreed that an item 'To discuss involvement with this event' will be placed on the next Town Council Agenda

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

Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst declared a personal interest on agenda item 106

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

None received

97. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor R Bond, Councillor L Robson and Councillor Mrs S White.

98. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2008:

Minutes confirmed correct and signed with the following correction,
Page 32 agenda item 90, Councillor R Hayward and Councillor N Hackett Pain abstained when the vote was taken, not unanimous as stated

Proposed: Councillor Hayward
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Fletcher

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

1. A brief summary was given of meetings and events that had taken place last year
2. Mitchel Troy Community Council has arranged an extraordinary meeting of the Council to consider a planning application to build 54 new apartments at the site of Troy House. This will involve a conversion of the pre 1700 building into 23 apartments and the demolition of post 1900's structures and building of 31 new apartments. There will be a public forum at the commencement of the meeting prior to the consideration of the application by members. The meeting will be held in Mitchel Troy Village Hall on Tuesday 6th January at 7.00pm.
3. Following the successful Community Grant award to the Shire Hall Stewards for creating an archive of the refurbishment works, a photo CD has been made available for members to see. It is in the office and details the works to date of the project.
4. Following the meeting held at Rockfield Hall in November to consider how to consult members of the public regarding the Vision Monmouth document a draft questionnaire was circulated to all members for approval. The officers responsible for regeneration at County Hall have confirmed that the Monmouth consultancy day will go ahead as planned, however the date has been changed and it will now be held on Saturday 24th January. Volunteers are required to distribute and collect the questionnaire and talk to members of the public about the project, so please can you let me know if you are free to help so that I can let the officers organising it know.
5. Further to recent discussions at the Area Committee meeting and reports in the local press regarding the situation in Monmouth regarding the potential cemetery crisis this item has now been tabled at the next MCC Full Council meeting on Thursday 15th January.

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

There were two items of attention raised before members:

A letter received from Mr S Greenslade MCC regarding the current situation of the problems with scaffolding at the rear of the Shire Hall. There is an invitation for Town Councillors to put forward ideas or views in anticipation of a resolution.

A reminder received from MCC of the workshop for the Local Development Plan to be held on Wednesday 2 January 7.00pm at Monmouth Leisure Centre

101. To note the reports and minutes of the council's committees and outside bodies:

- a. **Planning:** As per minutes of 8th December and 22nd December 2008
Councillor Mrs S Chivers gave a reminder of the importance of the meeting to be held at Mitchel Troy to consider the application for Troy House.
Members were advised that the appeal by the applicant regarding the Croft y Bwla site is to be considered at the MCC planning committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 6th January 2009. It was agreed that the Council will send an e-mail in support of the Council's opposition to the appeal. Councillor Mrs Dewhurst plans to attend the meeting.
Next meeting due to be held on Monday 19th January 2008

Standing Orders were suspended to bring forward agenda item 107.

Proposed by: Councillor Christopher **Seconded by:** Councillor Hacket Pain
Unanimous

107. To approve recommendations of the working group regarding the Local Development Plan (LDP) consultation

Councillor Mrs Hall gave the recommendations from the working group set up to look at the options of the LDP. There was consensus that option 2 provided the best option however recognising that all conversions to existing buildings should be included within the 350 per year limit.

Option A would allow the imaginative use of buildings that are already in existence to offer small scale in-fill development.

It was considered that due to limited opportunity for employment in Monmouth the infrastructure for more housing would overload existing facilities and be detrimental to present and future communities.

This was accepted by the planning committee and recommended to Full Council for consideration.

Proposed by: Councillor Hayward **Seconded by:** Councillor Mrs Hall
Unanimous

Standing orders were reinstated

Proposed by: Councillor Hayward **Seconded by:** Councillor Mrs Chivers
Unanimous

- b. Environmental Affairs:** As per minutes of meeting held on 15th December Councillor Mrs Were reported the main items discussed were the allotments and the decommissioning of the festoon Christmas starlight's with the option of looking for new replacement decorations for next year.
Consideration to the management of the wildlife corridor was discussed and how it should be maintained.
Councillor Mrs Hall volunteered to look at the AONB Management Plan
Next meeting due to be held on 26th January 2009

- c. Community Affairs:** As per minutes of the meeting held on 8th December Councillor Mrs Dewhurst reported that the main focus of discussion had been the Christmas event which had once again been very successful.
The Committee voted to contribute funding to the Summer Playscheme but have made clear they require more details and more involvement on where the money is allocated.
Next meeting due to be held on 19th January 2009

- d. Finance & Policy:** As per minutes of the meeting held on 1st December The budget was considered and there was a recommendation that the precept be increased by 3% (See agenda item 106)
The CCTV invoice which is outstanding from 2003/2004 was discussed. There was a report from CCTV working group, the next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th January which will report back to the next F&P meeting with a final recommendation to be made at next Full Council.

There was also an agreement to revalue the regalia as this hasn't been valued for five years.

Next meeting due to be held on Monday 12th January.

After the reports had been received The Mayor advised members that further to a discussion with the Town Clerk there was no requirement to accept the minutes as the committees have delegated authority to do so. A further debate ensued as to whether or not this was what the members wished for and so it was agreed that there would be further discussion about the possibility of changing the Standing Orders. The F&P committee will consider this issue for further discussion at a forthcoming meeting.

- e. **Shire Hall Renovation Project:** The Clerk reported that the last meeting was held on 11th December at which most of the time was taken with discussion regarding progress of the scaffolding. The builders have been asked to reschedule the works which could have cost implications. Meetings will be held bi monthly with the next one scheduled for Thursday 5th February.

f. **Shire Hall Stewards:**

Councillor Mrs Chivers reported that the chairman Mr Richard Wills instigated a meeting between representatives of Beaufort Court and MCC which took place on 16th December, negotiations are still ongoing.

A social meeting will be held in January to give a presentation of what is going on inside the building. As part of fund raising the Stewards hope to organise a concert with a Male Voice Choir to be held 13th June.

g. **Monmouth Partnership Forum:**

At the last meeting a decision was made to hold monthly meetings which will alternate between networking and more formal public meetings. The problems relating to the Connect 2 project have now been resolved and the finances have been confirmed. The next meeting is due on 7th January and will be considering 'Overlooking the Wye'.

h. **Monmouthshire Area Committee:** Last meeting held 9th December 2008

Councillor Hayward reported that the subjects of street lighting and allotments were raised along with parking spaces at Cinderhill Street car park at the recent meeting held in Monmouth. The wildlife corridor at Rockfield Road Estate was considered and also the parking problems at Overmonnow Primary School.

The next meeting will include a presentation from Mr George Ashworth MCC regarding the LDP, meeting due to be held on 5th February at Usk this

i. **Others:**

AONB: Councillor Mrs Were reported that the 'Overlooking the Wye' subway project with 17 different groups taking part should be completed by March 2009 with pictures being mounted in the subway by April this year.

The second project in this area is the Kymin and there are planned improvements for the drive, car park and wall.

At this point of the meeting Councillor Mrs S Chivers raised again the issue of voting on the accepting the Committee minutes at Full Council.

102. To receive the member's attendance summary of committee meetings:
 An amendment to be made regarding Councillor Mrs Hall's attendance at the Environment meeting in November

	Environment	Planning	Full Council	Finance & Policy	Planning	Community	Environment
	17th November	24th November	24th November	1st December	8th December	8th December	15th December
Cllr R Bond	1	APOL	APOL	1	1		1
Cllr G Bright	1		1	1		1	1
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	APOL	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Ms C Edwards	APOL	APOL	APOL		APOL		APOL
Cllr J Fletcher	1	1	1		1	1	1
Cllr N Hackett Pain			1	1			
Cllr Mrs J Hall	1	1	1		1		1
Cllr R Hayward	1	1	1	1	1		APOL
Cllr M Jones	APOL		1	1		1	1
Cllr L Robson	ABS		APOL				APOL
Cllr Mrs B Smith	1	1	1		1	1	1
Cllrs Mrs A Were	1	1	1	1	APOL	1	1
Cllr Mrs S White			ABS			1	
Cllr Ms J Williams			APOL			ABS	
							-
Total In Attendance	9	8	11	9	8	9	10
Members on Committee	13	10	16	9	10	10	13

Key	
	None Member Attendance
	Not on Committee
	Absent w ithout Apologies

It was agreed to accept the attendance summary unanimously

Proposed by: Councillor Hayward
Unanimous

Seconded by: Councillor Jones

103. To review Council policy on Correspondence by Councillors to the Press or Public:

Councillor Mrs Were and Councillor Hayward thought that the policy was too restrictive and needed to be more flexible. There were further discussions about whether or not it should be used as guidelines or a new code of practice drawn up. As there was not a firm proposal to make any changes the vote was taken to reinstate the policy as it stands.

Proposed by: Councillor Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Mrs Chivers

For: 7

Against: 2

Abstentions: 2

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

The Mayor explained that again the two members who had been asked to account for non attendance at committee meetings were not present.

It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for future meetings to monitor the situation as members are concerned that this was becoming a genuine problem.

105. To resolve to accept the resignation of Councillor Ms Edwards:

Councillor Ms Edwards has tendered her resignation on the grounds of ill health and this was accepted unanimously by Full Council. Members were advised that a vacancy will be advertised and if ten members of the electorate request an election then one will have to take place before 26th March. Otherwise the Council will have an opportunity to co-opt.

Proposed by: Councillor Mrs Hall
Unanimous

Seconded by: Councillor Hayward

106. To accept the recommendation of the Finance and Policy committee regarding the budget and the precept demand for 2009/2010:

It was agreed to accept a 3% increase on the precept from the previous year bringing the total budget to £143280.00 and a precept demand of £138538.00. Councillor Hayward explained that the difference was made up from the interest that is accrued on the deposit account; however this would decrease once the payment of £125,000.00 was made for the refurbishment of the Shire Hall.

Proposed by: Councillor Mrs Chivers
Unanimous

Seconded by: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst

108. To approve recommendations of the working group regarding the consultation on the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2009-2014:

Councillors Mrs Dewhurst, Mrs B Smith and Mrs J Hall formed a working group who looked at the consultation document. As the group could not agree a decision it was suggested that each member answer as a private individual.

Items to be put forward included:

- To investigate potential sites for a hydroelectric scheme.
- All policies should be individual and not wholesale.
- The River Monnow should be taken into account as more care is required.
- Sustainable transport

Proposed by: Councillor Bright
Unanimous

Seconded by: Councillor Fletcher

109. To consider items of business for discussion at next meeting

Councillor Mrs Chivers requested a limited amount of money for Llangattock wall repair due to its important link with Monmouth and the Rolls family. The Mayor advised that an item to discuss ways and means of supporting the Ryder cup event of 2010 and the Centenary year of Charles Rolls death would appear on the next agenda.

110. To agree meeting dates:

Date of next meeting Monday 2nd February 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date: _____ **Signature** _____