

# Monmouth Town Council

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on 16th March 2009 at 7.00pm in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

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

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

A minutes silence was held in memory of Rifleman Jamie Gunn

Mr David Morris an officer from Monmouthshire Housing Association gave a brief presentation on the background of the Association. He advised members that there is now one application form used by all housing associations for anybody wishing to apply for social housing with a points scheme in place for assessing need. The system is governed by the legislation set out in the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the 2002 Homelessness Act which sets out the structure and system by which allocations should be made. Monmouthshire Housing has approx 3,603 properties with 2,500 registered on the housing list at the moment with about 340 vacancies a year. The act of 2002 also stipulated that it must be an open register and anybody is eligible to apply without the need to have a connection or live in Monmouthshire. Additional guidance notes can be found at the One Stop Shops which are still used by the Association as a point of access.

**127. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

None

**128. To receive questions from members of the public for a maximum of 10 minutes**

None received

**129. To receive apologies for absence**

Councillor J Fletcher

**130. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009**

The minutes were confirmed correct and signed as a true record

**Proposed by:** Councillor R Bond  
**For:** 10    **Against:** 0    **Abstentions:** 3

**Seconded by:** Councillor Mrs J Hall

**Standing orders were suspended in order for Agenda Item 139 to be brought forward**

**139. To receive report from Inspector Mike Boycott about policing within Monmouth:**

Inspector Boycott only gave a brief presentation as he advised that Superintendent Johnson would like in the future to give another presentation concerning improved local policing in Monmouth. Members were informed that more staff and dedicated Inspectors would be available under the new structure. Inspector Boycott will be based in Abergavenny from the end of March but will also spend time in Monmouth. He is a local man with 25 years police experience who will be covering Monmouth and Abergavenny dealing with local issues at a local level with no other responsibilities other than neighbourhood policing.

**Standing orders were reinstated**

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

1. The Mayor and the Clerk met with the new Captain of HMS Monmouth last week, Commander Tony Long. He assumed command of the ship in January 2009. Following a major £11.5m refit during 2008, the ship set sail from Rosyth, on Scotland's east coast in January to conduct sea trials that will test her new operational capabilities. A visit to Cardiff is programmed for the end of April where there will opportunities for the affiliates to join with the ships company on a number of events that are planned.
2. Filming will be taking place in and around Monmouth on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Due to the nature of the filming that is being done there is no need for any licenses or permissions. The programme 'Escape to the Country' is a series which helps prospective buyers find their dream home in the country.
3. The Clerk will be taking some leave this week from Wednesday until next Monday. There will be cover provided so that normal office hours are maintained.
4. The funeral of Rifleman Jamie Gunn will take place at St Mary's church this Wednesday at 2.00pm. Please can members who are attending the service meet at the corner of the Shire Hall by the Punch House at 1.20pm. The group representing the council can then make its way up Church Street and into the church.

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

**Consortium of Wye Valley Councils:** An invitation to join the group has been received. It was agreed that this should be passed to the Environment Committee for consideration.

**Heddlu Gwent Police:** Arrangements regarding the funeral of Rifleman Jamie Gunn

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

- a. **Planning :** As per minutes of meetings of 16<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009  
Next meeting due to be held on 6th April 2009
- b. **Environmental Affairs:** As per minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009. At the last meeting the committee was asked to consider making a contribution towards a feasibility study for the slaughter houses. This was refused as it was considered that extensive work had already been carried out and the committee felt this was a substantial amount of money to be asked for another study.  
Next meeting due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009

- c. Community Affairs:** As per minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009. At the previous meeting Sgt Grey gave a report highlighting changes that would be taking place regarding the structure of policing locally. The Committee also heard that the money saved by the closing of the pharmaceutical rota on Sundays is guaranteed to be spent in Monmouth.  
The Community Grants allocations have been made and the presentation is due to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.  
A petition to the WAG drawing their attention to the hardships of local people following the closure of the Monmouth Jobcentre was taken to Cardiff. Support was requested in trying to get a facility in Monmouth for even 1 day a week to replace the previous service.  
Next meeting due to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009
- d. Finance & Policy:** As per minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009. At the last meeting a working group was set up to look into the viability of services being supplied by the Town Council. It had been agreed not to change Standing Orders regarding the accepting of minutes from committees at Full Council. There had been a discussion regarding Mayor making and a procedure was agreed that a Mayor elect would be confirmed with one candidate to go forward for selection at the Annual Meeting. The first payment towards the Shire Hall refurbishment has now been paid and the same amount will be paid in September 2009 with the balance being paid at the end of the project.  
Next meeting due to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009
- e. Shire Hall Stewards:** No meeting. Next meeting to be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- f. Ryder Cup/Charles Rolls working group:** At the meeting held on March 16<sup>th</sup> proposed events for 2010 were discussed which include, a carnival procession with Rolls Royce cars taking part and a procession of cars going down Monnow Street. There will also be a fly past of a Spitfire if possible. The group is also looking into the possibility of a ballooning event because of Charles Rolls interest in this subject
- g. Monmouth Partnership Forum:** The last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March was a public meeting at which there was a presentation about a Food Forum. Adventa will be providing subsidies for local producers to have a stand at the Abergavenny Food Festival. There was a question raised asking if entrepreneurs should be able to apply for the Community Grant Scheme. Other items discussed were the suggestion of a name change for Monmouth Comprehensive School, also a proposed campaign for a University Facility within the Town and the provision of affordable housing for teachers in the Town as many commute in. This would help to keep the economy vibrant and increase spending power in the community.  
Next meeting to be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- h. Others:** None

**134. To receive the member's attendance summary of committee meetings:**  
It was agreed to accept the attendance summary

26th January - 9th March	Environment Committee	Planning Committee	Full Council	Community Committee	Planning Committee	Finance & Policy	Planning Committee	Community Committee
	26th January	2nd February	2nd February	9th February	16th February	23rd February	2nd March	3rd March
Cllr R Bond	1	1	1		1	ABSENT	1	
Cllr G Bright	APOLOGIES		APOLOGIES	1		1		1
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	1	1	1	1	1	APOLOGIES	1	1
Cllr T Christopher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr J Fletcher	1	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	1	1	1	1	ABSENT
Cllr N Hacket Pain			1			1		
Cllr Mrs J Hall	1	1	1		1		1	
Cllr R Hayward	1	1	1		1	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	
Cllr M Jones	APOLOGIES		APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES		1		ABSENT
Cllr L Robson	APOLOGIES		APOLOGIES					
Cllr Mrs B Smith	1	1	1	1	APOLOGIES	1	1	1
Cllrs Mrs A Were	1	1	1	1	1	APOLOGIES	1	ABSENT
Cllr Mrs S White			APOLOGIES	1				1
Cllr Ms J Williams			ABSENT	ABSENT				ABSENT
<b>Total In Attendance</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Members on Committee</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

<u>KEY</u>	
	Non Committee Member
	Non Member attendance
	Absent

**Proposed by:** Councillor N Hacket Pain  
**For:** 12 **Against:** 0 **Abstentions:** 1

**Seconded by:** Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst

**135. To confirm cessation of Ms Jan Williams as Councillor of Wyesham Ward for non attendance at meetings for a period of six months (as per the Local Government Act 1972 section 85 (1) )**

The Clerk advised members that in line with legislation Ms Williams would forthwith cease to be a member of the council due to non attendance for a period of six months. A letter will be written to inform Monmouthshire County Council and the vacancy will then be advertised.

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

No comment was given by Councillor L Robson

**137. To consider request from Monmouth Police for funding towards a hand held laser speed device costing £2500.00**

There was some discussion about whether or not it was the Town Council's obligation to provide this equipment. Some members felt it would provide a valuable tool for local police to enable them to enforce more effectively the speed limits within town, other members felt that the police should budget for equipment and request this from the precept funding. The request was refused and the Clerk was asked to write a letter advising of the reasons.

There was no vote taken as no member wished to propose the resolution.

**138. To consider a donation in memory of Rifleman Jamie Gunn of £100 to the Army Benevolent Fund from the Civic Budget.**

The donation was agreed unanimously.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Mrs J Hall **Seconded by:** Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst  
**Unanimous**

**140. To consider items of business for discussion at next meeting**

None received

**141. To agree meeting dates:**

Date of next meeting Monday 27th April 2009

**142. To resolve to exclude members of the public and press under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies ( Admission to Meetings ) Act 1960 on the of confidential information**

**143. To consider the nominations for the vacancy in the Town Ward and invite applicants to address Council**

There were five candidates who applied for the position of Co-opted Councillor for the Town Ward. Only four were available to attend the meeting. Each candidate was invited individually to make a brief presentation to members and then there was an opportunity for members to ask questions. After three rounds of voting Mr C Munslow was selected and co-opted as a Councillor for the Town ward of Monmouth. The Mayor thanked all of the candidates for their interest and time in attending.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_