

Monmouth Town Council

Market Hall
Priory Street
Monmouth NP25 3XA

Tel: 01600 715662
Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk
www.monmouth.gov.uk



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on 20th July 2009 at 7.00pm at Monmouth Priory, Priory Street, Monmouth

PRESENT: Chairman the Mayor Councillor Mrs A Were
Councillor R Bond, Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,
Councillor Mrs J Gunter, Councillor N Hacket Pain, Councillor Mrs J Hall,
Councillor C Munslow, Councillor Mrs B Smith and Councillor Mrs S White

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

Ms Jo Lloyd gave a presentation on behalf of Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Ms Lloyd reported that due to additional funding from the Government the CAB can now open for four days a week along with outreach sites at Monnow Vale and the One Stop Shop two mornings a week. There are now twelve volunteers working with two new trainees who will undergo six months training plus observation time. A change to the structure has been introduced which incorporates a new Deputy Manager. A Debt Manager is also available on site. The bureau's aim is to provide the advice required dealing with many types of issues, if not qualified to deal with the problem it will then refer the client to someone who is i.e. a Solicitor. The new telephone service is working extremely well; CAB now wants to role this out across Wales. The appointment system has now changed and is working well by cutting down the waiting time. The CAB is heavily reliant on County and Community and Town Council funding which they are extremely grateful for. They have now re-instated the fund raising group and also funding has been received from Haberdashers, which has been ring fenced for new premises which is hoped for in the future.

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

None received

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

Mr Roy Nicholas: Asked the Council about the process of reporting something in the town that requires attention. He was advised to report any issues to the One Stop Shop.

Mr Mark Williamson requested what this council was going to do regarding what in his opinion were the incorrect financial implications reported by MCC for the scaffolding at Shire Hall. Councillor Mrs Were advised him that she thought it was not appropriate for the Council to comment at this time without discussion on the matter.

Mr Charles Boase asked why the agenda was not on the website. He was informed that there was no lawful requirement for this and that the legal requirement to publish it on the notice board had been observed.

38. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor T Christopher, Councillor J Fletcher,
Councillor R Hayward, Councillor M Jones and Councillor L Robson

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

- a. Planning:** As per minutes of the meetings held on 8th & 22nd June & 6th July 2009 Councillor Bond reported that the Croft y Bwla appeal has been granted with conditions relating to sewerage and drainage. Members were notified that the Gatehouse appeal had been confirmed and that the PVCu windows could remain but the wall has to be replaced. The Local Development Plan drop in meetings had been very well attended and the formal response to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) had been sent. Next meeting due to be held on Monday 3rd August 2009
- b. Environmental Affairs:** As per minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2009 Councillor Mrs Smith reported Ms Sue Middleton gave a presentation to the committee on the Monmouth Quay suggesting that the railings should be removed and the stone benches will act as a barrier, more information was going to be sought regarding the Health & Safety implications. It had been agreed that a letter should be sent to MCC regarding the stopping of the black box scheme. The Committee agreed to extend the remit of the working group into other areas. Also it was agreed to pay for a Sunday litter pick service on Chippenham Field during the school summer holidays. Next meeting due to be held on Monday 24th August 2009
- c. Community Affairs:** As per minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2009 Councillor Dewhurst reported that at the last meeting Mr D Hill gave a presentation regarding shop mobility and its progression. The Committee had to agree there was no further funding for the play in the park summer sessions in Wyesham. The issues relating to the Monmouth Jobcentre are ongoing and plans for the Carnival and the Festival are well under way. Next meeting due to be held on Monday 27th July 2009
- d. Finance & Policy:** As per minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th July 2009 Councillor N Hackett Pain reported that the CCTV working group had requested membership of CSAT's and were awaiting a response. A report by Cambridge University on behalf of the Home Office has shown that CCTV has little effect on crime reduction nationally and no effect on prosecutions. The committee will be evaluating this report in due course. Shire Hall: The overspend figure has not been quantified as an approximation was given at the last meeting. The Project Board have considered and agreed some cost cutting measures. Representation was made at the last meeting regarding use of the Council Chamber. The meeting also considered the Town Council's responsibility for the Remembrance Day parade with delegation to the Royal British Legion, it has been agreed that any difficult decisions will be referred back to the Town Council. Next meeting due to be held on Monday 17th August 2009
- e. Shire Hall Stewards:**
No meeting
- f. Monmouth Partnership Forum:** As per minutes of the meeting held on 1st July Councillor Mrs Smith reported that at the Millennium field group has been awarded a grant of £2,000. Transition Monmouth group who are proposing to plant a community orchard, has been adopted as one of the 'Community Matters' charities that Waitrose are sponsoring.

There had been a discussion about the community benefit that will be seen due to Monmouth Comprehensive School going over to the new Welsh Baccalaureate system. Next meeting due to be held on 2nd September

g. Others:

Monnow Vale: A meeting was held to look at all the proposals as to how the day services should continue. The full report should be available on 30th July 2009 with discussions through August

43. To receive the member's attendance summary of committee meetings

Members	Environment	Full Council	Planning	Community	Planning	Full Council	F&P	Planning
	1st June	8th June	8th June	15th June	22nd June	22nd June	29th June	6th July
Cllr R Bond	1	1	1		1	1	1	Apologies
Cllr G Bright	1	1		1		1	1	
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher	1	1	1	1	Apologies	Apologies	1	1
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1	Apologies	Apologies
Cllr J Fletcher	1	Apologies	Apologies	1	Apologies	Apologies	1	1
Cllr Mrs J Gunter					1	1		1
Cllr N Hackett Pain		1				Apologies	1	
Cllr Mrs J Hall	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr R Hayward	1	1	1		1	1	1	1
Cllr M Jones	1	1		1		1	Apologies	
Cllr C Munslow	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
Cllr L Robson		Apologies						
Cllr Mrs B Smith	1	1		1		1	1	
Cllr Mrs A Were	1	1		1		1	Apologies	
Cllr Mrs S White	1	1		1		1		
Total In Attendance	13	13	7	10	6+1	12	8+1	7
Members on Committee	14	15	8	10	8	16	11	9

KEY	
	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

44. To approve changes to committee membership:

The changes reflect the inclusion of Councillor Mrs J Gunter on the Community and Planning committees

Proposed: Councillor Bond
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Hacket Pain

45. To adopt the Town Council's 3 Year Plan – 'Shaping our Future II'

It was agreed that as this document had already been discussed in detail at the previous Finance and Policy committee that other than minor grammatical error it should be adopted as it stood.

Proposed: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Mrs Gunter

To accept the proposal with corrections

Proposed: Councillor Mrs White
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Munslow

46. To discuss condition of the Gatehouse and Old Monnow Bridge and consider what remedial action is necessary:

This Scheduled Ancient Monument is an architectural gem and in the stewardship and care of MCC. Members were concerned that although it would appear that there is no structural damage in time water seepage would cause damage. This gatehouse and bridge is one of only two of a kind in Europe and should be preserved. Investigations have shown that previous work undertaken looks to be of poor quality and only superficial. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to MCC and Cadw expressing the concerns of this Council and requesting a full assessment of remedial repairs.

47. To consider appropriate action against the environmental impact of Himalayan Balsam along the riverbanks:

There was some discussion regarding the most appropriate method of disposal but it was agreed that any action now would be too late for this year and that in future it would need to be addressed in the springtime.

This item deferred to the Environmental Affairs Committee

48. To consider items of business for discussion at next meeting:

Councillor Mrs Hall raised the subject of the condition of the arches and wall on the footpath at the Priory. This was referred to the Environment Committee

49. To agree meeting dates:

Members were advised that the date of the next Finance and Policy meeting has been changed to Monday 17th August

Date of next meeting – Monday 7th September 2009 at St James's Hall, Wyesham

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____