

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on 7th September 2009 at 7.00pm at St James Hall, Wyesham, Monmouth

PRESENT: Chairman the Mayor Councillor Mrs A Were
Councillor R Bond, Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers,
Councillor T Christopher, Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor Mrs J Gunter,
Councillor N Hacket Pain, Councillor Mrs J Hall, Councillor R Hayward,
Councillor M Jones, 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

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

None received

51. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst

52. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2009:

The minutes were confirmed correct with the following correction
Page 17, Agenda Item 42 b. should read: The railings will be removed and the stone
benches will act as a barrier.

Proposed: Councillor Mrs S Chivers
For: 11 **Against:** 0

Seconded: Councillor Mrs B Smith
Abstention: 2

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

1. It was reported that European Heritage Weekend would be taking place again this year on Saturday and Sunday 12th/13th September. There are eleven properties included in the programme and all of them will be open both days between 2.00 and 5.00pm. It is part of the nationwide 'Open Doors' scheme which aims to open up buildings of architectural, cultural and local interest that are not normally open to the public. One new addition this year will be a guided tour of the Blue Plaque trail which will take place on Sunday afternoon meeting at the Monnow Bridge at 2.30pm.

2. A reminder was given to all members that the photographs for the ID Tags are going to be taken on Monday 5th October prior to the Environment meeting. It is imperative that all members attend as electronic photographs will not be accepted at a later date. The Clerk requested that members let her know in advance if they think they will be unable to attend.
3. One Voice Wales issued a late invitation for one representative from this Council to attend a workshop on Tuesday 15th September. The session is entitled 'Fostering Sustainable Behaviour Change' and will be led by Dr Doug McKenzie-Mohr an international expert in the field of community based social marketing. It will take place in Gregynog, Newtown and is being offered on a free of charge basis. Anybody wishing to attend please let the Clerk know.
4. Green Travel Day will take place in Monmouth on Saturday 19th September. A number of events have been planned including a guided walk, a harness horse parade and a cycle and pedestrian rally. There will also be an opportunity to travel local bus routes free of charge plus a display of low emission vehicles, information stalls will be situated near the Oldway Centre entrance. A number of leaflets have been produced which have been financed by the Environmental Affairs committee in support of this event.

Councillor Mrs S White arrived at the meeting and apologised for being late due to another commitment.

54. To receive correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council (for information only):

The Mayor read out 2 items for the members' attention.

1. Helen Wragg: Invitation to attend Monmouth Film School 2009 which is showing its premiere at the Savoy Theatre on Sunday 13th September at 11.30am
2. Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales: Invitation to forthcoming Annual report & workshop events being held on 7th October Wrexham, 24th November Swansea and 16th December Merthyr Tydfil

55. To note the reports and minutes of the Council's committees and outside bodies:

- a. **Planning: As per Minutes:** As per minutes: Councillor Bond reported concerns had been raised regarding the possible removal of trees from the cemetery. Next meeting due to be held on Monday 28th September 2009
- b. **Environmental Affairs:** As per minutes. Councillor Christopher reported that the proposals had been accepted regarding the working group and the possibility of enhancing the area adjacent to the slaughter houses. An invitation has been received from MCC regarding the switch on of the new flood lights on Monnow Bridge to be held on 23rd October 2009. Time to be confirmed Councillor Mrs Smith reported that the committee had received an invitation to take part in 'Tidy Wales week' from 21st to 27th September and to assist groups kits have been provided sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government. Next meeting due to be held on Monday 5th October 2009

- c. Community Affairs:** As per minutes. The meeting included a presentation from Ann Jones regarding the changes that are taking places at the Library.
The Summer Play scheme was discussed at length and it was agreed that a Press Release would be issued to clarify the details of the budget. An invitation to Leisure Centre and Council Officers to attend was accepted. Mike Moran (MCC) has agreed to work on forecasts for next year so the Committee can make informed decisions when setting the budget next year.
Evidence is still being collated on how job seekers are coping with the closure of the Job Centre.
A reminder was given for photographs of previous carnivals to be taken to the One Stop Shop for a future exhibition.
Next meeting due to be held on Monday 19th October 2009
- d. Finance & Policy:** As per minutes. Councillor Hayward reported that the accounts had been approved. Other items included the approval of ID cards, an agreement to continue using the Maces for civic ceremonies. It was also decided to develop a protocol for civic affairs and parades. A policy of public participation at meetings was agreed. The Services Working Group is still looking at the legal status of the Millennium Field, and also looking into rents of neighbouring authorities. The cleaning of public toilets is still ongoing with a number of quotes being sought.
Next meeting due to be held on Monday 21st September 2009
- e. Shire Hall Stewards:**
No report. Next meeting due to be held on Tuesday 22nd September 2009 at 6.00pm in Market Hall
- f. Monmouth Partnership Forum:**
No report. Next meeting due to be held on Wednesday 9th September 2009.
- g. Others:**
Vision Monmouth: Councillor Mrs Chivers gave a report into the progress for the aspirational projects which included; Gateway Monmouth, Monnow Bridge Gatehouse, Shire Hall, Overlooking the Wye, Portal Road, Connect Monmouth, Shared Space, Monmouth Links, Slaughter House Arches and 20/24 Monnow Street. It is recognised that parking is still a major problem in the town and the site behind the Queens Head is still being investigated, also land opposite the Fire Station. A new Shop Mobility scheme now has all the scooters it needs and hopefully will be operating from the Waitrose area.

56. To receive the Member's attendance summary of committee meetings:

Members	Environment Committee	Planning	Full Council	Community Committee	Planning	Planning	F&P	Environment Committee
	13th July	20th July	20th July	27th July	3rd Aug	17th Aug	18th Aug	24th Aug
Cllr R Bond	Apologies	1	1		1	1	1	1
Cllr G Bright	1		1	1			1	1
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	1	Apologies	Apologies	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher	1	Apologies	Apologies	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr J Fletcher	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	1	1	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Cllr Mrs J Gunter	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Cllr N Hackett Pain			1				1	
Cllr Mrs J Hall	Apologies	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr R Hayward	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies		1	1	1	1
Cllr M Jones	Apologies		Apologies	Apologies			1	1
Cllr C Munslow	1	1	1	1	1	Apologies	Apologies	1
Cllr L Robson	Absent		Apologies					Apologies
Cllr Mrs B Smith	1		1	1			Apologies	1
Cllrs Mrs A Were	1		1	1			Apologies	1
Cllr Mrs S White	1		1	1				1
Total In Attendance	8+1	5	10	11	9	7	8+1	12
Members on Committee	14	9	16	12	9	9	11	14

KEY

	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

The attendance summary was confirmed correct.

57. To approve recommendation from F&P Committee to accept the policy on Public Participation at Council Meetings:

It was agreed that what was needed was a free passage of information to everyone and that members of the public should have the opportunity to speak to local members at meetings. However it was recognised that at Town Council meetings there needed to be a protocol in place to make sure questions are relevant and that business is conducted in an orderly manner. It was confirmed that presentations and petitions should not exceed ten minutes except at the discretion of the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor R Bond
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Mrs S White

58. To confirm approval for an official annual photograph of the Mayor for display in the Mayor's Parlour:

There was approval confirmed for an official annual photograph of the Mayor starting with Councillor Christopher, the former mayor and Councillor Mrs Were the current Mayor. It was also suggested that past mayors should also have an opportunity to be included but will be expected to provide their own photograph. It was agreed that photographs of future mayors will be taken at Mayor Making and hung in the Mayor's Parlour, Shire Hall. It was agreed to accept the lower quote at a cost of £60.00 which would be for a 10 x 8 photo and payment should be made from the Civic budget. It was agreed that the cost of framing could be deferred and considered at a later date by the Finance Committee.

Proposed: Councillor M Jones
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor R Hayward

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

Mr Ray Bassett asked for support from the Town Council regarding opening up the area between Tudor Road and Reade Street to extend the bus service. It was suggested that this item be passed to the Environmental Committee to look into.

The Mayor read out a letter from Mr Ian Crawford and was advised by the Clerk that the letter has already been dealt with and a response given.

A letter from Mr Keith Thomas asked what had been achieved regarding the issue of flooding at Wyesham. The Mayor Councillor Mrs Were agreed to contact him regarding this matter

Mr Charles Boase asked why this agenda item (59) has been placed so far down the agenda. The Mayor Councillor Mrs Were explained that when the Town Council meetings are held in the wards more members of the public attend, if it was placed at the beginning of the agenda there might have to be a time restriction in order to complete the business in hand.

Members of the public thanked the Town Council for holding the meeting at Wyesham.

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

None

61. To agree meeting dates:

Date of next meeting – Monday 12th October 2009 at Monmouth Priory

Signed: _____

Date: _____