

# Monmouth Town Council

Market Hall  
Priory Street  
Monmouth NP25 3XA

Tel: 01600 715662

Email: [townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk)  
[www.monmouth.gov.uk](http://www.monmouth.gov.uk)



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on Monday 15 March 2010 at 7.00pm at Osbaston Church in Wales School Monmouth**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr J R P Evans Town Clerk and Mrs Jane Lloyd Clerical Assistant

Mr R Hoggins (MCC) gave a presentation for the beginning of discussion's regarding the future of public conveniences within Monmouth. The two in Monmouth situated at either end of the town cost in the region of £30,000 per annum to maintain

As part of a budget setting exercise this year MCC looked at public conveniences throughout the county. Ideas considered were transferring them to other agencies or even closure, this option has now been withdrawn. Other options are to enhance those at the gateways of towns or possibly as other towns have done implement a charge. Another option is The Welsh Assembly has a public facility Grant scheme which offers £500 to those opening their conveniences to the public although in Abergavenny take up of this has been poor.

MCC are considering updating the toilets near Old Monnow Bridge and using the toilets in Shire Hall, closing the Agincourt Street toilets. An alternative plan would be to use the Public houses facilities in the area with the option of the grant, as this would open the facilities in the evenings where as at present the Agincourt Street toilets are close.

County Councillor Saxon reported the prediction is for four years of progressive cuts probably followed by more. If education and other main line services are to be protected then conveniences and grounds maintenance would be hit.

This item to be discussed at the next Environment Meeting to be held on 19April 2010

### **125. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda:**

Agenda Item 135: Councillor Mrs S White and Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst

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

Mr Parry raised two items:

- Wishes to draw the Council's attention to the incorrect road markings of parking regulations in Monmouth, these being wide and garish yellow, he asks for the Council to encourage MCC to use the correct markings and put back the markings where road repairs have been carried out.
- second issue concerns illegal parking on double yellow lines in Hereford Road making it difficult for flowing traffic to pass, some of the parked vehicles are there all day and Mr Parry asks for the police to implement fines.

The Mayor Mrs Ann Were will ask the Town Clerk to write to the police and ask for the Specials to enforce the area

Mr G Davis: Has asked if an area such as the school or dedicated open spaces in the Osbaston area could be used for children to use footballs instead of in the roads.

The Mayor reported that Councillor R Hayward was looking into the possibility of using the school grounds for a play area but the use of open spaces could only be decided by MCC.

Miss Johnson raised three items:

- Concerns regarding the lack of parking in Monmouth on event days and wants to see contingency plans for such occasions. This follows her experience of parking safely and without obstruction in Glendower car park, paying for a ticket and was fined £30 for not being within an official bay.
- Using the grounds for social community events, i.e. tennis, children's play area and `barbeques. As a former Youth leader this was discussed 20 years ago but at the time the caretaker refused to come back to lock up the building so the idea was shelved.
- Using the skills of retired people; especially for the use of Pyrolysis which can be worked at local level (grass cuttings could be used for fuel). Miss Johnson has contacted MCC regarding the environmental gains of the project but was informed that it would probably go to Cardiff. Miss Johnson thought this small project would be ideal for employment in a small town.

The Mayor Mrs Ann Were suggested speaking with Transition Monmouth of which Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst and Councillor Mrs Bethia Smith were members. On issues one and two, although the Town Council has raised the issues of parking in Monmouth and raising play area concerns we have no jurisdiction on these items but can only support. Councillor Mrs J Hall would raise the school issue at Osbaston School Governors meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 March

Mr Haydn Cullen Jones (Friends of the Earth):

- Is calling for engagement of all parties/groups who are working for the same result regarding climate change and asked if the Council has a Environment policy.
- Mr Haydn Cullen Jones also requested an up date on Shire Hall and dates for the return of the market and asked if the Farmers Market will have a place there. Plans are being prepared for this years 'Green Travel Day' which will be held on 25 September. Mr Haydn Cullen Jones will approach the Council at a later date regarding this subject.

Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst explained that the Council does support Transition Monmouth and works with One Voice Wales who has a direct link to the Welsh Assembly and provide training for sustainability.

Shire Hall report to follow agenda Item 131e

Mr R Nicholls raised three items:

- Again wants to raise concerns regarding public safety on the footpath along Rockfield Road, many people use this footpath, the old, young, and physically impaired. Soil has accumulated each side of the path making it very narrow and difficult to pass, he has asked the Town Council to write to MCC which he has himself.
- Burning of household rubbish in the Rolls play area. Councillor Mrs White will contact Councillor Wintle and inform the Town Councillors for the area (absent from tonight's meeting)
- Why MCC public meetings had taken place in Monmouth regarding budget and local development and the information not advertised by the Town Council.

The Mayor Mrs A Were explained that distribution was the responsibility of Monmouthshire County Council not ourselves.

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

Councillor T Christopher, Councillor R Hayward, Councillor M Jones, Councillor C Munslow.

**128. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 February 2010**

The minutes were confirmed correct and signed

**Proposed:** Councillor R Bond  
**For:** 10

**Against:** 0

**Seconded:** Councillor Mrs S White  
**Abstentions:** 1

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

**130. To receive correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council:**

The following correspondence was brought to the attention of the members

Letter Number 82: Mr N Lewis regarding the position of the new flag pole on Shire Hall. The Town Clerk will reply to the letter

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

- a. **Planning:** As per minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2010 .  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 29 March 2010
- b. **Environmental Affairs:** As per draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 March 2010. Next meeting to be held on Monday 22 April 2010
- c. **Community Affairs:** As per Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January. Councillor Dewhurst wanted to thank all those involved with the successful Community Grant Scheme awards evening held on Thursday 11 March. Next meeting to be held on Monday 22 March 2010
- d. **Finance & Policy:** As per Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 February. Next meeting to be held on Monday 12 April 2010.
- e. **Shire Hall Renovation Project:** A fashion show fund raising event will be held by 'Viyella' on Friday 19 March.
- f. **Charles Rolls Working Group:**  
Councillor Mrs Chivers reported that there was to be a £1,000 charge from MCC for road closures on the day of the event on. Councillor Mrs Chivers would like to thank on behalf of the working group the Chief Executive of MCC, Mr Paul Matthews for waving this charge.  
There will be a new plaque presented by The Honourable Geoffrey Somerset. Flypast is now arranged. The committee has been informed that Shire Hall will be open for the 12 July event.  
Next meeting to be held on Thursday 22 April 2010
- g. **Monmouth Partnership Forum:**  
  
No meeting
- h. **Others:**  
  
None received

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

| Members                     | Environment Committee | Planning Committee | Full Council | Community   | Community   | Planning    | F&P         | Planning  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
|                             | 25th January          | 01-February        | 01-February  | 04-February | 08-February | 15-February | 22-February | 01-March  |
| Cllr R Bond                 | 1                     | 1                  | 1            |             |             | 1           | 1           | 1         |
| Cllr G Bright               | 1                     |                    | 1            | 1           | 1           |             | Apologies   |           |
| Cllr Mrs S Chivers          | Apologies             | Apologies          | Apologies    | 1           | 1           | 1           | 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             | Apologies             | 1                  | 1            | Apologies   | Apologies   | 1           | 1           | Apologies |
| Cllr Mrs J Gunter           |                       | 1                  | 1            | Apologies   | 1           | 1           |             | 1         |
| Cllr N Hackett Pain         |                       |                    | 1            |             |             |             | 1           |           |
| Cllr Mrs J Hall             | 1                     | 1                  | 1            | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1         |
| Cllr R Hayward              | 1                     | 1                  | 1            |             |             | Apologies   | Apologies   | Apologies |
| Cllr M Jones                | Apologies             | 1                  | 1            | 1           | 1           | Apologies   | Apologies   | 1         |
| Cllr C Munslow              | 1                     | 1                  | 1            | 1           | 1           | 1           |             | 1         |
| Cllr L Robson               | Absent                |                    | Absent       |             |             |             |             |           |
| Cllr Mrs B Smith            | Apologies             |                    | Apologies    | Apologies   | Apologies   |             | Apologies   |           |
| Cllrs Mrs A Were            | 1                     |                    | 1            | 1           | 1           |             | Absent      |           |
| Cllr Mrs S White            | Apologies             |                    | 1            | 1           | Apologies   |             | Apologies   |           |
| <b>Total In Attendance</b>  | 8                     | 9                  | 13           | 9           | 9           | 8           | 7           | 8         |
| <b>Members on Committee</b> | 14                    | 10                 | 16           | 12          | 12          | 10          | 13          | 10        |

| KEY |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
|     | Non Committee Member            |
|     | Non Committee Member attendance |
|     | Absent                          |

**133. To receive the letter from MCC regarding outstanding amount for CCTV:**

Councillor Hacket Pain understood that Councillor R Hayward was dealing directly with MCC's legal department regarding this issue as there was a dispute over what period of time the CCTV's were not working.  
Finance and Policy meeting to be arranged.

**134. To approve the guest list for the Rolls Event to be held on 12 July 2010:**

A new list has been moderated; Councillor Chivers questioned the fact this has to agreed beforehand as this hasn't happened before.  
It was proposed to approve the names that were on the civic list

**Proposed:** Councillor Mrs S Chivers      **Seconded:** Councillor Mrs S White  
**Unanimous**

Councillor Bright highlighted that he had himself asked for this item to be put on the agenda for approval as assurance that the group was acting correctly.

**135. To award the Energy Efficiency Grant:**

Three applications which Councillor Mrs Dewhurst and Councillor Mrs Were viewed  
They are Bridges, St Mary's Church and Wyesham Community Hall

Councillor N Hacket Pain raised the fact that this item should have been discussed at the Community Meeting not full Council as the group was delegated to do so, other members do not have the background to vote on. The Mayor explained that the decision had to be made before the end of the financial year and there wasn't an Environment meeting before. The Town Clerk explained that it would not be possible to carry forward the money to the next financial year.

Councillor Bond proposed that the recommendations of Councillor Dewhurst and Councillor Mrs Were be accepted. Councillor Mrs Were asked for each applicant to be voted on independently.

**Bridges:**

Proposed: Councillor R Bond      Seconded: Councillor Mrs J Hall  
For: 4      Against: 4      Abstention: 3

Mayors casting vote For: 5

**St Mary's Church:**

Proposed: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst      Seconded: Councillor Mrs J Hall  
For: 5      Against: 5      Abstention: 1

Mayors casting vote For: 6

**Wyesham Community Hall:**

Proposed: Councillor Mrs J Hall      Seconded: Councillor Mrs J Gunter  
For: 9      Against: 0      Abstention: 2

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

None received

**137. To agree meeting dates:**

Date of next meeting: Monday 26 April 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm