

Prior to embarking on the published agenda and, in the totally unexpected and abrupt departure of the Town Clerk, the Mayor Cllr A Were said that in the present period the Town Council's priority was to continue providing the citizens of Monmouth with a high standard of service. Statutory requirements would be met and this required a "Proper Officer".

Consequently, Members resolved unanimously to appoint Mr Roy Nicholas (who was Clerk to Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council – and who had volunteered) to serve as the Acting Proper Officer.

138 To receive declarations of interest in items on the Agenda.

None received.

139 To receive questions from members of the public.

No questions were received either from the Public or Press.

140 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Bond and Mrs B Smith.

141 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2010

The Minutes were confirmed and signed as being a true record of the business transacted. There were two abstentions (not at previous Meeting).

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

In the very unusual circumstances post the Town Clerk's departure, the Acting Proper Officer had brought along to the meeting, 31 items of correspondence.

He had trawled through these and informed Members of their origins together with a précis of their respective content which would enable them to reassure constituents that all was in fine order. (Members were volunteering at the Office with the day-to-day tasks).

One of the documents had drawn attention to the absence of a picture rail in the Mayor's Parlour under renovation at the Shire Hall. Cllr B Hayward stated that he was aware of the matter and arranged for one to be installed.

There was also a letter from a local resident who had constructed a 1/12th scale model of a locomotive which he had constructed to museum standard and called *Monmouth*. He was seeking permission to incorporate the Monmouth Coat of Arms on the nameplate. The matter was referred to the F & P Committee.

Note was taken of the Certificate of Inspection for the fire extinguishers at the Office showing that all was in order.

143 To received correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council (For information only).

Incorporated in Item 142 above.

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



a Planning – As per minutes of meeting of 29 March 2010.

b Environmental Affairs – As per minutes of 22 April 2010.

c Community Affairs – As per minutes of 22 March 2010.

It was pointed out that the trip to Brittany by Cllrs R Bond and C Munslow would be entirely at their own expense.

d Finance & Policy. As per Minutes of 12 April 2010. Cllr N Hackett --Pain reported that the accounts were with the Internal Auditor.

e Shire Hall Renovation Project. Cllr Mrs S Chivers reported that the "Viyella" Fund raising event had been very successful and raised £600.

f Charles Rollis Working Group. Cllr Mrs S Chivers reported on the two meetings she had attended. She praised the constructive approach of safety advisors at one, and announced that at the other, the receipt of a promise that a *Sea-King* helicopter was to be included in the displays.

G Others. Nothing to impart.

145 To receive the Members' attendance summary of committee meetings.
This was to be supplied at the May 2010 Meeting.

146 To call a Meeting on Tuesday 4 May 2010 at 6.00pm to elect Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Acting Proper Officer was to issue a Notice of Meeting and Agenda the following day to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

147 To consider items of business for discussion at next Meeting. There were no suggestions.

148 To Agree Meeting dates. Tuesday 4th May 2010 at the Market Hall commencing at 6.00pm.

In the very exceptional and unprecedented circumstances consequent upon the abrupt departure of the Town Clerk, Members unanimously resolved that an additional item be added to the present Agenda. This was to place in motion the initial arrangements for procuring a replacement. Events already planned for the next few months required that the interregnum be for the minimum duration.

149 To consider the procedure for the appointment of a replacement Town Clerk. Members voted unanimously to treat this matter as a Pink Paper. Under Section 100A of the LGA 1972 para 4, 12A the public and press were required to leave the Meeting.

This item is appended hereto.

RGN

Minutes Approved -----
Date Chairman