

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 7 June 2010 at 7.00pm
at The Priory, Priory Street Monmouth

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sue James Town Clerk and Mrs Jane Lloyd Clerical Assistant

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

None received

14. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor T Christopher

15. To receive questions from members of the public:

Mr Roy Nicholas raised the issue of the area outside Kings Fee Post Office. This Post Office caters for six villages and Hamlets but the outside area can be dangerous when carrying parcels.

Councillor Mrs White explained she has been in discussion with Highways for the last seven years over this matter and has a site meeting with them shortly, funding is the main problem but highways do want to make the area safe. The Mayor asked if she could attend the meeting.

16. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Monday 10 May 2010:

Minutes confirmed correct with the following correction.
Page 3 c should read Sergeant Dick Bull

Proposed: Councillor Bond
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor C Munslow

17. To receive the Town Clerks report:

Mr Roy Nicholas reported on the new team at MCC, Jennie Lewis, (Engagement Manager) and Tim McDermott (Customer Service Manager) will liaise with Town and Community Councils. Jennie Lewis wants to know from Councillors if there are any ongoing issues that the County Council has not resolved to date.

Simon Robertshaw Conservation Officer MCC, will be at Shire Hall on the 8th July 10.00am – 6.00pm to hear any views put forward regarding conservation, he would also be interested in any old documents or photographs.

18. To receive correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council and prepare responses to official consultations:

Letter Number 12: Street dressing in Monmouth for the Ryder cup, a meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 June.

Councillors Mrs Hall Councillor Bond and Councillor Jones will attend

Letter number 14: Bus route in Tudor Road Wyesham. Councillor Mrs Were will respond

Letter Numbers 17 and 25, Councillor Mrs Chivers asked for these to be read at agenda item 25.

Letter A1: Proposal for a common complaints system for public service providers in Wales

19. To appoint representatives to outside bodies:

See attached list

20. To consider and approve reports and minutes of the Councils committees:

a. **Planning:** As per minutes. Next meeting to be held on Monday 21 June 2010.

b. **Environmental Affairs:** As per minutes next meeting to be held on Monday 12 July

c. **Community Affairs:** No meeting. Next meeting to be held on Monday 14 June 2010

d. **Finance & Policy:** As per minutes
Normal business discussed.

A group was formed to organise the storage and placement of furniture from Shire Hall which at present is stored at Market Hall. Members are Councillor Mrs Chivers, Councillor Mrs White, Councillor Hacket Pain, Mrs Barbara Wright, Mr John Blake, Mr Mike Booth and Mrs Jane Lloyd
Next meeting to be held on Monday 28 June

e. **CSATS Committee:**

Councillor Hacket Pain reported on the CSATS meeting which was held today he reported that in May as for the trend for this year Monmouth's crime is low. Antisocial behaviour has dropped dramatically in the Town Centre but it has increased in the Osbaston and Dixton ward.

The Detection rate is up and aiming for 22%. The big problem is rural crime with fuel tanks on farms being targeted as well as garden sheds, metal fences and gates are other targets due to the increasing price of metal. CSATS will be looking at targeting this problem.

It was proposed at today's meeting that MCC will be pulling out of the CCTV monitoring centre but will be setting up a new joint project with Torfaen in Blaenavon.

Items that were passed through to CSATS from our Committees have been useful but we have been asked if we could look at our procedures as some of the information although helpful was about two or three weeks out of date.

f. Monmouth Partnership Forum:

No meeting next meeting to be held on Wednesday 16th June 2010

g. Others:

Shire Hall Stewards:

The Stewards were invited over to Shire Hall to see the building to date.

Rolls Working Group:

Everything on track with small problems being ironed out. The Mayor thanked the group for all there work.

Councillor Bright reported on his successful trip to Dover for the Rolls event. He asked if the Mayor and Consort from Dover could be invited to our event on the 12th July. This would be at no cost to this Council.

Councillor Mrs Hall proposed that an invitation be sent to the Dover Mayor and consort.

Proposed: Councillor Mrs Hall

Seconded: Councillor G Bright

Unanimous

21. To receive the Members attendance summary of committee meetings:

The summary was confirmed correct

22. To discuss past Mayors badges:

This item has been discussed previously at Finance and Policy meeting on Monday 15 December 2009. The badges are now ready at a cost of £93.00 which past Mayors will pay for. It was decided to award the badges at a Town Council meeting

23. To discuss past Mayors pictures and frames:

Similar situation with the photographs and frames. These photographs will go up in the Mayors Parlour of Shire Hall. Previous Mayors will pay for the framing and provide the photograph.

24. To review Community and Environmental Affairs meeting dates:

Councillor Hayward reported for Councillor Christopher that he is concerned with the length of agendas on these committees and requests a four week cycle instead of six. Councillor Hayward is concerned of complications having some meetings on a four week cycle with others on a six and clashes of meetings

Councillor Hall reported that the yearly calendar in the office had been looked at today and there were five occasions where it would cause problems, also it would increase the work load in the office and suggested firstly if possible to look at the agenda to see if the number of items could be reduced.

Councillor Dewhurst has concerns with the correspondence in some cases waiting six weeks.

Councillor Hackett Pain asked for this item to be placed on the Finance and Policy meeting to be held on Monday 28 June

25. To discuss the placement of a bench in memory of Rifleman Jamie Gunn:

The Town Clerk read two e-mails received from Mrs Janet Gunn asking for advice regarding a bench at Shire Hall in memory of her son Jamie which had been mentioned at his service. Mr Mike Booth manager of Shire Hall had explained earlier in the day that it might be difficult as previous requests had been refused but this did not mean it wouldn't be looked into. The Town Council unanimously agreed to purchase a bench and will carry on discussions with MCC regarding its placement. There are benches to be placed in the town which could be an option or possibly in the castle grounds.

Councillor Mrs Hall proposed that the Town Council purchase a bench

Seconded: Councillor G Bright

Unanimous

26. To discuss concerns raised by Councillor John Fletcher regarding the Town Toilets:

Councillor Fletcher had heard rumoured that the toilets at Glendower Street were to close. Councillor Hayward reported that there was no link to the closing of toilets and the opening of Shire Hall, MCC has no statutory obligation to keep the toilets open but he believed they would not close them without consultation.

Councillor Mrs Were suggested inviting Mr Roger Hoggins of MCC to the next Community meeting

27. To discuss Councillor vacancy for the ward of Wyesham:

A letter of resignation has been received from Councillor L Robson creating a vacancy in the Wyesham ward. This will be advertised in the local press. If more than two persons apply it will have to go to an election.

28. To discuss the purchase of a hard drive and accessories for move to Shire Hall

Storage is not available in the Shire Hall for the Town Council documentation from over the years, MCC have requested that it be electronically stored. One option was for MCC to scan the documents but Lorraine Bermingham has MCC papers to scan and ours would take over a year to complete. Scanning is free and Councillor Mrs Gunter has offered to help Mrs Jane Lloyd with the process

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

Frequency of meetings for Community and Environmental affairs

30. To confirm meeting dates:

Date of the next meeting is Monday 19 July 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.15

Signature: _____

Date: _____