

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Held on Monday 14th February 2011 at 7.00pm The Shire Hall, Monmouth

PRESENT: Chairman: the Mayor Cllr Mrs J Hall

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr R Bond | Cllr Mrs S Chivers |
| Cllr T Christopher | Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst |
| Cllr J Fletcher | Cllr Mrs J Gunter |
| Cllr R Hayward | Cllr C Munslow |
| Cllr Mrs B Smith | Cllr Mrs A Were |
| Cllr Mrs S White | Cllr Mr N Hacket Pain |
| Cllr Mr M Jones | |

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S James Town Clerk and Mrs J Lloyd Admin Assistant

Mr David Morris and Mr Andrew Nash gave a presentation on behalf of Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA), regarding the future of Trevor Bowen Court.

The buildings are now approximately 50 years old and comprise of 45 bed sits and 10 flats, many with shared facilities which are not DDA compliant. 22 of these properties are empty and 10 of those have been empty for more than 2 years with no waiting list. With demand for sheltered accommodation changing, as people's expectations are now greater in terms of seeking quality accommodation, people prefer to live in 2 bedroom properties and not bedsits. Between 2014 and 2029 the number of people in the 80 plus age group is expected to double.

MHA undertook a review of its older persons accommodation and support. The stock condition survey in early 2010 of MHA's sheltered schemes highlighted 3 sheltered schemes as currently not fit for purpose which included Trevor Bowen Court. MHA have to consider demand/need over the next 15 -20 years, and the report found that refurbishment or remodelling for this building was not a viable option. The sole solution for retaining a sheltered housing presence was to demolish the existing building and adopt a new build redevelopment approach.

In November 2010, a MHA Board meeting established the preferred the option to demolish. A meeting was arranged with residents of Trevor Bowen Court, of which half attended and one -to -one visits were arranged for all residents. If current residents wanted to return, they will be given priority to do so. It was considered that piece-meal demolition was not an option.

Cllr Fletcher asked how many of the residents did not wish to move or transfer. Mr Andrews explained they understood the difficulties of moving, but a piece-meal build was not an option, with Health and Safety issues highlighted, as well as noise and massive disruption.

Cllr Hayward asked if the new-build would include social housing. It was explained that the preferred option was not to mix families with older people.

When asked about the timing and how long the project would take, only estimations could be given.

Cllr Hayward raised the issue that MCC knew the condition of Trevor Bowen Court when it was handed over, although it was explained that the stock plan only covers maintenance of the building.

Cllr Mrs Chivers suggested that the reason for there being no waiting list was because warden cover had been withdrawn. Mr Morris responded that the wardens had been withdrawn last year but replaced with a different scheme, and 10 of the units had been empty for over 2 years so this was not relevant.

118. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Mrs White regarding Monmouthshire Housing Association

119. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr G Bright and Cllr J Saran

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

None received

121. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2011

The minutes were confirmed correct and signed

Proposed: Cllr Mr R Hayward Seconded: Cllr Mr R Bond

Unanimous

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

The Town Council have received an invitation to attend the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Conference on Tuesday 24th February, at the Chase Hotel in Ross.

Monmouth Youth Project has invited all Councillors to celebrations of the 10th Birthday of the Attik Young People's Centre, on Tuesday 8th March, 6-7.30pm.

Monmouthshire County Council has invited members to visit the CCTV Monitoring Facilities at Blaenavon.

At the last Finance and Policy meeting, it was agreed that the office would hold a record of training received by each councillor. Councillors to provide the office with details of courses they have previously attended.

There are places available on the One Voice Wales training sessions to be held in Usk on the 3rd and 17th March.

The office has today taken delivery of a new computer. Although not up and running yet, it should hopefully make life a little easier in the long run.

The Town Clerk is on annual leave from Thursday 17th February until Monday 28th February. The Administrative assistant will be ensuring that the office will remain open for the normal hours during this period.

Cllr Mrs S Chivers asked the Town Clerk about a new wig. Quotes had been asked for.

123. To receive correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council.

Cllr White: Letter Number 62: Neighbourhood Watch and dog fouling

Cllr Christopher: Letter number 69 Mrs Pat Johns regarding Trevor Bowen Court, this letter to be forwarded to MHA

Cllr S Chivers: Letter number 41 Charles Boase regarding co-option of members

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

- a Planning Committee:** As per minutes. Cllr Bond reported that the committee still has concerns over the Local Development Plan. Thoughts are it is already a done deal.

Problems still arising with brambles on the clinic site,
Next meeting Monday 28 February 2011

- b Environmental Affairs Committee:** As per minutes.

At the meeting held on Monday 7 February, Cllr Christopher reported on the taking over of the toilets at the top of the town. Monmouth Town Council will take over the management for an initial trial period of 1 year starting on 1st April. This will be reviewed in November when the precept decision will be needed. Cllr Christopher and Cllr Hayward will arrange to meet with MCC to inspect the building.

Planting Scheme: 12 planters in town will now consist of bedding plants and the tubs at the entrances to the towns will continue with sustainable planting. An advertisement will go out in the Beacon regarding this year's planting contract.
Next meeting to be held on Monday 21st March 2011.

- c Community Affairs Committee:** As per minutes. From the meeting held on 10 January Cllr Mrs Dewhurst reported that a presentation from MCC officials Donna Rose and Amanda Peters had been given regarding the Draft children and Young Persons plan. The Committee had responded in writing using local experience. Arrangements have been made for a meeting with Sophie Whiting Gwent Police regarding parking restrictions being ignored in Monmouth

- A meeting has been held to allocate Community Grants which will be verified at the next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 21 February 2011

- d Finance & Policy Committee:** As per minutes. Cllr Hayward reported items discussed at the meeting held on Monday 24 January were the forming of a Shire Hall Furniture committee to look into the costs of repair and the future of the remaining furniture.

- A second committee was formed to look at the Service Level Agreement for Shire Hall
- Battle of Agincourt Celebrations responsibility has been moved to the Environment Committee.
- Next meeting to be held on Monday 7th March

- e **CSATS Committee:** Cllr N Hackett Pain reported that CSATS have requested that the reporting of graffiti be reported as soon as possible so the problem can be kept under control.
- f **Monmouth Partnership Forum:** Cllr Mrs Smith reported on the discussion of the pinch point scheme and the disappointment at its cancellation.
Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd February 2011
- g **Vision Monmouth:** Discussion on the disappointment of the withdrawal of the of the 'pinch point scheme' on the grounds of public concern took place. The group have concerns now that the proposals by the Hamilton Bailey report will not go ahead. Cllr Chivers asked Cllr Hayward to bring to the Council the costs of the scheme to date.
Cllr Dewhurst asked who was responsible for the cancellation of the scheme: Cllr Hayward reported that the Leader Peter Fox, Cabinet members in conjunction with officers made the decision.
- h **Others:**
- Stakeholders Advisory Group:** Cllr Mrs Smith reported a positive meeting. Concerns were raised because of low numbers of applications and difficulty in accessing mainstream courses mainly due to the lack of disability services
Next meeting will be held in 6 months
- One Voice Wales:** Cllr Mrs Dewhurst reported that at the meeting held on 13 January, it was heard for the first time that Abergavenny Court had been saved.
- All consultation documents and charters are available on the website under members.
 - One Voice Wales Charter is ready to sign which was approved by the County Council on January 2011

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

| Members | Planning | Full Council | Community | Planning | Environment | F&P | Planning |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2010/2011 | 04.01.11 | 04.01.11 | 10.01.11 | 17.01.11 | 17.01.11 | 24.01.11 | 31.01.11 |
| Cllr R Bond | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr G Bright | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr Mrs S Chivers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr T Christopher | 1 | 1 | 1 | | Apologies | 1 | |
| Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr J Fletcher | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr Mrs J Gunter | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr N Hackett Pain | | Apologies | | | | 1 | |
| Cllr Mrs J Hall | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr R Hayward | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr M Jones | Apologies | Apologies | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr C Munslow | 1 | 1 | 1 | Apologies | Apologies | | Apologies |
| Cllr J Saran | 1 | 1 | | Apologies | | | Apologies |
| Cllr Mrs B Smith | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Cllrs Mrs A Were | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Cllr Mrs S White | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Total In Attendance | 10 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 12 | 12 | 8+1 |
| Members on Committee | 10 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 12 | 10 |
| | | | | | | | |
| KEY | | | | | | | |
| | Non Committee Member | | | Absent | | | |
| | Non Committee Member attendance | | | | | | |

126. To discuss and confirm Council meeting arrangements in The Shire Hall

It was decided that all Full Council meetings will be held in the Council Chambers with Committee meetings to be held in the Mayors Parlour on the return of the office to the Shire Hall. All meetings will still be held on a Monday evening.

Discussion took place regarding the size of Committees and rooms. The Town Clerk reported that this issue would be looked into over the next year.

127. To appoint new Town Council representative to CSATS

Cllr Hackett Pain cannot attend future meetings due to the change of times and dates, Cllr R Hayward will now attend the meetings on behalf of the Town Council

128. To discuss the nomination of the Town Field as a Field in Trust: Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

The Community Affairs thought this decision should be made at full Council. The aim is to save existing fields for the benefit of future generations. Title of the fields will be registered and no cost involved.

Cllr Mr R Hayward reported that he previously had concerns regarding the status of the field, but was now reassured that this would be a good option as it also offered protection from any future building.

It was resolved to nominate the Town Field as a Field in Trust: Queen Elizabeth II Fields Trust.

Proposed: Cllr R Bond

Seconded: Cllr Hayward

Unanimous

129. To present certificates for signing and Working Safely on Highways course.

Certificates were awarded to those who attended the course. Cllr Mrs Dewhurst thanked members for attending the course as without it the 'Candlelit Procession' at Christmas may not have gone ahead due to new MCC regulations.

130. Items for discussion for future meetings.

None received

131. To confirm meeting dates

Next meeting to be held on: Monday 28 March 2011 7.00pm Shire Hall Monmouth

The meeting closed at 8.20pm