

Monmouth Town Council
Shire Hall
Agincourt Square
Monmouth NP25 3DY

Tel: 01600 715662
Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk
www.monmouth.gov.uk



MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 12th September 2011 at 7pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: the Mayor Cllr Bright

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

In Attendance: Mrs S James, Town Clerk

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

None declared

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillor R Bond, Councillor Mrs J Gunter, Councillor J Saran, Councillor Mrs A Were

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

No questions received

4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2011

The minutes previously circulated and labelled as amended 5/9/11 with amendments in red, were accepted, with the further amendment at Agenda Item 7f, p13, of Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst giving the report, not Councillor Mrs B Smith

Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor Mrs B Smith

For: 11, Against: 0, Abstention: 1

Councillor Mrs S Chivers explained that she had abstained from voting as she disagreed with amendments being added before the next meeting.

Cllr Hayward suggested that in future members should notify the Town Clerk of any amendments requested, and that these should be added as notes at the end of the original minutes, with the name of the member requesting the amendment. The amendments could then be agreed with the minutes at the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Chivers was satisfied with this suggestion.

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

The Clerk reported that Mr Griffiths had confirmed that the Town Field was left in a pristine condition following the raft race, with not a single piece of litter or damage left.

Monmouth Market is to be launched on Saturday 29th October, possibly with some street entertainment and children's activities taking place— at both sites.

The Mayor's chair, and some others, have now been repaired and returned, with the restoration of the others continuing.

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

No items of correspondence were requested to be read aloud.

The Clerk noted two items for attention:

An invitation from GAVO to nominate a representative to the local and Executive Committees, and a request for a member to consider acting as the Council's representative, the appointment will again be on the agenda of next week's Community Affairs Committee as no appointment was made at the Annual Meeting. The Council receives a lot of information from GAVO, and the Clerk is very conscious that we do not utilise it fully. If anyone would like more information, before considering the position, the Clerk can give website details and a contact for an informal chat.

A reminder was also given, that any councillors requiring a copy of the Electoral Roll and updates must complete a request form. A request was made for these to be completed and returned to the office by the end of the week.

7. To note the reports and minutes of the council's committees and outside bodies:

a Planning Committee

Councillor Mrs Hall reported that the Croft-y-Bwla proposal was passed last week, and that Taylor Wimpey had made a presentation to the Planning Committee earlier that evening.

b Environmental Affairs Committee

Councillor Mrs Smith reported that Mr Booth had presented details of plans for the front and environs of the Shire Hall to the Committee. The Committee had also made plans and approved funding for winter planting in the raised beds and planters.

c Community Affairs Committee

Councillor Mrs White reported as per minutes.

d Finance & Policy Committee

Councillor Hayward reported the Committee had agreed to fund framing of a photo of the late past Mayor Councillor Smith, that expenditure had been agreed to purchase a new Clerk's wig, a review of insurance requirements had been made, and issues with staff salaries had been resolved.

e CSATS Committee

Councillor Hayward reported he had not attended any further meetings as he had not been notified or they were cancelled.

Councillor Mrs Hall requested details be forwarded of an incident where the police had been contacted on 101 regarding alarms sounding, but would not attend unless actual criminal activity was witnessed. This implied that the informant would have to investigate the situation themselves which appeared unreasonable - especially for elderly or vulnerable people at unsocial hours.

f Monmouth Partnership Forum

Councillor Mrs Dewhurst reported that the Comprehensive School had made a presentation on hoping to invite volunteers from Community groups.

g Vision Monmouth:

Councillor Hayward reported that no further meetings had taken place.

h Others

Monmouthshire Area Committee - Councillor Mrs Hall reported that trials are ongoing regarding finding a new site for a cemetery, and that the market to be re-established at the Shire Hall already had applications from 30 stall holders.

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

The attendance sheet for members was agreed

Proposed: Councillor Mrs J Hall, Seconded: Councillor C Munslow

Unanimous

| Members | Community | F&P | Planning | Full Council | Special Environment | Community | Planning | F&P | Planning |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2011/2012 | 11.7.11 | 11.7.11 | 1.8.11 | 1.8.11 | 8.8.11 | 8.8.11 | 15.08.11 | 22.8.11 | 30.8.11 |
| Cllr R Bond | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr G Bright | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | |
| Cllr Mrs S Chivers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr T Christopher | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Apologies | Apologies |
| Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr J Fletcher | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Apologies | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr Mrs J Gunter | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr N Hackett Pain | | 1 | | 1 | | | | Apologies | |
| Cllr Mrs J Hall | Apologies | 1 | Apologies | Apologies | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr R Hayward | | 1 | Apologies | Apologies | Apologies | | Apologies | 1 | 1 |
| Cllr M Jones | | | | 1 | | Apologies | | 1 | |
| Cllr C Munslow | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Apologies | Apologies | 1 | 1 | Apologies |
| Cllr J Singh Saran | | | Apologies | Apologies | | | Apologies | | 1 |
| Cllr Mrs B Smith | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cllrs Mrs A Were | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Cllr Mrs S White | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Total In Attendance | 8 | 10+1 | 9+1 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| Members on Committee | 12 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| KEY | | | | | | | | | |
| | Non Committee Member | | | | | | | | |
| | Non Committee Member attendance | | | | | | | | |
| | Absent | | | | | | | | |

9. To discuss traffic problems at Mayhill and the Wye-bridge

Councillor Hackett Pain acknowledged that the Town Council has no specific authority over highways issues, but the major highway problems at Mayhill and the Wye Bridge, together with other significant issues such as the poor quality of broadband provision for the town, felt that Monmouth Town Council should act more forcefully, as the only body specifically representing Monmouth, in representing the interests of the town through lobbying, campaigning and engaging the press.

He highlighted the specific issues concerning the Wye Bridge and the effective division of the town, not only by the river, but the dual carriageway, and the problems encountered by residents travelling to and from Monmouth town centre and Wyesham. The extra mile travelling involved in order to return to Wyesham from Monmouth- by way of the traffic lights to the roundabout and return, to cross the Wye Bridge, he estimated has resulted in his family, and hence many others in Wyesham, to travel an additional 3000 miles at an estimated £700 over the last 5 years in order to "go nowhere".

The tailbacks of morning and evening peak travel times cause much frustration, and in the event of an incident on the A40, which may involve the road being closed, it is very difficult for Wyesham residents to return the very short distance from Monmouth – it has in some situations taken 5 hours. The recent roadworks in the area caused residents and commuters especially major delays. He identified a feeling of separation from the rest of Monmouth, and a frustration at the inability of the road system- not designed for the traffic demands of today. The planned extra housing at Wyesham would put further strains on the road network which involved crossing, in effect, a route used as a connection between motorways.

Councillor Munslow talked briefly of his proposals regarding a new roundabout towards a possible solution, and how this was making slow progress. Councillors suggested other agencies to refer to, and also the Links Project proposals for a cantilever bridge adjacent to the Wye Bridge that may help. Councillor Hackett Pain re-iterated the need for the Town Council to lobby on behalf of Monmouth to the various agencies involved, and especially MCC Highways. Councillor Jones and Councillor Mrs White expressed strong support for this view.

10. Update on Chippenham Mead

The Clerk reported that Mr Tim Bradfield had been contacted and that the gates are being shut during the week, whilst at weekends it is more difficult to enforce as various club users had their own keys from the Sports Association. The Sports Association have been asked to ensure members don't allow public parking.

Councillor Mrs Chivers confirmed this and also the number of keys available or in circulation should be identified, which has been raised with Mr Bradfield. The problem of the state of the wooden fencing of the area was also identified and Mr Bradfield has been asked to provide a quote for more substantial railings, which would be discussed at committee when available.

Councillor Mrs Dewhurst requested that the provision of new litter bins is chased.

11. To approve funding for fixing of the Commemorative plaque to the Rolls Statue, Shire Hall, and to confirm budget to be used

The Clerk reported that previously two contractors had been approached but had been unable to provide quotes or the appropriate information regarding the work required regarding the listed status. Mr Alistair McGowan had now provided a quote of £102 + VAT and the necessary documentation required.

It was agreed that the work should go ahead at this quote.

Proposed: Councillor Mrs S White, Seconded: Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst.
Unanimous

It was suggested by Councillor Hayward that that the funds could be used from the Town Enhancements budget of the Environmental Affairs Committee.

12. To confirm request for the Monmouth Town Guide to be included on the Monmouth Town Council website

Some discussion took place regarding a link from the website, or the inclusion of the guide in full, which may require some updating.

It was confirmed that a pdf link could provide an easy way of updating by the providers. Councillor Dewhurst requested that the calendar of events also be updated by the providers, although concern was raised over this becoming a commitment – subscription, and potential

It was confirmed that the Guide could be included as a pdf link on the website.

Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor J Fletcher
Unanimous

13. Items for discussion for future meetings

Councillor Mrs Chivers requested that updates on Chippenham Mead issues remain ongoing, although it was clarified by Councillor Christopher that this remained on the Environmental Affairs Committee Action Agenda.

It was proposed to put the issue back to the Environmental Affairs Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Christopher, Seconded: Councillor Hayward

For: 10, Against: 2

Councillor Jones requested the issues as addressed by Councillor Hackett Pain in Agenda Item 9, for Monmouth Town Council to represent Monmouth more forcefully, to remain on the Full Town Council agenda.

It was proposed that this item remain on the agenda and that Mr Colin Phillips, MCC Regeneration Officer be invited to discuss this further.

Proposed: Councillor Christopher Seconded: Councillor Mrs Smith

Unanimous

14. To confirm meeting dates

Next meeting to be held on Monday 24th October 2011, 7pm at the Shire Hall, Monmouth
Confirmed

15. To resolve to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1 (2), on the grounds of confidentiality

Councillor Hayward explained the reason being that the financing of staff salaries following advice from One Voice Wales was to be discussed.

Proposed: Councillor R Hayward, Seconded: Councillor Mrs S White

Unanimous

The press left the meeting. No public present.