

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 24 October 2011 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: the Mayor Cllr Bright

Cllr Bond	Cllr Mrs J Hall
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	Cllr Hayward
Cllr T Christopher	Cllr M Jones
Cllr J Fletcher	Cllr Munslow
Cllr Mrs J Gunter	Cllr Mrs B Smith
Cllr Hacket Pain	Cllr Mrs A Were

In Attendance: Mrs S James, Town Clerk and Mrs Jane Lloyd Admin Assistant

Inspector Boycott reported that crime rates were 21% down on last year, with crime detected up 3.5%, to 32.3%. Anti social behaviour is down by 25% on last year, although there are issues with a new drug 'Street Valium', which the police are trying to address with involvement from 'Drug Aid' and voluntary aid groups, to highlight the danger of drug abuse to youngsters around the town.

Metal theft- for scrap metal, is still an issue due to high scrap prices. Operations are ongoing, stopping scrap dealers to check vehicles, with the Police looking at the Scrap merchants licensing issues and identification with cash transactions.

A restructure with Gwent Police has taken place recently with the merging of Neighbourhood Teams, Neighbourhood Support units (based in Abergavenny) and the response unit (Police cars around the town). The Support and Response Units have now merged which has released ten officers to Monmouth.

New Chief Inspector Jo Bull was introduced, and reported that she is proud to work and live in Monmouth and wants to see an era of stability. Monmouth station is now manned 24hours. Although anti social behaviour is down, Halloween and Bonfire night traditionally cause problems. Once again funding has been provided for Group activities and trips to keep youngsters occupied during this time.

Although Monmouth is a very safe town Chief Inspector Bull feels that one of the areas to focus on is visibility of the local police and focus on peoples 'fear of crime'.

Chief Inspector Bull reported that the officers who were attacked recently were recovering well with one officer back at work and the other starting shortly. It is thought that the attacks were provoked by the influence of the drug issues reported earlier.

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

None received

2. To receive Apology for absence

Cllr Mrs S Chivers, Cllr J Singh Saran and Cllr Mrs S White

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

None received

4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 12th September 2011 and 19th September 2011

The minutes from the meeting dated 12 September 2011 were confirmed as a true record with the following correction

Date entered as 19 August should read 19 September

Agenda item 8 Cllr J Singh Saran 'Apology' should read 'not on committee'.

Proposed: Cllr R Hayward
For: 11

Seconded:
Against: 0

Cllr Mrs Hall
Abstention: 2

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

Remembrance Day: See accompanying notes, to be distributed.

Councillors Training: A reminder about Councillors Training courses through One Voice Wales before Christmas - to let the office know as soon as possible if you would like to attend any:

Disability Awareness Course 2 date options for this course, being Thursdays, the 19th or 26th January 2012. Any has any specific preference, or knowledge of any other meetings that may clash, please inform office. Probably to opt for an evening session, unless again, a majority of Councillors request otherwise.

Important meeting date changes: The **Finance and Policy** committee meeting for 14th November is to be postponed to the **21st November at 7pm** after the Planning committee meeting that evening.

The extra **Environment** meeting, to include budget setting, is to now be held on Monday **7th November at 7pm**, again after Planning that evening. This is instead of the 1st November that was initially discussed.

Christmas meal: Of the 2 dates given, there was a very close split, but we have decided to go for Wednesday 14th December, at 7.30pm. We need menu choices and a £10 per person, non-refundable deposit to the office by tomorrow

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

Letters for Attention: Time & Place working to save young lives on the road was read to the Council inviting members to a presentation at Monmouth Comprehensive School on 10 November 2011. –Date to be clarified.

HMS Monmouth update was also read out to the members.

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

a Planning Committee: As per minutes,

- The committee is keeping an eye on the Hadnock Road enforcement issue.
- The Committee is disappointed with the decision of MCC who have giving approval for flats at the Old Clinic in Dixton Road with access through The Burgage. A letter will be written with their concerns.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 7 November 2011.

b Environmental Affairs Committee: As per minutes,

- Talk regarding the Monmouth Links Project
- The Committee have been advised that a safety audit will commence in the next two weeks on the Hereford Road junction
- Authorised the extended Christmas lights display to St Mary's Street and Cinderhill Street

Next meeting to be held on Monday 28 November 2011.

c Community Affairs Committee: As per minutes,

- The Christmas event has been arranged for Thursday 15 December

Next meeting to be held on Monday 31 October 2011

d Finance & Policy Committee: As per minutes,

Next meeting to be held on Monday 21 November 2011

- It was noted that the Shire Hall Stewards have raised the money required for Shire Hall which releases reserves from the Town Council
- Budgets to be finalised

e CSATS Committee: No report

f Monmouth Partnership Forum:

- Taylor Wimpey had given a presentation regarding a possible new site for the LDP being land north of Vauxhall Field
- Mark Lloyd (MCC Tourism) is looking for ideas for tourism in Monmouthshire
- Discussion on Goldwire Lane parking suggestions
- Suggested roundabout scheme on the A40 has been to the Welsh Government and the South Wales Transport Committee. The idea will probably be put on hold as it is not advised to have further interruptions on the A40
- Monmouth Links Project: The old railway bridge is to have restoration works carried out between March and September next year there is to be a public consultation on a drop in basis sometime next year
- Cycle way at Redbrook is causing concern because of traffic and thinking of using the old railway bed
- Hereford Road junction is still causing concern

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 14th November

g Vision Monmouth: Friday 21 October: Report on A40 roundabout discussed with its probable non continuation due to the closeness of the tunnels and lights.

The main business was the main definition of the group itself, which will now formalise and rebuild as a steering group instead of the think Tank as it has become.

h Others

Planting Group: Winter planting of the tubs is now complete with the planters to be completed as soon as possible

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

Members	Environment	Planning	Full Council	Full Council	Community	Planning	F&P	Planning
2011/2012	5.9.11	12.9.11	12.9.11	19.9.11	19.9.11	26.9.11	3.10.11	10.10.11
Cllr R Bond	1	Apology	Apology	Apology		Apology	1	1
Cllr G Bright	1		1	1	1		1	
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	Apology	Apology	Apology
Cllr T Christopher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Apology
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	Apology	1	1	1	1	1	1	Apology
Cllr J Fletcher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Cllr Mrs J Gunter	1	Apology	Apology	Apology	Apology	1	1	1
Cllr N Hackett Pain			1				1	
Cllr Mrs J Hall		1	1	Apology	Apology	Apology	1	1
Cllr R Hayward	1	1	1	Apology		1	1	1
Cllr M Jones			1	1	1		1	
Cllr C Munslow	Apology	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	1	1
Cllr J Singh Saran		1	1	Apology		1		Apology
Cllr Mrs B Smith	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllrs Mrs A Were	1	Apology	Apology	1	1	1		1
Cllr Mrs S White	1	1	1	1	1			
Total In Attendance	10	9+1	13	8	8	9	12	7
Members on Committee	12	12	16	16	12	12	13	12
KEY	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: black; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></div> Non Committee Member</div> <div style="background-color: yellow; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></div> Non Committee Member attendance							

8. To review funding to keep Agincourt Street Toilets open next financial year.

Cllr Bright explained how he has changed his opinion on the closure of the toilets after the survey found that over 187 visits daily had taken place. It was clear that a large number of elderly people use them. The survey was conducted by Councillors on Friday 21st October. It was suggested that conditions of the maintenance contract with MCC should be checked as problems could arise. Cllr Dewhurst had found that the maintenance staff had been stopped maintaining work above head height.

No cover at weekends means the toilets are unlit and unsupervised; only one person is employed to service all three towns' toilet facilities. It was also pointed out that there was not a disabled facility and possibility that the doors could be widened to allow pushchairs in. It was noted that the nearest disabled access toilets were at the museum and Shire Hall. The present cost to the Council is approximately £16,000.

Cllr Hayward suggested that MCC should be made aware of the figures.

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

As MCC representatives will be attending the next meeting this item was deferred.

10. To nominate the Minority Authority representative of Monmouth Town Council to the Governing Body of Overmonnow Primary School

It was reported that Cllr Mrs White, although not at this meeting, had agreed to continue in post as the representative of this Council

Proposed: Cllr R Hayward

Seconded:

Cllr Mrs Hall

Unanimous

11. To discuss and complete the draft action plan for the Charter between MCC and Community and Town Councils.

Members agreed that they were happy with the Charter document and that a lot of time had been put into its production. The Clerk reported that feedback could be used to highlight both positive and negative features and to improve communication and build bridges between the Town and County Councils.

Members felt that they were happy with the Charter, and did not wish to add any further comments or engage in the action plan.

12. Items for discussion for future meetings

None

13. To confirm meeting dates.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 5th December 2011, 7pm at the Shire Hall, Monmouth
Colin Phillips, MCC Regeneration Officer, MCC to attend

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.03pm