

# Monmouth Town Council

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 5th December at 7.00pm  
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

**Present:** Chairman: the Mayor Cllr Bright

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Cllr R Bond         | Cllr Mrs Hall    |
| Cllr Mrs S Chivers  | Cllr R Hayward   |
| Cllr T Christopher  | Cllr Jones       |
| Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst | Cllr C Munslow   |
| Cllr J Fletcher     | Cllr Mrs B Smith |
| Cllr Mrs J Gunter   | Cllr Mrs A Were  |

**In Attendance:** Mrs S James, Town Clerk and Mrs J Lloyd Administration Assistant

**Colin Phillips, MCC Regeneration Officer, and Paul Keeble, MCC Traffic Network Manager, to talk with Councillors regarding regeneration issues in Monmouth, specifically the Wye Bridge**

Due to a previous meeting with Councillors the presentation was postponed until further information can be received by Mr Keeble

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

None received

**2. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr N Hacket Pain, 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 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.**

The minutes for 24th October were confirmed as a true record and signed with corrections 5f ...”land **north** of Vauxhall fields..” and “A40 island” changed to “A40 **roundabout**”

Proposed: Cllr Hayward                      Seconded: Cllr Mrs J Gunter  
Unanimous

The minutes for 21th November were confirmed as a true record and signed

Proposed: Cllr Hayward                      Seconded: Cllr Mrs J Gunter  
Unanimous

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

**Parade**

Monmouthshire District Scouts have advised of a St Georges’ Day Parade to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April next year

**Disability Awareness Course**

Date for this has now been confirmed as Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30-9.30pm at the Shire Hall.

**Christmas meal**

Thank you to all who have paid, to confirm, the time is 7.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, at Prego in Church Street.

**Christmas Office Closure**

The office will close at 12noon on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, and re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 9.30am

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

None received

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

**a Planning Committee:** As per minutes. Cllr Bond reported that

- A meeting is to be arranged with MCC Planning Department and County Cllr Edwards regarding the application for Dixton Clinic and the problems with access at the Burgage
- Hadnock Road application is still on going  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 19 December 2011.

**b Environmental Affairs Committee:** As per minutes, Cllr Mrs Smith reported that Mr R Denny of Monnow Rivers Association gave a presentation on their ‘Go Native’ project to eradicate Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed from the riverbanks and improve the water quality and habitat. So far improvements have been made as far as Pandy and it is hoped that improvements will reach Rockfield next year.

- Report received from Mr Colin Phillips on the Town Ditch who will record any finds and re instate afterwards -hopefully to start in the New Year  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 9th January 2012 -

- c Community Affairs Committee:** As per minutes, Cllr Mrs Gunter reported that Preparation for the Candlelit procession is going well.  
There was a request for volunteers to help with preparation on the day  
Next meeting to be held on Monday 12 December 2011

7.18pm Cllr Mrs J Hall left the meeting

- d Finance & Policy Committee:** As per minutes, Cllr Hayward reported
- Discussion took place setting the recommended budget for next year
  - The smaller committee set up to look into CCTV concluded not to enter into the project for the next 12 months
  - Decision on co option of members took place with the decision made that in future everything will be in the public e domain.
  - Mr Clive James has been re appointed as the Internal Auditor for the following year
- Next meeting to be held on Monday 19 December 2011

7.25pm Mrs Hall returned to the meeting

- e CSATS Committee:** No report  
Points noted were
- Parking on pavement at Hereford Road has now been resolved
  - It has been clarified by Inspector Boycott, that police policy is not to respond to 101 calls unless a crime has or is being witnessed.
- Next meeting will be in January

- f Monmouth Partnership Forum:**
- Talk by Mark Lloyd (MCC Tourism) re Welcome to Monmouthshire activities included river access to improve signage and access
  - May be potential for funding to continue from cycleway to the Quay
  - £12,00 raised by Rotary
  - Shop mobility scheme now well underway
  - Proposals for the new plans for Monnow Street which is purely at the consultation stage and other agencies will be asked for their ideas
- Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 December 2011

- g Vision Monmouth:** Friday 21 October  
Discussion of consultation plans for Monnow Street to make more pedestrian friendly, no funding available at the moment but there are funds available for tarmacing

**h Others**

**One Voice Wales:**

Cllr Mrs Dewhurst reported that there is more training available called 'Strong Roots' how to go about making a community sustainable which has come from Local Government Wales and will hopefully strengthen Community in Wales .  
There will be a charge of £10

**Agincourt Street Toilet working Group**

Subject to MCC agreement of the costs of £18,000 the committee would like to propose that the toilets be cleaned twice a day from April until the end of September and from

October to March once a day which will be a saving of £3,000. At present they are cleaned twice a day all year. This money could then be used to smarten up the exterior of the toilets

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

| Members              | Env      | Planning | Full Council | Comm     | Planning | Env     | Planning | Full Council | F&P      |
|----------------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 2011/2012            | 17.10.11 | 24.10.11 | 24.10.11     | 31.10.11 | 7.11.11  | 7.11.11 | 21.11.11 | 21.11.11     | 21.11.11 |
| Cllr R Bond          | Apology  | 1        | 1            |          | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr G Bright        | 1        |          | 1            | 1        |          | 1       |          | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr Mrs S Chivers   | Apology  | 1        | Apology      | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr T Christopher   | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst  | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr J Fletcher      | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | Apology  | Apology      | Apology  |
| Cllr Mrs J Gunter    | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr N Hackett Pain  |          |          | 1            |          |          |         |          | Apology      |          |
| Cllr Mrs J Hall      |          | 1        | 1            | Apology  | 1        |         | Apology  | Apology      | Apology  |
| Cllr R Hayward       | 1        | 1        | 1            |          | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr M Jones         |          |          | 1            | ?        |          |         |          | Apology      | Apology  |
| Cllr C Munslow       | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllr J Singh Saran   |          | Apology  | Apology      |          | Apology  |         | Apology  | Apology      |          |
| Cllr Mrs B Smith     | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        | 1            | 1        |
| Cllrs Mrs A Were     | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1        | 1        | 1       | 1        |              |          |
| Cllr Mrs S White     | 1        |          | Apology      | Apology  |          | Apology |          | Apology      |          |
| Total In Attendance  | 10       | 11       | 13           |          | 11       | 11      | 9        | 9            | 9        |
| Members on Committee | 12       | 12       | 16           | 12       | 12       | 12      | 12       | 16           | 12       |

### KEY

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
|  | Non Committee Member            |
|  | Non Committee Member attendance |
|  | Absent                          |

Proposed: Cllr Hayward  
Unanimous

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Gunter

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

Deferred to next meeting due to absence of Councillor who raised the issue

Cllr Munslow reported that Mr P Keeble and Mr C Phillips were looking at the roundabout on the A40 option and looking for funding for a feasibility plan to take place.

A meeting will take place with Nick Ramsey AM on Monday 12 December regarding this issue.

Cllr Mrs J Gunter raised the issue of the sequence of the traffic lights and if corrected, would solve many problems

The Town Clerk reported that Mr Colin Phillips will be attending the next Full Council meeting on the 16th December and requested that Councillors put forward specific questions before this date so answers could be sort before the meeting rather than incur any delays.

**10. To discuss and accept the recommendation of the Finance and Policy Committee regarding the budget and precept demand for 2012-2013**

After discussion, thanks was given to Councillors for keeping the budget down although pressures from salaries -with contract updates, and the Agincourt Street toilets -adding £18,000 on the budget, also increase in costs for Shire Hall, had added pressures.. The Finance and Policy committee recommended that as it is a time of difficulty, money be used from the reserves to make up short falls so for this year there will be no increase in the precept. To remain at £141,300

Proposed: Cllr Bond  
For: 12

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hall  
Against: 1

Abstention: 0

**11. To consider the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012, and any celebratory events the Council may wish to consider, with appropriate working groups to be formed (From Community Affairs 31 October)**

Cllr C Munslow will be organising a Jamboree for the Scout Group for this date and is talking with MCC as up to 40,000 people could be visiting Monmouth at this time.

Cllr T Christopher asked for volunteers to form an "Olympic Torch" working group.

Volunteers are Cllr Mrs Hall, Cllr Munslow, Cllr Jones, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Chivers Cllr Mrs Dewhurst and Cllr Bright.

**12. To confirm order of bench in memory of former Mace Bearer, Mr Graham Powell, at a cost of up to £600+ VAT (dependent on fixings agreed).**

Formerly discussed at the Full Council meeting of July 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, the bench is to be of the same style as the bench for Rifleman Jamie Gunn outside the Punch House.

Proposed: Cllr Bond  
Unanimous all in favour

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hall

**13. Items for discussion for future meetings**

Concerns of lorries parking at Wonastow Road Industrial Estate and provision of facilities.  
This item to be entered on the agenda for the Community Committee meeting to be held on  
Monday 12 December

**14. To confirm meeting dates**

Next meeting to be held on Monday 16th January 2012, 7pm at the Shire Hall, Monmouth

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm**