

Monmouth Town Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 22 April 2013 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: The Mayor Cllr G Bright

Cllr T Ashton	(TA)	Cllr J Gunter	(JG)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr Hall	(JH)
Cllr T Christopher	(TC)	Cllr R Hayward	(RH)
Cllr S Davis	(SD)	Cllr M Jones	(MJ)
Cllr A Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr A Owen	(AO)
Cllr J Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr A Were	(AW)
		Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)

In Attendance: Mrs S James, Town Clerk

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

None received

2. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr R Bradley and Cllr 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 extra meeting held on Monday 8th April 2013.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr G Bright Seconded: Cllr Hall Unanimous

Cllr Hayward suggested an option of a 'Memorandum of Understanding' rather than a lease agreement between the Rowing Club and Town Council for the use of the Town Field in reference to minute agenda item 4, 8th April 2013.

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

There have been some delays in the commencement of CCTV in the town, but it is now expected to be fully operational by Wednesday. Payment will not be made until fully working, and credit is to be given for days lost this quarter.

A member of staff from Archives depository in Blaenavon is due to visit next week, giving advice and assistance with sorting and storage, hopefully also starting to transport necessary documents for archiving.

The next Full Council meeting on 13th May is the Annual meeting, when a new Mayor and Deputy are to be elected. Requests for committee membership and representative on outside bodies will be required by then.

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

Town Clerk reminded Council Members of responses required for

- Mr Colin Phillips re design options for the Gateway Monmouth Design Study 24th April
- Monmouth Library celebrating World Book Night 23rd April.

Also regarding:

- Gwent Police: Monmouth Surgery for meeting Neighbourhood Officers
To be held on 23 April 2.00 – 3.00 pm Glendower Street.
- Chasing Ice to be shown at the Savoy on Friday 26 April.

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

a) Planning Committee:

As per minutes

b) Environmental Affairs Committee: Meeting held on Monday 15 April 2013.

- Mr David Briggs of City Illuminations gave a presentation regarding the Christmas lights and showed damaged lights that need replacing.
- Railings at Chippenham Mead: The committee has applied to 'Tidy Towns' for a grant towards the cost of the railings.
- Discussion took place re upkeep of trees at Drybridge Park which will be followed up at the next meeting.

c) Community Affairs Committee: As per minutes

The Working party of the Larger Community Grant Scheme met to discuss the applicants with recommendations to be finalised at the next Community meeting on Monday 29 April 2013.

d) Finance & Policy Committee:

As per minutes

e) CSATS Committee:

Cllr Wilson reported that issues raised to him had been discussed and reported back to the relevant members.

f) Monmouth Partnership Forum:

Cllr Owen reported on meeting of 13 March 2013 when Mark Youngman, Sustrans gave a presentation on the lack of progress with the 'Links Project' followed by a discussion including lack of signage and also progress in Wyesham.

g) Vision Monmouth:

No meeting.

h) Central Monmouthshire Area Committee:

Meeting 16 April scheduled but cancelled.

i) Others:

One Voice Wales: Cllr Were reported a meeting was held on Thursday 18 April 2013. The new web development scheme was discussed –being not as straight forward as previously thought, not all Councils can apply for this scheme. OVW had put proposals forward but these were refused by Welsh Assembly. A meeting by MCC will take place next Thursday 25 April which hopefully will lay out the proposals for the scheme. Cllr Were and Hayward are hoping to attend. OVW also requested comment on the Integrated Plan.

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

Members	Community	Planning	Finance & Policy	Extra Full Council	Planning	Environment
2011/2012	18.03.13	25.03.13	25.03.13	8.04.13	8.04.13	15.04.13
Cllr T Ashton	1		1	1		
Cllr R Bradley	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr G Bright	Apology		1	1		1
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	Apology	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher	1		1	1		1
Mr S Davis		1		1	1	1
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	Apology
Cllr J Fletcher	Apology	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Mrs J Gunter	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Mrs J Hall	1	1	1	1	1	
Cllr R Hayward		1	1	1	1	1
Cllr M Jones	Apology		Apologies	1		
Cllr A Owen				Apologies		1
Cllrs Mrs A Were	1		1	1		1
Cllr Mrs S White	Apology			1		1
Cllr S Wilson	Apology	1	1	1	1	1
Total In Attendance	7	9	11	15	9	11+1
Members on Committee	13	9	13	16	9	12

KEY

	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Dewhurst Unanimous

9. To discuss and decide upon title/means of addressing female councillors. (AW)

Cllr Were expressed opinion that referring to female Councillors as 'Cllr Mrs (surname)' is outdated and inappropriate, and requested that the Council modernise in line with most other Councils in no longer using this terminology, but to address all councillors equally as "Councillor (surname)".

The Chair invited all councillors to express their opinions, and Cllr Chivers objected to this written change, although other female members supported it. Discussion took place regarding this change only applying to spoken address, with minute recording remaining as existing. Some members also felt it was a matter of respect rather than inequality.

It was proposed that all councillors are referred to as Councillor followed by their surname.

Proposed: Cllr Were Seconded: Cllr Christopher
For: 5 Against: 3 Abstention: 6
Motion carried

10. To agree Monmouth Rowing Club request to use Town Field for Regatta 25th and 26th May 2013.

The request was approved with the normal condition that any damage would be made good after the event.

Proposed: Cllr Christopher Seconded: Cllr Wilson Unanimous

11. To confirm use of local solicitors and associated costs regarding registration of footpath, and also the inclusion of Deed of Dedication with registration of the Town Field.

The Clerk has obtained two quotes for both registrations necessary, and recommended approval to accept that from Jacklyn Dawson of approximately £270 plus Land Registry fees and VAT.

It was established that the need for the work had already been agreed, approval for costs for was a formality. Discussion took place regarding which budget payment should be made from, including Town Maintenance, Clerks Contingency, or Reserves.

It was proposed to approve the payment following the Town Clerks recommendation.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Christopher Unanimous
Motion carried

12. Items for discussion for future meetings.

None received

13. To confirm meeting dates.

Next meeting is the Annual Meeting to be held on Monday 13th May 2013 7.00pm, at the Shire Hall, Monmouth.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm