

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 6 January 2014 at 6.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: The Mayor Cllr J Hall

Cllr G Bright	(GB)	Cllr R Hayward	(RH)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr A Owen	(AO)
Cllr T Christopher	(TC)	Cllr G Pritchard	(GP)
Cllr A Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr B Ramsey	(BR)
Cllr J Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr A Were	(AW)
Cllr J Gunter	(JG)	Cllr S White	(SW)
		Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)

In attendance: Mrs S James Town Clerk, Mrs J Lloyd Administration Officer

Mr Andrew Tuggey DL spoke to members regarding the 600 year anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt.

Mr Tuggey explained as Monmouth Castle was the birthplace of Henry V it seemed appropriate that celebrations of Agincourt should take place in Monmouth bringing communities and schools together and also bring more tourists to the area.

Monmouthshire County Council are fully supportive of the idea. Ideas were put forward of using the Castle as a venue with re-enactments and week-long celebrations through Monnow Street and Agincourt Square. One drawback could be the actual date which is 25 October 2015 however the event could be brought forward to July. Mr Tuggey admitted he had a vested interest as he will be High Sherriff of Gwent in 2015, and hoped money raised would go to the High Sherriff's fund for disadvantaged children.

The project would require defined Management and a budget; Mr Tuggey was of the opinion that MCC would be agreeable to appoint a project manager.

Questions raised:

Question: Is MCC supportive cash wise? Eighteen months ago the Town Council approached MCC and was told categorically no, as no funding would be available.

Answer: MCC now see advantages with links with The Castle and the French Twinning Association.

Question: Have you spoken with schools in the area?

Answer: No but happy to do so informally.

Question: How much do you think the project would cost?

Answer: Not sure at the moment but if there is support for the idea then studies can be made and a budget set.

Mr Mike Booth (MCC) has taken a keen interest in this idea with one idea of linking up with Castles in Monmouthshire so there would be more of a gathering and linking up with other involved Communities such as Southampton who are also planning events.

Mr Booth also suggested talking to this years proposed River Festival Group who have involved other Towns but to date they are experiencing problems regarding funding. It would be a huge opportunity to involve the French. In the past the Henry V Tapestry leaflets went out to Agincourt, these contacts could be re-established once again, by coincidence the Fortified Bridges Group, (group bringing together countries with old bridges within their Towns) have made further contact which again would provide links.

The Chair proposed agenda item 15 be brought forward:

Proposed: Cllr Hayward

Seconded: Cllr Gunter

Unanimous in favour

15. To consider correspondence and discussion from Mr Andrew Tuggey DL and events for 2015.

Members would like to see in writing MCC commitment to support the idea financially so the Town Council know where they stand.

It was recommended to appoint a Working Group to co-ordinate with Mr Tuggey and MCC. The members would be Cllr Chivers, Cllr Gunter, Cllr Hayward, Cllr White and Cllr Wilson.

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

None received.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr R Bradley

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 meeting held on Monday 18th November and 9th December 2013.

The minutes of Monday 18 November 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward

Seconded: Cllr Wilson

Unanimous in favour

The minutes of Monday 9 December 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward

Seconded: Cllr Wilson

Unanimous in favour

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

The Town Clerk brought to the members attention the Electoral Draft Proposals, the request forms need to be completed, this item will be on the next agenda for the Finance and Policy meeting to be held on Tuesday 21 January 2014.

Cllr Hayward advised members to view the plans as all wards except Wyesham will change significantly.

The Town Clerk also brought to the attention of members an e-mail received from Adventa regarding an invitation for Monmouth to be involved with a European network of towns/cities with inhabitable bridges. Adventa have responded asking for more information and asked MTC if we would like to be included in the project and to be the contact for further information.

Letter 38 was requested to be read to the Committee: An incident had occurred in Church Street over the Christmas break, the shop owner had been given the impression from the police that the nearby CCTV camera would have only been facing The Griffin Public House so footage would not be available. After checking with Mr Andy Mason, it was confirmed that the incident had been logged and footage available, Mr Mason had concerns with misleading information being given.

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

The Christmas tree in Monnow Street has been removed earlier than normal. This was because high winds blew it over on 27th December and it was removed with the kind assistance of Rudolph Griffiths and John Blake. Fortunately no damage or injury was caused. The lighting contractors attended site the following day to ensure power supply safety.

MCC Monmouth Budget Consultation meeting has been set for Monday 20th January 6.30-8.30pm Monmouth Comprehensive School. This again clashes with Town Council Committee meetings of Planning and Finance and Policy, on which together, 15 of the 16 councillors sit.

In order for Town councillors to be able to attend the MCC Budget meeting, the Finance and Policy, and Planning Committee meetings for 20th January have been moved to the next day Tuesday 21st January, same times, with agreement of the Mayor and Committee Chairs. No extra costs for room use at the Shire Hall will be incurred.

7. To answer questions from Councillors

(Standing Orders 9: A member may ask the Mayor, the chairmen of Council Committees or the Clerk any question concerning the business of the Council, provided notice is submitted to The Clerk in writing two working days prior to the meeting, and the response will be printed within the minutes of the meeting. Every question shall be put and answered without discussion. Answers to verbal questions put to the Mayor, Chairmen of committees or the Town Clerk may be deferred until no later than the next meeting. No supplementary questions will be allowed.)

None received

8. **To receive and consider reports and minutes of the council's committees and outside bodies:**
- a **Planning Committee:** As per minutes, Hillcrest development has been deferred by MCC, Halifax outside lights have now been turned off after enforcement became involved. Cllr Wilson reminded members that the Planning enquiry for Rockfield West will take start on Wednesday 8 January at Shire Hall. Any speakers must attend at 10.00am.
- b **Environmental Affairs Committee:** As per minutes. Cllr Owen reported from the meeting held on 16 December 2013.
- Broken bollards on the Allotment Road will be replaced to a maximum cost of £400
 - MCC Alison Howard informed Cllr Owen that Severnside Community Councils have formed a pilot dog fouling trial starting March and we can be involved later in the year and will be putting out public awareness information re. dog fouling and fly tipping.
 - The bench for Mr Rudolph Griffiths has been ordered
 - MCC contractors have been asked to repair where necessary the Town Benches
 - Tree survey has been authorised.
 - New lifebelt and post have been ordered for the footpath adjacent to the river upstream to the Town field.
 - Better communication was required with MCC regarding tree felling and replanting
 - Concerns of footpath along the Town ditch and the untidy site by the bus station, and the flooding of the footpath along the A40 past Monmouth School.
 - Agreed £200 for additional Chippenham Mead signage to go on the Town maps.
- c **Community Affairs Committee:** As per minutes. Cllr Gunter reported from the meeting held on Monday 25 November 2013
- The meeting was held at the Comprehensive School but no members of the public attended.
 - Cllr Pritchard was voted as new Deputy Chair of the Committee.
- d **Finance & Policy Committee:** As per minutes. Cllr Hayward reported from the meeting held on Monday 2 December 2013.
- Most of the meeting was taken up with budget and precept discussions.
 - The committee had approved the Planning Committee protocol.
- e **CSATS:** No information as MTC representatives could not attend the meeting. It is hoped that a member of CSATS will attend a future Town Council meeting.
- f **Monmouth Partnership Forum:** Cllr Owen reported
- a presentation had been given by Mr A Cockran regarding the Monmouth Food Bank with the Rotary Club donating £2,500 towards the project.
 - Links: Update meeting, cycle map in the offering
 - Cycle racks at Drybridge to be installed
 - Discussion took place re cycle track to Wyesham
- g **Vision Monmouth:** No report.
- h **Central Monmouthshire Area Committee:** No report.
- i **Others:** None received.

9. To review the Member's attendance summary of committee meetings

Members	Planning	Full Council	Community	Planning	F&P	Planning	Environment
2012/2013	18.12.13	18.12.13	25.11.13	02.12.13	02.12.13	16.12.13	16.12.13
Cllr R Bradley	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr G Bright		1	1		1		1
Cllr S Chivers	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	1
Cllr T Christopher		1	1	1	1		Resigned
Mr S Davis	Apology	Apology		Apology		Apology	Apology
Cllr A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr J Fletcher	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	1
Cllr J Gunter	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr J Hall	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	
Cllr R Hayward	1	1		1	1	1	1
Cllr A Owen		1					1
Cllr G Pritchard	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	
Cllr B Ramsey		1	1		1		
Cllrs A Were		1	1		1		1
Cllr S White		1	1				Apology
Cllr S Wilson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total In Attendance	9	15	11+2	5+1	9	9	10
Members on Committee	10	16	11	10	10	10	12

KEY

	Non Committee Member				
	Non Committee Member attendance				
	Absent				

Proposed: Cllr Wilson

Seconded: Cllr Fletcher

Unanimous in favour

10. To confirm budget recommendations of Finance and Policy Committee for 2014-2015

Cllr Hayward, Chair of Finance and Policy Committee explained that the committee, after much discussion, recommended that the budgets as set by committees were agreed, totalling £183,860, with a further £3,564 to be added to the Match funding budget heading within the Environmental Affairs Committee, enabling the precept for 2014-2015 to be kept the same as this year, at £187,424.

However, since the committee meeting of 2nd December 2013, Cllr Hayward explained that correspondence had been received regarding the tax base for the Monmouth Town Council area, which has risen since the last precept was set. This meant that although the precept may remain the same, the actual cost to an example D household, would fall compared to this year (only referring to the Town precept portion of the Council tax).

Cllr Hayward then asked the council to consider if the recommendation from Finance and Policy Committee should be taken to keep the precept the same, or the actual amount payable by each household the same, which would in effect allow an increased precept.

It was stressed that a precept of £187,424 would fully fund all budgets as put forward by individual committees for 2014-15. However some members felt that an increase in precept would allow leeway to provide additional services if necessary following anticipated MCC cuts and as reserves were at a relatively low level (although within recommended levels) this would not otherwise be possible.

Cllr Hayward reminded members that the Town Council decision on the precept had to be made by 20th January, and could hence not take into account Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) budget considerations, with no specific cuts in Monmouth having yet been identified or announced. He suggested that the precept should not be raised for a reserve budget to fund as yet unknown costs.

Cllr Were raised concerns about potential capping of future Community Council precepts with implications if a rise was not made this year. Cllrs Were, Wilson and Ramsey voiced concerns that a rise in the precept should be considered for contingency and providing services that it was anticipated MCC may cut.

8.11pm Cllr Fletcher left the room.

It was proposed to accept the Finance and Policy Committee recommendation of 2nd December 2013 for a precept of £187,424 and that the budgets also be agreed as per submitted and agreed by the committee.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward

Cllr Ramsey requested a record of names and votes be made.

Proposed: Cllr Ramsey **Seconded:** Cllr Bright (no further vote required)

An amendment was proposed to increase the precept to £191,829 in order to maintain the same actual level of Community Council tax paid by each household (based on Band D)

8.14pm Cllr Fletcher re-entered the room

Proposed: Cllr Dewhurst **Seconded:** Cllr Owen

For: Cllr Hall, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Owen, Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Fletcher (5)

Against: Cllr Chivers, Cllr Bright, Cllr Gunter, Cllr Ramsey, Cllr White, Cllr Christopher, Cllr Pritchard, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Were. (9)

The amended proposal failed.

A further amendment was proposed to increase the precept by 10%.

Proposed: Cllr Were **Seconded:** Cllr Wilson

For: Cllr Ramsey, Cllr Gunter, Cllr Owen, Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Were (6)

Against: Cllr Hall, Cllr Chivers, Cllr Bright, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr White, Cllr Christopher, Cllr Pritchard (8)

The amended proposal failed

The original proposal was then returned to, being:

It was proposed to keep the precept at £187,424 for 2014-15, the same as the current year

Proposed: Cllr Hayward **Seconded:** Cllr Bright

For: Cllr Hall, Cllr Chivers, Cllr Bright, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr White, Cllr Christopher, Cllr Pritchard (8)

Against: Cllr Ramsey, Cllr Gunter, Cllr Owen, Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Were (6)

This proposal was accepted

For clarity

It was then proposed to accept the budgets as recommended by Finance and Policy Committee, totalling £187,424.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward, **Seconded:** Cllr Chivers

Unanimous in favour

11. To confirm precept recommendation of Finance and Policy Committee for 2014-2015

This was confirmed within agenda item 10 discussions and proposals.

12. To update Council and discuss the production of a Monmouth Town Council newsletter

A presentation was given by Cllr Pritchard and Cllr Ramsey with ideas for the production of a newsletter ideally to be distributed twice a year.

Information is still required regarding costs and distribution.

To be confirmed at the next Full Council meeting 17th February 2014 .

13. To delegate authority to the Planning Committee to authorise approval of any incomplete S106 money applications.

To date many of the suggested items applications are incomplete. It was proposed a Planning meeting be held on Tuesday 21 January to give further time for completion of applications to be considered. All members to attend this meeting to vote.

It was proposed that the Planning Committee be given full delegated authority to approve s106 applications on behalf of the Full Council.

Proposed: Cllr Wilson

Seconded: Cllr Were

All in favour

14. To confirm recommendation of Planning Committee on S106 monies applications

An update was given from the Chair of Planning Committee regarding the meeting held directly beforehand at 5.30pm, 6th January 2013.

A. Osbaston Play Area.

Application still being finalised Defer to Planning meeting of 21st January 2014

B. Improvement of Noticeboards.

Proposal failed at Full Council meeting of Monday 9 December 2014.

No further action required.

C. Allotments for each Ward. (Wyesham application)

Application still being finalised Defer to Planning meeting of 21st January 2014

D. Off Street Project.

Application from third party still being finalised Defer to Planning meeting of 21st January 2014.

E. Friends of Vauxhall Field.

Application from third party still being finalised Defer to Planning meeting of 21st January 2014.

F. Gateway Project.

Checking of the criteria, application still being finalised by third party.

Defer to Planning meeting of 21st January 2014.

G. Cycle Routes.

No application received to date.

H. Tudor Road Play Area.

County Councillor Hackett Pain still finalising application. Defer to Planning meeting of 21st January 2014.

I. Part 1: Improvement of Drybridge Play Area

Recommendation from Planning Committee to support application of £15,000

Part 2: Improvement of the Nature Park

Recommendation from Planning Committee to support application of £19,500

Proposed: Cllr Wilson

Seconded: Cllr Hayward

All in favour

15. To consider correspondence and discussion from Mr Andrew Tuggey DL and events for 2015.

Agenda item discussed earlier in the meeting.

16. Items for discussion for future meetings

Monmouth Town Council Newsletter. (GP)

Ways and means of more communication with MCC and the people of Monmouth.(TC)

17. To confirm meeting dates

Next meeting is to be an extra meeting on Monday 27th January 2014
7.00pm, at Shire Hall, Monmouth.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.