

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Shire Hall
Agincourt Square
Monmouth
NP25 3DY



Tel: 01600 715662

Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk

www.monmouth.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 27 January 2014 at 6.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: The Mayor Cllr J Hall

Cllr G Bright	(GB)	Cllr J Gunter	(JG)
Cllr R Bradley	(RB)	Cllr R Hayward	(RH)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr G Pritchard	(GP)
Cllr S Davis	(SD)	Cllr B Ramsey	(BR)
Cllr A Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr S White	(SW)
Cllr J Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)

In attendance: Mrs S James Town Clerk.

Commodore Toby Elliott spoke regarding suggestions for commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

Commodore Elliott introduced himself as President of Monmouth Royal British Legion (RBL), President of Monmouth Royal Naval Association (RNA), and Monmouth and Ross Sea Cadets.

The Monmouth branch of the Royal British Legion had discussed what should take place in the town to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning and duration of the First World War, and had felt that the Town Council should lead in commemorations, with RBL assistance.

The need to avoid controversy was noted and any events or projects should be of a commemorative or in memoriam nature, not celebratory or triumphant.

Commodore Elliott noted that the actual date of the 100th anniversary of war being declared on Germany by Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 4th August 2014, and that this may be a date to commemorate, or another later date with consideration that schools would then be on holiday and unlikely to participate. The increasing attendance at Remembrance Day parades, especially by young people was noted, and Commodore Elliott was anxious to involve as many young people as possible, especially through local schools.

The Mayor talked of expanding the normal Remembrance Day parade, but also of the need for a Project Manager for co-ordinating all planned events and developing schools links and projects. A meeting had already taken place with Head Teachers of local schools, and it was apparent that most were already progressing with student work relating to the centenary commemorations.

The Chair proposed varying the order of business for agenda item 3 to be brought forward.

Proposed: Cllr Hall, Seconded: Cllr Dewhurst

Unanimously agreed

3. To consider and agree suggestions/organisation of commemoration of the First World War

It was suggested that a larger Remembrance Day parade than normal should take place, involving schools, and with road closures in place anyway, this should be of little or no extra cost.

It was established that there are many organisations and groups within Monmouth that would be involved in commemorations and many local memories and names should be included. This would involve much co-ordination, including events, and it was suggested that schools may be able to apply for Welsh Government funding specifically for this type of project management, and be school based.

It was agreed that the Town Council should support any commemorative events completely, but that they should avoid becoming council civic events. The Town Council delegate the organisation of the Remembrance Day event to the RBL, and it was suggested that the RBL should organise commemorations, with Town Council support.

Suggestions were made of local projects which were already known, including poppy seed planting in the cemetery, and the possibility of adding missing names to the war memorial of women from Monmouth who died serving their country.

Cllr Ramsey suggested the apparent need for a project manager and it was established that Monmouthshire Museums Service had already carried out a lot of work, and that Karin Molson intended to apply for HLF grants to enable co-ordination of and continuation of events, which may include provision for a Project Manager if successful.

Commodore Elliott referred to a sheet indicating initial ideas for “The Town’s Memorial Project” which had been distributed to members previously, and gave a brief outline of outcomes and suggestions from the meeting with local school Head Teachers. It was suggested that the memorials created could be an on-line war memorial for Monmouth and a new First World War memorial for Monmouth – which could take a form not yet confirmed – perhaps a sculpture, garden, or plaque, but initiated and developed by students of the town. Churches and spiritual groups should also be involved, and the project could take 4 years to complete.

The Chair proposed that Coronel Day (1st November) should be marked, as in other years, by a Church service but with as full attendance as possible this year.

Proposed: Cllr J Hall, Seconded: Cllr S White

Unanimously agreed.

The Chair proposed that the Remembrance Day Parade and Service should this year be a larger event and include many students of the town, both in the Parade and Church.

Proposed: Cllr J Hall, Seconded: Cllr S Davis

Unanimously agreed.

The Chair proposed that a service should take place on Monday 4th August to mark the beginning of WW1 at the Priory Church of St Mary the Virgin (subject to liaison with Father McGladdery).

Proposed: Cllr J Hall, Seconded: Cllr S White

Unanimously agreed.

Commodore Elliott confirmed that he hoped the suggested project (name to be confirmed) would be set up, and acknowledged that it would require a lot of organisation – through a steering group and perhaps paid Project Manager. Funds would need to be accessed for this and to achieve the war memorial outcomes. The project could continue for 4/5 years.

It was proposed that Monmouth Town Council support the project initiative and set up a Steering group to establish concepts, lead with co-ordinating, and to assist in accessing funds to provide a Project Manager.

Proposed: Cllr B Ramsey, Seconded: Cllr J Hall

Unanimously agreed

It was then confirmed that members of the Steering group would be Cllr Hall, Cllr Chivers, Cllr Bright, Cllr White, Cllr Ramsey, Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Davis. It was agreed that Cllr Ramsey act as Chair of this group and Cllr Ramsey suggested that it run along similar lines to the group that organised the Charles Rolls centenary celebrations, with a Project Manager, when appointed, taking the lead.

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

None received

2. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr T Christopher, Cllr A Owen, Cllr A Were,

3. To consider and agree suggestions/organisation of commemoration of the First World War

Agenda item moved forward

4. Items for discussion for future meetings

None received.

5. To confirm meeting dates

Next meeting is to be held on Monday 17 February 2014 7.00pm, at Shire Hall, Monmouth.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7pm.