

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL held on Monday, 14 September 2015 at 7.00pm The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: Cllr G Pritchard

Cllr R Bradley	(RB)	Cllr J Hall	(JH)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr R Hayward	(RH)
Cllr T Christopher	(TJC)	Cllr C Munslow	(CM)
Cllr S Davis	(SD)	Cllr A Owen	(AO)
Cllr Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr A Were	(AW)
Cllr J Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)
Cllr J Gunter	(JG)		

In attendance: Mrs D Mason and five members of the public and press.

Prior to the meeting, Councillors were addressed by Inspector Huw Jones. Inspector Huw Jones explained his background before to arriving in Monmouth. He went on to explain the geography of the area he was responsible for and the number of PCSOs and PCs available to him.

Councillors expressed concern at the apparent lack of police presence in the town and Insp. Jones answered questions about CCTV involvement in crime and the prioritising of complaints through the "Your Voice" programme. He suggested that it might be beneficial for both the police and council to be present at a forthcoming event to address residents' concerns.

Inspector Jones took on board councillors' concerns about anti-social behaviour in connection with litter, dog fouling and illegal parking.

It was agreed that Sgt Seymour would continue to attend the meeting of the Community Affairs Committee on an as and when basis and Inspector Jones would attend Full Council meetings every other meeting, (quarterly) to address any problems.

The Chairman thanked Insp. Jones for his attendance.

The Chairman presented former Mayor's Cadet, Harriet Salmon, with a badge.

The Chairman informed members that unfortunately Mr Tom James was unable to attend.

1. Declarations of interests in items on the agenda

Cllr Christopher declared a personal interest in Item 17 – Rotary Club request – and signed the book.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bright and Cllr White.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 3 August 2015.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting were a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions received from members of the public.

5. Office report (for information only).

Mrs Mason read out a report from Mrs Lloyd, who was on holiday.

6. Correspondence that the Mayor wishes to place before the Council.

The Chairman informed members that MCC had asked that representatives attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the future shape and provision of their services. A meeting had been scheduled for 7 October at 6.00pm in the Shire Hall. This was an additional meeting and the scheduled meeting for 26 October will still take place.

The correspondence list was noted.

7. Questions from Councillors.

There were no questions from Councillors.

8. Reports of Council Committees and outside bodies

- (a) Planning Committee – The Chairman of the meeting, Cllr Wilson, reported that the minutes reported fully the Committee discussions.
- (b) Environmental Affairs Committee – The Chairman, Cllr Christopher, reported that the Committee were proposing the installation of picnic tables and chairs, a bench and cycle racks. A working party had been established to look at the feasibility of opening the cemetery and things were looking positive. Excavation holes would be dug and the results would be discussed at a meeting of the Committee.
- (c) Community Affairs Committee – The Chairman, Cllr Dewhurst, reported that the smaller grants scheme, which awarded grants up to £750 for local projects, would be discussed on 5 October.
- (d) Finance & Policy Committee – The Chairman, Cllr Pritchard, reported that there was nothing to add that was not included in the minutes.

- (e) CSATS – nothing to report
- (f) Monmouth Partnership Forum – nothing to report.
- (g) Vision Monmouth – nothing to report.
- (h) Central Monmouthshire Area Committee – Cllr Wilson reported that he had not received any notification of meetings. The Clerk would look into this.
- (i) Walking with the Wounded – Cllr Christopher reported that the working group had met on 4 September and it was hoped that a small memento of Monmouth would be available to the participants. The cost to be funded from the Clerks contingency Fund.

9. Members’ attendance summary

The information was noted.

10. Request for financial assistance for HMS Monmouth rededication

The Chairman reported that a request had been received to help towards the costs of the rededication of HMS Monmouth with 550 people attending, including the Mayor and Consort. Other organisations had also been approached for donations.

Concerns were expressed that it was not a local event and should local people be paying. However, it was also suggested that there were close links between the town and HMS Monmouth and a donation would be appropriate from the Civic budget, which currently was set at £5,000. This budget was used for all Civic events including the Civic service

RESOLVED: To donate £1,000 to HMS Monmouth for rededication

Proposed: Cllr Hall Seconded: Cllr Davis For: 7 7 against

The resolution was passed on the Chairman’s casting vote.

11. Welsh Government Consultation request on the Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

The Chairman explained the background. It was agreed to refer this to the working party that looked at the earlier document and to report back to the next meeting. The group consisted of Cllrs Pritchard, Christopher, Fletcher and Munslow.

12. Draft Statutory Guidance for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Chairman explained that Partnership Boards would be established by April 2016. As a larger spending council, Monmouth Town Council would be invited to join a partnership board. It was the general consensus that the seminars were being held too far from Monmouth and in the first instance, Cllr Dewhurst agreed to contact One Voice Wales to ask how they will be involved.

13. Mayor's engagement list.

The information was noted.

14. Monmouth Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Wilson, explained that this had been discussed at meetings of the Planning Committee and it was now time for the Council to decide whether or not it wished to invest the time and resources into producing a plan. It would take several years to complete, local organisations would need to be involved and councillors would need to be committed to volunteer the time. It should not become a burden for one or two councillors. If it was to be agreed to go ahead, budgets would need to be set. It would also have an impact on the resources available in the office and now might not be a good time to increase the work load of the officers.

RESOLVED: To defer a decision until the next meeting of the Town Council on 26 October.

Proposed: Cllr Were Seconded: Cllr Davis For: 13 abstention: 1

15. Remembrance Day Parade

RESOLVED: To ask the Royal British Legion to arrange the parade on behalf of the Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Christopher Seconded: Cllr Dewhurst All in favour

16. To agree to re design the attachment that secures the pendant on the Deputy Mayors Chain

Cllr Christopher explained the difficulty of attaching the pendant to the chain.

RESOLVED: To take in back to the jeweller who provided the chain to ask that it be altered to enable the pendant to be attached more easily.

Proposed: Cllr Christopher Seconded: Cllr Chivers For: 13 1 against

17. Request from the Rotary Club for the use of the Town Field for the annual Bonfire Night event (5th November 2015).

RESOLVED: To allow the Rotary Club to use the town field for Bonfire Night.

Proposed: Cllr Hall Seconded: Cllr Davis For: 13 abstention: 1

18. Items for discussion for future meetings

Neighbourhood plan.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Monday 26 October 2015 at 7.00pm Shire Hall, Monmouth.

20. Exclusion of members of the public and press

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, Section 1 (2), on the grounds of confidentiality

Proposed: Cllr Hall Seconded: Cllr Davis For: 13 abstention: 1

Mrs Mason also left the meeting.