

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 3 August 2015 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: **Chairman:** The Mayor Cllr G Pritchard

Cllr G Bright	(GB)	Cllr J Hall	(JH)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr Munslow	(CM)
Cllr Christopher	(TJC)	Cllr A Owen	(AO)
Cllr S Davis	(SD)	Cllr A Were	(AW)
CICllr Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr S White	(SW)
Cllr Gunter	(JG)	Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)

In Attendance: Mrs Jane Lloyd (Administration Officer.)

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

None received.

2. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr R Bradley Cllr J Fletcher and Cllr R Hayward

3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 June.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Davis

Seconded: Cllr Hall

All in favour

4. To receive questions from members of the public for a maximum of 10 minutes.

None received.

5. To receive the Office report (for information only).

Mrs Jane Lloyd mentioned the HMS Monmouth Newsletter which had been distributed to all members.

An updated meeting dates has been distributed to all Councillors.

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

Cllr Christopher requested copies of correspondence 24 and 25,

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.)

Question raised by Cllr J Hall:

Cllr Hall asked if an event becomes a Civic event should the Town Clerk and Town Councillors be invited to attend. If so why they were not included to a recent event held at St Thomas's Church?

Response from the Chairman of Finance & Policy Cllr G Pritchard.

A Civic event is defined in the Standing Orders as being either a Civic Service organised by the Town Council or an event organised on its behalf by another organisation. This includes the Freedom Parades and the Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

In all these circumstances the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk and Mace Bearers will attend in full regalia and all Councillors are invited to attend.

The recent service at St Thomas's Church did not fall into either of these categories but a request was made on this special occasion for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Mace Bearers and Clerk to attend in full regalia. The Service commemorated lost lives of the Overmonnow and Drybridge Wards in the First World War. Therefore, in these circumstances only Councillors from these wards were invited.

The two resolutions agreed at the Finance and Policy Committee on 8 June 2015 for special events outside those specified in the Standing Orders will be considered and decided upon by the Protocol Working Group.

8. To note the reports of Council Committees and outside bodies:

a) **Planning Committee:**

- Cllr Wilson reported that the Committee were unhappy with the application for advertisement panels already installed throughout the Town. Some of the Historic information was incorrect and application should have been made for installation of the panels.
- At the next meeting on 17 August the Committee will discuss the Wonastow Road entrance applications. Outside bodies have been invited but uncertain if they will attend.
- 'Place Plan for Monmouth' is estimated to cost in the region of £12,000, if Councillors are not prepared to put a lot of time and effort into the project then it will fail. This item will be discussed at the next Full Council.

b) **Environmental Affairs Committee:**

- At the meeting held on 29 June 2015 funding was agreed to relocate the picnic tables and chairs from the bus station. A meeting had taken place with MCC Tom James for suggested sites which are subject to approval.
- At the extra meeting held on 13 July 2015: It was agreed to pay for the reinstallation of the banners in the Town which is now complete.
- At a separate meeting with Cllr Owen Cllr Dewhurst and David Cummings discussion had taken place for the placement of cycle racks in the Town subject to approval.

c) **Community Affairs Committee:**

- At the meeting held on 13 July 2015 Cllr Pritchard and Cllr Dewhurst had formalised a letter in response to a letter that had appeared in the Beacon regarding Minor Injuries provision and the lack of input by Monmouth Town Council.
- Cllr Dewhurst reported back on the Carnival, despite very bad weather conditions the Carnival had gone well.

Cllr Dewhurst and Cllr Pritchard thanked all of those who had helped with the Carnival.

d) **Finance & Policy Committee:**

As per minutes.

e) **CSATS:**

No meeting.

f) **Monmouth Partnership Forum:**

Cllr Dewhurst reported that most discussion had been regarding finances with an update on the 'Full Place' theory.

g) **Vision Monmouth:**

No meeting.

h) **Central Monmouthshire Area Committee:**

No meeting.

i) **Others.**

None received.

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

Members	Planning	Full Council	Env Committee	Planning	Extra Env meeting	Community	Planning	F&P
2014/2015	22.06.15	22.06.15	29.06.15	06.07.15	13.07.15	13.07.15	20.07.15	20.07.15
Cllr R Bradley	1	1	1	1		1	1	
Cllr G Bright		1	1		1	1		1
Cllr S Chivers	1	1	1	Apology	1	1	Apology	Apology
Cllr T Christopher		1	Apology		1	1		1
Mr S Davis	Apology	Apology		1			1	
Cllr A Dewhurst		Apology	1	1	1	1		1
Cllr J Fletcher	1	1	1	Apology	1	1	1	Apology
Cllr J Gunter	1	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	1
Cllr J Hall	Apology	Apology		1			1	1
Cllr R Hayward	1	1	?	Apology			Apology	Apology
Cllr C Munslow	1	1	1	1	1	1	Apology	Apology
Cllr A Owen		1	Apology		Apology	Apology		
Cllr G Pritchard		1				1		1
Cllrs A Were		1				Apology		Apology
Cllr S White		Apology	Apology		1	1		
Cllr S Wilson	1	1		1			1	1
Total In Attendance	7	12	7	6+1	7	9	6	7
Members on Committee	9	16	11	9	11	12	9	12

KEY

	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

10. To inform Councillors of the implications of the Freedom of Information Act in the use of e-mail addresses by Councillors. (GP)

Cllr Pritchard had attended a One Voice Wales conference. A presentation had been given from an IT expert who highly recommended along with OVW, for Councillors to have a separate e-mail address for Council work. If Councillor's have one address and there should be a Freedom of Information request, investigators would be entitled to look at personal and council work e-mails whereas with separate accounts would not be able to access the personal account.

Cllr Pritchard asked all Councillors to consider opening a second e-mail account.

11. To consider an item from the Community Affairs Committee regarding the recent CCTV questionnaire from MCC Mr A Mason. (AD)

Cllr Dewhurst had explained at the last Community meeting the general opinion had been this item should be discussed at Full Council as later in the year continuing with CCTV will be discussed.

Cllr Wilson pointed out that the questionnaire was not an 'in or out' of the scheme question but to find out individual Councillors from all three Town Councils opinions regarding the partnership with MCC. It was pointed out that no name or ward had been asked for on the questionnaire and the questions were very general.

As no decision required for this item the Chair recommended that Councillors respond individually.

12. To receive an update on the proposed reforming of Local Government in Wales. (GP)
(Papers enclosed)

Cllr Pritchard reported the following:

1. The Welsh Government has now published its preferred map of Wales showing the planned 8 new Local Authorities in Wales.
2. The plans, if agreed by the new Assembly in the Summer of 2016, will mean the amalgamation of Monmouthshire, Newport City Council, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly into 1 new Local Authority.
3. A new Draft Bill will be published this autumn with the final proposals. The Bill will include a set of recommended calculations for the number of Councillors for the new Authorities. These are being developed this autumn by the Boundary Commission for Wales.
4. If the plans for Reforming Local Government in Wales are agreed by the new Assembly in the summer of 2016 elections for the new Authorities will take place in May 2022.
5. The Review of Community and Town Councils in each new Authority will now be undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and not by the new Authorities as previously proposed.
6. Consultations will take place this Autumn/early 2016 with existing Local Authorities and Community and Town Councils on how and when these reviews will take place. The Boundary Commission for Wales organise these consultations.
7. The Reviews themselves will start in 2017 and be completed by 2021.
8. Elections for the new Community and Town Councils will take place in May 2022.

Cllr White thanked Cllr Pritchard for updating the Full Council.

13. To note the Mayor's engagement list.

Noted.

14. To agree Cllr Fletcher resignation from the Finance & Policy Committee and MCC Central Area Committee.

Agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Davis

Seconded: Cllr Hall

All in favour

15. To agree a MTC representative for the Central Area Committee.

Cllr Wilson put his name forward to be the representative for the Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard

Seconded: Cllr Davis

All in favour

16. Items for discussion for future meetings.

- Presentation by Inspector Huw Jones
- The Town Plan (SJW)
- Update on projects in Monmouth. (AO)
- Request MCC Tom James to attend to give an overview on 'Whole Place' Scheme

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Monday 14 September 2015 at 7.00pm Shire Hall, Monmouth.

- 18. To resolve 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**

After discussion it was proposed to discuss the following items in the public domain.

Proposed: Cllr Chivers seconded: Cllr Bright **All in favour**

- 19. To discuss and agree a sum of money to pay for repairs to the Mayors Chain.**

It was agreed to pay for the minor repairs from the Civic expenses budget.

Proposed: Cllr White Seconded: Cllr Were **All in favour**

- 20. To agree for Cllr Hall and Mr Hall to take the chain to Fattorini's in Birmingham for repairs.**

Agreed.

Proposed: Cllr White Seconded: Cllr Dewhurst
For: 11 Against: 0 Abstention: 2

- 21. To agree an amount for the cleaning and repairing of the Mayors Robes.**

It was agreed to pay cleaning and repairs from the Civic expenses budget.

Mrs Jane Lloyd will take the garment to Bristol and return it back when work completed.

Proposed: Cllr White Seconded: Cllr Were **All in favour**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.11pm.