

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 2nd March 2015 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: The Mayor Cllr J Gunter

Cllr R Bradley	(RB)	Cllr Hayward	(RH)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr C Munslow	(CM)
Cllr T Christopher	(TJC)	Cllr A Owen	(AO)
Cllr A Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr G Pritchard	(GP)
Cllr Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr S White	(SW)
Cllr J Hall	(JH)	Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)

In Attendance: Mrs J Lloyd Administration Officer.

Monmouth Comprehensive School Student Management Committee to relay the evaluation of the Literary Festival 2014, and to update the Town Council of developments for this year and to seek continued support.

The Student Management Committee is formed by the co-operation of the three schools in Monmouth being, Monmouth Comprehensive School, Haberdashers School for Girls and Monmouth Boys School. This event is hoped to become an annual event.

The presentation was given with a video showing parts of last year's Festival around the Town to show how positive it was for the Town with Authors, different poets visiting and, 'Pop up poets' which was students 'popping up' around the Town with their poetry to raise awareness of the event.

The legacy of the event saw book loans go up by 55% at the Boys School after the event, this compared with the same time the previous year.

At the Comprehensive School 79%C+ at GCSE was attained, this being a 12% increase on the year before and at key stage 3 pupils gained 91% at level 5 +, outperforming the rest of Wales by 9%. The Girls school saw an increase of 2,000 books borrowed from the Library over the year, which is the highest ever recorded.

This year it is hoped to build on the success of last year by securing larger acts. Authors will be speaking, performing and working at the Festival, including Carol Ann Duffy and children's author/poet Catherine Bishop, Author Eurin Shears will launch his new book 'I see a Man' at the Festival. There will also be performances from the School drama groups.

This year the Festival will aim to promote itself more on social media. Monmouth is ideally placed to attract people from both Wales and England attracting diverse people and trades, hopefully promoting learning in the area and, giving the opportunity for all age groups to work together.

The Mayor thanked the Student Management Committee for the excellent presentation.

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

None received.

2. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr G Bright, Cllr Davis and Cllr Were.

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 19th January 2015.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard Seconded: Cllr Hall

Motion carried

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

Correspondence noted.

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

No report due to Town Clerk on leave.

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. Cllr Wilson reported:

- The plans for Dixton Road would probably be modified before going to MCC.
- A recommendation of approval had been given to the Premier Inn application for the Portal Road.
- The plans for the new Comprehensive School have not arrived to date.
- The Rockfield retail application hasn't been before MCC as yet.
- The window at 'Subway' has now been rebuilt.

b Environmental Affairs Committee: As per minutes. Cllr Christopher reported from the meeting held on 23 February 2015.

- Mr Fagin from The Community Heartbeat Trust had given a presentation on the models of defibrillators that could be placed in the BT telephone box at Shire Hall, a decision was made to go with the option that is compliant with DDA regulations making the machine more user friendly.
- A decision regarding Monmouth Cemetery was made to consult the people of Monmouth to establish whether or not they were prepared to pay additional council tax to meet the future expense of opening the cemetery.
- If there is no objection from MCC the Floral group will go ahead with floral displays on the new Monnow Bridge.
- It was agreed to place a re-cycling bin at Vauxhall.

c Community Affairs Committee: Cllr Dewhurst reported from the meeting held on 26 January 2015.

- There had been a useful site meeting with Highways and the Police regarding parking matters and a way forward will be discussed at the next meeting on 9 March 2015.
- Cllr Dewhurst and Cllr Munslow have completed the Draft National Transport Plan 2015 and sent it in to One Voice Wales.

d Finance & Policy Committee: As per minutes.

e CSATS: Cllr Hall reported:

- Two cameras are to be moved, one from Abergavenny to Green Bridge and the other from Goldwire Lane to the junction of Hereford Road with Highfield Road, this for a temporary period. CSAT's will fund £200 for moving the cameras.
- CSAT's will also fund £120 towards the cost of removing graffiti.
- Crime prevention panels are to be set up and looking for volunteers who are interested in crime prevention. The panels will identify issues locally which will then be available to the public for discussion. They will make themselves visible at shows rather than Police Officers, taking notes of public issues then passing this information on.
- Parking issues in Monmouth: A5 flyers have been put together by the Police and Monmouth Town Council to be placed on vehicles illegally parked, pointing out they could face a fixed penalty notice in future. CSAT's will look at non-disabled owned vehicles parking outside ICELAND on Friday's (Market day)
- CSAT's will also be looking at A boards along Monnow Street which are outside the permitted pavement area.

f Monmouth Partnership Forum: Cllr Dewhurst reported that the Forum will continue with volunteer's charring each meeting.
The subject of the next meeting will be 'The Pedestrians Experience in Monmouth Town' to be held at Bridges Community Centre on Wednesday 25th March.

g Vision Monmouth: No meeting.

h Central Monmouthshire Area Committee: Cllr Hall reported :

- Portal Road development northern section will be built within the financial year.
- New Infant/Junior school to be built in Raglan for 210 pupils.
- Community 'Hubs' to be organised for Chepstow, Abergavenny Caldicot and Monmouth.
- Usk Library staff to be trained as One Stop Shop receptionists.
- Restructuring of staff across the County with the Monmouth OSS being placed at either Rolls Hall or Market Hall.
- Monmouthshire Museums will be under review.
- Cemeteries now come under MCC Estates; Monmouth Cemetery has room for ashes for the next twenty years with burials taking place in other churchyards.

Future work to include:

- Air quality in Usk,
- Delivery hours for businesses between 8.00am and after 6.00pm
- Enforcement of yellow lines by the Police.

i Chamber of Trade and Commerce: No meeting.

j Monmouth Civic Society: Cllr Hall reported from the meeting held on 28 January 2015:

- Investigations to the Monmouth pill boxes has discovered that they are not listed on the Historic registry
- Report on the land at Dixton Field could be used for seasonal camping and outdoor activities.
- Report from Monmouth Partnership Forum re an unavoidable reduction in MCC staff by devolving some services to local 'Community Hubs'
- Open doors in September will be sponsored by Mandarin Stone and Monmouthshire Building Society.

k Public Consultation Group (MTC): Cllr Christopher reported that last Saturday was the first public consultation meeting and thanked the Mayor for letting them be part of her Coffee morning which raised £170 for her charities.

I Others:

CCTV:

- There is to be a 'Whole Place Officer' for Monmouth to oversee procedures concerning cameras.
- A voice activated camera is to be put into use in Chepstow
- Police create their log from the monthly report, Monmouth had 83 logs investigated out of their 2116 annual logs.
- Store CCTV discs taken by the police are usually poor quality or the camera is badly sited, this is to be reported to the Chamber of Commerce for them to notify store holders that more sophisticated equipment is required.
- Pictures viewable on Owl are very effective.
- Hopefully two temporary deployable cameras will be set up in Osbaston following the recent break-ins.
- Memorandum of understanding ends in March and the new model comes into force on 1st April 2015.

Cllr Hayward asked for this item to be placed on the next Finance and Policy meeting on Monday 16th March 2015.

Cllr White: Cllr White brought to the attention of the members that fine green netting has been placed over the entrance and shrubbery at the site of the new LDP area. After making enquiries Cllr White has been told that permission was granted in December to prevent birds nesting at the site.

After discussion it was agreed to hold an extra Environment meeting at 6.15pm on Monday 9 March to discuss this issue further.

Cllr Hall: Reported she had attended a meeting arranged by David Davies MP at Osbaston School on Friday 6th February regarding burglaries in Osbaston and Wyesham since last June.

Points raised were:

- Use of instruments to open doors or windows and then stealing cash and gold jewellery.
- 3 cars have been stolen in the area and not found.
- Sometimes 2 or 3 burglaries in one evening.
- Police are putting on extra patrols of marked cars and officers in uniform in the areas on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.
- It is believed that thieves are around during the day to look for suitable properties.
- Police are looking at records of local offenders in case anyone is 'tipping off' the thieves, it is believed the thieves are from outside of the area.
- Police have a dedicated officer looking at the problem.
- ARP cameras being used in the area which has number plate recognition and linked to a national database.
- All but one property burgled did not have an alarm system.
- If anything looks suspicious it should be reported to 999 not 101 as this takes longer.

Note: As of 24 February there have not been any burglaries since 8th February.

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

Members	Full Council	Planning	Community	Planning	F&P	Planning	Planning	Environment
2014/2015	19.01.15	19.01.15	26.01.15	02.02.15	02.02.16	09.02.16	16.02.16	23.02.15
Cllr R Bradley	1	1	Apology	Apology		Apology	1	1
Cllr G Bright	1		1					Apology
Cllr S Chivers	1	1	Apology	1		1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher	1		1			1		1
Mr S Davis	1	1	1	1		Apology	1	
Cllr A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Cllr J Fletcher	1	1	1	Apology		1	1	1
Cllr J Gunter	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Cllr J Hall	1	1		1		1	1	
Cllr R Hayward	Apology	Apology		1		1	1	1
Cllr C Munslow	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Cllr A Owen	1	1				1		Apology
Cllr G Pritchard	1		1			1		
Cllrs A Were	1		1					
Cllr S White	1	1	Apology			1		1
Cllr S Wilson	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Total In Attendance	15	9+2	9	8		8+4	10	10
Members on Committee	16	10	12	10	11	10	10	12

KEY

	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

Proposed: Cllr Hall Seconded: Cllr White

All in favour

10. **To consider progress on formulating a plan including costings and specific details for an all- weather surface for the Town Field to enable Full Council to consider and make an informed decision on the project.**

No meeting. To be deferred to the next meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Gunter Seconded: Cllr White All in favour **Motion carried.**

11. **To agree a procedure for completing the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for the Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).**
(Form to be returned by 5.00pm Thursday 26 March 2015).

Cllr Pritchard and Cllr Wilson explained the new Levy which was introduced in 2010 in England. This allows local Authorities to charge for new developments and set their own level of charges.

As a result of the Consultant's report MCC have issued a consultation document to see what we think of the proposals, comments to be received by 26th March 2015.

CIL could raise thousands of pounds but there are concerns that this money will not come through directly to the local Town/Community Councils but will be engulfed within MCC budgets. Regulations do state that 15% of CIL money will go directly to the Town/Community Council.

Whereas 106 monies affect large to medium scale developments, CIL money could apply to individual small scale developments including single house builds and extensions.

It was proposed to form a Working Group to consider the response questions and report back to the Planning Committee meeting on 16th March 2015 for final consideration and decision.

The Planning Committee has been given delegated authority to speak on behalf of the Town Council on this issue.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard Seconded: Cllr Hayward All in favour **Motion carried.**

Members of the Group will be Cllr Wilson, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hayward, Cllr Pritchard and Cllr Bradley and will meet on Thursday 5 March 2.00pm in the Mayors Parlour.

12. **To agree a procedure and form a small Working Group for responding to Welsh Government, Reforming Local Government White paper. (GP).**

Cllr Pritchard explained that this document will affect Town Councils over the next 10 to 20 years.

The Welsh Government have sent out a second consultation document but this time it has a section on Town and Community Councils. The whole document consists of 300 consultation questions with 33 referring to our future.

In the future it is planned for Primary Councils (Authorities) will be known as County Councils; there are 22 in Wales and this will probably be reduced to 12. No maps have been provided as yet so it is not known where the Authorities will be. The map will probably be released after they have the feedback from the consultation.

The New Councils will look after Education, Planning, Transport, Social Services and Economic Development. It is said that the amount of County Councillors will also be reduced. The document also states that the Authority will set up 'Area Boards' and will reorganise Community/Town Councils. No date given for implementation. In Monmouthshire there are 33 Town/Community Councils, these will be drastically reduced as a result of reorganisation.

It was proposed to set up a Working Group to look, discuss and respond to the White Paper relating to Community and Town Councils and bring back its findings to the Full Council meeting on 13th April 2015.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard Seconded: Cllr White All in favour **Motion carried.**

Members of the Group will be Cllr Pritchard, Cllr Munslow, Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Christopher. Meeting date to be arranged.

13. Items for discussion for future meetings.

None received.

14. To confirm meeting dates.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 13 April 2015 at 7.00pm Shire Hall, Monmouth.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.