

Monmouth Town Council

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Community Affairs meeting held on Monday 10 June 2013 at the Shire Hall, Monmouth

PRESENT: Chair Cllr J Gunter

Cllr R Bradley (RB)	Cllr J Hall (JH)
Cllr G Bright (GB)	Cllr A Were (AW)
Cllr S Chivers (SC)	Cllr S Wilson (SJW)
Cllr Christopher (TC)	
Cllr A Dewhurst (AD)	

Lou Allerhand, Deputy Manager of Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau, and John Wheelock –Treasurer, to update members on the work and funding of the Bureau.

Ms Allerhand said that CAB is perceived as a government organisation when in fact it is a charity. It works to a standard of service across the country. It was set up in Monmouth in 1968 and remains in the same building.

CAB gives free impartial information in complete confidence, with four paid staff including one outreach worker but basically all others are volunteers. The trustees meet together quarterly. Training(national and local) takes six months to one year to complete, Opening times are Monday - Thursday 10.00am – 2.00pm with a drop in and appointment service with an advice line across Wales which the branch buys into the national system. The debt advisor is based in Torfaen but works across the four bureaux (Monmouth, Abergavenny, Chepstow, Caldicot) and is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. There is a Solicitors surgery that can give a free half hour initial advice session. Mediation is also available.

Last year the branch saw over 1,000 people with £1.8 million of debt being dealt with by CAB - these figures are believed to be all local people.

Increased services have been offered and used this year because of increased size of building

Mr John Wheelock (Treasurer) explained that discussions about a merger of Bureaux have been going on for many years. The 4 Monmouthshire Bureaux would have to save funding to pay a Chief Executive by possibly cutting services when inevitably demand is expected to increase.

Two proposals are:

1. 4 Bureaux merge with a Chief Executive
2. 4 Bureaux merge without a Chief Executive

The other 3 Bureaux have already merged but Monmouth has decided to continue as a separate Bureau and a separate charity with no intention of merging, and request that Monmouth Town Council re-instate the sum of funding they have gratefully received in previous years. Thanks were given to the Town Council for all of their support in the past.

Question: Out of the reserves how much of the £60,000 will be used?

Answer: We will have to have a deficit budget of £12,000

Question: How does commissioning work?

Answer: MCC have to ensure they have value for money £76,000 across Monmouthshire to supply advice for citizens. Bureaux are invited to apply for contracts to provide services. It was felt that these contracts would be sub contracted to the independent bureaux from the merged Monmouthshire bureaux as other towns bureaux are not permitted to take work from another towns area.

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>To elect the Chair for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr J Gunter was proposed by Cllr J Hall seconded by Cllr S White.</p> <p>When put to the vote it was unanimous in favour.</p>	
2.	<p>To elect the Deputy Chair for the forthcoming year</p> <p>Cllr T Christopher was proposed by Cllr J Gunter seconded by Cllr A Were.</p> <p>When put to the vote it was unanimous in favour.</p>	
3.	<p>To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda</p> <p>Cllr Gunter and Cllr White Agenda Item 12 (Citizens Advice Bureau)</p>	
4.	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr T Ashton and Cllr J Fletcher</p>	
5.	<p>To approve minutes of the meeting of Monday 18th March 2013.</p> <p>The signing of the minutes will be deferred to the next meeting due to incorrect date.</p>	
6.	<p>To review the action summary</p> <p>106 monies in Wyesham has been spent elsewhere Contact either Cllr Owen or Cllr Davis to give a presentation on Osbaston Play Provision. School Council: To be put in report section of the agenda.</p>	Town Clerk

7.	<p>To review and approve Committee's expenditure to date</p> <p>Out of the amount of money for the Larger Community Grants, £3,250 remains.</p>	
8.	<p>To receive correspondence (listed separately)</p> <p>Copies of Tim McDermott's reply to Cllr Dewhurst and the full report regarding the One Stop Shops has been circulated to all Members.</p> <p>Cllr White reported on the present situation as she attends the MCC Strong Communities Tasks and Finish Group. The group have asked all four towns to assess their OSS and report back to the next meeting which will also look at the new telephone network systems and whether to recommend this which is operational in Newport. It was asked if the scheme is to cut costs? It was reported that MCC must find some way to do this urgently.</p> <p>Nick Ramsay has been asked to discuss separate funding from the Welsh Government to buy the Market Hall.</p> <p>This item to be placed on the next agenda.</p>	
9.	<p>To note any items to report to CSATs (SJW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items raised were 8th June 5 cars parked on double yellow lines outside the Kings head and overlooked by 2 PCSO's • Priory Street parking on yellow lines on Friday and Saturdays • Deliveries on Friday morning causing havoc in Priory Street and Monnow Street 	
10.	<p>To receive reports from working parties and sub-committees</p> <p>i. Carnival/Festival working group (AD, AW): Carnival promotion held last Saturday with two Austin 7 vehicles. There was a write up in the Beacon but no photographs. Rob Campbell has been working really hard. Website: lots of stalls but more participants in the parade required.</p> <p>ii. Christmas Event working Group (meeting date needs to TBA) (AD, JG, TC, JF, D Evans, B Ramsey, A Atkinson) Date for next meeting required</p> <p>iii. Larger grants/donations (excl. Community grants) (TA,GB,SC,AD,JG,SW): The Auditor approved of the set up. Cllr Christopher would like to remain in the group.</p> <p>iv. Community Grants (TA,GB,SC,AD,JF,JG,SW,SJW) Group needs to set a date to meet to discuss any improvements.</p>	JG

	<p>v. Others None received</p>	
11.	<p>To consider and confirm the new Forward Plan.</p> <p>Swap timing of Christmas event with Summer Play review Next meeting to include 'Aims and Objectives of the Committee'.</p>	
12.	<p>To consider letters received regarding award of grants to MCC Summer Playscheme and Monmouth CAB and any appropriate action required.</p> <p>The Town Clerk has written to One Voice Wales for advice on this issue.</p> <p>Letters from CAB and MCC Mike Moran, were read to the committee.</p> <p>It was recommended that the matter be returned to the Working Party.</p> <p>Proposed: T Christopher Seconded: Cllr G Bright In Favour: 5 Against: 3 Abstention: 2</p> <p>Clerk to speak with One Voice Wales</p>	Town Clerk
13.	<p>To review Community Grant Scheme criteria (from Forward plan)</p> <p>Meeting of Working Group to be arranged.</p>	
14.	<p>To review and consider Job Centre, Police, Ambulance and MIU current status (from Forward plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to be written to Kellie Beirne regarding Job centre • Enquire from Mathew Davis whether the Town Council can help furthering the ambulance situation. • Invite the Police Commissioner to a Community meeting • MIU now closed no further meeting of the Monnow Vale. Contact David Hill Chairman. 	JG JG JG JG
15.	<p>To agree press release</p> <p>To be written by Cllr Gunter.</p>	JG
16.	<p>Items for discussion for future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Stop shop/Library issue • Aims and Objectives 	
17.	<p>To confirm date of next meeting:</p> <p>Monday 22 July 2013</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm