

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Shire Hall
Agincourt Square
Monmouth
NP25 3DY



Tel: 01600 715662

Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk

www.monmouth.gov.uk

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Community Affairs meeting held on Monday 1 June 2015 at 7.00pm at The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Cllr A Dewhurst (Chair)

Cllr G Bright	(GB)	Cllr J Gunter	(JG)
Cllr Chivers	(SC)	Cllr C Munslow	(CM)
Cllr Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr Were	(AW)
		Cllr White	(SW)

In the absence of Ms Bobby Bolt, Ms Bronwen John (Aneurin Bevan U.H.B. Head of Partnerships and Networks) gave an update on progress since last meeting concerning the actions to replace local Minor Injuries services.

The 'Choose Well' leaflet describing the services provided has been distributed by 'Monnow Voice' around Monmouth. There had been problems with reaching outlying areas, to help this situation leaflets have been given to Trellech and Wye Valley Doctors Surgeries (including Monnow Vale and Monmouth Surgeries), posters given out to businesses in the High street, and via media such as local newspapers, Facebook, and Twitter. Parish magazines were suggested with contact via Reverend David McGladdery, another idea suggested was via Meals on Wheels.

Members noticed Monnow Vale hadn't been mentioned in the leaflet. When they asked why the reply was it wasn't a Minor Injury hospital. The Committee felt they had been led to believe there would be a backup to the closure of the Minor Injuries hospital such as GP surgeries taking on the work. Ms John explained that national negotiation is taking place at Welsh Government level regarding GP contracts. Ms John also explained she was from the 'Choose Well' campaign and had come to speak regarding this. She is aware they can't do anything that is outside the contractual framework. Cllr Dewhurst pointed out that the comments are exactly the same as Ms Bobby Bolt's last visit in November, meaning that it was impossible to tell if any progress was being made towards replacing the local service that The Minor Injuries Unit was designed to provide.

Cllr White asked if she understood right that Ms Bobby Bolt and Ms Bronwen John are not involved with the discussions with the Welsh Government. The answer was yes.

Ms John explained Monnow Vale is keeping people in their own homes longer, and she would be prepared to come back to a future meeting to explain exactly what Monnow Vale does do. The 'Choose Well' campaign is to highlight to the public where they can go for which services.

Some Councillors felt the leaflet didn't say anything new and very disappointed that the Minor Injuries unit has gone and its services will never be replaced.

Ms John explained the rationale behind the reduction of services : although the building was built originally to hold a local Minor Injuries service, the decision to close had been made because it was thought that the increased levels of safety could not be guaranteed at the smaller set ups across the Health Board

Ms John fully understands the frustration but didn't have an answer, but did explain again that negotiations are going on for **certain** elements of minor injuries services at GP practices, but the discussions were not at local level. Ms John said she would find out who the Committee should contact at National level.

The Chair explained why people are cynical about the situation, as a great deal of detailed research had been done into Minor Injuries in neighbouring areas, together with positive suggestions, evidence of local need and attendance at numerous consultation meetings over the years, Meanwhile Aneurin Bevan's research came to the conclusion that there was not enough footfall in Monmouth. This was not surprising as its posters advised people not to go to Monnow Vale, but go straight to A&E. Transport would be available. All the time there was the plan to close the Minor Injury Unit. The Committee felt that they had spent a lot of effort responding seriously to consultations, but this had proved to be a mere box-ticking exercise. Its work over many years had got Monmouth precisely nowhere. They and the public would have felt better if had been treated with more honesty. She thanked Ms John for coming

Ms John will come back with information requested and arrange for someone to speak at a future meeting regarding the present services at Monnow Vale.

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>To elect Chairman of the Committee for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst was proposed as Chair</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Were Seconded: Cllr White All in favour</p>	
2.	<p>To elect Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Gunter was proposed as Deputy Chair</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dewhurst Seconded: Cllr White All in favour</p>	
3.	<p>To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda.</p> <p>None received.</p>	
4.	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Cllr Bradley, Cllr Christopher and Cllr Pritchard.</p>	

5.	<p>To approve the minutes of the extra meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2015.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Gunter Seconded: Cllr Munslow All in favour</p>	
6.	<p>To update the action summary.</p> <p>Items noted and updated.</p>	
7.	<p>To review and approve Committee's expenditure to date.</p> <p>The Committee's expenditure to date was approved.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dewhurst Seconded: Cllr Munslow. All in favour</p>	
8.	<p>To discuss and agree the £230 overspend from Community Budget. Agreed that it was a budgeting bookkeeping error. That had been resolved.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Bright Seconded: Cllr Dewhurst. All in favour</p>	
9.	<p>To receive correspondence. (listed separately)</p> <p>A copy of number 12 will be sent to all committee members.</p>	Office
10.	<p>To note any items to report to CSATs. (SJW)</p> <p>Cllr Chivers asked to raise the question why had the CCTV cameras not been working.?</p>	SJW
11.	<p>To receive reports from working parties and sub-committees and confirm membership of each.</p> <p>i. To receive a report from Sergeant D Seymour and agree any action. No report given Cllr Dewhurst will request a report for the next meeting.</p> <p>ii. Carnival/Festival working group (AD, AW, JG, TJC, JF, Chris Were, Les Modget) Plans going well, in partnership with Festival. Circus Skills class going well every Thursday. Next meeting Les Modget and Chris Were need to be included in membership list. Next meeting 4th June 5.30pm, King's Head. Next fundraising quiz night at Green Dragon, Sunday 28th July.(Last one was fun but needed more teams.)</p>	AD/Sgt Seymour Office

	<p>iii. Christmas Event working Group (AD, TJC, JG, JF, D Evans, A Atkinson).No other members wanted to join, but said they would help on the night.</p> <p>iv. Larger grants/donations (Excluding. Community grants) (SC, AD, JG, GP, SW, AW,)</p> <p>v. Community Grants (SC, AD, JF, JG, TJC, SW,)</p> <p>vi. School Council liaison (AD, TJC, SW,) No meeting.</p> <p>vii. Monnow Vale Users Group (SW as a County Councillor) Cllr White could not attend the last meeting but will pass on the minutes when received.</p> <p>viii. MTC Newsletter (AD, TJC, CM, GP) The third edition had just been distributed via Monnow Voice. All replies to the CCTV question can be put in the boxes in the Shire Hall, EE shop and Bridges or, via e-mail</p> <p>ix Banners and pennants for Monnow St group (AD,SW,TJC)</p> <p>x Police Meetings (AD,TJC, CM, JF,) On 8th May Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Munslow and Cllr Fletcher, had attended a meeting with Sgt David Seymour and Neighbourhood CSO's to co-ordinate how to deal with the illegal parking particularly on Monnow Bridge and Priory St. Everyone encouraged to use the windscreen flyers and to give the police station a list of dates and places they had used them (perhaps, monthly?) Sgt Seymour had the section relating to parking in the Blue Badge users' booklet, copied. We will distribute this to members so this matter is clarified. It was agreed by all that the plans for Highways to remove the single yellow line and change to no parking 9am-6pm on that section of Priory St should happen asap. After the formal meeting, members had been invited accompany the PCSO's to the parking hotspots for better mutual understanding of the problems, especially that it is pedestrians prams and mobility scooters whose safety members are concerned about. It is 'obstruction' to them, that is the hazard.</p> <p>xi. Replacement Service of Minor Injuries Unit. (GP, TJC) Neither member present, but will probably want to follow up today's Aneurin Bevan presentation.</p> <p>Xii. Working Group re Museums & Cultural attractions consultation in Monmouth. (AD, TJC, JH, GP, SW)</p>	<p>SW</p> <p>AD/Office</p> <p>GP/TJC/AD</p>
--	---	---

	<p>xii. Others.</p> <p>Members confirmed for each Working Group.</p>	
12.	<p>To discuss and agree whether to move dates of the Larger Community Projects and the Smaller Community Grants due to end of year finances. (GP) (Deferred from previous meeting.)</p> <p>It was proposed to keep the dates as they are at present.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Were Seconded: Cllr Dewhurst All in favour</p>	
13.	<p>To discuss and agree action regarding the Museum and Cultural Attractions consultation.</p> <p>The Group had met and summarised the findings from the extra meeting held on 5 May 2015. The Chair will sent out copies to the public and Councillors.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold another extra meeting on Monday 15 June at 7.00pm to discuss Shire Hall. County Cllr Bob Greenland will attend, Cllr White requested the consultants to be asked to attend.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>AD</p>
14.	<p>To discuss and agree whether the Town Council should take over responsibility from MCC of tables and chairs presently installed at rear of Commerce House .If so, where to relocate them and agree a budget if necessary. (See correspondence from Tom James, Area Manager)</p> <p>Cllr Munslow suggested 3 could be placed on the grass by the Old Cattle Market. The Chair thought some should be placed in the bus station.</p> <p>Cllr Were suggested the cost of removing should be found out before making final decision.</p> <p>The Chair will find out from MCC Tom James whose responsibility the chairs are and what the cost would be to remove them.</p>	<p>AD</p>
15.	<p>To agree press release.</p> <p>The Chair will complete the press release.</p>	<p>AD</p>
16.	<p>Items for discussion for future meetings. Monnow Vale services (Aneurin Bevan)</p>	
17.	<p>To confirm date of next meeting.</p> <p>Extra meeting Monday 15 June 2015</p> <p>Monday 13 July 2015 Council Chambers Shire Hall.</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed 9.00pm