

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 26 October 2015 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

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

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

In Attendance: Mrs Jane Lloyd.

Mr Tom James gave a presentation regarding MCC The Whole Place' scheme.

The Whole place team are working in 3 areas of Monmouthshire

In Severnside (Caldicot area) and Bryn Y Cwm (Abergavenny area) they are currently reviewing the plans and programme boards that oversee the plans. Work has started in the Lower Wye and members of the team are meeting with as many community groups as possible asking "what matters where you live, work and play".. The results will be collated and fall into themes such as "Public Realm, Environment, Transport etc"

To find out what really matters to people, an in depth questionnaire will be developed asking the "right questions on what matters". This will go out to people MCC have spoken to asking them to distribute to friends, families, work colleagues etc.

From this MCC will form a draft plan and hold public meetings to find the way forward.

The hope is that people will feel passionate about where they live and want to get involved in forming an action plan to take the plan forward

If all the work goes to plan and there no staffing cuts to the service they will be working in Central Monmouthshire by next September but definitely before December 2016. Central Monmouthshire is such a large geographical area that they feel they can't just concentrate on Monmouth but will also run several schemes from places such as Usk and Raglan.

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

None received.

2. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr G Bright, Cllr T Christopher, Cllr Owen and Cllr S White.

3. To confirm and sign the following minutes of meetings held on.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard Seconded: Cllr Davis **All in favour**

The minutes of the Pink Paper minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Hall Seconded: Cllr Gunter **All in favour**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 October 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Hall Seconded: Cllr Fletcher **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 informed the members the plans for Remembrance Sunday were in progress and information would be sent out shortly.

6. 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.

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

a Planning Committee: As per minutes.

b Environmental Affairs Committee: As per minutes.

c Community Affairs Committee: As per minutes. There had been a good presentation from Mr N Butler regarding the MCC Playscheme.

- d **Finance & Policy Committee:** From the quotations received the Working Group had agreed to stay with Zurich Insurance for 3 years after they reduced their quotation. Website Design had been awarded and Councillors will get the chance to see the website before going 'live'. Computer hardware and software contract had been awarded to Blue Glow Management Ltd.
- e **CSATS:** A boards still being discussed.
- f **Monmouth Partnership Forum:** Next meeting will be Wednesday 11 November 2015.
- g **Vision Monmouth:** No meeting.
- h **Central Monmouthshire Area Committee:** No report.
- i **Others:** None.

8. **Update from Cllr Dewhurst on the draft Statutory Guidance for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

Cllr Dewhurst reported Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving social economic environmental and cultural wellbeing in Wales thinking more of the long term and working with each other. The One Voice Wales meeting was useful for larger Councils with budgets over £200,000. The act places a duty on the Councils to take all reasonable steps towards local objectives.

There will be a Commissioner in charge with a Public Service Board consisting of County Councillors, Local Health Board, Fire Service and other Groups such as Town Councils.

The Service Boards will access what is required in the local area and identify steps to be taken by making the objectives annually – we already give an annual report and Newsletter to gather information.

Opinions are being requested of this system – responses are required by 16 November 2015. Cllr Dewhurst recommended that the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales writes a report on behalf of all Community Councils.

9. **To discuss and make a decision on the response to the Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. (GP) ENC 1**

The next step of the Local Government reorganisation is out for consultation. It is proposed that the number of Councillors for the new Authority to include Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport and Monmouthshire, should be on a ratio of 1 new Councillor to 4,000 electors.

New Gwent will consist of 400,000 electors which would equal to about 100 members.

Seven questions have been asked. The new system needs to be flexible because of circumstances of different wards and not restricted to specific numbers.

Welsh Government is now looking at Community Councils boundaries and wards. Cllr Hayward who sat on the MCC Boundary Commission for 15 months looking at Community and Town Councils said this has now been scrapped. Cllr Pritchard understood it has now been resurrected nationally.

It was proposed to accept the recommendations on the completed response form.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Fletcher
For: 11 against: 1 abstention: 0

10. To discuss and make a decision on the advice of One Voice Wales on correspondence items on Council and Committee agenda's following the publication of the Welsh Government statutory guidance on Access to information on Community and Town Councils. (GP) ENC 2

After discussion it was agreed that Mrs Lloyd be asked to further research this item with One Voice Wales and report back at a future meeting of the full Council.

It was proposed to accept the recommendations on the completed response form.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Gunter
For: 11 against: 1 abstention: 0

11. To discuss and make a decision on the proposed Monmouth Neighbourhood Plan.

Costs of consultants for the project were a concern and the similarities to 'The Whole Place' scheme. It was explained the Neighbourhood Plan is similar to a mini LDP planning for future building in Monmouth.

Mr David Farnsworth had previously spoken to the Planning Committee and explained if the project moves forward he would assist with guidance only but the workload and budget must be provided by the Town Council. Other Groups would be involved such as Transition Monmouth, Partnership Forum and the Civic Society.

After discussion it was proposed to set up a Steering Group to in order to initiate the project. The Group will consist of Cllr Bradley, Cllr Davis, Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Gunter, Cllr Hall, Cllr Were and Cllr Wilson. Chair of the Steering Group will be decided at the first meeting.

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

12. To discuss and make a decision on how to respond to the consultation letter regarding Monmouth Comprehensive School. ENC 3

Educational changes at the school.

Cllr Hayward explained it was not reducing the capacity to 1671, 1600 to accommodate the new facility. Planning condition was for 1600, this is 2 separate alterations to the school not linked. This is

Subject to an additional grant from the Welsh government which MCC has to find 50% of the funding.

On the 12 November 3.30 to 6.30 the Comprehensive School will hold a drop in session.

It was proposed that individual members could attend and make their comments known to MCC Cath Sheen.

Proposed: Cllr Pritchard Seconded: Cllr Davis **All in favour**

13. To Note the Mayor's engagement list.

ENC 4

Noted.

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

ENC 5

Noted.

15. Items for discussion for future meetings.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Monday 7 December 2015 at 7.00pm Shire Hall, Monmouth.

For further background information or an explanation of any of the information provided, please contact the Town Clerk on receipt of this agenda. Please also contact the Town Clerk if you foresee any problems with any of the agenda items; if possible these will then be resolved before the meeting.