

Monmouth Town Council

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**Minutes of Monmouth Town Council
meeting held on
Monday 28th January 2013
at 7.00 pm at The Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth**

Present: Chairman: the Mayor Cllr G Bright

Cllr T Ashton	Cllr Mrs Hall
Cllr R Bradbury	Cllr R Hayward
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	Cllr M Jones
Cllr T Christopher	Cllr A Owen
Cllr S Davis	Cllr Mrs A Were
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	Cllr Mrs S White
Cllr J Fletcher	Cllr S J Wilson
Cllr Mrs J Gunter	

Mr A Williams, Deputy Head Teacher, Monmouth Comprehensive School, spoke on “Building Restorative approaches across the Community” (linked to Agenda item 9).

Mr Williams spoke regarding the shift in the approach to learning, first introduced by the school eight years ago. Most of the time people see ‘Restorative Justice’ as when things go wrong but not at the Comprehensive School. The approach to learning in school has significantly changed since the advent of Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Neuroscience behind learning. Teachers no longer stand at the front of a class and dictate the learning, teachers are now facilitators of the learning process, as from the touch of a button there is a whole range of information. The school now tries to build on young people’s talents also endorsing manners and respect for elders.

It was decided that the behaviour management at the school was a mirror of the Criminal Justice System, ‘3 strikes and you are out’. Traditionally the first question in an incident would be ‘What happened?’ to find out who to blame. This mindset was failing and Mr Williams believes it is also failing in the criminal system. The staff are now encouraged to ask the students their perspective of what happened and what they were thinking and feeling at the time of the incident and how they can move forward, giving staff and pupils equal values.

Over 4 years this scheme has helped reduce the number of exclusion days from 160 to an expected 20 – 25 days by July 2013. Youth crime has fallen in Monmouth having a massive impact on the ethos of the School. In terms of crime in Monmouth it has dropped in the last 3 years with the Youth Offending Service reporting that the number of students from the school referred to them has fallen to zero. The Discipline Policy at the school has now moved to a Relationship Policy.

Mr Williams pointed out to Councillors that this scheme does not require extra time from teaching staff as Tutors are being trained with Tutor time being increased to eight hours a week.

When asked how much parent and family involvement there was, Mr Williams explained the involvement with MCC Paul Matthews and Social Services as they would like to take this scheme forward. Social Services will be involved with monthly meetings.

The Chair proposed agenda item 9 be brought forward as this linked to this issue

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Mrs J Hall
Unanimous

9. To agree future School Council involvement with Monmouth Town Council.

Mr Williams commented that within School Councils, the questions and answers can be quite negative, this has changed by the School Council going around the school and asking questions re 'Wellbeing' at school. His thoughts were to give the students a project to research and make them feel involved and report back their findings to a Town Council meeting, he suggested that they could possibly report back on their findings of the 'Wellbeing project'

After discussion, Cllr Mrs Dewhurst pointed out how Community Affairs have been trying for a long time to get Schools involved with The Town Council.

Cllr Mrs Were suggested that the Town Clerk contact other Town Councils for information regarding their involvement with schools.

Standing orders were stood down to allow a member of the public to speak

Mr Robert Hudson reported that he had been to the Boys School regarding involvement of the Youth Council but felt he had been pushed away slightly from the idea as there is already a Youth Committee at Bridges.

Standing orders were reinstated

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

None received.

2. To receive apologies for absence

None received.

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 17th December 2013

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Bright Seconded: Cllr Mrs J Hall
Unanimous

5. To receive the Town Clerk's report (for information only)

A working date of Sunday 9th June has been selected as the date of the Civic Service, with St Mary's Priory Church and the Priory being booked for this day. However this date and other arrangements remain to be confirmed by the new Mayor following election in May.

The roll of names of Mayors and Clerks update has now been completed, with a new frame for the roll of new Mayors and the old frame also being repaired.

Councillors were reminded to respond to ID badges provision.

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

The Town Clerk reported to the Council the following items of attention.

- Information received from Monmouth Youth service regarding outreach sessions asking for feedback on hotspots of youth gathering areas.
- Prosiect gwyrd/Green Project. Councillors have been invited to meet project members
- One Voice Wales: Information re Draft Charter Action Plan to consider issues and responsibility - response requested from Town Clerk and Chairman, so any strong opinions to be given to them.

7. To note the reports and minutes of the council's committees and outside bodies:

- Planning Committee:** Items discussed included the LDP which response requested by 1 February has already been submitted.
- Environmental Affairs Committee:** Cllr Mrs Were reported the tender had been selected to maintain trees at the riverbank, Renewal of the floral contract.
- Community Affairs Committee:** As per minutes.
Tuesday 29 January Community Grant applications will be discussed with the awards evening being Monday 18 February in Shire Hall
- Finance & Policy Committee:** As per minutes.
2 members were appointed for the CCTV working group being given delegated all responsibilities for decisions except expenditure.
The Internal Auditor was confirmed as Clive James
- CSATS representative:** Cllr Wilson reported that there had been a fall in the crime rate in Monmouth. The Griffin was now the most regulated pub in Monmouth with no problems to date.
CCTV, 'Storenet' is also to be installed to shops in Monmouth.
Mast for CCTV will now be installed on Shire Hall and not at the Comprehensive School.
Parking at Goldwire Lane is being looked into and if the parking on the Hereford Road was changed could cause further problems.
- Monmouth Partnership Forum:** No meeting.
Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 30 January 2013
- Vision Monmouth:** Cllr Ashton will circulate notes from the meeting.
- Central Monmouthshire Area Committee:** Cllr Mrs Hall cannot attend the next meeting on Tuesday 19 February as it coincides with another meeting. It was agreed as Cllr Mrs White is Chair of the committee she will report back to the next Town Council meeting.
- Others:** None received.

8. To receive the Member's attendance summary of committee meetings

Members	Planning	Full Council	Community	Planning	Finance & policy	Environment
2011/2012	17.12.12	17.12.12	02.01.13	14.01.13	14.01.13	21.01.13
Cllr T Ashton		1	1		1	
Cllr R Bradley	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr G Bright		1	Apology		1	1
Cllr Mrs S Chivers	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher		1	1		Apology	Apology
Mr S Davis	1	1		1		1
Cllr Mrs A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr J Fletcher	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr Mrs J Gunter	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1
Cllr Mrs J Hall	1	1	1	1	1	
Cllr R Hayward	Apology	Apology		1	1	1
Cllr A Owen		1				1
Cllr M Jones		1	Apology		1	
Cllrs Mrs A Were	Apology	1	1		1	1
Cllr Mrs S White		1	1			1
Cllr S Wilson	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total In Attendance	8	15	11	8	11	11+1
Members on Committee	10	16	13	9	13	12

KEY

	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hall
Unanimous

Seconded: Cllr Davis

9. To agree future School Council involvement with Monmouth Town Council.

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

10. To comment upon and consider financial assistance for Monnow Bridge and Gate Interpretation Plan (details circulated separately)

There were concerns voiced regarding funding as the precept has already been applied for next year, and it being too early to take from reserves, although Committee budgets could be an option.

Councillors were not happy that incorporated within the plan was sandblasting the Old Monnow Bridge, this was thought to be an added expense.

Cllr Were asked for the Welsh translation to be ensured correct and to have no more decoration to the Old Bridge

After further discussion it was proposed to agree in principle and support, subject to negotiation of funding with Colin Phillips

Proposed: Cllr T Christopher Seconded: Cllr Mrs Dewhurst
For: 13 Against: 1 Abstention: 2

11. To consider ways of improving access to Monnow Bridge Gate and agree representation for meetings with MCC, the Civic Society and Shire Hall Management to enable this

After discussion, when some members did not agree with the addition of hoof and footprints in the ground and to improve access to the building, it was suggested a meeting be arranged.

It was agreed that Cllr Christopher would contact and talk with the Civic Society.

Proposed: Cllr T Christopher Seconded: Cllr Bright
Unanimous

12. To agree Full Council and/or individuals response to MCC Play Sufficiency Audit and Action Plan

Members had previously received details of the MCC Play Sufficiency Audit and Action Plan, with further explanation from Mr Moran, MCC.

Cllr Mrs Were commented that play provision in Wyesham was satisfactory.

Cllr Hayward confirmed that there was no play provision in Osbaston.

Cllr Mrs Dewhurst reminded members that good practice should also be noted and that members should take the opportunity to respond.

The Chair suggested that Councillors make individual comments and responses, which were asked for by 1st February.

Cllr Mrs White left the meeting at 8.25pm

13. To agree Full Council support for provision of Children's play area in Osbaston (JH)

Cllr Mrs Hall reported that there is no play area in Osbaston for children under the age of 5; Cllr Mrs Hall has campaigned for four years and prior to this Cllr Hayward had also tried to establish a play facility in the area. Monmouthshire County Council has been approached but no funding is available.

Cllr Mrs Hall proposed plans for an Osbaston Community Play Area near the Osbaston (formally Infants) School staff car park and substation. The intention is for an area where preschool children could play whilst parents were waiting for older siblings to finish school. Plans were presented, and included play equipment of 3 toadstools and a train, a bench seat for adults, with complete fencing and gate. Grass guard tiles would alleviate high maintenance. Costs for the project, including installation, have been obtained at £10,057 + VAT. Cllr Mrs Hall is trying to establish a working group to forward her plans, and is considering approaching the Army for possible funding, as there are also local family army links.

Cllr Hayward confirmed that although no funding was at present being requested from the Council, local Council support is usually required in order to access alternative funding.

It was proposed that Full Town Council support should be given for the Osbaston Community Play Area.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hall Seconded: Cllr Hayward
Unanimous

14. To confirm approval of criteria and application forms for large donations from Community Affairs Committee

Cllr Hayward outlined the background to the auditor's recommendations for formalising the procedure of large donations. A set of criteria and application form had been produced, which the auditor had commented upon. These had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed to approve the criteria and application form for larger Community Projects in Monmouth grants.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Mrs Gunter
Unanimous

15. To confirm draft deed of dedication and details for the Town Field under the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

A copy of the Draft Deed of Dedication for the Town Field, and details for confirmation, had been previously circulated to all members.

Attention was drawn to user clause 3.1 to preclude parking for regattas for instance, but this appears to be mitigated later in the document subject to Fields in Trust permission. Cllr Mrs Were commented that from the draft deeds, the field would not be able to be sold without replacement by an alternative piece of land, and noted that potential interest from the Rowing Club had already been received.

The Clerk requested that this item be deferred for further investigations to be made. Cllr Mrs Chivers questioned if the Council were considering selling the field, and if not, questioned the need to hear representations from the Rowing Club.

It was proposed that this item be deferred until proposals from Rowing Club were received and discussed further.

Proposed: Cllr R Hayward Seconded: Cllr T Christopher.
For: 11, Against: 4

16. To receive report on suggestions made and recommendations of MTC representatives, on locations of 6 CCTV cameras, and to confirm locations

Cllr Ashton had previously circulated a map showing agreed positions of cameras following councillors' opportunity to comment and representatives' recommendations. Only two councillors had commented on, or proposed different camera locations.

The costs of moving a camera at a later date were estimated at approximately £700-1000, and removal of the green poles, where not being used, was requested, with Cllr Were suggesting costs involved should be borne by MCC as they had originally installed them. Cllr Hayward suggested this could take place when Monnow Street to be resurfaced in 2014.

It was confirmed that there was a mobile CCTV camera available, and options were being considered for the Carbonne Close area.

Cllr Chivers stated that planning permission and listed building consent would be required to install mast on the Shire Hall.

It was resolved to accept locations of CCTV cameras as per distributed map.

Proposed: Cllr Bright Seconded: Cllr Hayward
For: 7 Against: 3 Abstention: 5

The Chair reminded members that all had been given the opportunity the express their views regarding camera location by means of a map in the Clerk's office.

17. To agree Full Council and/or individuals response to Monmouthshire's Single Integrated Plan (consultation period ends 15th March)

Cllr Hayward recommended that all members read the plan and that he would be responding, although expressed his view that continual consultation processes did not appear to make any difference.

The Plan replaces the old Community Plan.

Cllr Ashton confirmed that the Plan was easy to read but appears to be already formulated and finished.

It was proposed that individuals respond.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Wilson
Unanimous

Cllr J Fletcher left the meeting.

18. To propose to apply to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board for Monmouth Town Council representation on the Community Health Council (TC)

Cllr Hayward stressed that the importance of the Community Health Council as a body to challenge the practices of the Local Health Board, and that MTC should apply straight away. Cllr Christopher asked for this item to be deferred in order to establish the criteria of how people are elected, as has received varying reports, and wishes to apply for representation in the correct manner.

19. To establish timing of alterations to wording of the Local Development Plan (SC)

Cllr Mrs Chivers expressed dissatisfaction in the way that changes had been made to the document (LDP), specifically a wording change "no more than 370 houses" to "about 370 houses" with regard to the Wonastow Road development, and whether the changes were included when the plan was issued for consultation.

Cllr Hayward was unable to confirm the timing of the changes. The Town Clerk reported that Mr Ashworth, MCC, had responded to a request for confirmation, by providing a further copy of Monmouthshire's Local Development Plan Schedule of Focused Changes Oct 2012, which members felt did not give a complete response.

Cllr J Fletcher returned to the meeting.

Cllr S Davis left the meeting.

The Chair expressed his opinions regarding democratic representation of Monmouth by County Councillors from other areas deciding Monmouth issues. Cllr Wilson stated that two out of the four Monmouth County Councillors voted against the LDP and hence not the "majority" of Monmouth County Councillors as he believed the Chair had stated.

Cllr Hayward stated that despite the consultations, and overwhelming objections by local people regarding concerns within the LDP, these had remained in the plan and doubts over the value or outcome of consultation should be expressed.

Cllr Owen also reported knowledge of many residents dissatisfaction with the consultation procedure and outcome. Cllr Owen offered to compose a letter of dissatisfaction on behalf of the Council; however Cllr Hayward confirmed that the Planning Committee had already responded on behalf of the Council with specific reference to the wording issues raised. The Chair did not allow a further response regarding County Councillor representation by Cllr Wilson.

20. To receive update on position of hotel in Monmouth at Portal Road and to confirm Council viewpoint (TA)

Cllr Ashton had previously provided members with a written update on this issue, and copies of email correspondence with Monmouthshire County Council officers, who advised of the failure of negotiations with the hotel developer.

Cllr S Davis returned to the meeting.

Cllr Ashton had contacted the developer and learned that the main difficulty lay in not being able to find a pub or restaurant partner for the hotel which meant that the previously agreed purchase price was no longer realistic. The developer had suggested to MCC that they should form a Joint Venture with MCC putting in the land and the developer carrying out the hotel phase of the project. MCC thought this was too great a deviation from the original plan put to other developers and in these circumstances it would be proper for them to go back to the market. This has resulted in a return to the original position of four years ago with the associated loss of potential investment, business and tourism implications for Monmouth. Cllr Ashton also referred to MCC's "...concern expressed in the community over the provision of a budget hotel on the site", and argued that the hotel provider (Premier Inns) had a very high reputation in the sector and provided good quality accommodation but without a bar or restaurant. Cllr Ashton suggested that potential customers of a hotel in Monmouth would include walkers, cyclists and visitors for the Monmouth Festival, for whom five star accommodations would not be appropriate and probably unfeasible in a location adjacent to the dual carriageway.

Cllr Ashton wanted to improve MCC communication -with the Town Council being aware of progress on the project and having some input instead of hearing of its failure.

Cllr Mrs Gunter agreed with Cllr Ashton regarding the necessary provision of a further hotel in Monmouth.

Cllr Mrs Dewhurst suggested that the Town Council viewpoint could be expressed more strongly through the Vision Monmouth Steering group. Cllr Hayward suggested limitations to this important group as meetings were not being held as regularly as necessary, and more use could be made of it as four Town Councillors were members.

The removal of trees from the site of the hotel was discussed, and whose responsibility this was. Cllr Hayward believed the contractor had received verbal advice and implied permission from officers, but a misunderstanding of events has been accepted, although the contractor is now obliged to plant and hence replace the trees on an alternative site.

Cllr Mrs Were commented that the area of land had been included in the LDP as for a hotel and parking, so should not be used for an alternative use.

It was suggested that coach parking provision could be utilised on the site without much further expense or delay.

21. To confirm Deputy Mayor to take Deputy Mayor's chain to Rimini whilst representing the council

It was confirmed that insurance was in place.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Ashton
Unanimous

22. Items for discussion for future meetings

LDP (SC)

23. To confirm meeting dates.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 11th March 7.00pm at the Shire Hall, Monmouth

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.27pm