

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 12 May 2014 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: The Mayor Cllr J Hall

Cllr R Bradley	(RB)	Cllr J Gunter	(JG)
Cllr G Bright	(GB)	Cllr R Hayward	(RH)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr A Owen	(AO)
Cllr T Christopher	(TC)	Cllr G Pritchard	(GP)
Cllr S Davis	(SD)	Cllr A Were	(AW)
Cllr A Dewhurst	(AD)	Cllr S White	(SW)
Cllr J Fletcher	(JF)	Cllr S J Wilson	(SJW)

In attendance: Mrs S James Town Clerk, Mrs J Lloyd Administration Officer

The outgoing Mayor, Cllr Jeana Hall, spoke about how she had met wonderful people throughout the year and thanked the people of Monmouth and the Town Council for all of their support for a fantastic year.

Cllr Hall gave thanks to Jane Lloyd for keeping the Mayors Diary and to the Town Clerk who had been 'a rock' throughout the year. Thanks were extended to the Mayors Cadet James Phillips, Father David McGladdery, Deputy Mayor Cllr Jane Gunter for all her help by stepping in while the Mayor has been ill, to the Mace Bearers, Des Pugh (Monmouthshire Beacon) and special thanks to the Mayor's Consort, William Hall.

1. To elect the Mayor (Chair) of the Town Council

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Gunter was proposed for the role of Mayor

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Fletcher

Proposal agreed unanimously

2. **New Mayor installation and Acceptance of Office**

The retiring and the new Mayor left the room accompanied by the Clerk and Macebearers. The retiring Mayor then returned, and when robed, the new Mayor, Mace Bearers and Clerk returned to continue the meeting with the new Mayor Cllr Gunter as Chair.

The Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor, Cllr Gunter thanked members for showing confidence in her by voting for her and promised to do everything possible over the next year representing the Town and Council to justify that confidence in her. She stated that many challenges were faced with increasing pressure on the County Council budget and passing of responsibilities to Community Councils and volunteer groups. The Mayor trusted that we can all work together to ensure that the wonderful Community spirit in Monmouth is maintained while facing these challenges.

Representation of the Past Mayors badge was given to Cllr Hall and she was thanked for her service.

The Mayor introduced her partner Paul Macer-Wright as her Consort who was presented with the Consorts badge by the outgoing Consort, Mr William Hall.

3. **To elect the Deputy Mayor**

Two candidates were proposed for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr S Chivers	Proposed by Cllr Hayward
Cllr G Pritchard	Proposed by Cllr Hall

Cllr Christopher requested a named vote take place, and a vote was taken by a show of hands

For Cllr Chivers: AW, SC, SD, GB, RH, SJW,	For: 6
For Cllr Pritchard: AD, RB, TC, JF, JH, AO, GP, SW,	For: 8

It was confirmed that Cllr Pritchard was elected Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Pritchard said it was an honour and privilege to be elected Deputy Mayor of the Town.

The Mayor introduced Father David McGladdery as her Chaplain for the year, and a Blessing was given

4. **To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

None received.

5. **To receive apologies for absence**

None received.

6. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31st March 2014

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr White **All in favour**

7. To appoint members to serve on various outside groups and outside organisations (see schedule attached)

Members appointed as per attached schedule

Proposed by Cllr Davis Seconded: Cllr R Dewhurst **All in favour**

8. To appoint members to serve on committees of the Council (see schedule attached)

Members appointed as per attached schedule

Proposed by Cllr S Wilson Seconded: Cllr Davis **All in favour**

9. To confirm the assets list (see schedule attached)

The assets list had been distributed previously.

It was proposed that the assets list was confirmed, with the valuation for the Annual Return being given as £232,551

Proposed by Cllr Hayward Seconded: Cllr Wilson **All in favour**

10. To receive questions from members of the public for a maximum of 10 minutes

None received.

11. To receive the Clerk's Report

Resignation: Brian Ramsey had resigned as member representing the Town Ward on 22nd April 2014.

The Monitoring Officer has been informed and Notice of Vacancy has been issued allowing 10 electors of the Town Ward until 19th May to request an election. Otherwise, the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

Newsletter: All members should have received the draft copy, to be updated to include the new Mayor details. This will be printed in the next few days so any amendments required, especially regarding contact details, should be made to the office.

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

Wyesham Scouts: The Town Clerk read to members an invitation to Mayor and Councillors to the Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday 15 May 2014 at Bridges Community Centre.

Agincourt statement of Activities: General statement of activities in 2015 to commemorate 600th anniversary of Agincourt hoping that a party from Monmouth could attend some of the events to be held in London.

MCC D McCarty: Communities Facilities Activities Programme 2014. Guidance of grant applications from the Welsh Government with general information regarding the programmes with information on who and what projects may qualify.

- 13. 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.

- 14. To note the reports, including Annual Committee reports, and minutes of the council's committees and outside bodies**

a Planning Committee: As per minutes

Cllr Wilson reported that thanks to Cllr Bradley, listed building status had finally been given on the two pill boxes at Wyesham.

£106 monies will be reported at agenda item 16.

b Environmental Affairs Committee: As per minutes.

Cllr Dewhurst also reported on the floral working groups recommendations given regarding this year's planting in Monmouth.

c Community Affairs Committee: As per minutes.

Cllr Gunter reported the larger Community Grants had been awarded at a presentation held on Wednesday 7 May 2014.

d Finance & Policy Committee: As per minutes.

Cllr Hayward brought to the attention of the Council the proposal from MCC to support the TIC to enable keeping it open on Sunday's. This proposal had been received after the Town Councils budget setting so could not be included.

A working group has been set up to consult with people of Monmouth to see what the public think the Town Council should be supporting.

e CSATS Committee: Nothing to report. Further details will be discussed at the next Community meeting on Monday 19 May 2014.

f Monmouth Partnership Forum: Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 21 May when MCC Alison Howard will speak regarding dog fouling scheme at Caldicot which may adopt in Monmouth. MCC Paul Keeble was going to speak regarding the third lane proposal for the Wye Bridge but the situation and scheme now appears on hold as SEWTA (South East Wales Integrated Transport Task Force) has been disbanded.

g Vision Monmouth: No meeting

h Central Monmouthshire Area Committee: No meeting

i Others:

Attik: Barry Englefield has written a report of which a section was read to members. It explained that since relocation, Attik has been substantially cheaper to run enabling them to reduce dependency on the Town Council.

Attik is very grateful for all previous support.

This year the youth population feedback from their survey gave 65% positive feedback and provided considerable information for the future.

Working Group to consult people of Monmouth: Cllr Christopher reported the group had met to formulate an action plan-information will be available in the newsletter. Future meetings will be arranged in July/August at the EE shop to give the opportunity for people to come along with suggestions, the group will then meet to finalise plans for consulting in more depth with the people of Monmouth.

Civic Service: Cllr Hall reported that the Open Doors scheme will go ahead in September.

15. To review and confirm Member's attendance at meetings.

Members	Planning	Full Council	Community	F&P	Planning	Community (extra)	Planning	Environment
2012/2013	31.03.14	31.03.14	7.4.14	14.04.14	14.04.14	22.04.14	28.04.14	06.05.14
Cllr R Bradley	1	1	1	1	1	Apology	1	
Cllr G Bright		1	1	1		1		1
Cllr S Chivers	1	1	1	Apology	Apology	1	1	1
Cllr T Christopher		1	1	1		1	1	1
Mr S Davis	1	1					Apology	
Cllr A Dewhurst	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cllr J Fletcher	Apology	Apology	1	Apology	Apology	1	1	1
Cllr J Gunter	1	1	1	1	1	Apology	1	1
Cllr J Hall	1	1		Apology	Apology		Apology	
Cllr R Hayward	1	1		1	1		1	1
Cllr A Owen		1		Apology				1
Cllr G Pritchard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Cllr B Ramsey		Apology	1	1				Resigned
Cllrs A Were		1	1	Apology		1		Apology
Cllr S White		1	1			1	1	1
Cllr S Wilson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total In Attendance	9	14	11+ 1	9		8+1	8+2	10+1
Members on Committee	10	16	11	14	10	11	10	12

KEY

	Non Committee Member
	Non Committee Member attendance
	Absent

It was proposed to agree and accept attendance summary.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward

Seconder: Cllr Wilson

All in favour

16. To confirm recommendations of Planning Committee regarding consultation response to Assessment Panel recommendation on s106 monies distribution

Cllr Wilson reported the recommendations made by the Planning Committee.

Monmouth Town Council welcomes the assessment panel's recommendations and acknowledges the hard work of the members including that of Cllr Graham Pritchard. The Town Council wishes to place on record its thanks to Mr Mike Moran for his help and cooperation in the 106 consultation process. The Council broadly supports the recommendations and levels of funding but considers The New Destination Play Area on Chippenham (£85,000) as unworkable.

The Town council reasons for refusal of the New Destination Play Area are as follows:

1. There is no proven researched need for a new play area
2. There is a potential loss of playing fields
3. Reduction of green space
4. That it is a lot of money for little improvement

5. That the Town Council considers scattered play areas around town near to where children live are better than a single central one that people have to travel to and this policy is already being supported by the Town Council's Drybridge Play Park and if approved Osbaston Play Park as well.

The Town council would support a refurbishment of the existing play facilities on Chippenham for £85,000.

Monmouth Town Council respectively submits that it approves of the assessment panel's recommendation with the exception of the New Destination Play Area (application no.22) and that the refurbishment of the existing playing facilities on Chippenham is considered instead.

It was proposed to accept the recommendations of the Planning Committee as the Full Town Council response.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward

Seconder: Cllr Wilson

All in favour

17. To consider and confirm support and funding for the Literary Festival referred from Community Affairs Committee

After discussion concerns were raised that this should have been applied for under the Community Grant Scheme, it was proposed that this item be deferred to the Environment Committee and an Extra Environment Committee meeting be held.

Proposed: Cllr Dewhurst

Seconder: Cllr White

For: 14 Against: 0

Against: 1

The item was deferred to the Environment Committee.

18. Items for discussion for future meetings.

None received.

19. To confirm meeting dates.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 23rd June 2014 at 7.00pm Shire Hall Monmouth.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.08