

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Community Affairs Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2016 at The Shire Hall, Monmouth

PRESENT: Chair: Cllr A Dewhurst (AD)

Cllr R Bradley	(RB)	Cllr J Gunter	(JG)
Cllr G Bright	(GB)	Cllr C Munslow	(CM)
Cllr S Chivers	(SC)	Cllr A Were	(AW)

In attendance: Dee Lovering
Miranda Thomason

Presentation given by Miranda Thomason from Community Connections Befriending Scheme.

Miranda gave an introduction on the Community Connections Befriending Scheme and its history. The scheme started at Bridges Community Centre five years ago and during that time has been funded by the National Lottery. The group is now based above the Bridges Community Shop in Monnow Street and has recently secured funding for a further two years. The scheme involves volunteers being matched to a beneficiary who will receive a weekly or fortnightly visit from them which may include support with shopping, gardening or simply just to provide company and conversation. Loneliness is reported to have a huge impact on mental and physical health and the Community Connection Befriending Scheme continues to help tackle this problem. Volunteers are DBS checked as necessary and all undertake mandatory training prior to being matched to a beneficiary. Regular checks, support and ongoing training are provided throughout the volunteer's engagement with the scheme.

The scheme is promoted to various organisations and groups using leaflets, websites and presentations. Councillors were asked to highlight the befriending scheme to their constituents wherever possible and were invited to contact Miranda for any further details.

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
1.	To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda. None received.	

2.	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>None received.</p>	
3.	<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th July 2016.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Gunter Seconded: Cllr Munslow All in favour</p>	
4.	<p>To update the action summary.</p> <p>Parking/Traffic on Priory Street and old Monnow Bridge – Cllr Dewhurst reported that she has written to MCC Paul Keeble highlighting the ongoing concerns, however, Mr Keeble is on annual leave at present until w/c 12th September. Cllr Chivers read out a letter from Police Inspector Arwel Hicks addressing her concerns regarding illegal parking and the committee was given a copy to log in its correspondence. Cllr Gunter informed the committee that members of the public who attended a recent ‘Meet Your Councillor’ session had also raised concerns over the ongoing problem with illegal street parking in the town.</p> <p>The Hub – Concerns were raised by several members over The Hub not working as it should. It was suggested that Cllr Dewhurst write a letter to MCC Cheryl Haskell to outline the committee’s concerns and invite Mrs Haskell to attend a future meeting to address these issues.</p>	AD
5.	<p>To review and approve committee expenditure to date.</p> <p>Queen’s Picnic Payments - Cllr Dewhurst reported that she had spoken with St John’s Ambulance and asked them to send in their invoice as soon as possible. Cllr White stated she would speak to Eagle Plant Hire to chase up their invoice for toilet hire and also look in to the outstanding bill from MCC for the tree planting.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst highlighted that MCC have still yet to cash the cheque for £2,000 donated to them by the Community Grant Scheme for the Summer Play Provision back in May 2016. It was requested that an email be sent to MCC Mike Moran stating that if the cheque is not cashed within six months of receipt the committee will not reissue it.</p>	SW Office
6.	<p>To receive correspondence.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst highlighted item 14 – invitation to third sector organisations to attend a Police Commissioner event at Cwmbran HQ.</p>	

7.	<p>To receive consider and take any action on reports from working parties and sub-committees.</p> <p>i. Police Report. The committee plan to invite Inspector Hicks to a future meeting following the Police Commissioner Event on the 27th September.</p> <p>ii. Carnival/Festival Working Group. (AD, AW, JG, Chris Were, Les Modget) The Monmouth Festival AGM will be held on the 6th October followed by the Monmouth Carnival AGM on the 18th October.</p> <p>iii. Christmas Event Working Group. (AD, JG, JF, D Evans, A Atkinson). Cllr Dewhurst highlighted the date of the Christmas Event – Thursday 8th December 2016 - and suggested that schools need to be informed of this as soon as possible. Cllr Bright and Cllr White offered their help if needed. Jane Lloyd to proceed with arranging the relevant quotes for road closures for this event.</p> <p>iv. Larger Grants/Donations. (Excluding Community Grants) (GB, SC, AD, JG, SW) No update.</p> <p>v. Community Grants. (GB, SC, AD, JF, JG, SW) Agenda item.</p> <p>vi. School Council Liaison. (AD, SW) Cllr Dewhurst has requested the upcoming meeting dates.</p> <p>vii. Monnow Vale Users Group. It was proposed that this working group be concluded. Proposed: Cllr Bright Seconded: Cllr Chivers For: 6 Against: 3 Motion carried.</p> <p>viii. MTC Newsletter. (CM, AD) Next issue due out in November. Cllr Munslow to call a meeting.</p> <p>ix. Replacement Service of Minor Injuries Unit. No update.</p> <p>x. Others. None.</p>	<p>Jane Lloyd</p> <p>Office</p> <p>CM</p>
8.	<p>To consider and agree donation of £300 towards provision of newspapers in Monmouth Library/Hub.</p> <p>It was proposed that the committee provide a £300 donation towards the provision of newspapers in the Library/Hub.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr White Seconded: Cllr Gunter All in favour</p>	
9.	<p>To agree and confirm the date and time for extra Committee Meeting re Ratifying Smaller Community Grant Applications. (Monday 26th September 2016 at 5.30pm)</p> <p>It was proposed that extra committee meeting be held on Monday 26th September 2016 at 5.30pm.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Gunter Seconded: Cllr Chivers All in favour</p>	

<p>10.</p>	<p>To discuss and agree questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner Event on the 27th September 2016.</p> <p>Cllr Bright would like to put forward the following questions: - Would Gwent Police consider match funding for the CCTV provision? Does the Commissioner think that the current police presence in Monmouth is adequate? Is the Commissioner receiving enough support from Westminster? Does the Commissioner think that political parties should have anything to do with the recruitment of Police Commissioners? Cllr White questions: - Why are Councillors told to promote the 101 reporting system when there is never any answer and people can't get through? Who can Complaints be made to? Cllr Dewhurst would like to ask: - Could the local authority take over the policing of illegal parking in the town? Cllr Were questions: - How much has Gwent Police's budget been cut by this year and how much will it be cut by next year? Are there any reserves? Also, the committee would like point out that recent observations have led them to question whether there is discrimination between the Welsh speaking callers and the English speaking callers to 101 – can he comment on this?</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>To consider and agree donation to cover the cost of materials for repainting post-boxes (work that is carried out on a voluntary basis). Deferred from the Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting on the 22nd August 2016.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst proposed that this be referred back to the Environment Committee for consideration at their next meeting due to the lack of appropriate budget at the Community Affairs Committee's disposal.</p> <p>Cllr White will arrange to discuss this with the Town Clerk and Cllr Chivers advised that Standing Orders will need to be followed accordingly.</p>	<p>SW</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>To consider and agree any action regarding lack of bus timetabling information at Monmouth Bus Stops.</p> <p>Cllr Munslow updated the committee on his recent discussion with MCC Richard Cope regarding this issue. It was stated that the new bus timetables had been printed with errors which had therefore led to a prolonged period without any being on display. The errors have since been corrected and the timetables have been reprinted and are now in the process of being displayed at the bus station/stops. Cllr Munslow also reported that a new sign was to be displayed alongside the timetables warning that it is an offence for any other notices to be put up without prior consent.</p>	

	Cllr Dewhurst to write to Mr Cope to request that the new timetables be displayed in all bus stops and that the timetables include the out of town routes as well as the local routes.	AD
14.	<p>Review of Summer 2016 Play Activities.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst read out a letter from Terry Christopher regarding his concerns over the lack of play provision for disabled children this summer. Cllr Dewhurst reported that when she visited the Monmouth Leisure Centre Summer Play Scheme, it was much reduced from previous years and offered no provision at all for disabled children due to lack of funds.</p> <p>Cllr Were proposed that the committee write to MCC Mike Moran to ask exactly what provision was made available to disabled children within this summer's Play Scheme, how well attended it was and how parents of children with disabilities were made aware of what was on offer.</p>	AD
15.	<p>Consider plans for the Christmas Event on Thursday 8th December 2016.</p> <p>Cllr Gunter proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting. The Working Group will hold a preliminary meeting in the meantime.</p>	AD,JG,JF
16.	<p>Review replacement service of Job Centre.</p> <p>No positive update to report.</p>	
17.	<p>To agree payment of £40 to cover the cost of Town Councillors' monthly public engagement sessions at Monmouth Priory.</p> <p>It was agreed that the £40 be paid out of 'Communications' within the budget, to pay for rental of a 'table' each month.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dewhurst Seconded: Cllr White For: 8 Against: 1 Motion carried</p>	
18.	<p>Initiate discussion towards budget recommendation 2017/18.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst asked if all members could start to think about the plans/recommendations for next year's budget.</p>	All
19.	<p>To agree a press release.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst to write a press release to include the Smaller Community Grants information as well as an update on the new bus timetables and the Police Commissioner event.</p>	AD

<p>20.</p>	<p>Items for discussion for future meetings.</p> <p>Budget for 2017/18 Review of Police Commissioner’s Event Christmas Event Plans</p>	<p>Office</p>
<p>21.</p>	<p>To confirm date of next meeting.</p> <p>Monday 17th October 2016</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07pm.