

# MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:00pm via BT Telephone Conference

**Present:** Cllr C Blair (Chair) Cllr J Gunter  
Cllr E Bryn Cllr K Jackson-Graham  
Cllr A Dewhurst (Deputy Chair) Cllr M Feakins  
Cllr R Jupp Cllr R Roden

C. Williams (Administration Officer)  
Cllr T Christopher  
Cllr S Jones  
2 members of press and public

Cllr Blair requested that Cllr Dewhurst Chair the meeting for the duration.

<b>42. Attendance and apologies for absence.</b> To confirm attendance and receive apologies for absence.  Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Breeze. No apologies were received from Cllr Legg, Cllr Lucas or Cllr White.	
<b>43. Declarations of Members Interests and Dispensations.</b> To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.  Cllr Dewhurst declared a personal interest in item 48 (Monmouth Tennis Club). Cllrs Bryn, Jackson-Graham, Blair and Jones declared a personal interest in item 48 (Rock up and Run).	
<b>44. Minutes</b> To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.  <i>19:08 Cllr Jones joined the meeting</i>  It was <b>resolved</b> to approve the minutes as a true record.	

45.	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>To hear comments from members of the public on items to be discussed on the agenda.</p> <p>There were no requests received from members of the public to speak.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to bring forward agenda item 7.</p>	
46.	<p><b>Monmouth Hillwalking and Rambling Club Community Grant 2020-21</b></p> <p>To consider the proposal from the Monmouth Hillwalking and Rambling Club to change the purpose of the community grant (£2,707) awarded to them in November 2020.</p> <p><i>It was <b>resolved</b> to suspend standing orders to allow a member of public to speak.</i></p> <p>A representative from the Monmouth Hillwalking and Rambling Club explained that Planning Permission was denied for the original proposal of a display on the storage doors of the Shire Hall, however, he confirmed that: permission was being obtained for 1 display on the Blestium Street Toilet block for 12 months; that permission had been granted for 1 display in a shop window at Agincourt Square for 3 months; and, 1 at the Shire Hall for 2 months before it is placed at the Leisure Centre long term. He confirmed that QR codes would be included on the displays and that the codes would take users to their website which would show walks that start and finish in Monmouth. The representative anticipates that the new proposal will cost less than the original and he confirmed that any underspend would be returned to the committee.</p> <p>Councillors were fully supportive of the new proposal.</p> <p><i>It was <b>resolved</b> to reinstate standing orders.</i></p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to approve the change of purpose for the community grant awarded to the Monmouth Hillwalking and Rambling Club in 2019/2020.</p>	
47.	<p><b>Committee expenditure</b></p> <p>To review budget and approve payments and committee expenditure to date.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to approve the payments and committee expenditure to date.</p>	
48.	<p><b>Community Grants 2021-22 Tranche 1</b></p> <p>To consider and agree the recommendations of the Working Group for Community Grants 2021-22 Tranche 1 (Budget £27,000)</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Working Group members for their effort in considering the applications received. Individual members of the Working Group considered each grant application and report below.</p>	

"The Friends of Dixton Church (Friends Future Flood Action at Dixton Church)"

Cllr Bryn considered the application for the maintenance of equipment and stock held at Dixton Church that were damaged as a result of recent flooding and noted that there was a lot of detail but not sufficient information as to the purpose and benefit of the project. Concerns were raised as the application has come from a Church and "places of worship" are excluded from the application process. This coupled with the lack of information meant that Councillors were not content to accept this application for a community grant.

- a) It was **resolved** to refuse the application from the Friends of Dixton Church as the funds were for the maintenance of the church rather than for the benefit of the wider community.

Monmouth Cricket Club

Cllr Bryn confirmed that the application from the Cricket Club for the purchase of equipment and game day shirts for a female team that would join the local Softball League satisfied a number of the Wellbeing Goals and that all relevant information for consideration had been provided.

- b) It was **resolved** to accept the application from Monmouth Cricket Club for "Women and Girls in Cricket" and to grant the sum of £527.00.

Rockfield Community Garden

Cllr Jackson-Graham advised the committee that the application for improvements to the vegetable garden area and publicly accessed sensory garden was well prepared and that the project would benefit many people in the local community as well as those who used the Community Centre and satisfies the Wellbeing Goals.

- c) It was **resolved** to accept the application from Rockfield Community Garden for the improvements to the vegetable garden and sensory garden and to grant the sum of £2,017.00.

Monmouth Sports Association Monmouth Tennis Club

Cllr Jackson-Graham confirmed that the application for the resurfacing of the tennis courts was good, and that it covered the Wellbeing Goals but advised that the application is for retrospective funding as the project has been completed but has a funding shortfall. The Officer confirmed that there is no guidance on retrospective applications included in the terms and conditions and so it is for the committee to decide whether to accept the application or not.

- d) It was **resolved** to accept this application from Monmouth Sports Association Monmouth Tennis Club to cover a shortfall in funds for the project to resurface the tennis courts, despite it being a retrospective application, due to the impact of COVID 19 on the ability to fund raise and to grant the sum of £2,000.00.

Monmouth Cycling Club

Cllr Dewhurst told the committee that the application was to facilitate a "Learn to Ride" course on balance bikes for 2-5 year olds and that the application

	<p>satisfied the Council’s criteria and that it addressed all of the Wellbeing Goals.</p> <p>e) It was <b>resolved</b> to accept this application from Monmouth Cycling Club for the “Learn to Ride” course and to grant the sum of £1,000.00.</p> <p><u>Rock up and Run</u> Cllr Dewhurst advised the committee that the application was to train 3 members of the group to become running coaches and that it appeared to satisfy the Wellbeing Goals.</p> <p>f) It was <b>resolved</b> to accept this application from Rock Up and Run for the training of 3 members to become running coaches and to grant the sum of £960.00.</p> <p><u>Monmouth Sports Association</u> Tthis application for improved safety and security for the users of the Monmouth Sports Ground appeared to meet the Wellbeing Goals.</p> <p>g) It was <b>resolved</b> to accept this application from Monmouth Sports Association for improved security in the Monmouth Sports Ground and to grant the sum of £1,308.00.</p> <p>After some discussion, it was agreed that the template application form would assist in providing the information required to properly assess grant applications.</p> <p>h) It was <b>resolved</b> to prepare a template application form that would show future applicants how the form is expected to be completed to ease the decision-making process.</p>	<p><b>C. Williams</b></p>
<p><b>49.</b></p>	<p><b>Kings Fee Noticeboard</b> To consider the purchase of a new noticeboard for Kings Fee to replace the current one which has sustained considerable weather damage.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to purchase the noticeboard from the Noticeboard Company for the cost of £209.00 to be paid from the Communication Budget (Budget code 4223).</p> <p><i>This agenda item will be considered by the People and Places Committee as Cllr Christopher seconded the motion and he is no longer a member of the committee and could not be in attendance ex-officio.</i></p>	<p><b>C. Williams</b></p>
<p><b>50.</b></p>	<p><b>Monmouth Music Festival 2021</b> To note that the Monmouth Music Festival 2021 has been cancelled and to consider approaching the Festival Committee about the possibility of organising and funding a smaller scale event later in the year dependent on any restrictions in place following the pandemic.</p> <p>Councillors felt that it was not suitable to suggest a smaller scale event but to instead show the committee’s full support of the Festival Committee and any plans they may have for future events.</p>	

	<p>It was <b>resolved</b> to respond to the Festival Committee stating that the Committee would support any future plans they may have.</p>	<p><b>C. Williams</b></p>
<p><b>51.</b></p>	<p><b>Policing in Monmouth</b>  To consider and agree writing a letter to the Chief Inspector of Gwent Police regarding the lack of police presence in Monmouth on the weekend.</p> <p>Cllr Christopher provided a verbal report to the committee regarding his recent conversation with a local PCSO following large gatherings in Two River Meadow. He confirmed that local police have stated more help is needed in Monmouth on the weekend. Consideration was given to providing more bins and a CCTV camera in the area.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to write a letter to the Chief Inspector of Gwent Police regarding the lack of policing in Monmouth on the weekend.</p> <p><i>This agenda item will be considered by the People and Places Committee as Cllr Christopher proposed the motion and he is no longer a member of the committee and could not be in attendance ex-officio.</i></p>	<p><b>C. Williams</b></p>
<p><b>52.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Cllr Dewhurst confirmed that this was the final meeting of the Community Affairs Committee and that the new People and Places Committee will have its first meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhurst formally thanked Cllr Blair for her time as Chair of the Committee.</p>	

**Meeting Closed: 20:37**