

**MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

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**DRAFT Minutes of the  
Extraordinary Full Council Meeting  
held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm  
held via BT Telephone Conference Call**

**Present: Chair:** Cllr C Blair  
Cllr T Christopher (Deputy Mayor)  
Cllr M Feakins (Mayor)  
Cllr R Jupp  
Cllr J Lucas  
Cllr R Smith  
Cllr S White

Cllr E Bryn  
Cllr A Dewhurst  
Cllr J Gunter  
Cllr A Legg  
Cllr R Roden  
Cllr J Treharne

**D. McNeill (Locum Clerk/RFO)  
4 members of the press and public**

<b>151.</b>	<b>To receive apologies for absence.</b> Apologies were received and the reasons for absence accepted from Cllr K Jackson-Graham; apologies were received from Cllr K. Breeze.
<b>152.</b>	<b>To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.</b>
<b>153.</b>	<p><b>Public Participation</b> <i>To receive questions from members of the public for a maximum of 10 minutes. (During this time of remote meetings any members of public who wish to speak/ask a question must email their request in by the Friday prior to the meeting)</i></p> <p>Laura McCartney, Chair of the ACE Festival Group gave an outline of the proposals for the climate change festival seeking the financial support of the town council. There are also six key areas of activity for climate change. Community involvement is key to the festival and supporting climate change in Monmouth. Examples of activities linking the festival and supporting local businesses was provided as well as outlining involvement with schools and local college students. The ethos of the festival is to embrace community spirit and foster good will. Nowhere else is undertaking this type of activity on climate change, it is unique and ground-breaking and the proposed documentary style film will help to put Monmouth on the map as national TV channels have expressed interest. At the AGM this Thursday, festival dates and social distancing requirements will be reviewed. The County Council and Government (David Davis has agreed to attend) are supporting the festival.</p> <p>The Acting Treasurer, Martin Sweeney updated on the financial position for the festival noting that the headline cost is £15K but they are applying for funding from AONB, which will match fund up to 50% of costs; they have secured further funding of £3K for a</p>

	<p>specific element of the event costs. Therefore the amount they are seeking from MTC towards the festival cost is now reduced to £4,760.</p>
154.	<p><b>Minutes for Approval</b> To approve Full Council Minutes for the remote meeting held on 14/12/2020. It was <b>Resolved</b> to approve the Full Council Minutes for the remote meeting held on 14/12/2020 as a correct record.</p>
155.	<p><b>IRPW Determinations</b> To approve the amounts in Statutory Determinations 43, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 50 in the February 2020 IRPW Report.</p> <p>a) It was <b>resolved</b> to approve an annual payment of £500 each to members in recognition of specific responsibilities (specifically chairmanship of a committee) in accordance with Determination 43 of the February 2020 IRPW Report (which is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses); and</p> <p>b) It was <b>resolved</b> to adopt all other discretionary Determinations specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45 (travel costs)</li> <li>• 46 (overnight subsistence costs)</li> <li>• 47 (financial loss compensation)</li> <li>• 49 (£1,500 mayoral responsibility)</li> <li>• 50 (£500 deputy mayoral responsibility).</li> </ul> <p><i>It was noted that as all members have an interest in this matter, no member should be required to declare one.</i></p>
156.	<p><b>Climate Change Emergency</b> To consider the detailed proposals for climate change measures and determine an amount to allocate in the 2021/22 budget for same.</p> <p>Cllr Blair presented her report.</p> <p>Concern was expressed by several councillors that as a result of Covid, people in their wards are experiencing extreme hardship and it would be difficult to justify the level of expenditure proposed in the report for climate change. The reduction in the amount of funding requested from the council for the festival was welcomed but it was felt that the timing was not right to employ a sustainability officer given the pandemic and the recent reduction in staffing numbers. It was suggested that consideration be given to deferring the festival for a year given the current situation. Many of the initiatives in the report were generally supported but it was felt that with the severe effects of the pandemic, the timing wasn't right to take them forward.</p> <p>a) It was <b>resolved</b> not to include funding for the sustainability officer in the budget for 2021/22 but this does not exclude the matter being considered in future.</p> <p>b) It was <b>resolved</b> to support the festival up to £4,760 subject to achieving match funding.</p> <p>c) It was <b>resolved</b> to contribute towards the cost of the festival from general reserves</p>

	<p>at the appropriate time.</p> <p><i>Cllr Lucas left the meeting at 8.20pm</i></p> <p>d) It was <b>resolved</b> not to support the purchase of gazebos at this time.</p> <p>e) It was <b>resolved</b> to support the library of baby things with funding of £1,000 to be allocated in the budget for 2021/22.</p> <p>f) It was <b>resolved</b> to support the green spaces tree planting with further funding of £1,000 to be allocated in the budget for 2021/22.</p> <p>Discussion was held about allocating a further £1,000 to the climate change emergency budget to bring the amount to £3,000 in accordance with the current year's allocation.</p> <p>g) It was <b>resolved</b> not to allocate any further funds to the climate change emergency budget allocation for 2021/22 but that any in-year proposals could be considered by Full Council to be paid from general reserves.</p>
<p><b>157.</b></p>	<p><b>Budget 2021/22</b></p> <p>To agree the budget and determine the precept demand for the 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>The locum clerk presented her report which set out the current and anticipated levels of general reserves which are considered to be higher than necessary. She noted that Council could consider reducing the budget this year and allocating funds from general reserves to make up the shortfall however it was noted it is harder to increase the budget again in future years. Alternatively, future projects could be funded from general reserves rather than budgeting for them.</p> <p>Councillors were mindful of the severe hardship faced by the community as a result of the current pandemic and determined not to allocate any further funds to the budget despite the £12,134 shortfall compared to the 2020/21 financial year. With the adjustment made to reflect the £2,000 agreed above for the climate change allocation, the total budget (and therefore precept) figure amounted to £383,261.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to set a budget and precept of £383,261, which represents a reduction of £13,134 from the 2020/21 financial year and to fund any future projects from general reserves.</p> <p>With the increased taxbase and the reduction in precept demand, this represents a reduction in the cost per Band D household of £3.73 to £70.78.</p> <p>It was noted that existing earmarked reserves have been approved by previous resolutions of Council.</p>
<p><b>158.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next scheduled remote meeting will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7:00pm.</p>

The meeting ended at 20.55pm