



M120.2 Assembly Member's Meeting. Preliminary arrangements had been made for LVA Members to join Monmouth Town Council Members on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 for their meeting.

M120.3 The Charter. Yes, there had been further "meetings" but it would appear without evolving a working document!. The latest information was that the Charter being used by Cornwall is to be copied.

M120.4 LVA-owned Items. Cllr Anthony Vines had obtained possession of the *Hand Bells* which were housed in a substantial wooden chest. He had brought them to the Meeting. Members were pleased of the opportunity to inspect them; this had been their first time.

### **M121 Correspondence and Consultations.**

M121.1 From GAVO – Voluntary Voice – Autumn issue. One article concerned Ruth Marks, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. She had assumed the additional role of being appointed the head of the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action which focuses on dementia, personalised support, domiciliary support, extra care and sheltered housing.

M121.2 Old Documents presented to the Council. The Clerk had spent several days sorting out the vast assortment (thousands of pieces of paper) which had accumulated over decades. These had included 'petty-cash' type receipts, copies of minutes, planning applications, returned bank cheques, copies of letters received by the Council but few responses to such. Some of the hard-bound documents concerning the old Monmouth District Council; the Clerk had left these at the Shire Hall for interest or disposal.

Although the volume of documents was such that it precluded individual attention (photos passed around), the Clerk had passed on to several Members those documents which could have been of interest to them as individuals or Councillors. The vast majority had been taken to MCC's Troy recycling skip.

The Clerk had extracted and copied to Members for advance perusal extracts from past minutes which related to items currently under discussion! These included Skenfrith War Memorial, Llangattock Churchyard wall, driveway to St Cadoc's Church, Skenfrith Sewerage Scheme, Hand-bells and Rockfield B4233 Z-bend roadside fencing.

M121.3 From MCC – Emergency Contacts Directory. The names were to remain as Cllr Ray Bowen and the Clerk.

M121.4 From MCC 'Shaping our Future' '2014 Improvement Plan'. The Clerk had copied this leaflet to each Member.

M121.5 From OVW – The annual invitation for Community Councils to place the names of their chairperson in a draw for a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

**M122.1 Applications received and Recommended for Approval**

DC/2014/01334 – Celyn Farm, Dawn of Day – Change of use of redundant barn provide guest accommodation for Celyn Farm.

/01347 – Old Oak Barn, Llanvolda – Alterations to single storey wing at front of house.

/01095 - South Dwelling, Gabbs Hill, Maypole – Removal of conditions 5,6, and 7 of previous application ref DC/2011/00544.

/01093 – North Dwelling Gabbs Hill, Maypole. – As above.

/01303 - Bryn Afon, St Maughans – Demolition of two existing conservatories, replace with new extension to provide new kitchen and dining room, new first floor extension to bedroom 1 to provide new ensuite bathroom and dressing room.

/01277 – Ty Uchaf, St Maughans, Alterations and Extension.

/01169 - Lower Barn, Rockfield – Proposed extensions to existing converted barn to provide shed and biomass heating fuel store with office accommodation above and entrance porch with recycling and coat storage.

/01285 - Callens Croft – Erection of new double garage.

**M122.2 Approvals granted by MCC**

DC/2014/00649 – Ivy Cottage, Hendre – Annex for dependant relatives.

/01069 – Woodside House, Maypole – Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of new timber shed.

**M122.3 Documents received from MCC**

‘Build Your Own Affordable Home’. This explained the single plot rural exception sites. This was to be placed in the ‘Affordable Homes’ file.

LDP ‘Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance’. This was to be placed in the LDP Supplementary Guidance File.

‘Protected Trees’ Each Members was provided with a copy for retention/guidance.

**M123 Financial Matters****M123.1 Authorisations**

Members resolved to approve the following expenditure: £15.00 for MCC for Room Hire : £103.00 to SLCC for Annual Membership.

**M123.2 Budget for 2015/2016**

The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer presented Members with a Budget totalling £,9604.00. Following deliberation, they resolved to approve this total.

Having studied the anticipated expenditure to 30.03.2015 and balances of the Treasurers Account and Business Account plus the December section present year's Precept, Members resolved to authorise the Clerk Precept for £9,000.00.

#### M123.4 End of Year External Audit

Having become aware that with effect from next year, Parish Councils in England with a budget less than £25,000 were to be exempt from their Audit Office external audit, the Clerk had written to the office of the Auditor General for Wales asking whether the same was to be applied in Wales. In his reply, their Mr Deryck Evans had stated in the last paragraph,

"From 2015 – 16, the audit arrangements in Wales are changing and aim to help councils to improve their governance arrangements. Our report on the 2012-13 audit round sets out the proposed changes in total". Each Member was provided with a copy of the full letter.

### **M124 Highways/Footpaths/Transport**

M124.1 Map as used by MCC to declare temporary closures. Having been unable to identify road closures recently published by MCC in press Notices, the Clerk had requested and received a copy of their map showing minor road numbers. Although It was of benefit to this Council, Cllr Graham Edmunds was of the opinion that it was a peculiar method of announcing closures which the public could not identify. Members were of the same opinion.

M124.2 Highway Drainage. Problems were becoming acute especially as standing water was not only confined to blocked drains but also to drain covers that had been allowed to disappear into the kerbside. There were other reasons, with Cllr Desmond Pugh pointing out that the R23 (by the old Priory) was often impassable due to standing water.

M124.3 Extra Problems. As delivery and collection 8-wheeled lorries were now an every-day sight, the problems within this Community Council highways (not a single A-road) were often becoming acute, especially during night hours.

M124.4 Warning Signs in remote areas. Cllr Ray Bowen gave examples of instances in the Llanfaenor area. These were totally unnecessary and had been produced at a cost which could have been better used for drainage. County Cllr Ruth Edwards agreed entirely with him and would endeavour to find out who authorised the work and its cost.

M124.5 MCC's 'Local Transport Plan'. This was a 50-page consultation document .It had been passed to Cllr Graham Edmunds to decide on the extent of the response to its questionnaire.

### **M125 Environment/Waste/Recycling**

Green Waste. The following is the latest statement from MCC.

“What difference has this made? The amount of garden waste collected at kerbside reduced by 20% but garden waste deposited at Civic Amenity sites increased by 50%. Treatment costs are cheaper at Civic Amenity sites than from kerbside collections which resulted in a saving of around £50,000. In addition to this saving a total of £173,968 income was generated from the service”.

### **M126 Education and Lifelong Learning.**

MCC has stated, “We will provide an improved education provision for Monmouthshire”. The following is an extract:

“Assessment 2013/14 - Adequate – Strengths just outweigh weaknesses”

“We have been making progress in the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to address the issues raised by the Estyn Inspection. We have also been making good progress with our 21<sup>st</sup> century schools programme. Improved pupil tracking is now in place and the majority of performance indicators are improving. However the attainment gap between those who receive free school meals and those who do not remains wide. We expect to see exam results in Monmouthshire rival the best in Wales, we are not there yet but expect to give a more positive assessment next year when the 2014 exam results are taken into account”.

### **M127 Health and Wellbeing**

Reference was made to Shingles vaccinations. Since September 2013 this has been available on the NHS in Wales for certain categories of persons who should enquire of their doctor as individuals. There is also the opportunity for older persons to discuss it with their doctor at their annual visit at the surgery.

### **M128 Members’/Clerk’s Reports.**

18<sup>th</sup> November. Cllrs Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, Yvonne Price and Desmond Pugh as well as the Clerk attended the Police evening meeting at Abergavenny.

27<sup>th</sup> November Cllr Len Lane and the Clerk attended the OVW AGM at Usk.

### **M129 Churchyard**

M129.1 Perimeter Wall. A check was to be made concerning a certain section.

M129.2. In addition to old extracts of minutes already circulated to Members, that of July 1979 made reference to problems with “hillocks and tump removals” also “need to remove kerbs”, also “difficulty of maintaining dangerous graves opening up”.

Mention was also made that no addresses were available for 252 graves.(ie resting places).

### **M 130 War Memorials**

The Clerk had taken the precaution of writing to Aon , the Insurers informing them

that the Council had responsibility for two War Memorials. He had pointed out that the Clerk as Churchyard Safety Officer carried out and recorded safety checks for stability and integrity in the Churchyard as well as the War Memorials.

**M131 Date of Next Meeting**

At Hilston Par, commencing at 7.30pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**M132 Comments, etc by County Cllr Ruth Edwards**

These had been noted by Members when discussing previous items.

**M133 Community Council Boundaries**

Nothing new to report.

In closing the Meeting, Chairman Cllr Graham Edmunds  
Thanked Cllr Ruth Edwards for attending  
And  
Wished all present a Very Happy Christmas

**Roy Nicholas**  
**Monmouth**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Minutes Approved**

**Chairman**

**Dated**

**MMXIV**