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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Central Mon Area Committee held
at Raglan Old School Village Hall, Raglan. NP15 2EN on Wednesday, 11th October, 2017
at 10.00 am

PRESENT: County Councillor M. Feakins (Chairman)
County Councillor L. Jones (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: R. John, B. Strong, P. Clarke, D. Blakebrough,
P. Jones, R. Roden and J. Treharne

Also in attendance Councillor F. Cotton

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicola Perry Senior Democracy Officer

APOLOGIES:

Councillors R. Edwards and V. Smith

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. To receive minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Central Mon Area Committee held on 21st June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Vision, Role and Responsibility: Objectives and Strategy

Following discussions at the previous meeting, the Chair opened the meeting with an opportunity to reflect on what the committee wished to achieve, noting the importance of creating a sense of direction, rather than solely dealing with matters on an ad-hoc basis. It was hoped Town and Community Councils would be included with the same strategy.

We recognised the distinction between what could be achieved through area committees and cluster groups, and recognised that an understanding between the groups would be helpful.

The starting point for cluster groups stemmed from the Wellbeing Act, set up to gather information from the Wellbeing Assessment. Whereas area committees provide community engagement, dealing with issues in particular areas.

The Chair suggested we set up a forum to enable and empower Town and Community Councils, providing a guidance toolkit/template.

We heard that Monmouth Town Council are keen to work with community councils, and agreed that clusters could work but needed direction. MTC have applied for funding with the intention of holding a mini conference for the benefit of Town and Community Councillors, community groups and residents. The range of matters would include community engagement, innovative

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practice, all based around the wellbeing framework, and intended to create a vision for Monmouth.

Members raised concerns around the areas included in the clusters, particularly noting the Usk and Monmouth areas. We heard that Raglan in particular should be in the Monmouth Town Cluster.

It was proposed that, as a committee, we set up 2 forums or working groups, being:

- Usk Cluster Group Forum
- Monmouth Town Cluster Group Forum

These groups should meet every 6 weeks to engage with existing cluster groups, and create, within the forum, toolkits to enable the clusters to produce spatial and wellbeing plans. We recognised that MCC officers need to be on board with the strategy to ensure a central template.

The Chair added that the existing function of the committee to look at specific area issues would remain. Area Issues to be a standing item on the agenda.

4. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting as 31st January 2018 at 10.00am

We agreed the date of next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am