

**Minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting  
held Shire Hall, Monmouth  
on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor S. White (Chair)

County Councillors: D. Blakebrough, P. Clarke, E. Hackett Pain,  
R.J.C. Hayward, P. Jones, V. Smith, B. Strong and A. Wintle.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. D. McCarty - Area Services Officer  
Mrs S. King - Senior Democratic Services Officer

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Mr B. Daggar - Trellech Community Council  
Councillor J. Hall - Monmouth Town Council  
Mr R.G. Nicholas - Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

1. We elected County Councillor S. White as Chairman of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee.

**APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

2. We appointed County Councillor B. Strong as Vice Chairman of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors G.C. Burrows and R. Edwards.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. There were no interests declared by Members at the meeting.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

5. The Chairman thanked the committee for her appointment and reflected on the previous year. We noted the following points:

**Agenda item 4**

**Minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting  
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on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

- Thanks were expressed to members of town and community councils who had attended and contributed.
- During the previous year, discussions related to issues such as, highways, Gateway Project proposals, Usk to Pontypool cycle route, junction improvement at Wyebridge, Wye River Festival, Management of A boards and Car Park review.
- Officers have advised of work in the area that impacts on communities, but also how we can work more efficiently and effectively. Members of the public have supported meeting and we welcome the continued contributions.
- Updates from the Area Services Officer have included many issues, some of which are, Charter meeting updates, CSAT, MOD community covenants, Grass Routes, Rural Forum, Monmouth Partnership, Allotments, Rockfield Road development scheme, Gateway project, community led plans, Monmouth links, Usk Cycling, Cemetery, Air Quality issues, Funding and Festivals and Events.
- The committee did not establish any working groups, many issues raised have been dealt with by the appropriate officer and local ward member.
- Continued thanks to officers who have supported the committee. Thanks to Rachel Rawlings for many years support and wish her well with her secondment.
- Enjoyed year as Chair of Central Monmouthshire Area Committee and very rewarding to hear about the work and commitment, from staff, members and communities, in making sure Monmouthshire remains special place to live and work.

The Chairman invited members of the public present to put questions to the Area Committee, or to raise issues of concern:

- County Councillor V.E. Smith raised points on behalf of a member of the public who had been unable to attend:

*‘Some time ago received a presentation regarding cycle routes. Active bikers group in Usk and it is an area which is progressing, the planning application needs mice/bats surveys etc. looking for funding so that application can be submitted for cycle route to Little Mill. Group have been active for a number of years, particularly of interest as Monmouthshire County Council are seeking to promote the county as a cycling venue. Worthwhile, active and dynamic group and would welcome small financial support to develop the route.’*

**Minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting  
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on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

In response, the Area Services Officer advised that, a feasibility study had been undertaken and hedge cutting may form part of a solution.

In terms of funding, the area committee could not contribute to non-capital projects, however, the relevant officer would be advised and the group would be brought to his attention. It was requested that the committee could write to the transport officer, on behalf of the group.

**MINUTES**

6. The minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

- In response to Mr. Nicholas, 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph –  
*responses had been received ~~delete 13.~~*

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATO SUMMIT,  
FROM GWENT POLICE**

7. We received an apology from Gwent Police, who had advised unexpectedly that were unable to attend.

**TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF THE AREA SERVICES  
OFFICER, CENTRAL MONMOUTHSHIRE**

8. We received a report from the Area Services Officer, which updated on issues in Central Monmouthshire:

**CSAT**

*Two safety events held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May in conjunction with cycling road race.* Members of the public were provided with leaflets on the National Cycle Road Race and information on basic safety measures.

**New groups**

A public meeting would be held on 19th June at the Shire Hall, interested parties were invited to attend, to join a group who want to combat litter and dog faeces problems on Chippenham.

**Cemeteries**

Poppy seeds had been planted in all Monmouthshire Council run cemeteries this year, in support of World War 1 commemorations. A report would be considered by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, in relation to the site at Pennalt and members would be updated at the next meeting.

**Minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting  
held Shire Hall, Monmouth  
on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

The Area Services Officer advised that committee views would be forwarded to the relevant officer, in relation to concerns expressed regarding the debris caused by machinery used for cutting and clearing grass in cemeteries.

**Wye River Festival**

The festival was a huge success with many local people in our towns and villages getting involved.

**Rural Forum**

Over the last two meetings, Ian Hardman MCC Emergency Planning Manger talked to the forum about how operations are put in place when emergencies occur in our County and wider area and Ben Winstanley MCC Sustainability Surveyor talked to the forum about Solar Farms and Green energy. Information from both officers was well received by members of the forum

We were informed that an event was being held at Mitchell Troy on 17<sup>th</sup> June from 7-9pm, in relation to alternative energy.

**Usk Community Hub**

The project mandate had been discussed, in relation to cut backs and extended services. Usk would be the pilot scheme and it was intended to close the library and community education building, and to merge in the old youth club building.

A survey will be launched by the 6th June and Community Engagement events at the new venue will be held on the 18th and 21st June. The Community Delivery Team see this as an opportunity to look at who we run services and offer them in a different more efficient way. Further reports would be provided when the project was completed.

Mixed views had been received from the community. The aim would be to ensure that uses of all 3 buildings were utilised and to identify where people could be accommodated.

**Usk Air Quality**

The group met on 8th May to check on any progress with dealing with Air Quality issues in Usk. A new cycle rack has been installed near the Maryport Street car park to help encourage more people to cycle in and around the Usk area. The police will actively be stopping lorries passing through the town to check if they are delivering locally.

Concerns were expressed regarding the number of vehicles travelling through Usk town centre. It was requested that a letter could be sent to the Chief Constable to highlight unease within the community, he could subsequently contact companies and alternative routes for vehicles could be investigated.

We resolved that a letter would be written to the Police Chief Constable, which advised that the issue had been discussed at the Central

**Minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting  
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Monmouthshire Area committee meeting. There was a requirement for the police to follow up with two particular haulage companies, which caused significant concern, due to the number of vehicles travelling through the town.

In relation to cycle racks, we agreed that a letter would be sent to the transport officer, for racks to be installed, by the toilet block (6), by Chinese restaurant (4). The group would welcome provision outside the Alway Inn, but street clutter was a concern, welcome the provision outside the Shire Hall.

**National Road Cycling Championships**

Plans are now well underway for this event. A Big Bash event will be held in Bailey Park on the 28th & 29th of June for the public and competitors to enjoy. A jigsaw competition will be launched in the towns where the race passes through. Volunteers are being sought to help marshal the road closures.

We were advised that some Lanhennock/Llangybi roads would be closed for 6 hours. Local members expressed concern regarding consultation with Councillors elected to represent the wards.

Members were frustrated that there had been lack of communication.

**Appointments for members**

We confirmed appointments of members for the following groups:

- Vision Monmouth – Councillor S. White
- CSAT – Councillor S. White
- Grass Routes Partnership – Councillor B. Strong

**WORK PROGRAMME**

9. We received and noted the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee Work Programme and the following items were raised.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10. We noted the future dates of Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meetings, as follows:
  - **10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – 2.00pm**
  - **11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – 2.00pm**
  - **29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – 2.00pm**

**The meeting terminated at 3.25 p.m.**

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