

**Minutes of the Lower Wye Area Committee held at  
Caerwent Village Hall  
on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 10:00am**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor: A. Webb (Chairman)

County Councillors: D.L.S. Dovey, G.L. Down, P.S. Farley and P. Murphy.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr A. Browne	-	Area Services Officer
Mrs S. King	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Inspector R. Giles	-	Gwent Police
Mrs S. Dovey	-	Chepstow Town Council
Mrs B. Moore	-	Shirenewton Community Council
Mr J. Harris	-	Public resident
Mr A. Newman	-	Public resident
Mr G. Brown	-	Facilities Manager, Chepstow Racecourse

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

County Councillor A.E. Webb was elected as Chair of the Lower Wye Area Committee meeting.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

County Councillor D. Dovey was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Lower Wye Area Committee.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D. Batrouni, R. Greenland, P. Hobson and A.C. Watts.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

County Councillor A.E. Webb declared a personal interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, as a member of the Licensing Committee.

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**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and we noted the following questions:

- a) Mr A. Newman, Local Resident addressed the committee as follows:
- Lack of feedback when requests are made and difficult for the public to contact Monmouthshire County Council.
  - Contact numbers for one stop shops may not link to the local area, e.g. if Chepstow is busy then calls are diverted to another One Stop Shop.
  - Concerns that there were no liners in dog litter bins, previously this was in place but had now stopped. Further information had not been available from Community Councils.

In response, we noted Mr Newman's frustrations regarding not being able to easily contact officers within the authority. We advised that the appropriate officer would be contacted and clarification requested in relation to cleaning of bins.

- b) Mr J. Harris, Local Resident, addressed the committee:
- Question related to policies and procedures for highways authority and local authority.
  - Environmental enhancement scheme in Caerwent, which had been well received, however, there had been issues requiring clarification regarding whether the area was a home zone and whether extra space would be returned to the community.

In response, we noted the queries and advised that clarification would be obtained.

**6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

We resolved to confirm the minutes of Lower Wye Area Committee held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman subject to the following highlighted addition:

- **Page 6 – 6<sup>th</sup> Bullet, *Seven* change to **Severn****
- **Page 6 - 6<sup>th</sup> Bullet to be changed to: *Members commented regarding the lease of the Severn Bridge Car park effective concealed subsidy.***
- **Page 9 – Item 10. Change spelling to **BOARD****

**7. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR NATO, FROM GWENT POLICE**

We welcomed Inspector Roland Giles to the meeting to brief the Committee on preparations for the NATO Summit to be held at the Celtic Manor Resort on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

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September 2014, hosted by the Prime Minister, David Cameron. The Inspector stressed the enormity of the event in terms of policing and ensuring that the event is both safe and successful.

The potential for disruption to communities was difficult to determine at present given that the agenda for the NATO Summit would not be presented to Gwent Police by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office until mid – July. 10 000 additional police personnel would be drafted in to support Gwent Police and that these officers would be accommodated locally. We heard that the police were keen to maintain normality within the community but the event would impact in neighbourhood policing capacity. We received assurance that the situation would be closely monitored by Local Commanders.

We welcomed notice that the Police were working closely with local authorities, the EAS and schools and any school closures would be subject to local decision making.

We noted the following key information:

- 160 VIP's, from 28 members countries, would be in attendance at the Summit along with 1500 journalists/media.
- Venues in the area will be used to accommodate visiting delegates
- All host accommodation sites would be swept and locked down prior to the event.
- The M4 would remain open but would carry all rolling movements for VIPs.
- Avon and Somerset Police would be providing significant support to Heddlu Gwent Police.

Inspector Giles reiterated that that the Police aimed to create a professional, protected environment during the Summit.

The Committee expressed thanks to Inspector Giles.

## **8. AREA SERVICES OFFICER UPDATE REPORT**

- i) The Chair welcomed Mr G. Brown, Facilities Manager, Chepstow Racecourse. Mr Brown outlined responsibilities of the job role, which included looking after infrastructure and maintaining the facility. Objective would be to ensure that the racecourse is fit for purpose, whatever the purpose will be, integral parts fall under role.

Further engagement work was ongoing to promote the venue and increase visitors to the park.

During discussion we noted the following points:

- Members welcomed the attendance from Mr Brown and commended the racecourse as a venue for events. It was suggested that work could be closely undertaken with the Town Council.

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- Signage was highlighted as an issue, temporary signage for events required more attention.
- We discussed events that had been held within the county where some problems had occurred (for examples in relation to routes on a cycling event) and the extent to which the racecourse management would be involved, we noted that management would be responsible for issues within the racecourse, however, de-brief sessions had occurred to discuss events.
- Two business development officers had been employed and cancelled events would be rearranged.
- It was noted that the authority would monitor events licenses for venues.

We thanked Mr Brown for attending the meeting and for providing an overview of the facilities management of Chepstow Racecourse.

- ii) We received the Area Services Officer Update report and in doing so we noted the following:

- **Shirenewton Community Council Representation at Area Committee**  
The Area Services Officer has been informed that Beverley Moore will – in future – represent Shirenewton Community Council at Area Committee meetings.

- **Damage to Chepstow Cemetery Perimeter Fence**  
A recent road traffic accident resulted in damage to the fencing and supporting posts near the entrance to the “new” cemetery on Mathern Road. The Police were called to the scene to deal with the incident. It is anticipated that a full repair will have been undertaken by week ending 6th June.

- **Chepstow Marketing Group**  
The Marketing Group met on 10<sup>th</sup> June and discussed the best way to take forward marketing as a whole in Chepstow.

- **Lower Wye Community Safety Action Team**  
The Lower Wye CSAT most recently met on 29th May. A letter would be sent from the group to partners regarding attendance at the meetings.

- **Joint Rail Transport Working Group**  
The Monmouthshire Strategic Transport group had been established, via an Individual Cabinet Member Decision and meetings had been arranged.

- **South Monmouthshire Flood Forum**  
The meeting would be held at 10am on Monday 16th June.

- **Air Quality Steering Group**  
The Air Quality figures for 2013 were presented to members with the update report.

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- **Community Liaison Committee**

The most recent meeting of the Community Liaison Committee was held on 3rd April. Minutes were presented with the update report and members requested that they were kept informed.

- **Chepstow Bus Station Toilets**

Members will recall that a contribution of £14,028 was made from the Area Committee budget toward the funding of public toilets in Thomas Street. Planning was granted on 14th May but condition 4 requires a license agreement under section 50 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. It is not known how long that process will take. The Town Clerk recently met with the architect and QS to finalise the specification for the works. The whole scheme will go out to tender imminently, but works cannot start until the license agreement is in place.

- **Cycling Events**

As has been previously reported, Monmouthshire will be hosting the National Cycling Championships between 23rd and 29th June this year. It is hoped that Members will be very aware of the events through the publicity that has been undertaken and with the preparations that have been ongoing for several months.

Again, as previously reported, on 30th July, the Wales Open Criterium will bring a number of races to Chepstow itself, over the course of a few hours during the evening. This great spectacle will see riders lapping at high speed around the lower part of the town.

The committee highlighted that Highways and Management responsibility would be required prior to and after the event.

- **Environment/Capital Funds**

Members will be aware that the budget for the current financial year has been reduced from £15,000 to £5,000.

One application had been received from from the Chepstow and District Rotary club. An amount of £500 was requested as a contribution toward the cost of a project being known as Chepstow and District Rotary Club Tree Of Light Project which is estimated to cost £4,500 in total.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- The application had been considered at a previous meeting but had been refused, as further in-depth information was requested.
- The general feeling was that members could not support the application at this time.

We agreed that the application for funding was refused.

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We noted that a letter of thanks for financial support had been received from Thomas a Beckett Church, Wolvesnewton.

**9. WORK PROGRAMME**

We received and noted the Lower Wye area committee work programme.

During discussion we noted the following points:

- Further work was required to develop the work programme.
- Concerns were expressed that members of the public had not received response to queries.
- Further engagement needed with the Clerks of Town/Community Councils, via the Head of Engagement and Partnerships.
- Whole Place Information to be included on agenda of next meeting.

**10. TIMING OF MEETINGS AND DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

We noted future meetings as follows:

- 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – 10.00am
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – 10.00am
- 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – 10.00am

It was requested that the next meeting could be held in Tintern.

**The meeting closed at 11:50am**