

## CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

Sandy Lane  
Caldicot

### Minutes of Meeting of Caldicot Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at Caldicot Day Luncheon Centre

#### PRESENT:

Cllrs P Tidmarsh, Mayor	J Haskey
R J Higginson	G Jenkins
D Ashwin [6.40pm]	D Jones
C Babb	J Marshall
E Davies	J Roberts [left 8.05pm]
D Evans	R Stewart
J Harris [6.35pm]	

**In attendance:** G McIntyre, A Sandiford, Members of the Public

#### 7665 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Daniels, W Edwards, R King and K Thomas

#### 7666 Open Forum for Public Participation

The following issues were discussed in the Open Forum for Public Participation [Bullet points only]:

- Letter printed in Free Press 19.4.06 in response to recent article re: car parking charges in Caldicot
- Consultation re: bus stop – Longfellow Road opposite Cwrt Severn

#### 7667 Declarations of Interest

**Cllr D Ashwin declared an interest in Mon CC matters**

**Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in Min 7670 (10)**

**Cllr J Marshall declared an interest in Min 7670 (9) and (10)**

**Cllr R Stewart declared an interest in Planning matters**

Further declarations of interest to be identified under the relevant Minute

#### 7668 To Approve the Minutes of Full Town Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006 [Circ]

The Minutes were approved subject to the following

**Min 7655(6a)** ....criticism of ... delete "*Town Council*" insert "*Mon CC*"

**Min 7657 (A)** insert "*Cllr R King declared an interest in this matter*"

**Min 7662 (1a)** It was clarified that information sought by Cllr R Stewart was passed to the Clerk at Town Council's request. The Clerk advised that delegated powers cannot be given to individual Councillors.

#### a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Mayor signed the Minutes

**b) Matters Arising Update Sheet [Circ] – For Information**

Cllr E Davies updated Members in relation to a meeting with Mon CC, requested by residents from Severn View.

It was agreed to write again to Mon CC requesting a further meeting in this matter.

**Cllrs J Harris and R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter.**

Re: Caldicot Cemetery – It was agreed to write to Mr S Greenslade, Mon CC requesting Mon CC formally advise of its intention with regard to Caldicot Cemetery.

**7669 To Approve Wording For Inclusion in Minutes [as requested by Town Council 29.3.06] – Min 7653 relating to Min 7642 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 [Circ]**

Town Council considered the wording for inclusion in the Minutes as provided to the Clerk by Cllr J Marshall following Town Council meeting 22.2.06.

The Clerk advised Members that the circulated wording, as provided by Cllr J Marshall, could not be inserted into the Minutes as the actual wording had not been recorded at the meeting. Members were referred to previous advice from the Clerk in relation to the production of Minutes and to the potential defamatory nature of attempting to reproduce Minutes verbatim. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Reference was made to a recent Councillor training session held in Chepstow when it was clearly stated that Minutes should not be a verbatim record of the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr J Marshall and seconded by Cllr R Stewart that the wording as provided by Cllr J Marshall be inserted into the Minutes. A vote ensued: **5 For:** (Cllrs J Marshall, R Stewart, D Ashwin, J Haskey and P Tidmarsh) – **5 Against:** Cllrs G Jenkins, E Davies, D Evans, C Babb and R J Higginson) – **3 Abstentions** (Cllrs D Jones, J Roberts and J Harris). The Mayor gave a casting vote and the Proposal was carried.

It was resolved to include into the Minutes *‘During the debate on King George V Playing Fields, Cllr Higginson said..... “Look, it’s not your fault, you haven’t been on Council long, and you are still wet behind the ears”. I then responded by saying “So this is the sort of behaviour that we have become accustomed to expect from one of our more experienced Councillors?” With that Cllr Higginson promptly told me to “Shut up!”’*

**7670 Correspondence [Circ unless marked\*]**

**(1) Wales Air Ambulance**

**Request for Donation**

Town Council resolved to donate £25 to Wales Air Ambulance [RJH/JM].

**(2) Magor VAP School**

**Request for Sponsorship**

Town Council resolved to donate £100 to Magor VAP School in sponsorship of trophies for Caldicot Schools’ sporting events [RJH/DE].

**7670 (3) Caldicot School**

**Appreciation for Donation**

Town Council noted the appreciation for £500 donation from Caldicot School towards transport costs for Caldicot School's French exchange group.

**(3a) Friends of Greater Gwent Youth Symphonia Appreciation for Donation**

Town Council noted the appreciation for £50 donation from Friends of Greater Gwent Youth Symphonia.

**(4) Cllr J Marshall b/f TC 29.3.06**

**Re Town Council meeting 22.2.06**

Town Council further considered correspondence in relation to comments made to Cllr J Marshall by Cllr R J Higginson at Town Council meeting 22.2.06, which Cllr Marshall considered to be offensive [Min 7655 (15)].

Cllr R J Higginson responded requesting in whose opinion was his "conduct unbecoming of a Councillor?" and stated if Cllr J Marshall had a complaint about him he should pursue it via the correct procedures.

Cllr Higginson referred to statements in Cllr Marshall's correspondence being of Cllr Marshall's personal opinion and stated he would offer no apology as his comments to Cllr Marshall about being "wet behind the ears" was a figure of speech indicating a lack of experience which, in his opinion, was not offensive.

Cllr Higginson also referred to the former discussion of the correspondence [TC 29.3.06] and expressed disgrace at Members who voted to discuss the correspondence in his absence.

A discussion ensued and further reference was made to Members working together for the benefit of the people of Caldicot and not battling over words. It was stated that Members had different individual characters and comments and phrases sometimes expressed during debates at meetings which should be taken "tongue in cheek" not personally.

**(5) Girlguiding Gwent**

**Re: Cancellation of Gwent International Camp**

Town Council noted correspondence advising that the Girlguiding Gwent International Camp, due to take place at David Broome Centre, Caldicot from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2006 had been cancelled.

Reference was made to the £25 donation made to Girlguiding and it was resolved not to request a refund of the donation as it was issued to Girlguiding funds.

**(6) Action 50+**

**Re: Community Hall**

Town Council considered a request for update from Action 50+ in relation to the proposed Community Hall in Caldicot. It was confirmed that Action 50+ was aware of the hire of DLC building as they were currently using the facilities.

It was resolved to acknowledge Action 50+ advising of no further developments in this matter.

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC stating Town Council's request to shorten double yellow lines at Woodstock Way will be added to its list of traffic related requests for consideration/prioritisation when the list is reviewed in 11 months time. Also that a legal Traffic Regulation Order would be required for any amendments to the double yellow lines, which would require formal consultation and advertisement, should the request be supported by Mon CC.

Traffic issues were also raised in relation to Mill Lane.

It was resolved to request a site visit of Woodstock Way and Mill Lane with Mr Brian Cleary, Mon CC.

**Cllr E Davies declared an interest in this matter**

**(8) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales      Local Gov't Ombudsman: Important Changes**

Town Council noted correspondence advising that from 1.4.06 the Commission for Local Administration in Wales will cease to exist but the role of Local Commissioner (Local Government Ombudsman) will be subsumed into the new role of Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The correspondence also advised that from 1.4.06 complaints about maladministration by Community Councils will come within the new Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

**(9) R James, Complaints Advocate      Copy Letter to Gray Hill Surgery**

Town Council considered correspondence from the Complaints Advocate submitted to the Monmouthshire Area Committee in relation to Grayhill Surgery, Caldicot.

A discussion ensued and Members were still unhappy with issues relating to Grayhill Surgery.

It was resolved to request a meeting with John Griffiths AM, Deputy Minister For Health to discuss this matter.

**Cllr J Marshall declared an interest in this matter**

**(10) Mon CC      Re: One-Way Traffic System - Caldicot Castle**

Town Council considered response from Colin Berg, Chief Executive, Mon CC stating the residents of The Lodge and Red House were consulted by Caldicot Castle Park Warden in this matter.

A discussion ensued and grave concerns were again expressed in relation to Mon CC consultation process.

Further reference was also made to the need for lighting at Caldicot Castle.

The Castle was referred to as a "wonderful facility" and it was proposed by Cllr C Babb, seconded by Cllr R Stewart and resolved to approach Mon CC with a view to Town Council administering Caldicot Castle.

**Cllrs J Harris, J Haskey, R J Higginson and J Marshall declared an interest in this matter**

**7670 (11) Cllr G Jenkins**

**Re: Caldicot Castle**

Town Council considered correspondence from Cllr Jenkins stating it had been brought to his attention that Mon CC was to reduce the opening hours of Caldicot Castle and restrict opening to April to September.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was stated that the withdrawal of services at Caldicot Castle was the result of a substantial Mon CC Lifelong, Learning and Leisure overspend rather than an issue of supply and demand. Members were “disgusted” with the proposals and it was apparent that Caldicot Castle had been “singled out”. It was also considered that the reduction in opening hours would have a negative economic impact and be detrimental to the town.

Reference was made to a further lack of Mon CC consultation and Cllr R Stewart, as County Councillor for the Castle Ward, confirmed that he had not been consulted on this issue.

It was stated that the people of Caldicot were being treated as second class citizens by having their only tourist asset being made less accessible and that increased signage and more marketing should be undertaken to promote the Castle rather than have its opening hours reduced.

Proceedings were suspended to enable Mr Graham Powell to update the historical ownership of the Castle.

Cllr R J Higginson stated he would write to Mon CC on behalf of the five Caldicot County Council Members to jointly oppose the proposed reduction in opening hours at Caldicot Castle.

It was resolved to write a strong letter of opposition to the proposed reduction in opening hours at Caldicot Castle to Peter Ellis, Director of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Mon CC and to request answers to the following questions:

Are other facilities suffering the same cutbacks?

Are other facilities treated as museums with free admission or are charges made as with the castle?

What would be the cost to the authority of free admission to the castle and how would that be offset by the impact of increasing the shop receipts?

What historical demand has there been for the castle to be open during the winter months?

What other cost saving measures have been considered?

**Cllr J Harris declared an interest in this matter**

**(11a)Mr A Easson**

**Re: Caldicot Castle**

Town Council considered correspondence from Mr A Easson relating to Mon CC decision to reduce annual opening times for Caldicot Castle and requesting Town Council consider calling a public meeting in this matter.

It was resolved:

- i) to acknowledge Mr Easson’s correspondence with a copy of Town Council’s letter to Mon CC [See (11 above)]
- ii) to forward a copy of the correspondence to Peter Ellis, Director of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Mon CC with copy to Cllr E Hackitt-Pain
- iii) await response from Mon CC prior to consideration of calling a public meeting.

**Cllr J Harris declared an interest in this matter**

**7670 (12) Cllr J Harris**

**Local Authority Resolution**

Town Council resolved to write a letter of support for the Sustainable Communities Bill to the Local Works campaign, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF.

It was further resolved to request the support of Jessica Morden MP, John Griffiths AM and Jocelyn Davies AM in this matter.

**(13) Mon CC**

**Community and Economic Development  
Scheme 2006/2007**

Town Council noted correspondence from Mon CC advising that the Community and Economic Development Scheme 2006/2007 is now open to applications.

**(14) Porton Developments Ltd**

**Re: Caldicot Town Centre**

Town Council considered correspondence from Porton Developments Ltd copying proposals to Mon CC for a canopy to be erected over the pedestrianised area in Newport Road, Caldicot as part of the proposed supermarket development.

A discussion ensued and reference was made to the 'London based' company setting "unaffordable" rates in the town. Cllr J Harris advised Members that Porton Developments Ltd had been instrumental in cutting the rents in the town by 50%.

Reference was also made to annual maintenance costs of the canopy and more information from the company was requested in order to further consider this matter.

It was stated that Mon CC was aware of the above proposals.

It was resolved that Porton Developments Ltd provide further information about their proposal or address Town Council in this matter

**(15) Mon CC**

**Launch of Portskewett Phase of Severnside  
Heritage Trail – 29.4.06**

Town Council noted details of the launch of The Portskewett Phase of 'A Walk Back in Time' on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006, 11am at The Portskewett Inn.

**(16) Cllr D Ashwin**

**Re: First Great Western Services**

Town Council resolved to write to First Great Western, Jessica Morden MP, Assembly Members, and Mon CC Highways Department expressing concerns of proposed service cuts for trains from Severn Tunnel Junction to Bristol Temple Meads from December 2006.

It was further resolved to acknowledge Ms A Thomas in this matter.

**(17) Cllr D Ashwin**

**Re: Wall Caldicot Castle Grounds [Deepweir]**

Cllr D Ashwin brought to the attention of Town Council the state of the wall at Deepweir end of Caldicot Castle resulting from an apparent road traffic accident. Cllr J Harris updated Members in relation to the repair of the wall.

**Cllr J Harris declared an interest in this matter.**

**7670 (18) Caldicot & District Royal British Legion Breakdown of Costs Remembrance Day 2005**

Town Council considered itemised breakdown of costs for Remembrance Day 2005.

Members expressed concerns over donations made via the Royal British Legion [RBL] to participating organisations in the town from Town Council donation when they were under the impression the donation to the RBL was solely for payment of the buffet following the parade.

Town Council expressed its gratitude to the RBL for organising the Remembrance Day Parade on its behalf but without appearing “mean spirited” were conscious of its legal position in relation to making donations.

It was resolved to pay future costs for the buffet following the parade [on receipt of a valid invoice] to RBL and to make any donations to participating organisations direct on recommendation of amount in conjunction with RBL.

**(19) Mrs J Jones**

**Request to Site Shed at Oakley Way Allotment**

Town Council resolved to accept the request to site a shed at Oakley Way allotments provided the plot holder accepts total liability for the shed.

**(20) Cllr R Stewart**

**Re: Observations in Recent Publications**

Cllr R Stewart referred to observations in recent publications. It was stated that this issue was political and not the business of Town Council.

**7671 Publications, Minutes, Etc [DISPLAYED]**

[A] Mon CC, Cabinet	Agenda/Mins 5.4.06, 8.3.06
[B] Plus Publishing Services	Local Council's Update Issues No 78
[C] Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Publication [Available TC 26.4.06]
[D] Mon Area CHC Committee	Agenda 25.4.06/Mins 21.3.06
[E] Mon CC Severnside Area Cttee	Agenda/Mins 19.4.06
[F] Mon CC Severnside Area Forum	Agenda/Mins 12.4.06
[G] European Union	Inforegio News no 143
[H] Local Gov't International Bureau	InterAction, Issue 19, March 2006
[I] Welsh Assembly Government	Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan
[J] One Voice Wales	Agenda Mon/Newport Area Cttee 19.4.06
[K] Borough Theatre, Abergavenny	May – August 2006
[L] Mon CC	Annual Accounts 2004/2005
[M] GAVO	Monmouthshire Network Spring 2006
[N] Monmouthshire Local Health Board	Changes to NHS Dental Services in Mon

**7672 Planning [Displayed]**

**A) Planning Applications** - None at Date of Despatch of Agenda

**B) Mon CC Planning Information**

**(i) Mon CC Planning Agendas 4.4.06, 25.4.06** – For Information

Town Council noted the above Planning Information from Mon CC

**7673 Cheque List Schedule** **Update to 31.3.06** **[Circ]**

Town Council approved the updated Cheque List Schedule as circulated.

**7674 Donations and Contributions Schedule** **Update** **[Circ]**

Town Council approved the updated Donations and Contributions Schedule as circulated.

**7675 Town Twinning – Friday 28.4.06 – Monday 1.5.06**

**a) To Note No Quorum Twinning Committee 10.4.06**

Town Council noted no quorum for Twinning Committee 10.4.06

**b) Official Civic Function 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at Choir Hall**

Town Council noted time and date for the official Civic function to be held at Choir Hall

**c) Other**

It was requested if Members had notified the Clerk of their attendances in relation to twinning

**7676 Date of Annual Meeting – 6.30 pm Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

Town Council noted the above date and time for Annual Meeting 2006.

**7677 To Arrange Date for Tendering Sub-Committee – TC Insurance Expires 1.6.06  
Bowls Green Contract Expires 30.6.06**

It was resolved to arrange a Tendering Sub-Committee meeting following the Annual Meeting. It was stated that this would be “too late” for consideration of Town Council insurance and Bowls Green Contract.

**7678 Cllr P Tidmarsh – (a) Request for Additional Telephone Line Town Council Office**

Town Council resolved to continue with current telephone arrangements in Town Council office.

**(b) Support for Three Towns Car Park Initiative [Report to Follow]**

Cllr P Tidmarsh requested this item be deferred to Town Council meeting 31.5.06 pending receipt of the Report.

**7679 Reports**

**a) Governors**

There were no Governors’ reports.

**b) Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies**

- Members were updated in relation to the proposed transfer of Citizens Advice Bureau into the Resource Centre.
- Cllr J Haskey updated Members on current crime figures following the recent meeting of South Monmouthshire Police Liaison Cttee.



**c) Other**

It was stated that Town Council representatives were not attending meetings of Outside Bodies and subsequently reporting back to Town Council. It was requested that this be taken into consideration at the Annual Meeting when representatives were nominated.

**7680 Committee – The press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information**

- **To Consider Purchase of Bowling Green Mower**

It was resolved to defer this item following consideration of Bowls Green Contract.

The meeting closed at 9pm

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**Mayor/Deputy Mayor**