

## CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of Extraordinary meeting of Town Council held at 6.30 pm on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Caldicot Town Council, Sandy Lane, Caldicot

**Present:** Cllrs: A Davies, Mayor  
D Ashwin  
A Easson  
W Conniff  
D Evans  
F J Harvey  
R J Higginson  
F Rowberry  
P Stevens  
P Watts

[In attendance: A Sandiford, Members of Public]

#### **9236 Apologies**

Apologies were received from J Haskey, M Stevens, R Stewart

#### **9237 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest

#### **9238 Suspended Proceedings**

The Mayor suspended proceedings to allow members of the public to speak - See Appendix A

#### **9239 To Approve the Minutes of Localism Working Group 24.6.14 [Circ]**

The Minutes were approved

It was requested that the Clerk is present at future meetings if available.

#### **9240 To Consider Which Option Town Council Supports in Terms of Caldicot Castle**

Members considered options (a) to (c) of the Minutes of Localism Working Group meeting 24.6.14.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed that Town Council was not in a position financially to take on the running of the castle and countryside park; although it fully supported the management being undertaken by a separate organisation and operated under the umbrella of a Local Trust in order to apply for grant funding.

Members recognised the need for the castle to be run professionally and the requirement for the support and input from local community groups and residents.

Reference was made to an independent feasibility study being required to look at how the castle could be funded and it was requested that Mon CC funds such a feasibility study. It was stated that Mon CC had not been able to produce actual figures for the running of the castle and it was requested that Mon CC Accountants be involved in a future meeting with the Localism Working Group.

A Member expressed concerns regarding employees being made fully aware of any discharge of duties to a Trust.

Another Member referred to events being held at the castle and requested who would benefit from any profits from the events. It was stated that this would be one of the areas that would need addressing.

The Mayor stressed that Town Council could only recommend the formation of a Local Trust and stated it would have no control over the running of the castle; although it is keen to be represented in future discussions with regard to the running of the castle.

**It was resolved:**

- i) to advise Mon CC that it is not in a position to take over the running of Caldicot Castle and Countryside Park, however it fully supported Option ‘C’ of the Minutes of the Town Council Localism Group meeting 24.6.14 that “Caldicot Castle could be operated under the umbrella of a Local Trust”.**
  
- ii) to request Mon CC fund an independent feasibility study into the future running of the castle.**

A recorded vote was requested:

For: Cllrs AD/DA/AE/WC/DE/FJH/RJH/FR/PS/PW

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

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Mayor/Deputy Mayor

## Appendix A

### 9238 Suspended Proceedings

The Mayor suspended proceedings to allow members of the public to speak.  
The following questions were raised.

- M Lund requested what was happening with the castle, what was its structure for the future and was it still owned by Mon CC?  
**Cllr AD advised a new Manager in post; Mon CC not in a position to subsidise as in the past. TC concerned hence reasons for meetings with Mon CC**
- C Rix requested the timescale should Mon CC not continue to run castle  
**Cllr AD advised 3 options (1) CTC take over (2) Local trust (3) Monmouthshire wide Trust – depending on decision will be a lengthy process**
- P Strong requested sight of the Mon CC report referred to by Cllr AD
- K Harris disputed the Mayor's statement that TC had done everything it could have to fight for the castle.  
**Cllr AD stated since October 2013 TC had been engaging with Mon CC regarding the future of the castle and reiterated that TC was not in a position to dictate to Mon CC.**  
**Cllr AD referred to long term maintenance of the castle requiring in the region of £1.3m but the day to day running of the castle being a different issue. TC strategy was to get the castle back on track as previous and to increase knowledge as a heritage centre.**
- P Strong urged Members not to be pushed in to a decision based on models raised by Mon CC which were not accurately portrayed.
- P Strong stated there had been no reference to the "Monmouthshire Museums Development Trust" and requested what relationship this had with Mon CC – Chairman Mr Andrew Leitch  
**Cllr AD advised TC was unaware of the Trust but he would enquire as to what it does and its credentials**
- Cllr RJH referred to the Shire Hall being an example of a local trust  
**Cllr AD stated there was no specific model for trusts**
- K Harris requested how to go forward in this matter as the castle had previously brought in visitors from all over the world and stated Mon CC information is not always correct.