

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Town Council held at 6.00pm on Tuesday,
18th October 2011 at Caldicot Town Council to discuss CCTV with Mon CC
Representatives and Inspector J Walker, Caldicot Police**

**Present: Cllrs: A Easson [chair], J Bond, D Evans, K Harris, J Haskey, R J Higginson,
R Stewart, P Watts, S Webb
Ms Tracey Harry, Head of Resources and Performance Manager, Mon CC
Mr Andrew Mason, Project Officer ASB, Mon CC
Inspector J Walker, Caldicot Police
[In attendance: G McIntyre, Clerk]**

In the absence of the Mayor, Cllr A Easson took the chair

- 1 Apologies – Cllrs M Stevens, C Botchett, E Harvey**
- 2 Declarations of Interest – Forms to be completed - None**
- 3 It was resolved to Suspend Proceedings - Representatives of Monmouthshire County Council and Inspector Walker Re: CCTV Issues**

See Appendix A [attached]

Appendix A

Cllr A Easson, Deputy Mayor, welcomed Ms T Harry, Mr A Mason and Inspector J Walker to the meeting to update on CCTV issues and the transfer from Tir-yr-Birth Control Centre to Blaenavon Shared Resource Centre (SRC)

Information containing the current status check on the Monmouthshire Town Centre Cameras was circulated together with location of cameras in Caldicot [see attached]

During discussion the following points were noted:

A member stated that the meeting had been called in view of the CCTV Partnership Memorandum of Understanding to be signed and Town Council concern about CCTV. The CCTV Project Officer stated that the Agreement required re-signing as a result of the transfer to the SRC at Blaenavon [agenda'd for signing at Town Council 26.10.11]

- Technical experts had deemed the cameras fit for transfer to SRC, however there were unforeseen difficulties following transfer including “D Slam” overloaded with data
- Transmission system – 6 cameras - E100 modem transmits via BT copper cable to MCC One Stop Shop hub “D Slam” converts images – MCC County Hall – SRC
- Police frustration with cameras not working on occasions
- All network issues have now been successfully resolved and cameras functioning in the Control Room
- Camera 88 Stryker purchased by Town Council – wear and tear fault - sealed unit broken down and letting moisture into lens – returned to Stryker for repair
- Camera 87 – wear and tear fault – tilt function developed fault – arrangements in hand to replace with one from Monmouth
- MCC “doing best” with inherited cameras on a limited budget in current economic climate – using parts from Monmouth cameras – when run out consideration will be given to purchasing “domed” cameras – investment required from town councils and local businesses
- Some general community safety funding provided mobile cameras and some repairs
- Police do not contribute financially to system but 100% support – “fantastic tool to assist with community safety” - police required to find savings of 24m in next 4 years – Home Office funding 30% less this year as last year
- Stryker software issues concerning control of the camera’s movement at the control room - incorrect information mistakenly supplied by Stryker with regard to many combinations of settings of camera – picture and recording functions working
- CCTV is not a statutory service, however, MCC supports the service and wishes to work with the town and community councils in order to maintain

Members posed questions and comments as follows:

- Concern over the maintenance and improvement to the service – how sustainable?
- Realistic lifeline of cameras – approx 8 years
- Conversion to “fibre-optic” extremely expensive – not feasible, no funding – however, “images appear the same”
- Reference to recent incident at Celtic Cross whereby complete picture not captured - incidents in centre of town centre not captured - operators can “zoom in” at time of incident but cannot “zoom in” on recordings – would require very expensive “motorax dome”
- Staff ratio to cameras 1:50 – other risk factors taken into account – operators work on 3 bank system – top/bottom screens split into four images – centre bank 40” large screen – images identified can be brought down to middle bank to view
- Cameras act as deterrent – cannot count how many crimes are prevented by presence of cameras – crime increased in Monmouth since cameras switched off
- Police have immediate contact with SRC – Police put officers into centre during campaigns in specific areas to monitor cameras for that area
- Cameras checked every day – faults reported
- 2 town council representatives on MCC CCTV Working Group - report back to Town Council via minutes
- Statistics from CCTV Officer to re-commence following transfer to SRC
- Cameras record 24/7 - Warranties of cameras questioned
- Deployable cameras need to be part of scheme re: erection, DPA compliance,
- Pilot scheme at Chepstow police station whereby Chepstow Town Council provided 2 cameras for specific areas – would this work for Caldicot? Possible monitoring 9-5 - Cost £8k+ to set up
- Reference to s106 monies to provide funding
- System now fit for purpose – picture quality of Monmouthshire cameras at the Control room is on a par with Torfaen’s which are fibre optic
- Need to look at future replacement of ageing cameras - £10k to provide domed cameras – CCTV Officer to provide costs to Town Council for Estimates Committee

Cllr A Easson, Deputy Mayor, thanked the representatives for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

(Mayor/Deputy)

