

31/21

1. Councillors Present -:

- a. Clerk - Mrs J Kelley
- b. Mathern – David Harris, Dave Merrett. Jayne Harris, Matt Sidwell, Christine Morton.
- c. Mounton - Apologies given
- d. Pwllmeyric - James Anderson, Sylvia Stephens.
- e. County Councillor Louise Brown

2. Councillors Apologies -:

- a. Mathern - None
- b. Pwllmeyric - None
- c. Mounton – Carolyn Ovenden

3. Members of the public-:

None

4. Police representatives-:

None

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

a. Police Report

None received Clerk to chase.

b. Public Comment:

A resident has contacted the Clerk to complain that recycle bags and refuse bags are being left on a Sunday for collection on Tuesday and Wednesday underneath the postbox at St Tewdrics Church they are concerned that they are causing a trip hazard and asked could the CC help in any way.

Resolved for the Clerk to email Waste and Recycle to ask them to investigate and ask residents to not leave in this area.

c. **Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest:**

Cllr M Sidwell Agenda Item 34/21 Update of Land rear of Birdwood Gardens
22/21 (b) Grant application Mathern Village Hall

d. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Mathern Community Council meeting held
on Monday 12th July 2021 as a true and accurate record.

5. 32/2021 Finance – August and September

a. Monthly Bank Reconciliation for July and August authorisation by Cllr M Sidwell

b. Grant applications –

Mounton Church request £1000.00 -

Resolved to Awarded £750 on receipt of invoice for completed works.

Mathern Village Hall – requested £679.00 4 new gazebos for village events -

**Resolved to Award £679.00. These had already been purchased so Clerk
authorised to pay immediately upon the receipt of the invoice evidencing the cost.**

Mathern Village Hall requests Landline for Wi-Fi network/video conferencing
facilities in rear room – Wi-Fi already installed.

**Resolved that due to new LGE Act – briefing issued by LG Partnerships Welsh
Government on 4th August that Mathern C C would contribute the 50% from IT
budget £570.00 to ensure that we comply with this new legislation, allowing
members of the public and Councillors to access the our meetings remotely. A
virement later in the year may be needed from contingency due to this new
legislation. Clerk authorised to make immediate payment of this**

August/September 2021

		Payments
21 07 2021	A Fry (internal Audit)	420.00 BACS invoice 21/21
30 07 2021	Salary	672.25 BACS
30 07 2021	Paye	213.71 BACS
09 08 2021	Telephone/Internet	56.41 BACS invoice 22/21
06 08 2021	Merlin Waste	59.58 SO
06 08 2021	Stock it Ltd	56.40 SO
12 08 2021	Smart pension	132.79 DD
12 08 2021	War Memorial	213.75 BACS invoice 23/21

20 08 2021	Mounton Mowing	112.50	Q 102076	invoice 24/21
31 08 2021	Salary	621.31	BACS	
31 08 2021	Paye /NI	151.40	BACS	
13 09 2021	Village Hall Rent	45.00	BACS	invoice 25/21
13 09 2021	Clerk Home work fee	200.00	BACS	invoice 26/21
13 09 2021	Telephone/internet	56.41	BACS	invoice 27/21
13 09 2021	Storage Boxes	23.49	BACS	invoice 28/21
14 09 2021	Mathern Village Hall	679.00	BACS	Grant application
14 09 2021	Mathern Village Hall	570.00	BACS	IT
Receipts				
31 8 2021	Precept MCC	7333.00	CR	

33/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings

A) Maintenance and drain clearance Pwllmeyric A48

Pwllmeyric Hill has still not had drains cleared or road sweeping.

Resolved that Chairman will contact Carl Touhig to chase this.

B) Update Walk Leaflets stock – Quote for reprint

Quote from Kudos not received.

Cllr M Sidwell suggested that we also obtain another quote – Cllr Sidwell also advised that there were a number of unopened walks leaflets stored in the village hall.

Resolved that Clerk to get the memory stick back from Kudos so that this can be arranged. Councillor M Sidwell to advise the Clerk what stocks exist in the Village Hall.

C) Statistics from Speed tapes Mathern Village

Statistics still not received from Graham Kinsella MCC.

County Councillors Louise Brown advised that it would be useful for a draft map of the 3 villages be prepared in readiness of the traffic order to reduce speed to 20 miles.

Resolved that a OS Map would be produced and these details added. Councillor M Sidwell advised he thought he could source a map.

D) Data analysis sheet accidents A48 Pwllmeyic

Councillor J. Anderson has produced this in liaison with Councillor S. Smith.

Resolved that all accidents on A48 be entered into this sheet so that actual true results are held by the Council.

34/21 Highways/Footpaths

Update Untidy Land rear Birdwood Gardens

Cllr Sidwell advised that local residents were in the process of purchasing this land from the land owners. Residents are currently seeking a licence to clear the water course which is anticipated to be in place within the next few weeks.

The Chairman stressed that the water course needed to be cleared ahead of the autumn/winter rains and that if agreements were not in place shortly the Community Council would need to put pressure on MCC to facilitate to necessary works.

Update land clearance Edge of Barn Lane.

Clerk has written to MCC as further work is required as the culvert is still not adequately cleared.

- Hayesgate pavements over grown
- Hayesgate road signage broken
- Drains need clearing above Great Barn in Barn Lane up to Bulwark
- Concrete on pavement from Yew Tree Cottage to Birdwood gardens
- Pwllmeyric Hill hedges over grown on left coming down the hill and higher up on the right – householders need to clear.

35/21 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

a) One Voice Wales (OVW).

- i. No Update

b) Defibrillator monthly checking

- ii. Clerk checked Mounton Brook Lodge - all working Cllr C Morton checked Millers Arms - all working.

c) County Councillors Report – September 2021

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2021

County Councillor Brown advised:

As an update for the summer 2021 and more recently:

County Council on the 22 July 2021

The County Council received a report on the Leisure centres with improvements for Abergavenny Leisure Centre and some minor upgrades for Chepstow Leisure Centre. It also included a question from Cllr Edwards on Chepstow School, the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4726>

Chepstow School

**From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Paul Pavia,
Cabinet Member for Education**

Could the Cabinet Member for Education inform council of progress with the 21st Century Schools programme, and what steps are being taken to ensure that Chepstow School will be placed in the next phase?

Answer:

Can I thank Cllr Edwards for his question.

In October 2017, the Cabinet then committed to replacing Chepstow School as part of the Band C funding for 21st Century Schools Programme. I can assure him that this new Cabinet is absolutely dedicated to that commitment.

While the initial focus is of course on the development of Abergavenny within the Band B investment stream, we will be undertaking important preparation with Chepstow Comprehensive School to ensure we are all ready to bid for Band C investment when that window opens and that we can react quickly to make that in-principal business case submission.

So, from September, the 21st Century Schools Team will be strengthened with the appointment of a full-time experienced Educationalist, Tim Bird.

Tim was the former Deputy Head at Monmouth Comprehensive School and was a key lead with us in developing the new school there. So, we will really benefit from that experience and expertise. Tim will work with Chepstow School and cluster primary schools to develop the education brief for Band C through stakeholder engagement and workshops. We will ensure that local members are engaged in this work when it begins.

Supplementary:

Whilst acknowledging the need for a replacement school, within the last 3 years the Council has spent in excess of £1m to enhance the current facilities at Chepstow School, this work has included recladding and remodelling works, improving the lighting in the school to make it more energy efficient, as well as a £200k investment into IT facilities and infrastructure.

During this summer holiday, we will be resurfacing the access road into and through the site, decorating classrooms and shared common spaces, as well as continuing the energy efficiency work in the school and the leisure centre in line with the Council's carbon commitment.

I can say to the Member, it is pleasing that the school is already reporting the benefits of energy efficiency work undertaken to date, particularly in reducing the energy costs of lighting. So, we are already realising the positive rewards of this investment.

Examples, of the energy efficiency works include installation of energy efficient lights, replacement boiler, installation of solar car port and EV charging points.

Children and Young People Select Committee- 9th of September 2021

The Committee considered the Budget monitoring report which indicated that most school budgets have improved following Covid grants but of the secondary schools, Chepstow is still in deficit due to some delayed structural staffing changes which are being worked through.

The Committee considered the report on the new Abergavenny School, which is an all through school covering 4-19. This will involve the closing of a primary school and the secondary school to form a new school on the same site. The primary school site will be then used for a Welsh medium education primary school.

There was debate about whether or not the 3 and 4 year old provision should be in a maintained or non-maintained setting and the pros and cons of each. In a maintained setting this covers 2 hours a day and free 10 hours a week. Working parents may be eligible to get up to 30 hours per week free or 6 hours a day for a non-maintained nursery setting and wrap around care. If you are not working then the eligibility is for the 2 hours a day. A 3 or 4 year old could still go to the maintained setting for 2 hours and then go to the non-maintained setting for the remaining 4 hours a day if eligible for the up to 30 hours free care a week as a working parent but this would cause transport/safeguarding difficulties if working or go to a non-maintained nursery for the up to 30 hours of free care. So there are pros and cons of each. The link to the reports can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=4702>

d) Cllr J Anderson update Website

Memory has been increased on the website – old school archive records are continuing to be updated onto the website.

Councillor D Harris thanked Cllr Anderson for his work on the website which is invaluable to the Clerk.

36/21 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

a) New applications –

DM/2021/01113 – Advertisement consent – replacement of hotel sign with branch new – St Pierre Hotel and Country Club - **No Comments**

Information only DM/2021/01341 Brookfield Lodge Baileys Hay – permitted development under GDO

b) Decisions and appeals :-

c) Enforcement-

37/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY

15 07 2021 Replacement L D P – Consultation Dates by appointment only

- Virtual Engagement Session -8th July 2021 6pm-7.30pm
- Virtual Engagement Session – 20th July 2021 3pm-4.30pm

- Usk – Sessions House – 12th July 1pm-7pm
- Chepstow – Drill Hall – 14th July 1pm-7pm
- Magor – Baptist Church – 15th July 2021 1pm-7pm
- Monmouth – Leisure Centre – 19th July 2021 1pm-7pm
- Caldicot – Choir Hall – 21st July 2021 1pm-7pm
- Abergavenny – St Marys Priory Centre 27th July 2021 1pm-7pm
- Raglan – Village Hall – 29th July 2021 1pm-7pm

16 07 2021 OVW Training Dates
 19 07 2021 OVW Bulletin
 19 07 2021 Cllr S Stevens email re template for traffic accidents Pwllmeryic Hill
 19 07 2021 Cllr S Stevens email re-sign off of emails signature
 20 07 2021 Email re quality of track re Palace Farm referred to Enforcements
 21 07 2021 MCC re dog waste collections – meeting September with contractors
 21 07 2021 Consultation Event RLDP – 16 08 2021 Circulated to Cllrs
 21 07 2021 Email Kudos – Clerks discussion Re Walks Leaflet quote to follow
 26 07 2021 MCC acknowledgement Palace Farm enforcement
 30 07 2021 Ruth Rourke – Paths to well being – circulated to all and MMPVB
 02 08 2021 Confirmation receipt of our consultation RLDP
 02 08 2021 Stock it invoice - £56.40 Paid monthly via SO
 03 08 2021 Merlin Waste invoice – Paid monthly via S O
 03 08 2021 **Planning consultation DM/2021/01113**
 04 08 2021 L G Partnership briefing – Circulated
 05 08 2021 MCC enforcement list
 06 08 2021 Stock it – notification of holidays
 08 08 2021 C Wheeler invoice for work carried out war memorial – Paid
 12 08 2021 Policing policy – Circulated
 15 08 2021 invoice Mathern Village Hall Rent £45.00 Paid via BACS
 16 08 2021 Invoice Mounon Verges/Roundabout cutting Paid
 18 08 2021 Welsh Audit – Cllrs expenses submission – Return completed 20 08 2021 submitted
 18 08 2021 Review of Remuneration Framework for Councils – Response Sent [Mathern C C would agree with proposals except that payment to all councillors is mandatory. In their opinion, this should not be the case until the taxation query is sorted with HMRC.](#)
 18 08 2021 Land Nr Cherry Tree – Email send to M Evans MCC – re further work need to clear the drainage culvert.
 18 08 2021 C Wheeler offer to assist with footpaths issue notifications liaise with MCC County side Access Manager.
 19 08 2021 OVW - innovative practice conference 22 09 2021
 23 08 2021 MCC Planning DM/2021/01341 Brookfield Lodge notification only
 24 08 2021 MCC Graham Kinsella update statistics speed/volume survey Mathern
 25 08 2021 Email request C C Brown obtain further details of the above survey.
 29 08 2021 Copy of Residents response re R L D P
 02 9 2021 Welsh Audit request for Budget figures for 2021 2022

38/21 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- a) Welsh Government Briefing for community and town Council – Multi location meetings notice received 4th August 2021 circulated to all Cllrs 16th August 2021 – If resolved a possible amendment to Standing Orders

Resolved to review standing orders and seek guidance from OVW with wording for Agenda to ensure that hybrid meeting were accessible to all. Clerk to also enquire if any funding was available for this from the Welsh Government.

- b) Consideration for platinum Jubilee commemorations 2022.

A joint sub committee to be made with all organisations in the village Cllr M Sidwell and Cllr J Harris to be included as the representatives from Mathern C C. Councillor M Sidwell offered to Chair the group. A budget to be requested from our Precept in December.

- c) Possible archive of C C files – 2022

Clerk to check with Archive on what details are required before starting archiving – possible for end of financial year 21/22.

- d) Asset sharing relationship with Chepstow Town Council.

Resolved that Clerk write to Chepstow Council and ask their Councillors why villages in the community of Chepstow are now unable to loan the gazebos. Explaining the disappointment to our community.

- e) What's happening to Mounton House School?

Response from MCC - There is no plans whatsoever for the school to re-open. There is a young person with complex needs and learning disabilities who is currently accommodated in one of the staff houses. MCC are still looking for him to remain there over longer term.

- f) Community Resilience – what plans exist to help residents in emergencies. Are we better prepared to manage flooding events similar to those we had earlier this year?

This to be agendaed for each meeting.

Resolved for Clerk to contact MCC and ask for details of the Emergency Planning Officers details to be placed on our website

- g) Climate emergency. Just feel this is something that we should have on the agenda now. Was our experience of flooding the result of an unusual amount of rainfall?

As above

- h) Dog Waste Bin Collections – Late correspondence received 9th September from MCC re Merlin Waste consultation

The main outcome of the meeting was a proposal for the following:

- Develop straightforward and clear contract documentation for emptying dog bins in Monmouthshire (MCC to develop) with a timescale of 5 years with the option to extend it for another 2. Town and Community Councils be involved and consulted in its development (though we are aware that this needs to be done quite quickly)
- Advertise the contract on Sell to Wales website

- MCC to manage the contract in terms of making equal monthly payments to the successful company and invoicing town and community councils monthly for the basic collection. We would not be looking to add an administrative fee.
- Additional waste left by dog bins to be paid for directly by T&CCs by negotiation with Merlin Waste (but also subject to the contract)

Resolved that the clerk contact MCC to confirm we fully support this way forward but should MCC should enquire from other Councils to obtain a model contract that works elsewhere for these services.

39/21 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

Archive to Ebbw Vale when possible. Archive records of school to be input on Website – this is ongoing

40/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Monday 18th October 2021 7 pm Mathern Village Hall. The date of this meeting is one week later than the usual date but at the request of the Chair and the Clerk all agreed to the meeting being moved to the 18th.

Signed Chairman Date