

The Chairman announced the passing of Robin Lewis a huge character of the village who had lived in the village his whole life. Thoughts were passed to the family at this very sad time.

Clerk to send a Card of condolence.

41/21

**1. Councillors Present -:**

- a. Clerk - Mrs J Kelley
- b. Mathern – David Harris, Dave Merrett, Jayne Harris, Matt Sidwell, Christine Morton.
- c. Mounton - Carolyn Ovenden
- d. Pwllmeyric - Sylvia Stephens. Gareth Page
- e. County Councillor Louise Brown

**2. Councillors Apologies -:**

- a. Mathern - None
- b. Pwllmeyric–Cllr James Anderson
- c. Mounton – None

**3. Members of the public-:**

None

**4. Police representatives-:**

None

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**a. Police Report**

I have looked at recent reports for the Mathern area and they are as follows:

26/6/2021 – Minor injury rtc (road traffic collision) between a cyclist and a car on Mounton road. A vehicle had stopped and the cyclist had rode into the back of the vehicle.

2/7/2021 – Damage to a parked vehicle in St Pierre golf club car park.

7/7/2021 – Report of a house burglary sometime between 1pm and 6pm at a property in Badgers Meadow. No damage caused to gain entry so it is possible the patio doors had been left open. The upstairs rooms had been ransacked.

2/8/2021 – Report of a 2 vehicle rtc on Pwllmeyric Hill, the road was closed whilst the incident was dealt with. The male driver in the offending vehicle was taken to hospital with injuries and later arrested for drink drive offences.

30/8/2021 – report of a 1 vehicle non injury rtc between the St Pierre entrance and the Indian Empire. A transit van had left the road and ended up on its side in a nearby field.

8/9/2021 – Report of a male found deceased in outbuildings on St Tewdrics church lane area. There were no suspicious circumstances.

10/9/2021 – Report of a male seen taking items from a garage in Parklands Close .The male left the area but before he did the garage was set on fire. The male was later arrested for a series of offences including Arson.

9/10/2021 – A suspicious vehicle was stopped by officers on Moynes Court Lane in the evening, a male in the vehicle will be dealt with for drug offences.

10/10/2021 – report of a garage entered in Mounton and 2 electric bikes taken overnight. The locks were removed from the doors to gain entry.

We have had several calls to Mounton house school recently which have been dealt with by ourselves and the school itself.

The no right turn that is at the exit to St Pierre golf club is being monitored by our colleagues and positive action will be taken if this is seen to be not adhered to.

I will try to attend the meeting tomorrow evening at the Hall if incidents allow.

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity / crime at the time via either 101 or 999 if you deem it an emergency. If it is low level you can also report via email on [contact@gwent.police.uk](mailto:contact@gwent.police.uk)

**b) Public Comment:**

Numerous calls to the Clerk re the state of the road in the village following local farmers clearing of fields.

**See comments under Highways re mud on road through Mathern.**

Numerous people have approached the clerk re. Villagers installing a memorial bench on the green space in front of The Crescent in memory of Robin Lewis, who passed away recently. Although the Community Council would not be involved in the fund raising and publicity for a new memorial bench, many villagers have approached us as they are concerned that the present bench which people associate with Robin is to be removed. The feeling is that this actual bench should be dedicated to Robin instead, with a plaque attached to it. Also concern was mentioned concerning future maintenance of a new bench and who would cover it for public liability as it would not be owned by the Community Council.

**Discussion - Cllr M Sidwell to liaise with the bench fund administrator to suggest a memorial plaque – perhaps on stone planters, for Robin instead. However, the Lewis family's wish is that a new bench, rather than the current one, should be erected and dedicated to Robin, and sited on the grassed area under a Tree on The Crescent. For this to take place, authorisation from the land's owners, Monmouthshire Housing Association, would be required before such a bench could be erected. Ownership of any new bench would need to be established and also the responsibility for its ongoing maintenance and insurance.**

**Some members of the public had thought the suggestion of a stone planter either side of the current bench, with memorial plaque attached, would be more fitting.**

**Mathern Community Council will not have any remit in this project so can only make the fund administrator aware of the feelings and comments made to it.**

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

None

**c. Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

**5. 42/2021 Finance – August and September**

- a. Monthly Bank Reconciliation for September. Authorisation by Cllr M Sidwell.
- b. External Audit not yet received back from Wales Audit Office.

“Not Received” notice placed on the Noticeboards and website as advised by Wales Audit Office.

<b>Receipts September/October 2021</b>			
<b>None</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
31 09 2021	Salary	£ 572.20	Invoice 31/21
31 09 2021	PAYE	£143.30	invoice 32/21
18 10 2021	Telephone	£56.41	invoice 33/21
18 10 2021	Rent Village Hall	£15.00	invoice 34/21
18 10 2021	Albert Goodman – Pension	£120.00	invoice 35/21
18 10 2021	Stock It	£24.00	invoice 36/21
18 10 2021	J Kelley postage	£18.12	invoice 37/21

#### **43/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

##### **Responses to queries raised at previous meetings**

##### **A) Maintenance and drain clearance Pwllmeyric A48**

No maintenance to the drains in Pwllmeyric had been undertaken by the County Council.  
**Clerk to chase**

##### **B) Update - Walk Leaflets stock – Quote for reprint**

Quote from Kudos not received.

Cllr Morton advised that the leaflets needed to be edited and updated before the next reprint.

**Resolved that Clerk retrieve the memory stick from Kudos so that this can be arranged.**

##### **C) Update speed watch – Mathern Village –Ordinance Survey (OS) map submitted to MCC Highways suggesting roads for inclusion in upcoming 20 mph speed reduction.**

Still awaiting licenses from Go Safe.

##### **D) Statistics from Speed tapes - Mathern Village**

These were reviewed and indicated that the recorded average speed of 27 – 28 mph was within the current speed limit of 30 mph.

**Action – Above OS map to be amended and forwarded to Highways to indicate where the Community Council suggests a speed limit of 40 mph should be introduced after turning off the A48 and before to the Welcome to Mathern walls. These walls are the proposed start of the new 20 mph limit which is expected to come into force in 2023, after new legislation is passed.**

**44/21 Highways/Footpaths**

- Update - untidy land at rear of Birdwood Gardens – clearing of gullies nearly completed
- Update - land clearance at edge of Barn Lane.  
Clerk has written to MCC as further work is required because the culvert is still not adequately cleared. No response
- Update following project – C Wheeler – None received

Councillors discussed the mud on the road from tractors passing through the village of Mathern. Gwent Police's Chief Superintendent had been contacted and it was his view that that is an occupational hazard of living in the country and that the police could take no action. MCC did place a warning skid sign in the centre of Mathern, however did not send a road sweeper to clear the mud. The recently cleared drains are full again with mud/corn/straw and silt.

On checking this Cllrs found that farmers (and other vehicle operatives such as construction companies) are legally obliged to clear up after themselves and are potentially liable for a range of offences. While there is a range of powers available to the police and Highways department, the primary powers fall under the Highways Act 1980:

- Section 148 of the Highways Act 1980 makes it an offence to deposit mud etc. on the highway that would interrupt other users of the highway.
- Section 149 of the Highways Act 1980 gives the highways authority the power to clean the road and recover its expenses from the person causing the obstruction.
- Section 161 Highways Act 1980 "If a person, without lawful authority or excuse, deposits anything whatsoever on a highway in consequence of which a user of the highway is injured or endangered, that person is guilty of an offence". Contravention of sections 148 and 162 can lead to a Level 3 fine of £1000 in the magistrate's court. Furthermore, if mud on the road leads to personal injury, damage to property, or any loss or inconvenience, then the person responsible may be liable for damages. A conviction in the criminal court may be relied on in a claim for damages.

Letter to be sent to Gwent police/MCC Highways and also contact to be made with the Health & Safety Executive regarding this as Gwent police and MCC say that no action will be taken.

**45/21 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT**

**a) One Voice Wales (OVW).**

**Next meeting 21.10.2021 19.00**

**b) Defibrillator monthly checking**

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

**c) County Councillors Report – October 2021**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – October 2021**

County Councillor Brown advised:

**Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2021**

Cabinet on the above date considered various reports including playing its part on Afghan relocation and assistance: refurbishment of the Abergavenny Borough theatre; regeneration projects/grants in the town centre including Chepstow High street and the recognition of the need for a Zebra crossing in the shared space area at the bottom of the high street: signing up to the Place making Wales Charter and the Welsh Church Fund working group grants. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=4652>

**Adults Select Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2021**

The Adults Select Committee considered various reports including Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment, with a follow up member workshop in October and expected further report on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Also there was an affordable housing report including the lack of single bed accommodation in the County and self-contained emergency accommodation in the North of the County. The report states that *"As of August 2021, there were 147 households in temporary accommodation, including 73 households in bed and breakfast accommodation. Many of these are single homeless people with multiple support needs (60 people at time of writing). There are also a number of homeless families in temporary accommodation necessitating a particular need for self-contained emergency family accommodation in the north of the county."* The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=4652>

**County Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2021**

The County Council received the annual report from the Director of Social Care, Health and Safeguarding. The night support for the elderly is a new project which is being rolled out across the County and explained in the report itself on the SWAY link. The current Director is retiring so a new Director will be appointed. There was also a report on the refurbishment of the Abergavenny Borough Theatre. There were various motions put forward including one on infrastructure. The reports can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4727>

**Chepstow Leisure Centre**

Refurbishment of the swimming pool hall include redecoration, an upgrade to glazing in the viewing area, a replacement ceiling, an LED lighting upgrade and installation of new air handling units. Work is scheduled to start on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October with an expected re-opening of the pool area on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. In the meantime the rest of the leisure centre will remain open and MonLife will automatically freeze the membership of its Aqua holders while work continues. General enquires should be emailed to [chepstowleisurecentre@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:chepstowleisurecentre@monmouthshire.gov.uk) and membership enquiries to [membership@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:membership@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

The link to FAQs can be found here:

<https://monlifeleisuredevelopment.co.uk/chepstow-faq/>

### **Caldicot Leisure Centre**

An application has been made to the Levelling up fund for the upgrade of Caldicot Leisure Centre. The bid has included 2 Squash courts, as shown on page 9 in the following link:

[https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/07/Caldicot-LUF\\_Application\\_Form-20210617clt.pdf](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/07/Caldicot-LUF_Application_Form-20210617clt.pdf)

The outcome of that bid on whether or not it will be successful is not known yet and the result of the bid is expected in due course.

### **Monmouthshire Council Preferred Strategy: First Review: Regulation 15 Consultation: Welsh Government Response**

The Welsh Government have responded to the Council's preferred strategy and its response can be found at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/monmouthshire-council-preferred-strategy-first-review-regulation-15-consultation-welsh-government>

In terms of a statement of general conformity it states as follows:

"The Welsh Government has very significant concerns regarding the Monmouthshire LDP Preferred Strategy. Future Wales places great emphasis on the development of National Growth Areas. The Preferred Strategy is not in general conformity with Policies 1 and 33 of Future Wales and undermines the role of Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys as the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region."

It goes on to say that:

"To be considered to be in general conformity with Future Wales the Monmouthshire RLDP must provide for a lower level of housing. The WG principal housing projection for the plan area, 2,610 units, provides a starting point for the level of housing required. In recognition of build rates achieved over the last 10 years, a higher level of housing may be justified. The proposed level of housing growth should however be no greater than 4,275 units (15 x the 10 year build rate) plus an appropriate flexibility allowance. This will ensure that Monmouthshire continues to grow in a sustainable manner based on a locally appropriate level of development which is compatible with policies 1 and 33 of Future Wales."

There are also significant reservations about proposed levels of employment growth which are set out fully in Annex 2."

### **Report Published into Chepstow traffic and travel**

The above report can be found at the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/10/report-published-into-chepstow-traffic-and-travel/>

**The Burns Report – South East Wales Transport Commission Report**

The above report can be found at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/south-east-wales-transport-commission>

**d) Update - Website**

Cllr. J. Anderson has updated the Book of Remembrance on the CC website.

Remembrance Service to be advertised on the website.

**46/21 PLANNING MATTERS**

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

**a) New applications –**

DM/2021/01503 – HILL FARM COTTAGE - 2 STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND RE-LAY-OUT OF EXISTING DWELLING  
INTERNALS WHERE NECESSARY PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL 42 SQ M.

**In application - item 10, second question (trees), the answer given is 'no' but should be 'yes' as the drawings and photos in the application clearly show trees which will need to be removed. It is noted that no Tree Survey was attached to the application. Careful consideration should be given to the removal of any trees with preservation orders on them taking into account the sensitive location of the site.**

DM/2021/01540 – LITTLE INNAGE BARNS – SINGLE STOREY FRONT REAR AND SIDE EXTENSIONS. ALTERATIONS TO ROOF AND NEW ROOF WINDOWS

**No Comments**

b) Decisions and appeals :- None

c) Enforcement- Nothing to report



**47/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY**

Service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – War Memorial – 10 AM

Clerk to book bugler. (Booked 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

Email MCC Highways for traffic control cones to be delivered  
Small number of chairs to be used

14 09 2021 Zoom Subscription – cancelled  
15 09 2021 Give Dog Fouling the Red Card meeting 23 09 2021 – apologies sent  
21 09 2021 Police report – September incorrect  
21 09 2021 Review of polling district and polling places 2021  
21 09 2021 CCL Brown copy of maps – Speed limit change.  
22 09 2021 Invoice Mathern village Hall - rent  
23 09 2021 Minutes Give Dog Fouling the Red Card – circulated  
27 09 2021 Proof OS Map update - Cllr M Sidwell  
27 09 2021 MCC Planning DD/2021/01503  
29 09 2021 IRP – Local Government Wales measure 2011 update  
29 09 2021 OVW – as above  
30 09 2021 Invoice rent - Village Hall  
30 09 2021 Reply re outstanding matters Highways  
01 10 2021 Invoice Stock It Ltd  
01 10 2021 Completed OS Map sent to MCC Graham Kinsella  
04 10 2021 Training Update dates OVW – Circulated  
04 10 2021 M C C - Enforcement list  
06 10 2021 MCC Mathern speed data/volume results  
06 10 2021 MCC Planning DM/2021/01540  
06 10 2021 Rialtas 2022 fees and charges  
07 10 2021 OVW Meeting 21 10 2021 – 19.00 – 21.00  
09 10 2021 Request for tree cutting- Bishops Mead by resident in The Crescent – advised to contact Monmouthshire Housing who own this land  
10 10 2021 Police Report – 3 months

**48/21 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Items for Website - Cllr J Anderson – see 45/21 (d)

Jubilee Celebrations update – Cllr M Sidwell – meetings to be arranged on 8<sup>th</sup> November with a representative from all village groups to be invited.

**49/21 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION**

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

**50/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Next meeting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 7 pm Mathern Village Hall.**

**Signed ..... Chairman    Date .....**