

51/21

1. Councillors Present -:

- a. Clerk - Mrs J Kelley
- b. Mathern – David Harris, Dave Merrett, Jayne Harris, Matt Sidwell.
- c. Moun-ton - Carolyn Ovenden
- d. Pwllmeyric - Gareth Page, James Anderson
- e. County Councillor Louise Brown

2. Councillors Apologies -:

- a. Mathern –Cllr C Morton
- b. Pwllmeyric–Cllr S Stephens
- c. Moun-ton - None

3. Members of the public-:

One

4. Police representatives-:

Two representatives

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

a. Police Report

“Here is the report for between 18/10/21 and 5/11/21, with the first incident being very concerning. I know the meeting has been arranged for Monday the 15th November but have sent the report early because of below.

5/11/2021 – Report of a distraction burglary at a property on Pwllmeyric Hill. At 10.30 am a resident had a knock on their door and a male walked in saying that there was a water leak and the resident needed to check her kitchen taps. While they went into the kitchen it seems another person had gone up stairs while the resident was being distracted and searched through cupboards and took jewellery. The male left quickly and the resident wasn't aware what had happened until later when they went upstairs and found that rooms had been searched. No other details known unfortunately, no vehicle noticed. Please be aware and if you have any vulnerable/ elderly family or friends living in the area please let them know. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please call us on 101 quoting log number 351 – 5/11/21.

Matters to note:

18/10/21 – Report of a car acting suspiciously in the early hours of the morning at St Pierre. No offences reported.

1/11/21 – report of a 1 vehicle RTC just passed the vet's surgery on the A48 Pwllmeyric. The vehicle had clipped the wall causing damage and ended up on its roof. Luckily the occupants

had very minor injuries. No other vehicles involved and speed was not the cause. The road was closed whilst the incident was dealt with.

Myself and one of our neighbourhood officers PC Lloyd Davies will attend the meeting on the 15th of November so hopefully will see you there

Please continue to be 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 key you can also report via email on contact@gwent.police.uk

Cllrs discussed with the two officers present the frustrations Mathern C C faces from the farmers leaving and spreading mud on the road. A tractor had been observed leaving the site near St Tewdric's Well and mud being thrown across the pavement from its wheels, barely missing a baby's pram. This was telephoned through to 101 who advised that the Chief Superintendent on duty that day felt that there was no problem as it was an occupational hazard of living in a rural area. Cllrs explained that the quantity of mud was an accident waiting to happen and, should it be observed again, then the Community Council would advise the Health & Safety Executive

b. Public Comment:

A member of the public came to the meeting to make her comments re. a planning application. She was very concerned with the planned open access to the public, with consequent increase traffic potentially to include mini bus and coaches, to the site on the Shirenewton Road. A further concern was the run off of grey waste water near the parking area from the planned new facilities

Another member of the public had shown concern again about an untidy front garden at St Tewdric's Place.

c. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest:

None

d. Minutes of the previous meeting:

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Mathern Community Council meeting held on Monday 18th October 2021 as a true and accurate record.

53/2021 Finance – August and September

- a. Monthly Bank Reconciliation for October 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.
- c. Set Three year forecast – Paperwork circulated with the Agenda's

This was discussed in detail and the document updated. This document to form part of the Minutes and will be discussed at the precept meeting in December.

Clerk to obtain confirmation from MCC Highways re condition of willow trees along the road to Mathern from the A48. She will obtain a quote for these to be pruned and also two trees at the Village Hall entrance.

Receipts October/November 2021
None

Payments		
25 10 2021	Flowers, J Lewis	£13.50
28 10 2021	Salary	£ 629.81
28 10 2021	PAYE	£143.30
08 11 2021	Merlin Waste (SO)	£67.08
08 11 2021	Stock It (SO)	£56.40
15 11 2021	Telephone	£56.41
15 11 2021	Stock It Ltd	£90.00
15 11 2021	J Kelley (Diary)	£6.00
15 11 2021	Royal British Legion	£35.00 Cheque 102077
15.11.2021	Asthma UK (Buglar Donation)	£ 50.00 Cheque 102079

Cheque 102078 Cancelled

53/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings

A) Maintenance and drain clearance Pwllmeyric A48

Ongoing. Awaiting response from MCC Highways (Carl Tourig).

B) Update - Walk Leaflets stock – Quote for reprint

Quote from Kudos received (Quote 196) - 01 11 2021

10000 each of the three 12 page walks: Mathern to St Pierre, Moun-ton and Great Barnets, Mathern and Wyelands

Quote £3370.35

It was resolved that Cllr M Sidwell will contact Kudos to discuss who owns artwork etc. with a view to making a link for leaflets to be put onto the website. This would reduce the need for more leaflets to be printed. Cllrs would like the leaflets to be amended as needed and then a downloadable copy to be available

C) Update speed watch –.

Still awaiting licenses from Go Safe.

D) Update Meeting Welsh Water

A virtual meeting has taken place between ourselves, Shirenewton Community Councillors, Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales and MCC Environmental Health. A presentation from Welsh Water noted actions taken they had taken to date and a forward action plan. A copy of this presentation has been passed to us, circulated to all Councillors and will be posted on our Community Council Web site.

In short, further surveys have been carried out on the pipe line re. Progress on resolving defects. Fixed water monitors have now been installed for permanent monitoring and

investigation work has identified a number of issues. A survey of 25 properties has taken place to map foul and surface water connections. Further survey works upstream will take place at the end of November 2021.

The results of the above are that, following earlier pipe lining works, the infiltration rate has fallen from 6.3 l/s to 1l/s. 9 of the 25 properties surveyed in Shirenewton have surface drains connected into the foul system.

A follow up meeting is being arranged for March/April 2022.

As this matter is ever ongoing, we asked if Environmental Health and National Resources Wales (NRW), as the governing bodies, were satisfied that Welsh Water are doing all they can to resolve this situation. They confirmed that they were but recommended Welsh Water install warning signs with a call out number adjacent to the intermittent leakage in Pwllmeyric meadows. Also to ensure that the surrounding protective fence and bales of straw are checked to ensure their condition is such that the public are separated from any contaminated areas.

E) Update - response to traffic congestion Pwllmeyric/ St Lawrence

Minister for Welsh Government has been contacted regarding the issues we have raised with MCC with regard to the new units opened at Larkfield.

Currently awaiting response.

54/21 Highways/Footpaths

- Update - Blocked culvert, rear of Cherry Trees, Mathern –
MCC to revisit site and clear the culvert again.
- Update footpath project – C Wheeler – None received
- Update re mud on road Mathern Village
MCC writing to the two farmers within our community to advise them of their obligation to clean and clear the roads.

Resolved that, should this happen again, Mathern C C will advise the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

- Update sign clearing, including Parkwall.
Awaiting response from MCC –
- Clerk to ascertain who owns the willow trees at the entrance to Mathern.
- Stones left in road following accident near vet's surgery need to be removed from the highway.

55/21 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

a) One Voice Wales (OVW).

Details of the pollution on the Wye was circulated – Cllrs to email the Chairman directly with any issues regarding this and he will take them to the next OVW Meeting.

b) Defibrillator - monthly checking

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

c) County Councillors Report – November 2021

COUNTYCOUNCILLORREPORT –NOVEMBER 2021

County Councillor Brown advised:

Monmouthshire County Council

LDP and RLDP Building Rates:

Economy and Development Committee on the 21st of October 2021

The above committee considered various reports, including the annual planning monitoring performance report for the current LDP (2011-2021) at item 6 in the following general link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=4746>

The monitoring report is to see how house building is progressing in relation to the current adopted LDP for 2011 to 2021. It can be seen in paragraph 3.8. of the monitoring report that out of the 4500 houses, 3000 have been completed, equivalent to 300 houses per annum on average, even if the build rate does normally increase as the plan progresses. Paragraph 3.8. only states that this is a shortfall of - 1500 houses (-33.3%). But if you multiply 1500 by 3, this comes up with the figure of 4,500 which is the total figure for the current adopted LDP. The report can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s30256/5a%20LDP%20Annual%20Monitoring%20Report%20ED%20Select%2021%20October%202021.pdf>

The RLDP is currently proposing a high growth option of 8,366 new dwellings with a 10% uplift for sites not coming forward as planned from the original figure of 7,605, over the 15 year period. This is equivalent to between an averages of 507 to 557 new dwellings per annum, almost twice the level of housing on average per year managed during the current LDP.

It is questionable how realistic the level of growth being proposed by MCC really is, as questioned by the Welsh Government. In addition, there are developmental challenges in the North of the County not present in the current LDP due to pollution in the Rivers Wye and Usk meaning that development has to be phosphate neutral, phosphates are added by sewerage unless there are phosphate stripping facilities, which within the MCC area for Welsh Water are limited. Development in the South of the County also has to take account of the green belt proposed in the Future Wales 2040 National Plan.

County Council on the 4th of November 2021

The Council considered various reports including those on safeguarding and climate change. The details of the reports for the County Council meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4728>

Adults Select Committee on the 9th of November 2021

The Adults Select Committee considered a main report on scrutinising the strategy for addressing empty homes with an empty properties action plan. The report can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=4653>

56/21 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

a) New applications –

DM/2021/01728. Dean Farm Animal Sanctuary - Change of Use of existing agricultural building to provide a mixed use public facility to include toilet and wash hand facilities and the temporary use of agricultural land for parking.

Mathern Community Council cannot support the planning application in relation to the Dean Farm Animal Sanctuary application for the following reasons:

1. The access and egress to the farm via Smooth Stones lane is not suitable for the increase in traffic and thus will cause a congestion point for turning vehicles
 2. It is noted in the access and design statement that the farm will be looking to invite schools and accessible groups to the farm thus this will involve mini-buses and school coaches to need to travel via the lane to the farm, something the lane is not capable of
 3. The future business plan to add in cafes and shops also cannot be supported due to logistic limitations, and the infrastructure of utilise, especially as the current application only has a waste water treatment plant being installed for the proposed facilities, something that is also of concern as the proposed grey water discharge location is next to the access point off the lane, and this runs the risk of 'muddy water' being traversed to the lane in the autumn/winter months
 4. It is outlined that the car park matting will not be a permanent provision and will be rolled up and put away when the area is needed for grazing, yet this material is not easily removed, once trafficked, only with the drawing outlining a proposal for a post and rail fence to be installed, it is viewed that this will be a permanent provision not a temporary one.
 5. Within the access statement it has been outlined that the access to the car park will not change but improve the safety and management during open days, but if nothing is being proposed how can this improve the safety and management?
6. Neighbours have advised us that they have not been notified of this application by MCC. We note that, on the application form, the applicants themselves have not consulted neighbours.

DM/2021/01877 The Glyn, Moynes Court – Proposed single storey extension on side elevation to form new kitchen and dining room. Proposed first floor extension to form additional bedroom. Conversion of existing external stores to ancillary accommodation

Comments Noted. No bat survey is provided with application. External finishes to the buildings should be sympathetic with the existing property with an emphasis on natural materials. The drawings and narrative within the application are contradictory and should be fully clarified prior to approval.

Comments to be held back as application only received today and no neighbours' comments uploaded to date. Clerk to submit comments by 6th December.

b) Decisions and appeals :- None

c) Enforcement- Nothing to report

57/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY

Service of Remembrance, Sunday 14th November 2021 – War Memorial – 10 AM

Councillors would like to make the service more inclusive in future, especially bearing in mind how many people attended the above. Clerk to agenda for January.
Thanks were extended to the vicar and Ros downs for officiating.

Councillors agreed that, in future, they would prefer the service to take place at 10.45 AM and include a procession by the Rainbows/Brownies/Guides etc.

18 10 2021	SLL Annual Renewal Payable 1 st December 2021 - £112.00
18 10 2021	Job Vacancy Shirenewton Clerk
18 10 2021	Job Vacancy St Arvans Clerk
18 10 2021	Agenda OVW area committee meeting
19 10 2021	Confirmation Bugler booked 4.11.21
20 10 2021	MCC R Hoggins/M Hands Re Traffic congestion, Pwllmeyric - St Lawrence Roundabout (Circulated)
25 10 2021	OVW Training Programme
26 10 2021	Job vacancy Clerk Devauden
26 10 2021	MCC – reply chasing land clearance behind Cherry Trees, Mathern
26 10 2021	COP Cymru 2021 – Tool Kit – Circulated 08 11 2021
28 10 2021	MCC – Boundary Changes – Circulated 08 11 2021
01 11 2021	Invoice Stock It - £90.00 Hosting matherncc.co.uk
01 11 2021	Invoice Stock It – Monthly 9 users Office 365 - £56.40
01 11 2021	OVW – People Practice - peer to peer networking – Circulated 08 11 2021
01 11 2021	Quote Kudos - walks leaflets
02 11 2021	MCC Enforcement list - none in Shirenewton Ward
02 11 2021	P Quayle – Waste analysis survey - Circulated 08 11 2021
03 11 2021	OVW – Survey request Section 47 multi location meetings
04 11 2021	Acting Clerk Devauden – place for permanent or temporary Clerk
04 11 2021	Gwent Police Circular - We Don't Buy Crime initiative.
05 11 2021	MCC Planning DM/2021/01728 – Dean Farm Animal Sanctuary

58/21 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- **Community Resilience - Climate Emergency**

Walks leaflets to be digital – thus saving money and paper.

- **Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson**

On Going – walks leaflets to also be uploaded once agenda item 53/21 B concluded.

- **Jubilee celebrations update – Cllr M Sidwell**

Village groups have met –The event will be an afternoon tea with games from the time of the coronation. Costings to be available for the precept meeting in December

- **Possibility of taking photographs of current dog waste bins – with their current positioning.**

Cllr J Anderson has started this and will complete. Clerk to produce a document so that these details will be available should the contractor change.

- **Christmas carols**

Clerk had received an Email from St Tewdrics Church regarding an outdoor Carol Service. C C would fully support this initiative and would be happy to help advertise the event for the Church.

59/21 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

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

60/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting (Finance only) - Monday 13th December 2021 7 pm Mathern Village Hall.

Signed Chairman Date