

61/21

1. Councillors Present -:

- a. Mathern – David Harris, Dave Merrett, Jayne Harris, Matt Sidwell.
- b. Moun-ton - Carolyn Ovenden
- c. Pwllmeyric - Gareth Page (Remotely), Sylvia Stephens
- d. County Councillor Louise Brown (Remotely joined the meeting at 8pm)
- e. Clerk - Mrs J Kelley

2. Councillors Apologies -:

- a. Mathern – None
- b. Pwllmeyric– James Anderson
- c. Moun-ton - None

3. Members of the public-:

One

4. Police representatives-:

None

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

a. Police Report

“Here is the report for between 15th November 2021 and 7th January 2022:

18/11/2021 – Report of a burglary at a vacant property near Parkwall .The property was up for sale and an outside utility room was broken into and the whole electric unit was taken.

6/12/2021 – Report of a 2 vehicle RTC on the A48 near the Garden Centre. The Fire service and police attended, with both vehicles having to be cut open to get the occupants out. They were taken to hospital for checks but no serious injuries reported. The road was closed whilst the incident was dealt with.

22/12/2021 – Report of a property broken into whilst the occupants were not at home in the Orchard Rise area of Pwllmeyric. A patio door was smashed to gain entry and an untidy search made.

1/1/2022 – Report of a vehicle colliding with a wall in Mathern village and leaving the scene. The vehicle was later found abandoned on Bulwark industrial estate.

5/1/2022 – Report of a suspicious call made to a resident of Pwllmeyric. They had recent work near their property completed by British Gas. They then received a call stating that engineers needed access to their property to access the work. The caller disputed this as the

work was done outside and terminated the call. He/she then called British Gas to check why and was informed that their engineers would not have needed access to the property, so the call would not have come from them. The caller has contacted Action Fraud with details.

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

b. Public Comment

- Advised dog waste bins overflowing –

Action - Clerk emailed Merlin Waste to check on next collection date.

- Advised dissatisfaction with the quality of material used for the surfacing of the new track/road to Palace Farm.

Action - E mail stating concern regarding materials used sent to MCC Planning.

- After the meeting, the Clerk was contacted by a resident living behind Millers Arms re the condition of the road up to Snaky Lane – sweeper had visited the village today but had not included this road when cleaning.

Action - Clerk to Email MCC Highways to check when this lane would be cleaned/cleared.

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, 15th November 2021 as true and accurate records. Also Financial Minutes from the 13th December 2021 financial meeting.

62/21 Finance – December and January

- a. Monthly Bank Reconciliation for December authorised 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.

Action - this to be brought up at the next One Voice Wales (OWV) meeting as external audit papers still not received.

- c. Finalise Precept amount following finance meeting December 13th 2021

It was resolved that the sum of £22,700.00 would be requested as our precept for 2022/23

Receipts - December /January 2021/22		
Precept £7333.00 Received 23 rd December 2021		
Payments		
01 12 2021	S L C C membership	£130.00
06 12 2021	Mounton Church	£750.00
10 12 2021	Smart Pensions	£138.68
13 12 2021	J Kelley Postage	£15.84
30 12 2021	J Kelley Salary	£604.32
30 12 2021	PAYE – NI	£233.81
06 01 2022	Stock It Ltd	£56.40
06 01 2022	Merlin Waste Ltd	£67.08
10 01 2022	Telephone	£56.41
10 01 2022	Village Hall Rent	£15.00
10 01 2022	Rialtas (accounts)	£206.40
10 01 2022	Viking stationery	£149.94

63/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings

- a. **Drain Clearance - Pwllmeyric Village**

MCC have advised that this should be completed in early February.

- b. **Update Speed Watch –:**

Order to be produced by MCC for speed reduction enforcement through Mathern from 30 mph limit to 20mph. This is expected to take place in February/ March this year.

c. Draft Contract - dog waste disposal

This was discussed and reviewed at length. The following concerns were noted: -

Generally, the contract is acceptable, but the following points should be noted and reviewed.

1. The paragraphs should be individually numbered to facilitate easy reference to any point or clause.
2. Under 'Collection and Disposal/treatment process', the contract is asking for a weekly report to be presented to the Partners. We would not need a weekly report and a monthly report would be more appropriate. The issue of this monthly report should be noted under the 'Contractors' Roles and Responsibilities in Appendix 4.
3. Under 'Additions and Deletions' - additions or deletions should be agreed between the 'Partner' and the 'Contractor' on a monthly basis and either billed once agreed or on a six monthly basis. Not agreed items cannot be invoiced but will be referred to the 'Dispute Resolution Process'.
4. Under 'Market Conditions', "Unviable" is really an indefinable term. Would it not be better to identify the disposal cost of waste and agree that any legislative or tax changes that may come into force that increase (or decrease) this cost would be a permissible additional/deductive cost under the contract?
5. Under 'Method Statement' Method Statement 3, staff training and resources employed should be a parameter for assessment.
6. Under 'Community Benefits, Well Being of Future Generations', we do not believe this is relevant to this particular contract and not a valid criterion for assessment of the services provided.
7. In the contract, reference to individual Dog Waste Bins is noted with a number assigned to each bin. In Appendix 1, the schedule refers to a postcode or GPS reference. We believe an assigned number is the best reference. Either way there should be a consistent form of reference.
8. Under Appendix 4, 'Contractor' reference f. Any bin should not be moved without the expressed instruction from the Partner.
9. Under Appendix 4, 'Contractor' reference g. No invoice can be raised until the Contractor has evidenced any additional costs considered due and agreed the same with the Partner.
10. Under Appendix 4, 'Contractor' reference d. The Partner will only carry out a risk assessment on the waste bins on an annual basis
11. Under Appendix 4, 'Monmouthshire County Council' reference e. A further clause should be added in line with the following, 'To invoice Partners in accordance with the agreed Contract.'

Action - Chairman to draft a response and Clerk to send this to MCC.

a. **Update** - Walks leaflets

Cllr C Morton identified minor amendments which needed to be made. Cllr M Sidwell will make these amendments and circulate to all Cllrs for agreement prior to these being made available online.

Old leaflets to be used before new leaflets are reprinted.

b. **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.

Action - Chairman to write again to MCC asking for an update as the congestion seems to be worsening.

64/21 Highways/Footpaths

- Update footpath project – C Wheeler – None received
- Update sign clearing, including Parkwall.

Awaiting response from MCC regarding when signs were last cleaned

- Clerk to ascertain who owns the roadside willow trees at the entrance to Mathern. Still awaiting a response on this from Highways.

New items for Highways

- Large pot holes Mounton Village – Church to roundabout
- White lines at end of Barn Lane/Mathern Lane need repainting
- White lines centre of Pwllmeyric Hill need repainting
- Hedges still overhanging footpath, Box Tree Cottage, Pwllmeyric.

**A dropped kerb has been requested for Step a Side –the form sent by MCC is incorrect
Clerk to contact them again re this.**

65/21 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

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

Next Meeting Thursday 13th January 2022.

Chairman to bring up Welsh Audit delays

b. **Defibrillators - monthly checking**

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

c. County Councillors Report

COUNTYCOUNCILLORREPORT –DECEMBER 2021 and JANUARY 2022

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council on the 4th of November 2021

The County Council considered various reports including safeguarding, climate and de-carbonisation strategy, diversity and democracy declaration, statement of gambling policy and casinos, as well as motions and questions from councillors. Unfortunately the levelling up bid for Caldicot Leisure Centre was not successful but one of the bids to the UK Government Community Renewal fund of over £2m was successful. The agenda and draft minutes can be seen at the following link:

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

Children and Young People Select Committee on the 2nd of December 2021

This Committee agenda includes a briefing note on the update on Chepstow High School and can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=4704>

Economy and Development Special Select Committee on the 14th of December 2021

There was a special select committee to consider the implications of the Welsh Government (WG) response to the consultation on Monmouthshire's RLDP high growth preferred strategy. The implication being that no new sites would be required on the basis of the likely amount of windfall sites and planning sites from the current LDP. The concern being about the need for more affordable housing.

The Planning Inspector decides on the acceptable level of growth for the RLDP when it eventually comes before him or her and the inspectorate is independent from the Welsh Government Officers. However, there is a risk that the plan could be found to be unsound if the MCC RLDP high growth strategy is continued with and the planning inspector decides to agree with the Chief Planning Officers' recent consultation response, as opposed to have a more independent view.

The Cabinet Member indicated that there was a need within the next few months to attempt to negotiate with the Welsh Government Minister, as the consultation response was from WG Officers and there was agreement about the need for more affordable housing. However, there is still a requirement for the RLDP to be in line with the National Future Wales Plan-2040 which does not see Monmouthshire as a high growth area.

In my opinion, the report seeks to justify and defend the current RLDP high growth strategy and not deal with the gap between that and the Welsh Government Chief Planning Officers consultation response to MCCs preferred high growth strategy .

The following link provides the report and the meeting can also be watched:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=5243>

County Council on the 16th of December 2021

At the County Council on the above date the Cabinet Member gave a statement on the impact of COVID-19 on schools in Monmouthshire at item 4. There was also an answer at item 6c from the Cabinet Member for infrastructure and neighbourhood services on the rollout of the 20mph zones, firstly, in the pilot areas and secondly, for other areas in Monmouthshire including the ones in the Shirenewton Ward:

A MCC press release on the 16th of December, stated that:

“.....The other 20mph zones agreed for this financial year are in Devauden, Mathern, Monmouth including Wyesham) Mynyddbach, Shirenewton and two parts of Chepstow (Mouton Road and the town centre). The 21-day consultation for the Traffic Order for these will commence in early February and, provided there are no objections raised that cannot be resolved, the 20mph zones will be implemented in March 2022. Monmouthshire County Council is also proposing to make the Raglan and Tintern trial 20mph zones permanent, a move widely supported.”

It remains to be seen if MCC are able to keep to this timetable for the 20mph zones in our area.

The County Council reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4729>

66/21 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

a. New applications –

DM/2021/01963 7 Wyelands View, Mathern -Single storey rear extension and 2 storey side extension to existing detached dwelling.

No Comments

DM/2021/01503 Hill Farm Cottage – 2 storey rear extension and re layout of existing dwelling internals where necessary providing an additional 42 meters square.

Comments:-

Further to our previous comments made in respect of the above planning application, we would make the following further comments.

1. The application notes an increase in floor area for the proposal of 42m². The proposed ground floor additional area is actually 68m², doubling the original size of the property. This increase does not take into account to area of the new double garage with accommodation above.

2. The substantial increase in the hard surfaced area of the property and external areas will significantly increase the surface water run-off from the site. The local area is currently suffering from flooding in peak rain times. There will similarly be an increase in foul run off from the site with the larger house and ancillary accommodation above the garages.
3. No details are provided of the intended living accommodation above the garages.

DM/2021/02090 The Orchard Moun-ton Road – Listed Building Consent Heritage

No Comments

- b. Decisions and appeals :- None
- c. Enforcement- Nothing to report

67/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY

14 12 2021	OVW Eligible community Council General Power of competence – Circulated 20 12 2021
14 12 2021	OVW Welsh Government Cllr remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales Report – Circulated 20 12 2021
15 12 2021	OVW Correspondence minutes for Social Justice – Circulated 20 12 2021
15 12 2021	OVW Training January – Circulated 20 12 2021
15 12 2021	OVW Covid Booster information – Placed on village face book page
17 12 2021	MCC Duplicate of above
17 12 2021	OVW Advert for chair remuneration panel
17 12 2021	MCC Details re application for dropped kerb, Step aside, Mathern.
17 12 2021	OVW Statutory Guidance 2021 – Circulated 20 12 2021
17 12 2021	MCC Consultation precept payment frequency – Clerk responded Annual payment preferred sent 20 12 2021
23 12 2021	Planning MCC DM/2021/01503
29 12 2021	Vacancy Clerk - Gros-mont
30 12 2021	MCC advise road sweeper attended 22 12 2021
31 12 2021	Invoice Mathern Village Hall £15.00
03 01 2022	Invoice Stock It

Cllr J Harris advised that MCC were running a Climate Change – Carbon literate training link as below the delivery of Carbon Literacy training in Monmouthshire forms an important part of the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis, visit [Free Carbon Literacy Training – Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales](https://www.cynnalcymru.com/free-carbon-literacy-training) (www.cynnalcymru.com/free-carbon-literacy-training) book your place as soon as possible.

68/21 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Community Resilience - Climate Emergency
 - b. Walks leaflets provision as electronic. As well as small supply as booklets.
 - c. Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson
- Ongoing

d. Jubilee celebrations update – Cllr M Sidwell

The date has been fixed as Sunday 5th June as a big lunch – more details will be shared over the next few weeks. 30 trees have been donated and will be delivered soon. Residents will be asked to register an interest in the event to ensure that the planning committee can cater for correct numbers.

e. Boundary Change correspondence

Our Boundaries have now been changed. After the May 2022 local elections, this will leave Mathern C C with a smaller area, reduced number of dwellings (approx. 12) and two fewer Community Councillors for Mathern village. After this date, the Community Council will have 7 councillors.

69/21 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: Monday 14th February 2022 at 7 pm, Mathern Village Hall.

Signed Chairman Date