

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Village Hall
Monday 14th March 2022 from 19:00hrs

81/21

1. Councillors Present -:

- Mathern – David Harris, Dave Merrett, Christine Morton, Matt Sidwell.
- Moun-ton - Carolyn Ovenden
- Pwllmeyric - Sylvia Stephens, James Anderson, Gareth Page
- County Councillor Louise Brown
- Clerk - Mrs J Kelley

2. Councillors Apologies -:

- Mathern – Jayne Harris
- Pwllmeyric– None
- Moun-ton - None

3. Members of the public-:

- None

4. Police representatives-:

- None

81/21 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Public Comment

- Resident advised of unsafe trees in his opinion overhanging his house.
 - Clerk has notified MCC to investigate this.
- A request for a plaque to be placed on the bench on Mathern Crescent has been received in memory of the Late Robin Lewis.
 - Cllrs agreed to this – Clerk to advise
- A resident had asked how a bigger brown location sign could be replaced with a larger one at the entrance of the village advertising the Millers Arms. Resident prepared to pay for the new sign.
 - Clerk to contact Highways to enquire regarding this.

2. Received Monthly Police Report

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- 12/2/2022 – Report of a burglary at the Farm Shop at Pwllmeyric Garden Centre. The entrance gates to the centre were cut to gain access to the car park and a glass door was smashed to gain entry to the shop. Items including 2 vending machines were taken.
- 7/3/2022 – A call from a resident of Bishops Mead was made to us in the early hours of the morning stating a vehicle (type of truck) had entered the estate, stopped and 2 persons ran away from it. Officers attended quite soon after but no vehicle matching that description was found. No other details of the vehicle were given. A wider area search was made with a negative result.
- A van which has been parked under the motorway bridge has broken down – police have no issue with this vehicle as it is taxed and insured.

3. Apologies

- Cllr Jayne Harris

4. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary

- None

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

- Resolved to approve the minutes of the Mathern Community Council meeting held on Monday, 14th February 2022 as true and accurate records.

82/21 Finance – February and March

- Monthly Bank Reconciliation for February authorised by Cllr M Sidwell
- Grant Applications – None received – outstanding amount to be C/f to 2022/23
- Review spending to budget 2021/2022
 - This was discussed using the detailed receipts and payments by budget
- The Clerk was asked to seek alternative internet providers and check the end date of her BT contract.
 - Contract is until the end of December 2022 – Benefits of current home tech expect – smart hub 2 – complete Wi-Fi Guarantee – Fastest Mobile speed – Keep connected promise – broadband back up – mobile Data Boost
 -
- Councillors noted over spend 4069 (Telephone interest) due to increased charges and would review this when the Clerks current contract runs out.
 - Resolved to keep as overspend and not carry out a virement from sundry admin.
- Councillors noted over spend on 4066 (Printing/stationery/Postage) due to increased charges –
 - Resolved to keep as overspend and not carry out a virement from sundry admin.
- Councillors noted overspend in 4102 (Dog Waste Bin)
 - Due to increased emptying costs brought in by Merlin Waste.
 - MCC are now negotiating a contract with strict guidelines on when and by how much these costs can increase.

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- A underspend on 4102 which Cllrs resolved and therefore these costs contra each other.
 - Underspend was also discussed 4005 (Conference/Courses) Nil due to Covid.
 - 4010 Councillors Expenses underspend this to be transferred to Grants and donations and donated to Village Jubilee event.
 - 4110 (village upkeep) still awaiting invoice for work at War Memorial Garden.
- Annual Risk Assessments
 - The Clerk will distribute these to Cllr D Harris – Mathern Cllr C Ovenden Mounton – Cllr J Anderson Pwllmeyric. To be completed after 31st March 2022.
 - Annual Pay review back dated 2021 SCP 22
 - Nalc National Salary Award has not been confirmed for 2021/22
 - Clerks back pay to be paid in her March Salary – Cllr D Harris and Cllr C Ovenden to authorise this by email.
 - Clerks SCP is confirmed at 22.

Receipts: February / March: - None

Date	Description	Payment	Method

Payments

Date	Description	Payment	Method
21 02 2022	HSBC CHARGES	£ 5.00	
28 02 2022	Salary	£ 655.51	BACS
28 02 2022	Payee/NI	£ 175.18	BACS
06 03 2022	Smart pensions	£ 119.98	DD
06 03 2022	Stock IT Ltd	£ 56.40	BACS
06 03 2022	Merlin Waste	£ 71.50	BACS
08 03 2022	Telephone/Internet	£ 56.41	BACS
14 03 2022	Mathern Village Hall:- Rent	£ 75.00	BACA

- Merlin Waste invoice has been incorrectly paid as from December they added VAT to the monthly collection as we pay you standing order this wasn't picked up.
 - Clerk to contact Merlin Waste to rectify this.
 - Clerk contacted them after the meeting we are currently £21.16 in credit this to be refunded via a cheque.
 - Clerk to contact Rialtas our account software company to check how to show this in our accounts regarding the credit and the VAT amounts.
- A New 'What's on Leaflet' to be produced by Cllr Jayne Harris – invoice for delivery and ink cartridge to be paid on receipt of the receipt from the stationery shop.

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83/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Responses to queries raised at previous meetings:-

- Drain Clearance - Pwllmeyric Village
 - Work now completed.
 - Clerk to contact MCC to ask them what the procedure and how often future drain clearance are scheduled.

2. Update Speed Watch –:

- Consultation now completed.
 - Areas which Mathern CC identified cannot be added as this would delay the process and mean a public enquiry would need to take place.
 - Areas identified Chapel Lane, Baileys Hay to Buftons and Barn Lane also be included in the 20 mile restriction.
 - Restriction will be implemented by the end of 2022.

3. Update - Walks leaflets

- The PDF files have been sent to a graphic designer to arrange for the amendments to be made. One leaflet completed.
- Cllr M Sidwell liaising and matter on going.

4. Culvert Cleaning – rear of Birdwood Gardens/Small sweeper up this lane to Rose Cottage

- This has now been cleared.
- Clerk to also check if small sweeper has visited the site.
-

84/21 Highways/Footpaths

1. Update footpath project – C Wheeler

- This is ongoing and Clerk to advertise on Facebook village site that all footpaths issues can be emailed to her and then she will update C Wheeler who will liase with Mr C Wheeler.

2. Highways still outstanding

3. Pot holes Mounton village

4. Hedge Box Tree Cottage Pwllmeyric

5. Sign Cleaning

6. Update road hedges Mounton Village

7. Clerk to request small sweep in Mounton village, behind Millers Arms, Pavements lower Mathern from Step aside.

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85/21 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

➤ **One Voice Wales (OWW).**

- Next Meeting Thursday

➤ **Councillors Report**

- Cllr C Morton advised that she wouldn't be standing for re-election after April and therefore would be unable to run the Community Council Best Garden competition she asked for this to be agenda for the next meeting when another councillor would need to come forward for this after elections in May alternatively the Council will need to make a decision regarding the continuing of the competition.

➤ **Defibrillators - monthly checking**

- Clerk checked Mounton Brook Lodge - all working.
- The landlord at the Millers is now checking the machine at Millers Arms - all working.
- Clerk confirmed that she holds a spare battery.

➤ **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – March 2022**

➤ **20MPH SPEED LIMIT IN MATHERN**

- The individual Cabinet Member has made a decision on the traffic order for Mathern on the 9th of March 2022, which can be found in the following link:
- <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MId=4772>
- It is expected for this to be implemented this year.

➤ **Second Candidate Sites- RLDP**

- It is therefore advisable for local residents who wish to put in a response to do so when the consultation itself opens, so it can be considered as part of the official consultation response. But in the meantime local residents may wish to make their own notes on the different sites by reference to the C numbers, whilst not forgetting the overall impact, in preparation for the consultation, which normally lasts for 6 weeks.
- At this stage there are a lot of sites put forward and it is only at the deposit stage of the plan which is likely to be in 2023 that the list of sites is narrowed down.

➤ **Cabinet on the 2nd of March 2022**

- The Cabinet report considered a number of reports including improvement to Chepstow School and Leisure Centre. The ongoing improvements to Chepstow Leisure Centre was discussed, which when completed will represent a total investment of more than £1.6million.
- There are three main phases of the investment for the overall project at the Chepstow site. The first phase included measures as part of the council's aim to reduce its carbon footprint and is already completed. Improvements included LED lighting and shower upgrades, swimming pool plant and boiler replacements and a refurbishment of the pool hall.

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- The second phase starts soon and is expected to be completed by July. This will see health, fitness and wellbeing improvements including an upgrade of the fitness and studio equipment.
- The third and final phase of proposed improvements to the outdoor facilities and pitches see improvements to the outdoor play areas and pitches. In December 2021, MonLife was invited to apply for a grant from the Welsh Government, via Sport Wales, and a separate grant from Football Association of Wales, to develop the outdoor playing facilities and pitches at Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre. The overall total project funding and grant funding was £101,997 from Monmouthshire County Council, with an additional £433,058 sought from the funding bodies.
- The proposed project of improvements has been developed in consultation with Chepstow Leisure Centre, Chepstow Comprehensive School, Sport Wales, Football Association of Wales, Hockey Wales and Monmouthshire Junior Football League.
- The Council Budget was also considered at Cabinet, including that a 2.95% increase in the Band “D” equivalent Council Tax is used as the planning assumption in the budget model and to apply for County purposes in 2022/23, reduced from the previous proposed increase of 3.95% and as a result of the public consultation. The increase is below inflation and was approved at full Council on the 3rd of March and the 1% decrease will assist with the cost of living rises.
- The Cabinet reports can be found at the following link:
- <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=5260>

➤ **Adults Select Committee on the 2nd of March 2022**

- The above committee considered reports on domiciliary care (including the hours of unmet need due to the need for more carers) and housing the homeless strategy to try to overcome the over-reliance on Bed and Breakfast accommodation which is not sustainable. There is a particular need for single bed accommodation for young people. Private landlords are welcomed to assist.
- The meeting can be watched and the reports can be found at the following link:
- <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=5266>

➤ **Children and Young People Select Committee on the 3rd of March 2022**

- The above committee considered reports on family support services which emphasises the importance of helping families on a prevention basis at the early stages by an early help panel and advice lines. The committee also considered the budget monitoring reports.
- The meeting can be watched and the reports found at the following link:
- <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=4706>

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➤ County Council on the 3rd of March 2022

- The full Council received various reports and approved the Council tax changes as detailed in the information under the Cabinet report.
 - There were 2 motions including the approval of the following one on the Welsh Ambulance Trust: (in bold)
 - **Condemns the plans of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust to remove the rapid response vehicles from Monmouth and Chepstow ambulance stations as part of its National Roster Review.**
 - **Believes that downgrading these stations will put the lives of residents in the Monmouth, Chepstow and Caldicot areas at risk, at a time when response time targets for immediately life-threatening category A calls are already being consistently missed, despite the best efforts of paramedics and frontline NHS workers.**
 - **Opposes any move to downgrade ambulance stations in Monmouthshire and calls on WAST and the Welsh Government to scrap these plans.**
 - This was amended slightly to add about calling on the Minister for Health and Social Services as opposed to the Welsh Government and along the lines of adding about the Leader and the Members of Senedd (MSs) to meet with the Chief Executive of the WASTs as soon as possible.
 - It is understood that the earliest meeting time offered by the Chief Executive of WAST is the 31st of March.
 - The full council meeting reports can be found here:
 - <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4731>
 - The link for the petition on this subject to help with fighting these proposed national roster changes can be found below:
 - https://www.change.org/p/welsh-ambulance-services-trust-and-welsh-government-save-monmouth-and-chepstow-ambulance-stations?recruiter=1254873278&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition
 - Given the considerable travel times from one part of the county to another and the importance of the eight minute target for category A calls, these proposals are completely unacceptable as rapid response vehicles need to be based as locally as possible to attend lifesaving situations as quickly as possible. Any change or additions to staff based centrally rather than locally will not help to get here any quicker.
- County Councillor Brown advised that she is working with local bus company to reinstate a Saturday bus service which ran pre Covid. The suggested time for this is 11.45am pick-up return 03.01pm. All Councillors supported this and hoped that young people also used this service.

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66/21 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

1. New applications :-

- DM/2022/00321 Planning permission PWLLMEYRIC Petrol Station single storey extension to existing forecourt and shop building
 - No Comment
- DM/2022/00263 – Planning permission – Rhewl Cottage – Extension and change of use of existing garage into dog day care facility. Change of use of field to dog walking paddock.
 - The above planning application was discussed at our last meeting on 14th March 2022 and the following feedback on this application agreed.
- The Community Council object to the proposal on the following grounds:
 - a. The local roads and highways servicing this development are not suitable to accept further high levels of traffic. Because of the nature of the proposal car journeys would be very frequent and regular with daily or more frequent drop offs and collections on very narrow lanes.
 - b. The application forms notes that there are no parking implications associated with this application and no proposals to deal with cars arriving on site to drop off or collect animals. Clearly there are parking implications that need to be accommodated.
 - c. The application does not note the number of dogs the facility would cater for or how the waste from such activities will be managed. The number of dogs being catered for will give some indication of traffic generation. The Application Form and drawings are silent on any waste management proposals.
 - d. The details submitted do not indicate how many staff may be involved in the proposal and does not identify any specific staff parking or facilities.
 - e. The proposed 1800mm high fencing erected round the dog walking fields is obtrusive and does not fit in with the surrounding natural environment, despite planting proposals which will take years to establish.
- Decisions and appeals :- None
- Enforcement-

2. Update:-

- DM/2020/01724 Palace Farm – Road Construction -:
 - MCC due to issue the breach of planning notice on 13th March
 - Residents have complained to Mathern CC regarding excessive Lorries tipping at the site and causing noise and leaving dangerous muddy road through the village – NRW informed and asked to report back with details of the activities taking place.

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➤ Wye Valley Archery – Response from MCC:-

- I have discussed with the investigating officer and has been agreed that a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) with regard to all of the incremental works that have taken place here so that we have certainty of any breaches as well as any works that may be lawful in terms. We will confirm to both yourself and the Community Council once the PCN is served and then upon receipt of the response to it.

87/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY

E-Mails:-

08 02 22 Invoice Viking
08 02 22 Update footpaths issues C Wheeler
10 02 22 Completion of Annual Audit Wales Audit Office
15 02 22 Request for plaque to be placed on bench on Village Green in memory of R Lewis
16 02 22 Invoice mowing of grass Mounton Village
15 02 22 Smart pension receipt of February pension amounts
15 02 22 Welsh Government details apprentice scheme
15 02 22 CC Brown update on LDP Candidate sites
17 02 22 MCC re blocked culverts behind Birdwood Gardens
17 02 22 Resident copy of letter re 2nd LDP candidate sites.
18 02 22 MCC Update on Palace Farm Track and Wye Valley Archery enforcements
21 02 22 Response to consultation on Traffic Order response received 22 02 22
21 02 22 TTRO consultation
21 02 22 Invoice Merlin Waste
22 02 22 Election Papers from MCC
22 02 22 Planning DM/0200/00263
23 02 22 Copy correspondence Cll L Brown to Welsh Government traffic management Larkfield roundabout
23 02 22 Email J Anderson advise drains being cleared.
24 02 22 Welsh IRPW Report
24 02 22 OVW questionnaire
25 02 22 Information Pwllmeyric toads crossing
25 02 22 MCC Planning DM/2022/00321
25 02 22 OVW membership due April 2022
28 02 22 M Sidwell – Calvert Cleared Birdwood Gardens
28 02 22 C Jones Place Practitioner – drop in sessions – Chepstow 12 03 2022
28 02 22 Reminder to Cllrs Opt in Out Cllr allowance forms
28 02 22 MCC Planning DM/2022/00321
01 03 22 Stock It Invoice
01 03 22 Merlin Invoice
02 03 22 Rialtas Update License
03 03 22 Welsh Government Receipt of our correspondence re Larkfield roundabout
03 03 22 MCC enforcement list
04 03 22 OVW Clerk Pay Award
06 03 22 Freedom of information request – British Muslim

Clerk confirmed that Election Form need to be back with MCC before 4pm on the 4th April
Clerk requested that all Councillors return the op in – op out forms to the clerk before 28th March 2022.

88/21 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Community Resilience - Climate Emergency

➤ None

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2. Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson

- Chairman welcome letter to be slightly amended and Elections posters to be updated on Wednesday 16th March.

3. Jubilee celebrations update – Cllr M Sidwell

- The date has been fixed as Sunday 5th June as a big lunch – Residents have been asked to indicate their interest in the event by an electronic survey/ a what's on leaflet is to be sent to each house holder with the event advertised in it.
- Residents will be asked to register an interest in the event to ensure that its planning committee can cater for correct numbers.
- 70 trees have now been confirmed and will be planted in the Athletic Club Field.
- Clerk to ask the old committee of the past Jubilee events to close the account with a cheque payable to Mathern and District Club as this account will be used for the distribution and collection of funds for this year's event.

89/21 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

- Archive to Ebbw Vale when possible.

90/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting: Monday 11th April 2022 at 7 pm, Mathern Village Hall.

Signed **Chairman** **Date**