

71/21

1. Councillors Present -:

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

2. Councillors Apologies -:

- a. Mathern – None
- b. Pwllmeyric–Gareth Page
- c. Moun-ton - None

3. Members of the public-:

None

4. Police representatives-:

None

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

i) Public Comment

Two Public members have contacted the Clerk re the large pile of manure piled in the field behind the Village Hall on a public footpath.

This was removed before the meeting.

One public member contacted the Clerk to express his concern re the planning **DM/2021/0763 – Dean Farm Animal Sanctuary –**

His concerns were

- A hard standing has been made on the temporary proposed car park. (recently)
- A new gate has been extended but doesn't give 5 metres off the road. (about 18 months ago)
- Car park has been fenced in.
- Caravan is already being used.
- MCC Planning Dept. says the barns must be a certain colour and he thinks they will paint them bright.
- Road never swept so extremely dangerous with tractors corroding the banks.
- A firm webbing has been installed on the staff park car park

- Walkways have been installed
- Road is currently 60 mile per hour speed limit

Hedges overgrown and extremely dangerous which makes the lane even smaller, with few passing places

Cllr D Harris to contact MCC Planners to ascertain if neighbours are informed of Planning Applications as per the details on their website as this is the second resident to inform us that they have had no notification of this application from the County Council. Also to ask the distance criterion for nearby residents to receive such information.

i) Received: Monthly Police Report

“There is very little to report for the area since the last meeting but that doesn’t mean we should get complacent.

13/1/2022 – Report of a vehicle (white Ford Ranger) acting suspiciously in the dead end lane which runs past Little Innage Barns. Enquiries are ongoing.

I have attached the new details of officers in the Chepstow Neighbourhood Policing Team for your information.

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”

Questions Community Cllrs. had sent to Police – response in red

1. In past years we have experienced farmers bringing huge volumes of mud onto village roads with no mitigation or consideration for other road users, pedestrians or residents. We have tried to pursue pressure for such parties to fulfil their legal obligations in this respect but have hit brick walls with the police and MCC. The police response to me was that such issues are an occupational risk. Could you clarify the position of the police on this matter and advise how we should ensure due consideration is given to legal responsibilities?

I have spoken with Cllr Louise Brown about this matter during previous meetings. Gwent Police’s Rural Crime Team are raising awareness on this issue within the rural communities and welcome live time reports so that any offences may be considered and if so appropriate action taken. I will again raise your concerns with the RCT and ask that they continue to raise awareness.

2. Can you confirm the principles of communicating with members of the public in rural areas, particularly the aged who may not be too IT literate?

We have seen a real shift in the last few years which has seen us move to online communication with our communities. However, that said, communities will still see our CSO’s patrolling and are able to contact us via the usual routes of 101 or mobile numbers of the team. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please let me know. I am keen to ensure that all community members can reach us.

3. I would rather like to know why the police actually police the A466 from High Beech to the racecourse (30 mph, frequent speed cameras) but do very little on the same road from High Beech to the old Severn Bridge (50 mph, past fatalities and serious accidents). I go out of my way not to speed here too and many vehicles overtake me. No camera. Why not?

I have raised this with my colleagues at Go Safe who are responsible for the enforcement vehicle here. As soon as I receive a response I will let you know.

My neighbourhood team will also attend both areas you have mentioned with the speed gun. I have raised your concerns about the High Beech to Old Severn Bridge Road.

Cllr noted that in the original design for the Severn Approach road, speed cameras were to be installed into the overhead signage which is still incomplete.

i) Apologies

As above - Cllr G. Page

ii) Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary

None

iii) Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Mathern Community Council meeting held on Monday, 10th January 2022 as true and accurate records.

72/21 Finance – January and February

- a) Monthly Bank Reconciliation for December authorised by Cllr M Sidwell
- b) Audit received from Welsh Audit Office on 10th February. (4 days before this meeting.)

Resolved - the conclusion of Audit and relevant notice and form to be placed on noticeboards and website.

Invoice to follow from Welsh Audit Committee.

- c) MCC advised that the Precept will be paid in 3 equal payments - end of April, August and December
- d) Introduction of fees from HSBC

From December 2021, a monthly fee of £5.00 is payable to hold our community bank account. This is together with a 40p fee for each cheque which is written. Cllrs to obtain details on the Unity Bank.

Receipts - February
None

Payments		
. Payments		
21 01 2022	HSBC bank Charges	£5.40
31 01 2022	J Kelley Salary	£621.31
31 01 2022	PAYE– NI	£158.61
06 02 2022	Stock It Ltd	£56.40
06 02 2022	Merlin Waste Ltd	£67.08
08 02 2022	Viking (paper ink)	£149.94
14 02 2022	Telephone	£56.41
14 02 2022	Village Hall rent	£15.00
14 02 2022	Mr T Bryant – Mounton	£112.50 Cheque 102080

73/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings

A) Drain Clearance - Pwllmeyric Village

Still incomplete but should be carried out in February.

B) Update - Speed Watch –.

A Notice of Consolidation Order has been received from MCC with consultation until 23rd February.

Resolved that Community Council would respond to this document asking that Chapel Lane, Baileys Hay to Buftons and Barn Lane also be included in the 20 mph restriction.

Cllr M Sidwell to check with liaison office of Speed Watch that all completed forms have been received. He explained that some volunteers felt that, with the speed reduction being implemented, the group would not be required. However Cllr Anderson explained that the group would help enforcement of the new limit as letters warning of infringement would be sent to culprits by Go Safe and this was important in ensuring that the speed limit reduction is adhered to.

C) Update Draft Contract - dog waste disposal/Appendix One completed

This has been sent to MCC for them to obtain the necessary tenders.

The Clerk thanked Cllr M Sidwell for his assistance with this document.

D) Update - Walks leaflets

The PDF files have been sent to a graphic designer to arrange for the amendments to be made.

Cllr M Sidwell liaising and matter on-going.

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

Response from Mark Hand of M C C - "The subdivision of the former unit to create Greggs and Subway did not require planning permission as there was no material change of use (all uses are class A1). I am therefore unable to provide comment on the traffic impacts of any planning decision I'm afraid, because it wasn't a decision that was before us as Local Planning Authority."

F) Response Willow Trees entrance to Mathern/Signage Cleaning MCC

Willow Trees, entrance to Mathern – MCC Highways responsibility

No response on road sign cleaning. Clerk to chase again.

G) Culvert clearing – rear of Birdwood Gardens. Small sweeper needed up lane to Rose Cottage

The culvert has still not been cleared. Clerk to contact Ross Price at M C C to request land owner is chased regarding the matter.

Clerk to also chase need for small sweeper.

74/21 Highways/Footpaths

- Update - footpath project. Document produced by C Wheeler.

Draft of the document was circulated. Clerk to send it to **Gavin Pugh**, Assistant Rights of Way Officer for MCC.

- Update - sign clearing, including Parkwall. – **no response**
- Update - works by Welsh Water on Pwllmeyric Hill – **no response**
- Update - damage to road, hedges. Moun-ton Village – Trap Hill – **no response**
- Update - Moun-ton Village pot holes – **no response**
- Update - Box Tree Cottage hedge, Pwllmeyric – **no response**

Clerk to report all these once more.

- A48 – St Pierre 68.7 - Deep pot holes
- Boardwalks, Bishops Mead – rotted and dangerous.
- Clearing of pavement overgrowth on A48 still has incomplete sections from Buftons to Garden Centre.
- Entrance to Mathern by brook area has been taped off for over 12 months. Please advise why this is sectioned off and any action being taken (reported 12 04 2021). Tape now at bottom of fence and eroding into verge.

75/21 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

a) One Voice Wales (OVW).

Update Cllr D Harris

Next Meeting Thursday

b) Defibrillators- monthly checking

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

c) County Councillors Report

COUNTYCOUNCILLORREPORT – FEBRUARY 2022

County Councillor Brown advised:

20 MPH SPEED LIMIT IN MATHERN

As reported in the County Councillor report for last month, the MCC press release indicated that the 21 day consultation for the traffic order for the speed limit would commence in early February 2022. The consultation ends on the 23rd of February.

The link below shows the amendment order 2 which covers Mathern with the street maps:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/amendment-order-no-2-2022/>

The link below is where comments can be made for consideration by highways:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/public-consultation-traffic/>

Cabinet on the 19th of January 2022

The Cabinet report shows the draft revenue budget proposals for 2022/23 with some of the following notes:

“..That Cabinet recognises unavoidable service pressures of some £10.41 million and further pay pressures of £4.96 million that need to be provided for within the 2022/23 budget.

That Cabinet confirms its intention fund pay related pressures insofar as they impact schools and up to a threshold of a 3% pay award, and to accommodate significant demand pressures caused, in particular by increasing numbers of looked after children and pupils with additional learning needs.

That Cabinet proposes a Council Tax rise of 3.95% for modelling purposes for financial year 2022/23 and over the medium term

That Cabinet acknowledges the financial risks and uncertainties that remain and that unless mitigated through other means will result in further budget pressures needing to be managed.

That Cabinet recognises that whilst the draft budget proposals are presenting a balanced budget this includes a one-off contribution of £863k from the Council’s limited general reserve (Council Fund). Efforts are to continue to mitigate as much as possible the level of reserve contribution supporting the budget proposals for 2022/23..”

Whilst an above average settlement was welcomed from the Welsh Government, Monmouthshire still receives the lowest contribution of £1,176 per head of population, compared to the average of £1,611 from the Welsh Government and so has a higher than the average (39.5% compared to 27.5%) reliance upon Council tax to meet its budget.

The Cabinet report on this and other issues can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4674>

County Council on the 27th of January 2022

The County Council reports included the council reduction scheme, implementing the South East Wales Joint Corporate Committee and responding to the insufficiencies in the provider market for children and young people with complex needs. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4730>

Cllrs discussed the 2nd stage of Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) candidate sites which have been submitted to MCC – Clerk to place this link on Website and Village Facebook Site. Cllrs noted that public consultation on these new sites was not invited yet.

Cllrs noted that a pony and trap was regularly using the village roads and not keeping to the current speed limit.

66/21 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

a) New applications –

DM/2021/02079 – Planning Permission, 4 Mounton House Park – Replace existing tarmac surface with cobbled stone surface. Replace existing tarmac surface around entrance with a paved stone surface.

No Comment

DM/2022/000009 Rose Cottage, Pwllmeyric – Single storey from extension and remove chimney.

No Comment

b) Decisions and appeals :- None

c) Enforcement-

DM/2020/01724 Palace Farm – Road Construction – apron to road –

Resolved to contact MCC Enforcement re non-compliant construction.

Wye Valley Archery –

Clerk has been copied in on correspondence to Enforcements Chairman and will also email Enforcements.

77/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY

E-Mails

11/01/2022	O V W Training Update
11/01/2022	MCC re dropped Kerb Step a Side – re-assigned to correct department
11/01/2022	MCC Receipt of Precept claim
11/01/2022	M Hand MCC update on traffic congestion at Larkfield. All businesses class A1 so Planning consent needed.
11/01/2022	MCC response Willow trees – not dangerous. Highways property
12/01/2022	GAVO notification of AGM
13/01/2022	Update. MCC elections briefing sessions for Clerks
19/01/2022	MCC details of new dog waste disposal contract updated re our comments
19/01/2022	MCC Planning DM/2021/02079 4 Mounton House Park
20/01/2022	Email G Delamere re Palace Farm Track
20/01/2022	MCC email re register dog waste bins – Clerk submitted 03 02 2022
26/01/2022	MCC Planning DM/2021/02079
26/01/2022	MCC Planning DM/2022/0009
26/01/2022	C Wheeler email re garden waste permit
01/02/2022	Invoice Stock It Ltd
01/02/2022	Invoice Merlin Waste
01/02/2022	Copy email to Enforcements re Wye Valley Archery
02/02/2022	OVW Fees Welsh Audit Office
02/02/2022	MCC Traffic regulation stator consultation
03/02/2022	MCC Enforcement list
04/02/2022	MCC confirmation Precept will be paid in 3 equal instalments April, August and December

78/21 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Community Resilience - Climate Emergency

Clerk to place details on village Facebook page and website for contact details for:

- local police officers/the consultation for the MCC amendment of speed through village to 20 mph
- details of how to view the list of 2nd stage candidates sites for the RLDP, although consultation on this isn't open yet.

b) Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson

Ongoing - as above.

Annual Audit to be placed on Website

c) Jubilee celebrations update – Cllr M Sidwell

The date for these has been fixed as Sunday 5th June as a Big Lunch – more details will be shared over the next few weeks. Residents will be asked to register an interest in the event to ensure that it's planning committee can cater for correct numbers. 70 trees to be planted within the community. All sites now identified.

Clerk advised that a Coventry Building Society passbook had been handed to her with a credit balance from two previous "royal" village events. Clerk to contact the signatory to seek guidance on how the balance should be spent and if it is the wish that this be donated to the current event to take place on 5th June 2022

d) Annual Community Meeting (ACM). Date uncertain due to elections

If Community Council seats are contested and an election called, our ACM will be on 16th May. Alternatively, if uncontested the ACM will remain at 9th May.

79/21 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

Archive to Ebbw Vale when possible.

Archive records of school to be input on Website – this is ongoing

Matters for next Agenda:

- request for a commemorative plaque to be placed on The Crescent Bench
- Best Kept Garden Competition

80/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meeting Closed at 9.40 pm.

Next meeting: Monday 14th March 2022 at 7 pm, Mathern Village Hall.

Signed Chairman Date