

# MATHERN, MOUNTON and PWLLMEYRIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Village Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 from 19:00hrs

**91/21**

**1. Councillors Present -:**

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

**2. Councillors Apologies -:**

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

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

None

**3. Police representatives-:**

None

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**i) Public Comment**

Numerous comments have been received from public re large construction lorries passing through the village. There was special concern at the resulting state of the road in lower Mathern.

This was an ongoing issue: Cllrs have already been in contact with both National Resources Wales (NRW) and Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) Enforcement due to these large construction lorries passing through the village in order to tip material in a field between Palace Farm and the railway line.

Cllrs have contacted NRW to check what material is apparently being dumped in the field. NRW's response was that the material was being imported to meet the requirements of the MCC Planning approval for the newly installed track to the farm. NRW believe the imported material to be topsoil and thus a 'product' and not 'waste'. Cllrs queried the volume of material being imported and noted that it was being used to raise the level of an adjacent field, not the track. NRW said they would further investigate.

NRW stated that the issue of raising the level of the field was an MCC Planning issue. The Community Council Chairman had previously written to MCC Enforcement regarding this and received no response – County Councillor Brown had also written and received no response.

Cllrs are aware of the upset and anger of residents of Mathern due to the number of lorries entering and leaving the village from 8 am until 4.30 pm, often leaving extensive mud on the roads. This material is also getting in the water course. After discussions with Councillor Merrett, the owner of the haulage company was invited to this meeting because he did not believe the residents of Mathern were concerned regarding the matter.

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He was unavailable to attend as he had a prior engagement – but said he would happily meet at the entrance to the track to discuss the matter.

Councillors resolved that the Chairman would speak to Mr Matthew Phillip, MCC Monitoring Officer, to investigate where we go from here. NRW are adamant that the issue of the track and the raising of the field is an MCC Planning matter. The categorising of the material being imported and requisite licences to move and deposit it is NRW's responsibility

### ii) **Comments:- front garden at St Tewdric's Place, Mathern**

The Community Council does not have any enforcement powers in relation to how residents maintain their gardens. The Council could however take up the issue with the local County Councillor to see if she could ask an appropriate officer from the County Council to view the garden area and make a judgement as to whether any enforcement action could be taken. Councillors however feel that the current state of the garden, although untidy, would not warrant such action.

- Residents have raised concern over parents doing 3 point turns in their cars when picking up and dropping off children outside Mathern nursery, rather than turning around in a safer place.

Clerk to email PCSO requesting that he/she contacts the nursery to offer guidance as to how the practice of making three point turns can be discouraged on safety grounds.

- Matter of a damaged hand rail at Mounton Church was brought to the Community Council's attention. Mounton Church PCC aware and investigating this with their insurance company.

### iii) **Received: Monthly Police Report**

"Here is the report for between the above dates:

30/3/2022 – Report of a vehicle acting suspiciously after driving into Mathern Athletic Club in the early hours of the morning. Officers attended but the vehicle had left the location. No offences reported.

4/4/2022 – Report of a dwelling break at a property in Mathern village. It is now believed to have happened sometime between 10.50 hrs and 11.20 hrs on the morning of Friday April the 1<sup>st</sup> whilst residents were away. Entry was gained via patio type doors and an untidy search made of the property. Items of jewellery were taken. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please call 101 quoting log 502 -4/4/2022.

Please remain vigilant and make sure if you are going away make sure you let your trusted neighbours know. Timer lights, asking neighbours to draw and open curtains at the relevant times, asking neighbours to put a car on your drive occasionally makes thieves think there is activity at the house and someone is home. A house alarm fitted and used while you are not at the property will also give yourselves peace of mind too."

### iv) **Apologies**

None.

### v) **Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest**

Councillor C Ovenden – Mounton Ward – Planning application DM/2022/00518

**Register of Interest form was completed.**

### vi) **Minutes of the previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Mathern Community Council meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as true and accurate records.

## **92/21 Finance – March / April**

- (i) Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation December
- (ii) Grant Applications – Final for 2021/22 – **None received as at 8 3 2022**

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- (iii) Review spending to budget 2021/22
- (iv) Annual Risk Assessments.
- (v) Annual Pay review back dated April 2021 – S C P 22 –

Receipts: March/April :- None

Date	Description	Payment	Method

### Payments

Date	Description	Payment	Method
25 03 2022	Jayne Harris – printing What's On Leaflet	£ 40.00	BACS
31 03 2022	Viking stationery	£ 95.16	BACS
31 03 2022	J Kelley	£ 679.75	BACS
31 03 2022	PAYE- NI	£ 217.34	BACS
01 04 2022	OVW Membership	£ 157.00	BACS
06 04 2022	Stock IT Ltd	£ 56.41	BACS
12 04 2022	St Tewdric's Church	£ 400.00	Q102082
12 04 2022	Mounton Church	£ 200.00	Q102083
12 04 2022	St Pierre Church	£ 150.00	Q102084
12 04 2022	Internet and Telephone	£ 56.41	BACS
12 04 2022	J Kelly – Working from Home	£ 200.00	BACS
11 04 2022	Mathern and District Club	£2500.00	Q102085

### 93/21 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING:-

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

##### **A. Update - Speed Watch.**

MCC advised “-Implementation has unfortunately been delayed by an issue with the sign manufacturer. We're currently working to see if alternative suppliers can shorten the timescales, but it is now likely that completion of the 20mph pilot will not be until the end of April. Please rest assured we'll get it completed as quickly as possible. We have contacted all other Highway Authorities in Wales to see if anyone has surplus supplies that we can have and replenish their stocks later and have had a couple of positive replies that we're progressing. (In anticipation of your question, the 20mph roll out isn't a big thing in England hence not asking our neighbours to the east).”

A leaflet drop will be taking place in the next couple of weeks to inform the local community of the proposed new 20mph speed limit. Following the elections, there will be banners for schools within the 20mph zones.

Cllr M Sidwell advised that more volunteer for the speed watch group have now come forward.

##### **B. 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 advised that this work is near completion. New high resolution photographs now need to be taken to be included in the leaflets.

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### C. Response MCC re-sign clearance in Community

“There is not a sign cleansing programme within Monmouthshire as such, as we receive very few requests for this to be carried out. Such works may be addressed as and when resources are available and would be assessed by the maintenance team as to being required or not. I am aware that the large sign at Parkwall is in need of cleansing but not of any other signs. If you can forward a list of signs in your area, we will be able to assess. I must add that these works would be of a low priority on our programmes and may take some time to address due to workload and workforce availability in the next financial year.”

#### **Mathern C. C. response**

All signs on A48 Pwllmeyric and at junctions’ access onto the A48. These are all very dirty. Also Barn Lane (Mathern Lane)/Chapel Lane – also very dirty.

### **94/21 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS**

#### a) Footpaths project – C Wheeler. Nothing to report

#### b) Any update - damaged road/hedges, Moun-ton Village – Traphill Road.

MCC advised that, until the building works in the village were completed, this matter would not be resolved. Mathern C C to advise when building works are completed and then MCC will make a capital expenditure in maintaining this damaged road/hedge.

#### c) Any update - potholes Moun-ton Village - Most now completed but still three outstanding.

Clerk advised: back of Moun-ton House School to Barnetts Farm/Church to Trelenny/Traphill Road.

#### d) Any Update - hedges near Box Tree Cottage obstructing pavement

Still uncompleted - Cllr J Harris has updated this on to the My Monmouthshire app as it would appear that work listed here gets completed quicker.

#### e) Any update - brown sign for Millers Arms Mathern

Response from MCC – “The brown tourism type sign currently in place indicating The Millers Arms has not been approved and appears to have been erected without the required authorisation from the Council. Therefore we cannot agree to it being replaced by a larger sign at this time.”

### **95/21 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT**

#### a) One Voice Wales (OVW)

Next Meeting –21<sup>ST</sup> April 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

#### b) Defibrillators- monthly checking

Clerk checked Moun-ton Brook Lodge - all working.

The landlord at the Millers Arms is now checking the machine there - all working.

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c) County Councillors Report

No report due to Elections

County Councillor Brown confirmed that the Saturday No. 73 bus for Mathern would be reinstated on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April – 11.43am returning at 3.05pm

d) Discussion on the future direction of Best Kept Garden (as seen from the roadside) competition. This including the nomination of a Councillor responsible for overseeing any future competition.

Matter to be agenda for the next meeting. Meanwhile, Cllrs to consider if they wish the competition to continue/change format with some updates etc.

e) Risk Assessments.

Pwllmeyric and Mounton forms completed.

Mathern to follow.

f) Reminder – A Dell School Governors position will become available to the CC in July

Clerk to email Dell Governors to ascertain if Cllrs can nominate a current resident of Mathern to stand as Governor. This resident would represent the Community Council and report back to it. Also to seek guidance on the terms of nomination, including required training for the role.

**96/21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued.**

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

a) New applications –

DM/2022/00393 Planning permission The Newlands – Balcony to front of house:-

No Comments

DM/2022/00518 Planning permission – Church Cottage – A replacement dwelling is proposed at Church Cottage to prevent the future risk of flooding of the dwelling. The scheme will involve the demolition of the existing dwelling

Councillors considered the above application at their meeting on 14th April 2022, although recognising the flooding issues posed at this site and architectural merits of the proposed dwelling it was felt that it was the wrong building for this location.

The current Cottage sits subserviently in its conservation area with Mounton Church at present but the proposed building does not. The proposal does not blend in complement or reflect the local vernacular and its proportions and lines are at odds with the other dwellings in the hamlet of Mounton. The materials proposed similarly are at odds to those elsewhere within the conservation area and hamlet.

For the above reasons this Council would recommend refusal.

b) Decisions and appeals :- None

c) Enforcement

d) Update

DM/2020/01724 Palace Farm – Road Construction

Breach of planning notice issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Councillors noted that the apron to the track has now been tarmacked. However, no planting has taken place and the construction material of the track has not been changed.

Also see public comments

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## 97/21 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- i. Election Papers to be received by MCC 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- ii. DCWW (Dwr Cymru Welsh Water) meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Cllr D Harris, G Page and C Ovenden to attend.
- iii. Elections - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May
- iv. E-Mails
  - 14 03 22 Confirmation DCWW meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022
  - 15 03 22 MCC Planning Consultation DM/2022/00393
  - 15 03 22 Invoice Mathern Village Hall rent
  - 15 03 22 MCC confirmation from MCC planning letters not sent to neighbors now issued
  - 15 03 22 OVW Vacancy Clerk Chepstow Town Council
  - 15 03 22 MCC J Pearson – online elections nomination process
  - 16 03 22 MCC confirmation breach of condition notice issued to Palace Farm Track
  - 17 03 22 MCCC Receipt highways Issues March
  - 17 03 22 Welsh Audit Office – audit details 2021 2022
  - 17 03 22 OVW Training details
  - 17 03 22 OVW Update Training
  - 18 03 22 SLCC quarterly meeting details
  - 21 03 22 MCC response notification to neighbors
  - 21 03 22 OVW Training details
  - 22 03 22 Job vacancy Magor with Undy Clerk
  - 22 03 22 Cllr D Harris confirmation salary back pay Clerk
  - 23 03 22 MCC Response – sign clearance
  - 23 03 22 OVW – Innovation of Strategy for Wales
  - 25 03 22 Vacancy Caldicot Town Clerk
  - 25 03 22 Viking Invoice
  - 27 03 22 Merlin Waste Invoice
  - 28 03 22 Receipt of order more dog poo bags
  - 29 03 22 Receipt of Risk Assessments – Pwllmeyric
  - 30 03 22 M Hand MCC advise 20 MPH speed reduction delay
  - 30 03 22 Stock It invoice
  - 01 04 22 MCC enforcement list

- iv. Monmouthshire County Council have advised that the following Councillors places are uncontested therefore

Cllr D Harris, Cllr M Sidwell will represent Mathern

Cllr C Ovenden will represent Mounon

Cllr S Stevens and Cllr G Page will represent Pwllmeyric

This leaves vacancies for one Cllr each for Mathern and Pwllmeyric.

Both Jayne Harris and James Anderson advised that they are happy to be co-opted. Therefore as no other nominations were received by MCC before 4<sup>th</sup> April, Cllrs agreed that both would be co-opted into post at the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Both Councillor C Morton and Cllr D Merrett have decided not to continue as Community Councillors after the upcoming elections.

The Chairman told them how sorry the Community Council would be to lose them and thanked them both for all their hard work and dedication over many years.

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## 99/21 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

- a. Archive to Ebbw Vale when possible

## **100/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:-**

Next meeting: Annual Community Meeting, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7 pm, followed by the normal monthly meeting. Mathern Village Hall.

Signed ..... Chairman    Date .....