

DRAFT MINUTES FOR JUNE 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Village Hall on Monday 11th July 2022 from 19:00 hrs

21/22

1. Councillors Present -:

- a. Mathern: - Matt Sidwell, Jayne Harris
- b. Moun-ton: - Carolyn Ovenden – Chairperson
- c. Pwllmeyric: - Sylvia Stephens, Gareth Page
- d. County Councillor: - Louise Brown
- e. Clerk: - Mrs. Jane Kelly

2. Councillors Apologies-:

- a. Mathern: - David Harris
- b. Moun-ton: - None
- c. Pwllmeyric: - Cllr James Anderson

3. Members of the Public: -

- a. None

4. Public Representative: -

- a. None

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Public Comment: -

- a. None

2. Received Monthly Police Report: -

- a. There is no relevant crime to report for the area since the last meeting thankfully but that does not mean we can be complacent. 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.

Just a matter of note if any residents have heating oil delivered. We have recently had a theft of heating oil from a property in Shirenewton which is the first in our area for a good while, so please be vigilant and take all necessary precautions to protect your tank. I have attached a leaflet with some advice regarding the same.

3. Apologies: -

- a. Cllrs D Harris and J Anderson

4. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest: -

- a. **Carolyn Ovenden – Item 26/22 DM/2022/00791**planning application

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: -

- a. **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting 13th June 2022 as true and accurate records
b.

22/22 Finance June / July

1. To consider approval of payments as per below; **all approved**
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation (May) **by Cllr M Sidwell.**
3. Initial Internal Audit. Awaiting external Audit correspondence on where papers need to be delivered to. **Clerk to advise of her holidays dates when papers would be unable to be delivered.**
4. Amendment to financial regulations re issue of cheques. **Clerk Cllr DE Harris, C Ovenden to work on this over the summer and agenda for the September meeting.**
5. Clerks' evaluation of Contract review following internal audit (documents attached) **Cllr C Ovenden to speak to OVW regarding this and matter to be agenda for September meeting.**
6. **Grant Application:** – Matter was discussed with £1100.00 left in the budget it was agreed that a grant of £500.00 would be made to MMPVB The only application received for this meeting. If the whole budget wasn't spent Cllrs agreed that they could come back to this and increase the grant or C/f to next financial year.

Receipts: May/June

Date	Description	Payment

Payments: May/June

Date	Description	Payment
13 06 2022	J Kelly Internet Telephone	61.65
14 06 2022	Mathern Village Hall Rent	15.00
21 06 2022	Bank Charges	5.00

22 06 2022	War Memorial Garden	163.80
30 06 2022	J Kelly	561.30
03 07 2022	Stock IT Annual License	54.00
03 07 2022	Mathern Athletic Club. Grant Agreed benches 50% Maximum £500	500.00
11 07 2022	A Fry Internal Audit	450.00
11 07 2022	J Kelly Internet Telephone	61.65

23/22 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings

- a) Update: -Speed Watch. Mathern Village.
Pending delivery of the 20-mph speed signage. See County Councillors report for update on 20 speed signage
- b) Update - Walks leaflets
Work near completion. Hoped to be completed by next meeting.
- c) Response from MCC re-sign clearance in the Community
Clerk has chased matter being investigated by the relevant officer.
- d) Any Update Re-Place Farm Activities
Awaiting an update from MCC and NRW. No Response as yet.
- e) Any response the Dell re Governors Post re advertising in village.
This was advertised within the community and no individuals came forward for this position. Clerk to advised Chepstow Town Council that due to Cllrs reduction in numbers and commitments we would be unable to nominate a representative and that Mathern C C would like a representative from Chepstow Town Council to be nominated.
- f) Response MCC re rota of grass cutting/verges/vegetation in highways
This information would be used when setting the budget for 2022/23. If needed a further cut above the two which MCC complete may be needed which Mathern C C would need to contribute towards.

24/22 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

- a. Footpath Issues: - None
- b. Clerk to request drains at Mathern Lane (Barn Lane) be investigated as full again.
- c. MCC Culvert at Birdwood gardens to be investigated.

25/22 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

- A. One Voice Wales (OVW).
Next Meeting –7th July 2022 7 pm via zoom – Apologies sent
- B. Defibrillators- monthly
Clerk checked Mounton Brook Lodge - all working.
The landlord at the Millers Arms is now checking the machine there - all working.
- C. Best Kept Garden competition as seen from the road – Cllr S Stephens and Cllr J Harris

Competition to be completed next week. With the winners being announced at the village fete.

Cllr J Harris and Cllr S Stephens requested that the clerk obtain up to date maps showing the new boundaries brought in this year.

D. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT JUNE 2022

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council Meeting on the 23rd of June 2022

Religion, Values and Ethics

The above County Council meeting approved the new agreed syllabus for RVE (Religion, Values and Ethics) with the caveat that the Cabinet member would write to the Heads of schools to explain that the EQIA (Equality Impact Assessment) was more applicable to another part of the curriculum. It has been agreed to review the EQIA at the next SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on RE) meeting.

Abergavenny School

The County Council meeting also approved the new 3-19 Abergavenny school and considered various motions and questions including one on High Beech roundabout, which I put forward and was supported by the Council.

High Beech Roundabout Motion to County Council

The motion said as follows

Submitted by County Councillor Louise Brown

This Council:

Notes the Welsh Government has decided not to progress the WelTAG 2 study on the options for improvement of the High Beech roundabout in Chepstow this year.

Calls on the Welsh Government to urgently commit and financially support all five stages of this study and implement High Beech roundabout studies and improvements as a priority, as the well-known daily traffic congestion and travel delays at this pinch point are having a detrimental impact on the lives of local residents in all areas of life including travelling for school, work, shopping and leisure purposes.

I was informed after the election that the WelTAG2 study on the improvements to High Beech roundabout which was due to be consulted upon in late Spring/Early Summer was not going ahead and being postponed until consideration next year due to funding and priorities elsewhere in Wales.

Hence the reason for the above motion. The WelTAG1 study had 11 options for improvement including 2 at High Beech roundabout itself, one with no more land and one with extra land. The options were due to be narrowed down and further consulted on. Hopefully some more funding may be found this year.

Water Quality in the Rivers Usk and Wye

There was another motion on the water quality concerns in relation to the Wye and Usk Rivers which was supported with a slight amendment to the wording.

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

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=4959>

Place Scrutiny Committee on the 30 June 2022

Wye Valley Villages Future Plan

The Place Committee considered various reports including one on the Wye Valley Villages Future Plan.

The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MIId=5296>

RLDP

Member's Seminars

The Revised Local Development Plan was due to have a member's seminar on this on the 28th of June, but this has been postponed. There is a new Council administration and the direction of the new RLDP may potentially change but this is unknown yet but may have an affordable housing emphasis.

20 mph Speed limit in Mathern

The Chairman of Mathern community council and I recently met with an MCC highways officer and a CAPITA highways officer on a walk around the village. It was explained to us by the MCC highways officer that there is currently a need for repeater 20 mph signs which would be removed at a later date, when the law changed, so that 20mph then becomes the default for the current 30mph in built up areas.

This is because the current 30mph zones only have signs at the start and end of the zone, so eventually 20mph areas will do likewise. It was hoped, that all being well, that the 20mph signage would be going up in September/October time.

E. Risk Assessment

**Pwllmeyric and Mounton forms completed.
Mathern were near completion.**

26/22 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated

a. New Application

- i. DM/2022/00791 – Church Cottage Mounton CAC – A replacement dwelling is proposed at Church Cottage to prevent the future risk of flooding of the dwelling. The scheme will involve demolition of the existing dwelling.

Comments

Councillors considered the above application at their meeting on 14th April 2022 and 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. ‘

- ii. DC/2021/01763 – Change of Use of the Land to an animal sanctuary. Temporary accommodation in the form of a touring caravan, to allow staff to working at the animal sanctuary to stay occasionally over night to assist with ill or injured animals.

The Community Council objects to the proposed proposal for the reasons set out below and would also comment that the quality of the maps provided in the application are poor.

- 1. The comments made by this Council in respect of application DM/2021/01728 are equally valid to this application, all relating to the expansion of the operation at Dean Farm, particularly in respect of traffic generation.**
- 2. The adequacy and discharge location of the foul water plant which would also serve this accommodation is not deemed adequate.**
- 3. This Council would be concerned that the siting of this ancillary accommodation could provide a precedent for further on-site accommodation.**
- 4. The siting of the caravan adjacent to the existing building could constitute a fire risk as the proposed caravan is not fire rated.**

- iii. DC/2022/00986 -Replacement standalone bat house to existing approved planning application DM/2021/01877

No Comments

- b. Decisions and Appeals
None

- c. Enforcement
None

27/22 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – INFORMATION ONLY

13 06 2022	Invoice rent Village Hall Paid £15.00
15 06 2022	OVW The Finance and Governance toolkit
15 06 2022	MCC confirmation verge cutting, sweeper for Wales in Bloom judging
15 06 2022	OVW Meeting Agenda 07 07 22
16 06 2022	Welsh Government re High Beech roundabout update
16 06 2022	MCC Receipt of Highways issues
16 06 2022	MCC Planning DM/2022/00791 Church Cottage Mounon
17 06 2022	Reply Audit Office re invoice and drop off for last year's accounts
21 06 2022	MCC reply re vegetation in highways
22 06 2022	Invoice re War Memorial Work £163.80 Paid
23 06 2022	MCC Boardwalks work completed
23 06 2022	Invoice Merlin Waste £84.50
23 06 2022	MCC response grass cutting cycle
29 06 2022	Clerk enquire to OVW re elector's rights whilst accounts with external auditor
29 06 2022	Receipt Mathern Athletic Club re benches Grant Paid 03072022 £500.00
29 06 2022	Enquiry Eddie Parry Plaque
30 06 2022	Invoice stock it £54.00 renewal of license paid 03 07 2022
30 06 2022	MCC closure of enforcement re Mathern Fisheries
01 07 2022	Invoice Stock it Monthly £56.40 paid via S/O
07 07 2022	Internal Audit papers and invoice £450.00 to be paid 11 07 2022

01 07 2022 New and Closed Enforcement list MCC
02 07 2022 invoice Merlin Waste collection of bins monthly £84.50 Paid via S/O

28/22 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- a) **Community Resilience –**
- b) **Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson**
 - **Exercise of electors rights 4th July 2022**
 - **Dell School Governors advert closing date 11 07 2022**
 - **New matters for website – Mathern Village Fete 3rd September**

29/22 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

- a. Walks Leaflets
- b. Signage for new speed restrictions Mathern Village
- c. Road Signage Clearance – MCC

30/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reminder Mathern Village Fete 3rd September Cllrs to attend to man the stall on a rota.

Next meeting: Monday 12th September 2022 at 7 pm.

Signed

Dated