

## **DRAFT MINUTES FOR January 2023**

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Village Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from  
19:00 hrs

### **1. Councillors Present :-**

- a. Mathern: -Cllrs David Harris (Chairman), Matt Sidwell, Jayne Harris
- b. County Councillor: -Louise Brown,
- c. Mounon: - Cllr Carolyn Ovenden .
- d. Pwllmeyric: -Cllrs Sylvia Stephens, Gareth Page, James Anderson
- e. Clerk: - Mrs. Jane Kelley

### **2. Councillors Apologies:-**

- a. Mathern: -None
- b. Mounon: - None
- c. Pwllmeyric: -None

### **3. Members of the Public: -**

- a. None

### **4. Public Representative: -**

- a. None

### **5. Police Representative**

- a) None

## **51/22 PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

### **1. Public Comment: -**

Cllr M Sidwell had been contacted regarding the road signs into the village still showing 30 and not showing 40 as you leave the village.

As the road markings had only been carried out that day Cllrs agreed to leave for 7 days to check that all the correct signage is in place once the contractor has completed the changeover of signage.

A public member has written to the Council regarding the Mathern Drains General Water waste disposal following an issue over 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs noted this as suggested as general information and a response would be issued with details of Welsh water who should be able to assist with this.

## **2. Received Monthly Police Report: -**

There will be no attendance from ourselves at the meeting next week due to resources but will try and attend in February .

15/11/22 – Report of an attempted theft of old frying oil overnight from the rear of the millers arms . The vehicle and occupants left in a hurry when confronted by the caller .

16/11/22 – Report of a wall being damaged by an unknown vehicle at a property on the A48 Pwllmeyric .This had occurred on the 7/11/22 .

25/11/22 – Report of a male acting suspiciously in St Pierre woods . A female had been out walking and believed the male was following her . When the female met another walker the male disappeared . We have had no other reports of this kind but please remember if you are out walking make sure you have a fully charged mobile in case of any emergencies .

19/12/22 – Report of a vehicle stopped by officers on Pwllmeyric hill . A male was arrested at the scene for drug driving offences and his vehicle seized .

22/12/22 – Report of a vehicle having its side window smashed and a supply of medication taken from inside whilst parked outside a property overnight on the Shirenewton to Rhewl Farm road .

26/12/22 – Report of a dog attacked by another dog whilst out walking in fields near Pwllmeyric . Enquiries are ongoing .

9/1/2023 – Report of a large drain cover being dislodged and sticking up in the road causing a danger to motorists near the roundabout by the Indian empire . Highways informed and attended to put it back in place .

12/1/2023 – Report of a vehicle stopped by officers and vehicle seized as it was being driven with no insurance near the Newhouse roundabout .

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](mailto:contact@Gwent.police.uk)

The clerk was asked to enquire if the dog in the incident on 26<sup>th</sup> December were the same as previous reported incidents

### 3. Apologies: -

None

### 4. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest: -

None

### 5. Minutes of the previous meeting: -

- a. **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 as true and accurate records
- b. **RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the finance meeting 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

### 52/22 Finance

- a. **To consider approval of payments as per below. All approved.**
- b. **Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation (DECEMBER).** Cllr M Sidwell authorised.
- c. **External Audit by the Wales Audit Office**  
Still not received. Email sent

d Set **Precept 2023/2024 consideration for more road sweeping for the three villages.**

All three villages receive 2 sweeps a year. Quote from MCC £350.00 for any extra sweeps for all three villages. Quote from Lanes £487.00 for all three villages. Clerk to contact MCC to ask how much notice is required. Clerk also to seek clarity on the status of the A48 as a trunk road and if this meant more sweeps were carried out due to it being a main road.

**Resolved to set precept as agreed in December £23225.00.**  
**Clerk to send the relevant paper work to MCC.**

***Receipts December/January***

***Precept Receipt MCC £7567.00 20 12 2022***

£		
<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Payee</i></b>	<b><i>Amount</i></b>
06 12 2022	Stock it Ltd	56.40
12 12 2022	Smart Pension	336.97
12 12 2022	Merlin Waste Dog Waste collection	84.50
21 12 2022	Bank Charges	5.40
30 12 2022	J Kelley (Salary)	610.50
30 12 2022	Paye	163.49
09 01 2023	JKelley (Telephone/Internet)	55.99
09 01 2023	Mathern Village Hall (Rent 2 Months)	34.00

**53/22 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

**Responses to queries raised at previous meetings**

**a)Response Merlin Waste re signed new contract for dog waste collection tenders**

Signed Contract sent Merlin Waste on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Confirmation received 17 01 2023.

**b) Any update MCC re Palace Farm activities**

Teams meeting has been arranged for 30 01 2023 with MCC, NRW County Councillor Brown and Councillor D Harris

**c) Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mouton Meadows**

Teams meeting agreed for 01 02 2023

Councillors were very concerned about the lack of progress with this and the sewage issues in the meadow at Pwllmeryic not being acted on.

**d) Viability of individual vocational groups**

Clerk obtaining quotes for a Community Plan

Councillor J Harris advised that the last time a community directory was produced was 2018

She was happy to work on a new edition and asked M Sidwell to supply details of current clubs in the village hall.

**e) Christmas tree donation for cherry picker**

**On Checking with other councils, they make a grant towards this if asked.**

**f) Cost of Community Plan.**

Clerk still awaiting quotes.

**g) Cost of Clerks internet/telephone contract with BT.**

**Clerk left the room whilst this was discussed.**

**The Chairman did not vote on this matter.**

The cost for halo 3 is £55.99 a month – (currently £61.65) this includes complete Wi-Fi, complete support. The cheapest they can offer is £36.00 which would be half the speed currently.

Clarification has been sort from O V W. Payment for use of Telephone and broadband is not taxable as it is necessary to complete the role of Clerk /RFO and forms part of the clerk's employment contract.

A vote was taken and 2 were against paying this and all others agreed for this to remain the same and payment to continue to be made.

**h) Quote for replacement slab at War Memorial**

**Three quotes have been requested only one has been received by Trigate Construction – at a cost of £250.00 plus VAT.**

**Cllrs unanimously agreed to accept this quote and clerk to contact the contractor to complete this work.**

**54/22 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS**

a. Footpath Issues: - None

b. Repair work - War Memorial: Stonework beneath fencing is breaking up.  
Awaiting Quotes for this repair work. See (h) as above

- c. The dropped kerb at Step a Side is being chased.

Chairman to contact P Keeble with pictures of the sluice gates at the end of Mathern Brook where it meets the Severn Estuary. Vegetation needs clearing to enable the gates to open fully.

New items to report

- Mounon village roundabout, turn left past church to Trelenny (from Chepstow direction) Pot holes and verge damage/tree roots visible.
- Mounon village roundabout, turn right towards Shirenewton/Rhewl. (From Chepstow direction) Verge damage/pot holes t
- Flooded Roads Buttons to Mathern Mill
- Flooded Roads New Hall Lane
- Clear debris under Motorway bridge following weekend floods
- School Bus damaging verge whilst turning at Moyes Court

### **55/22 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT**

#### **A. One Voice Wales (OVW).**

Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January – Cllr D Harris to attend.

#### **B. Defibrillators- monthly checking**

Clerk checked Mounon Brook Lodge - all working.

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

#### **C. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT JUNE 2022**

County Councillor Brown advised:

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT December 2022**

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023**

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT DECEMBER 2022**

County Councillor Brown advised:

#### **County Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022**

There were various reports to the County Council including the RLDP report on the preferred strategy which council agreed to go out for consultation, see note below.

The link to the County Council report can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=5012>

#### **RLDP Consultation**

The Preferred Strategy, Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Candidate Site Register are available for public consultation from **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Please submit any comments via the online representation form, or via the standard representation form which is available on the Council's web-site <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/news-and-consultations/> or at the locations listed below.

Completed forms should be emailed to [planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk) or posted to Planning Policy, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA.

All responses must be received by midnight on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Responses cannot be accepted after this date. Please note that all comments received will be available for public inspection and cannot be treated as confidential.

## Attend an Engagement Event

A number of 'drop-in sessions' are being held throughout the County during the consultation period where you can speak to a planning officer about the consultation documents and those left at the time of the 16<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the community council are as follows:

- Caldicot, Choir Hall, 18th January 2023, 2pm to 7pm
- Raglan, Village Hall, 19th January 2023, 2pm to 7pm

If you have any queries regarding the above or any aspect of the Replacement Local Development Plan, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01633 644429 or email [planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

***Please note that the preferred strategy covers the 3 main strategic sites at Chepstow (Bayfield 145), Caldicot (995) and Abergavenny (600) but at the same time there is a consultation on the Candidate Site Register which are the potential smaller sites in villages and other locations, but it will not be clear until later in the RLDP process which sites are more likely to be developed.***

***The Green Wedges review is expected to be later in the deposit plan process, but there is no problem at this stage on commenting on the arguments and the reasons for the importance of maintaining the current LC6 policy and keeping the current green wedges between the villages, to maintain their distinct village identities and to ask for this response to be taken account of in relation to a forthcoming green wedge review.***

***It is possible to look at the current green wedges and other factors such as current conservation areas, current public open spaces (amenity spaces) for your own postcode address in the current LDP policy section by ticking the appropriate boxes in the link in the interactive maps below:***

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/interactive-local-development-plan-mapping/>

***It is still advisable to submit individual responses to the consultation even if an engagement event session is attended, as it is the individual responses that are taken***

***account of. There is a tendency for developer responses to out-number resident responses, so it is important for the residents' views to be taken account of.***

The following links may assist:

RLDP Overview with links to other documents and pages:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/rldp-overview-and-timescale/>

Preferred Strategy page with consultation form/ on-line responses:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/plan-preparation/preferred-strategy/>

Candidate site methodology:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/12/CS-Methodology-Update-August-2022-1.pdf>

Candidate sites high level assessment of sites including those ruled out or not resubmitted:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/12/High-Level-Assessment-of-CS-August-2022.pdf>

***In other words, if you are commenting on individual candidate sites from the candidates site register, it is important to check they are still under consideration, by checking in the high-level assessment document.***

***The RLDP includes the development of an evidence base:***

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/development-of-an-evidence-base/>

***It is also supposed to follow the Future Wales: The National Plan 2040:***

<https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0>

## **Useful Links**

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## **Useful Links**

### **General Link**

General Link for RLDP- news and consultation

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/news-and-consultations/>

### **Candidate Sites Register**

General Index for Candidate Sites Register:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/index-of-candidate-sites-for-development-redevelopment/>

Link for Rural candidate sites including in Shirenewton ward including Mathern, Pwllmeyric and Shirenewton:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/12/Rural-general-combined.pdf>

Also, Chepstow sites include candidate sites close to the High Beech roundabout including in Mounton and in direction of Pwllmeyric and sites which mention Shirenewton ward:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/12/Rural-general-combined.pdf>

Severnside Candidate Sites are nearby within the Chepstow/Caldicot area covering areas such as Portskewett, Crick, Caerwent and Caldicot:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/12/Severnside-combined.pdf>

### **Cabinet Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022**

It will be noted that the month 4 revenue report detailed in the November 2022 County Councillor report noted a £8.8m shortfall in the MCC budget. The funding shortfall in month 6 has increased to £9.15 million.

The link to the Cabinet reports can be found here including the revenue report:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=4983>

### **JANUARY 2023**

County Councillor Brown advised:

### **Special meeting of the People Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2023**

The Cabinet member decision to close the Tudor Street centre for adults with learning disabilities in Abergavenny with plans to build affordable housing in place of the centre were called in due to the lack of scrutiny of the decision. This decision has been referred to

the full County Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The reports for this meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=304&MId=5636>

### **Place Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023**

The Place Committee has considered various reports including the local toilet strategy, rural broadband update, and the garden waste collection consultation. The consultation results showed an overwhelming 67% of respondents supporting a continuation of the service at £50 per bin. The Service is expected to be £50 per bin for 20 collections March through to November 2023. The reports for this meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MId=5320>

### **Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2023**

The Cabinet reports include documents on the forthcoming budget with a public consultation open from the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and public consultation events in person or online. The proposals include a 5.95% rise in Council tax and a £11.4 million other cuts to meet the unprecedented budget pressures. The details of the proposed cuts can be found at paragraph 3.13 of the following report:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2023/01/20230118-Cabinet-Draft-2023-24-Revenue-Capital-Budget-for-consultation-Covering-report-Final-v2.pdf>

The details of the consultation events and to have your say on an online form can be found at the following link on the budget 2023/24 and the consultation which is open from the 18<sup>th</sup> of January until noon on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2023-2024/>

**Cllrs discussed the RLDP and the response to be made to MCC Clerk to update response on community site and Web site.**

## **D. Biodiversity Statement**

**Cllr Ovenden and Cllr Stevens to work through this and present to the next meeting.**

## **56/22 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

13 11 2022 Police Report  
13 11 2022 Dell Governor confirmation Sally Ashby Chepstow Town Council.  
15 11 2022 MMVB confirmation we can loan the litter grabbers and rings  
15 11 2022 OVW finance and governance toolkit information  
16 11 2022 Welsh Government Section 137 limits 2023/24  
17 11 2022 MCC Planning DM/2022/01627  
17 11 2022 OVW council tax consultation  
17 11 2022 MCC response M Phillips re training plan  
23 11 2022 Confirmation pension regulator re-declaration completed  
23 11 2022 Dog Waste draft new contact to be completed and sent to Merlin Waste  
Submitted – 14 12 2022  
30 11 2022 Dropped kerb chased Step aside reference 14191781  
30 11 2022 MCC Planning DM/2022/01670

01 12 2022 Stock it invoices £56.40  
01 12 2022 Merlin invoice £84.50  
01 12 2022 MCC re replacement development plan 2018 – 2033  
06 12 2022 Contract awarded 20-mile scheme  
06 12 2022 MCC RLDP information  
06 12 2022 MCC Planning DM/2022/01709  
08 12 2022 MCC enforcement list  
09 12 2022 MCC electoral role  
15 12 2022 Mathern Village Hall information on table and chair stacking  
16 12 2022 OVW Training  
16 12 2022 Ash die back A466 closures  
30 12 2022 Invoice Mathern Village Hall £34.50  
30 12 2022 Stock It Invoice £56.20  
01 01 2023 G Page pictures sewerage Mounon Brook circulated  
03 01 2023 Merlin Waste Invoice £84.50  
03 01 2023 Welsh Water meeting cancelled 16 01 2023

Open reach response re fibre optic in Mathern should be available End 2023

## **57/22 PLANNING MATTERS**

To include any received after Agenda is circulated.

- a. **New Application**
- b. Decisions and Appeals  
None
- c. Enforcement  
None

## **58/22 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Community Resilience - Climate Emergency -Topic to be discussed at the next Coffee Morning

Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson – Ongoing

Date for Spring Coffee Morning – agreed to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 at 10.30 – 12.30

Litter picking equipment - now available a board to be produced and erected near the bus shelter to encourage villagers to collect litter on walks.

Clerk to contact MCC for a supply of orange bags.

**59/22 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION**

Installation of new defibrillator at Village Hall.  
The box to be installed within the next month.

**60/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Village Hall at 7 pm**

**Chairman gave his apologies for the next meeting Cllr C Ovenden to Chair the meeting.**

**Signed**

**Dated**