

DRAFT MINUTES FOR 13th February 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Village Hall on Monday 13th February 2023 from
19:00 hrs

1. Councillors Present -:

- a. Mathern: - Cllr Matt Sidwell, Jayne Harris
- b. County Councillor: - Louise Brown,
- c. Mounon: - Chair - Cllr Carolyn Ovenden.
- d. Pwllmeyric: - Cllr James Anderson
- e. Clerk: - Mrs. Jane Kelley

2. Councillors Apologies:-

- a. Mathern: - Cllr. David Harris
- b. Mounon: - None
- c. Pwllmeyric: Cllrs Gareth Page, Sylvia Stevens

3. Members of the Public: -

- a. None

4. Public Representative: -

- a. None

5. Police Representative

a) None

61/22 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Public Comment: -

None

2. Received Monthly Police Report: -

Here is the report for the area between the above dates:

"Jane, regarding the question that was raised last meeting about the incident with the dog attack on the 26/12/2022 I have spoken with the officer who attended . They stated that both dogs involved were off the lead but the reporting persons dog was walking at heel and the other dog then ran over and initiated the attack. No injuries were reported and the reporting person was not in fear of the dog attacking them . No further action was required at that time as no further

details were known. We are not aware that this dog was involved in previous incidents.

16/1/2023 – Report of a 2 vehicle non injury rtc (road traffic collision) at the bottom of Pwllmeyric hill. Officers who attended said it was not speed related, but more driver error as there were other factors including low sun.

26/1/2023 – Report of a trail camera owned by natural resources Wales that had been positioned in an area of St Pierre Great Woods taken from the location by unknown persons.

27/1/2023 – Report of a dog attacked by another dog whilst reporting person was walking in St Pierre Great Woods. Details of offending dog owner's vehicle was taken who was later spoken to by officers regarding keeping their dog under control and their responsibilities as a dog owner if the dog in question is unpredictable.

31/1/2023 – Report of two foxes found dead in the Willis Hill area of Pwllmeyric. A rural crime officer attended and found both foxes had been culled in accordance with hunting laws/ culling."

3. Apologies: -

Councillor David Harris (Chairman). Councillors Gareth Page and Sylvia Stevens

4. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest: -

None

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: -

- a. **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting 16th January as true and accurate records

62/22 Finance

- a. **To consider approval of payments as per below. All approved.**
- b. **Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation (January).** Cllr M Sidwell authorised.
- c. **External Audit by the Wales Audit Office**
Still not received. Email sent – Clerk has telephoned to chase. No return calls
- d Grant Applications – None received

e Review spending to Budget – analysis forms attached

Councillors reviewed spending to budget analysis forms. This was discussed and Councillors agreed that spending was acceptable as the end of the financial year approaches.

This Years's precept has been received by MCC

Review of over spends

4065 Subscriptions were an over-spend. This to be taken from reserves (a increase of £150.00 in the accounts package). Company taken over - Precepted for £500.00 next year as to £350.00 this year.

4066 Printing and stationery, postage over-spend. This to be taken from reserves mainly due to increase in the cost of ink cartridges.

4101 Dog Waste Purchase – Over-spend on purchase of dog waste bags – resolved no more to be purchased in the future

Review of Under-spend

4004 Training – Cllrs reminded that training course are available and please book via the clerk as and when required.

4005 Conferences – C/f to next year

4015 Elections Costs – No costs incurred this year – c-f next year

4056 Advertising – Directory to be produced imminently

4061 Office Equipment – no equipment required so far this year.

4068 Community Plan – C/f awaiting costs for this

4109 Drainage – C/f needed for future

Receipts January

None

		£
24 01 2023	Rialtus (accounts)	374.99
31 01 2023	J Kelley	713.04
31 01 2023	Inland Revenue	178.20
31 01 2023	Inland Revenue	30.55
06 02 2023	Stock It Ltd	56.40
10 02 2023	Merlin Waste	84.50
10 02 2023	Telephone and Internet	59.99
13 02 2023	Trigate Constructions War Memorial Plinth	300.00
10 02 2023	Smart Pension	137.50
14 02 2023	Village Hall Rent	34.50

63/22 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings

a) Response - Merlin Waste resigned new contract for dog waste collection tenders

Signed contract sent Merlin Waste on 14th December 2022. Confirmation received 17 01 2023.

b) Any update MCC re Palace Farm activities

Teams meeting had been arranged for 30 01 2023 with MCC, NRW, County Cllr Brown and Cllrs D Harris, G. Page and C.Ovenden. A second meeting has now been scheduled for 6th March 2023.

c) Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mouton Meadows

Teams meeting agreed for 01 02 2023 and cancelled by Welsh Water. Rearranged for 6th March 2023.

d) Cost of Community Plan.

Planning Aid Wales have requested a call to discuss our actual requirements.

Councillors feel that this would be better run as an in-house project. Cllr M Sidwell is happy to front this and organise a representative from each group to be on a steering group to get the project started. This to be discussed at the coffee morning with consideration being given to inviting each group to attend to get this up and running.

e) Mathern Directory progress

Councillor J Harris is working on this as a paper leaflet to be distributed to all houses in our community.

64/22 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

a. Footpath Issues: - None

b. Dropped kerb at Step a Side Mathern

Clerk attended a site meeting with a MCC officer – he has recommended that the kerb be dropped and awaits confirmation that this will be carried out, budget depending.

c. Correct new speed signage

Now have all been corrected and lamp post banners have been added.

d. Any other issues to be report to highways

- 40 mph speed sign, A48 below vet's surgery, turned the wrong way.
- White lines and speed markings need repainting, A48 Pwllmeryic

65/22 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/CLERKS REPORT

County Councillor Brown advised:

Budget 2023/24

Cabinet on the 18th of January 2023

The Cabinet reports include documents on the forthcoming budget with a public consultation open from the 18th 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 via an online form, see the following link on the budget 2023/24 and the consultation which is open from the 18th of January until noon on the 16th of February 2023:

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

The proposals in total bring forward service budget savings of £11.4m. The notable savings proposals are:

Schools funding - £1.45m. This amounts to a reduction in the budget delegated to schools of 2.8% after making full provision for pay and energy increases.

- Gwent Music reduced contribution - £100k. withdraw subsidy from the service. A hardship fund will be maintained to support pupils from low-income families.
- Before School Clubs increased charges - £70k. To increase the charges of before school clubs to £2 for a morning session of childcare.
- Children's services - £1.36m. Re-evaluating current processes and decisions around high-cost placements complemented by a review of family time service development, and a review of structures and service operating costs.
- Adult's services - £2.0m. Re-sizing direct care for some clients and rebalancing in house/external provision. The introduction of a fall's prevention and early intervention service to reduce the number of people being placed in nursing/residential care from home or hospital.
- Learning disabilities - £300k. Remodelling of learning disability and mental health teams that will involve a decrease in team management hours.
- Public Protection - £103k. Staff restructuring within the Public Protection service.
- Decarbonisation - £714k. Reducing energy consumption across the Council's estate.
- Fleet Maintenance - £160k. Reduction in operating fleet and mileage reduction.
- Passenger Transport Commissioning - £70k. New acceptable routes implemented to reduce transport requirements based on current transport policy.
- Neighbourhood Services - £210k. Reduction of grounds maintenance operations, cessation of the community improvement teams, increased income from external contracts. Service reconfiguration of sweeping functions across the county.

- MonLife - £648k. A range of measures including service redesign and cost savings with the aim of maintaining service delivery within a reduced funding envelop.
- Community Hubs - £150k. Reduce staffing levels at community hubs to reduce costs and keep all hubs open with reduced service levels. A one-year reduction in the budget for library books by 50% or £45k.
- Contact Centre - £112k. To reduce staffing levels in the contact centre by 2.5 FTE.
- People & Governance - £80k. Increase income in Communications and Land Charges.
- Landlord services - £665k. Reduce the corporate building maintenance revenue budget; review the property estate and explore options for further rationalisation; increase income from Solar farm export tariff.
- ICT - £149k. Mobile phone contract savings.
- Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - £126k. Remove budget earmarked for a discretionary business rate relief scheme.
- Fees & Charges - £1.4m. Increased income generation through a range of increases in discretionary fees & charges across the Council's services.

Comment:

Home to School Transport Savings Proposals

Current Policy

As per the Learner Travel Measure and Monmouthshire's Transport Policy free home to school transport is now only provided to pupils who attend their catchment or nearest school and live more than 1.5 miles from their Primary School and more than 2 miles from their Secondary School. These distances relate to the shortest available walking route between home and school, accompanied by an adult if necessary.

Proposed Savings Policy

The above proposals for school transport changes means limiting free home to school transport down to the statutory distances. It would then apply to children who live more than 2 miles from their Primary school and more than 3 miles from their Secondary school. The concessionary travel cost if not eligible would increase from £440 per annum per child to £550 per annum per child for Monmouthshire residents if any space on the school bus is available.

66/22 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

17 01 2023	Confirmation of signed contract from Merlin Waste
17 01 2023	OVW Historic Environment and Climate Change work in Wales.
18 01 2023	Invoice - Rialtas Accounts £374.99
19 01 2023	Request for written support for application for social housing
19 01 2023	MCC response to RDLP from Mathern CC
19 01 2023	MCC update road closure A466 for tree work
20 01 2023	Report to MCC re sewage gates blockage
20 01 2023	MCC re consultation Events Budget – Updated on Website and community site
23 01 2023	OVW Training dates
26 01 2023	Confirmation MCC precept 23225.00
30 01 2023	Advise on tool kit OVW
30 01 2023	Police notification of increase theft on heating oil in area.

31 01 2023 OVW Consultation – Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion. By 17
04 2023
31 01 2023 Cancellation of Teams meeting by Welsh Water – new date to be
confirmed.
01 02 2023 Stock It invoice £55.20
01 02 2023 Invoice - D Hitchmough, work to War Memorial - to be agreed for payment
01 02 2023 OVW Advise re Cllrs allowance for 2022/2023
02 02 2023 Enforcement list MCC
03 02 2023 SLCC Bulletin
03 02 2023 OVW Public update of defibrillation
03 02 2023 OVW Consultation on Outdoor Education
03 02 2023 OVW Ministerial review of play report

Coffee Morning 1st April 2023

OVW Consultation - Outdoor Education. Cllr J Harris to complete.

OVW Consultation - Development and Coastal Erosion. Cllr G page to complete.

67/22 PLANNING MATTERS

To include any received after Agenda is circulated.

a. New Application

DM/2023/00056 St Tewdrics House – Additional accommodation for the existing wedding venue in the form of two new single storey timber chalet style buildings with associated parking.

Comments – Councillors noted the plan is not a true representation of the site as an existing wooden building is not shown on the current plan. Is this retrospective application for the wooden building already in place?

b. Decisions and Appeals
None

c. Enforcement
None

68/22 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Community Resilience - Climate Emergency

Councillors to look at Cardiff Community Council Emergency Plan pack. Matter to be discussed at next meeting.

Coronation Celebrations

As the Palace has advised, King Charles wishes this to be a low-key event – consideration was given to donating fruit trees to the Village Hall to plant where the hedge has been removed. Matter to be discussed at the Coffee Morning.

Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson

69/22 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

Installation of new defibrillator at Village Hall.

Installation of community litter picking equipment

This was discussed. Councillors now feel that this would be better as an arranged and agreed event.

Coffee Morning 1st April

Items to be considered

- Litter picking
- Community plan with perhaps a speaker
- Budget changes and possible implications
- Coronation Orchard

70/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: 13th March 2023 Village Hall at 7 pm

Note April meeting 17th April due to Easter Monday on 10th April 2023.

Signed

Dated

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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