

MINUTES FOR 10th July 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held via Teams on Monday 12th June 2023 from 19:00 hrs

1. Councillors Present: -

- a. Mathern: Cllr David Harris, Cllr J Harris
- b. County Councillor: -Louise Brown
- c. Mounton: - None
- d. Pwllmeyric: - Mrs Sylvia Stevens.
- e. Clerk: - Mrs. Jane Kelley

2. Councillors Apologies: -

- a. Mathern: - None
- b. Mounton: - Cllr C Ovenden unable to link via Teams. Apologies given.
- c. Pwllmeyric– Cllr J Anderson and Cllr G Page

3. Members of the Public: -

- a. One

4. Public Representative: -

- a. None

5. Police Representative: -

- a. None

20/23 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Public Comment: -

A member of the public came to ask the Community Council for support with his appeal to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) following the withdrawal of free school transport for a 13-year-old from September 2023. MCC deem that there is a safe walking route and that the child's house is 1.94 miles from the school. New guidelines say the route must be 2 miles from school and a safe walking route.

Cllrs strongly support this and agree that the walk suggested via the footpath near Mounton Brook and onto the A48 at The Green and then crossing the very busy A48 is not a safe walking route for a child.

Clerk to send a letter agreed with the Chairman to the public member for them to submit with their appeal documents.

2. To receive police report: -

- i. Here is the report for the Mathern area for between the above dates:
- ii. There will be no attendance from ourselves at the meeting but below is the report
- iii. 11/6/2023 – Report of a caravan stolen from a property in Mathern village during the day. Enquiries are ongoing at this time.
- iv. 7/7/2023 – Report of a vehicle stopped by officers on Pwllmeyric Hill and the vehicle recovered as it was being driven with no insurance.
- v. We have just had a report this morning of a shed break in Leechpool Holdings, Portskewett overnight. Items including 2 chainsaws were taken. Locks cut off to gain entry. Please be aware and check your own shed/outbuilding security.

3. Apologies: -

- a) Pwllmeyric Cllr James Anderson and Cllr Gareth Page
- b) Mounton Cllr C Ovenden Mounton Ward as unable to link via Teams

4. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest: -

- a. None

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: -

- a) **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting 12th June 2023 as true and accurate records. These were to be signed by Cllr D Harris. To be placed on the Website.

21/23 Finance

- a. To consider approval of payments as per below. All approved.
- b. Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation – Cllr M Sidwell
- c. HSBC Update of Mandate for bank signatures. Form sent to HSBC – awaiting confirmation of changes.

Date	Payee	Amount (£)
16 06 2023	Crown Hill Nursery	36.99
19 06 2023	Keyboard and Mouse	34.99
21 06 2023	Bank Charges	5.00
28 06 2023	J Kelley (monthly work from home fee)	26.00
27 06 2023	Rent - Village Hall	51.00 (April – June)
25 06 2023	ICO (Information Commission)	35.00
30 06 2023	HMRC	119.96

30 06 2023	J Kelley - Salary	621.18
06 07 2023	Stock It Ltd	55.20
06 07 2023	Merlin Waste	91.00
10 07 2023	Telephone Internet	64.05

22/23 PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Responses to queries raised at previous meetings:

- a) **Any update MCC re Palace Farm activities**
 - a. Matter still ongoing with MCC and NRW (National Resources Wales).
- b) **Actions re introduction of a Community Plan**
 - a. Cllr M Sidwell has now completed his training for this. A working group is to be set up and a meeting arranged to get the Plan up and running after the summer break.
- c) **Review following, We Don't Buy Crime presentation.**
 - a. The cost per house hold will be £9.95 excluding VAT. The numbers are as below
 - i. Mathern has 225 properties
 - ii. Pwllmeyric has 181 properties
 - iii. Mounton has 19 properties
 - b. This would mean a total spend of £4228.00. Clerk to contact a Community Council who have already committed to this scheme to seek guidance on how they processed this.
 - c. Cllrs to consider increasing the precept next year to contribute to the cost.
 - d. Clerk to chase other Councils for feedback as none received.
- d) **Update Emergency Telephone List**
 - a. Document now produced and to be placed on the Website.
- e) **Clerk Eyecare Review – Re: DSE completion**
 - a. Following an eye test the Clerk requires glasses for VDU use at a cost of £121.00
 - b. The Community Council resolved for this payment to be made.

23/23 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

- 1. **Footpaths**
 - a. Footpath Fisherman's Walk (68.8) collapsed and dangerous
 - b. Baileys Hay – collapsed and dangerous (68.15)
 - c. Mill Mathern behind Texaco Garage (61.7) collapsed and overgrown.
- 2. **Highways**
 - a. Lower branches need chopping as covering road signage – trees outside Village Park. (Centre Village)
 - b. Lower branches need chopping opposite junction to Mathern Lane – from dog poo bin to Motorway Bridge.

- c. Drains near Brook House need clearing – flooded, evening Saturday 8th July from flash storm creating very dangerous road conditions on A48.
- d. Pavements need vegetation cutting back - Garden Centre to Hayesgate Lane – size of pavement greatly compromised by growth.
- e. Pavements from bus shelter opposite Moun-ton Brook Lodge needs as above up to and past Box Tree Cottage – pavement compromised by hedges and verges growing onto pavement – very dangerous for pedestrians.
- f. Sluice gates into Severn still broken despite chasing NRW and MCC

24/ 23 COUNCILLORS REPORTS/CLERK REPORTS

- a. OVW– No updates. Minutes to be circulated when available.
- b. Defibrillator checks
 - i. All checked and working as of 06 07 2023
- c. County Councillor Brown advised:

Public Services Scrutiny Committee- 19th of June 2023

The above committee considered various reports including one on the short and long-term problems with public transport in Monmouthshire, which may be of interest. Unfortunately, no solution to the problems is provided in the report. The committee reports for this committee can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=260&MIId=5561>

County Council on the 22nd of June 2023

The reports to County Council included the report from the Chief Officer for Children and Young People (CYP), as well as a motion from the Conservative Group Leader against the introduction of a tourism tax in Monmouthshire, which was not approved by the Labour administration.

The Chief Officer for CYP following a question I asked, indicated that when free school meals were universal it was still important for schools to encourage those families where pupils were eligible previously for free school meals to make it clear to the schools because this will impact the pupil development grant payments from Welsh Government and hence school budgets. The reports for this County Council meeting can be found at the following link including a question on Chepstow traffic at the end of June/beginning of July as a result of the Chepstow racecourse events:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5216>

- d. Review - Model Standing Orders
 - i. Cllr C Ovenden to review for the next meeting in September
- e. Best Kept Garden (as seen from the road side) competition. Cllr S Stevens and J Harris.
 - i. Criteria updated and placed on Website – Facebook article published on community Facebook page. Judging arranged for Thursday 28th July 2023
- f. Annual Risk Assessments Mathern –
 - i. Now completed – Clerk to get a quote for work to be completed on the telephone box, War Memorial railings, bench at War Memorial. Also, a quote to clear around the bench in the churchyard - now covered in foliage.

25/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued.

- a. New applications –
 - a) DM/2023/00839 Two Storey front extension with gable roof, Ground Floor extension to rear – Norene Mathern
 - b) DM/2023/00837 Extension and Alterations with associated works – 22 Orchid Meadow Pwllmeyric
- b. Decisions and Appeals – None
- c. Enforcement -- None

26/23 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING

13 06 2023	Brook blockage notification - Cllr J Anderson
13 02 2023	Planning confirmation of neighbour's letter received
13 06 2023	OVW Survey re internet speed
13 06 2023	Police confirmation - Smart fee is excluding VAT £9.95
13 06 2023	Confirmation - Highways issues received by MCC
14 06 2023	Confirmation -blockage of Mounton Brook confirmed by MCC Will action
14 06 2023	Invoice Stock It - £54.00
14 06 2023	MCC Give Dog Fouling the Red Card minutes received
14 06 2023	Agenda OVW 6 07 2023 7pm Usk
15 06 2023	Update Welsh Water Meeting – next date 12 09 2023 11pm – 12pm
19 06 2023	Welsh Audit update –
19 06 2023	MCC Planning DM/2023/00839
19 06 2023	MCC Planning DM/2023/00837
19 06 2023	T Utting letter re noise from Mounton Brook Lodge
22 06 2023	MCC road closures – diversion, weekend 30 th June – 1 st July.
23 06 2023	OVW training dates for June July
23 06 2023	Cllr S Stephens Update Best Kept Garden competition criteria.
26 06 2023	Best Kept Garden Criteria – Cllr S Stevens
26 06 2023	MCC update recompleted works, hedges / sweeping Pwllmeyric
26 06 2023	Have Your Say survey - Fire Service
26 06 2023	Invoice Mathern Village Hall £51.00. Paid April – June
26 06 2026	Reply - Cllr J Anderson - sweeping not completed Pwllmeyric
26 06 2023	OVW Minutes
26 06 2023	Cllr M Sidwell agreed Clerks salary for June
26 06 2023	MCC Planning DM/2023/00839
29 06 2023	Letter from public re overgrown pavements/brambles Pwllmeyric.
30 06 2023	OVW Training list June/July
30 06 2023	Stock it Invoice £55.20 Paid D D
30 06 2023	Merlin Waste - dog bins emptied £91.00 Paid by D D

Regarding letter re noise from Mounton Brook Lodge – loud music is allowed until 12 pm on Friday and Saturdays – Other nights, it is 11 pm. No change of Planning was required when transfer to a wedding venue took place as previously a licensed premises.

27/23 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Community Resilience - Climate Emergency (emergency list completed for website)
2. Items for Website – Cllr J Anderson – Approved Minutes, update forthcoming meetings, notice of conclusion of Audit 2023, update Best Kept Garden criteria.
3. Emergency telephone numbers all to be updated.
4. Remembrance Service 12th November 2023 – Clerk to write to Rev J White requesting service at 10.45 at the War Memorial -
5. Arrange a date for CPR Training - 3 suggested dates required by Welsh ambulance.
6. Clerk to chase re: dates for training.

28/23PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

1. Coronation Garden Planting – Planned for Autumn
2. New plants for Mathern War Memorial – Ongoing
3. Clerk currently working on New Model Standing Orders as circulated by O V W.

29/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: 11th September 2023

Meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Signed

Dated