

MINUTES FOR 5th February 2024

1. Councillors Present -:

- a. Mathern: Cllr M Sidwell (Chair of meeting) Cllr J Harris
- b. Mounton: - Vacancy
- c. Pwllmeyric: -.Cllr S Stevens, Gareth Page.
- d. Clerk: - Mrs. Jane Kelley

2. Councillors Apologies-:

- a. Mathern: - Cllr D Harris
- b. Mounton: - One Vacancy
- c. Pwllmeyric- – One Vacancy

3. Members of the Public: -

One -

4.Member of Police

None

70/23 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Public Comment: -

Ros Downs attended the meeting – Mathern Ministry Area Council rep, of St Tewdrics Local Church Council, Licenced Eucharistic Minister & Ministry Area Church Warden to the current Ministry Area Leader, Rev Philip Avery)

She advised of Work which was needed to the tower - Re-pointing/Some new stone blocks Clearing & repairing / renewing gutters & downspouts Mending & Renewing the stone windows Renewing/Repairing the Flagpole support and Repairing & painting the Sundial

St Tewdrics have Engaged with Amanda Needham – Local Conservation Architect

Faculty has been recommended for approval (Equivalent of Planning Permission) & public notice was being displayed the Church has now Gone out to Tender

Ros asked for any Thoughts on Potential funding ideas
Investigating grants – could do with some help

Fund raising activities in the village – ideas & help

Mathern C C was asked if they could provide any Help & expertise and to Suggestions for fund raising

Thoughts for taking St Tewdric's Church forward

New MA Leader & Vicar

Successful interview for Ministry Leader including Julian's replacement. The Applicant was a couple who want to do a job share. Inauguration May 7th. They complement each other and both work on Sunday.

Thoughts on making the Church more sustainable

Average attendance has fallen since COVID & is an ageing team. Want to encourage more of the Village particularly the youngsters to use the church

Financially the church is not making enough during the year to break even in the year & breaking into reserves.

How could the MCC help: **Sharing expertise & know how**

These matters to be agended for next meeting.

Clerk to contact County Cllr L Brown to ask for MCC contact re grants for public buildings

2. To receive police report

I have attached above the latest list of members of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team .

There will be no attendance from ourselves at the meeting next week but here is the report for between the above dates :

9/1/24 – Report of a derelict building broken into at the rear of St Pierre Hotel sometime during the previous few days . The lock was broken off the door to gain access . Nothing taken but caller believed there was a strong smell of cannabis inside , but no persons found .

16/1/24 – Report of approx. 20 black bags which contained the remnants of a cannabis growth inside found dumped on Mounton road . Officers attended but no other information of where it had come from was found . The bags were disposed of by the caller .

20/1/24 – Initial report of 2 caravans taken from farmland near Bentley Green , A48 Crick road to Parkwall roundabout . The one caravan had been stolen by unknown persons but the second had been removed by a family member of the owner to stop that one being taken .

22/1/24 – Report of a lorry breaking down on the single track part of Hayesgate Lane whilst traffic was being diverted down there for another incident . The lane had to be closed whilst the vehicle was being recovered .

27/1/24 – Report of a group of youths all wearing dark clothing walking up the middle of the

road on Pwllmeyric late at night . Officers attended and spoke to them and suitable advice given !!!

6/2/24 – Report of felled tree logs being taken off the side of the road after being cut up by land owner and council by unknown persons without authority to do so .

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity/crime at the time via 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 . For other ways to report incidents to us please see The Gwent Police Website .

3. Apologies: -

Cllr D Harris and County Councillor L Brown (Meeting clashes with Shirenewon C C)

4. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest: -

Cllr M Sidwell agenda item Planning 75/23 DM/2024/00037 – 14 Birdwood Gardens Neighbour.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: -

- a. **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting 8th January 2023 as true and accurate records. These were to be signed by Cllr M Sidwell. To be placed on the Website.

71/23 Finance

- a. To consider approval of payments as per below. All approved.
- b. Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation – Clerk to deliver to Cllr M Sidwell once received from the bank. Copy statement was produced for Chairman to note.
- c. Agree Precept 2024/2025 – agreed to remain unchanged from last year £23225.00 MCC have confirmed this has been received.

Payments January/February

Date	Name	Amount
11 01 2024	Smart Pension	113.20
21 01 2024	Bank Charges	5.00
30 01 2024	J Kelley Salary	773.96
30 01 2024	HMRC – Paye – NI	187.12

30 01 2024	Work home fee	26.00
05 02 2024	Telephone/Internet	64.05
19 02 2024	Mathern and District Club Rent	54.00
19 02 2024	Cllr S Stevens (allowance)	156.00

72/23 Responses to queries raised at previous meetings:

a) Any update Welsh Water Meeting Re Mounton Brook

Teams meeting agreed for 09 01 2024 – Cllr G Page to attend and County Councillor L Brown - Further meeting agreed for 8th April 2024 – some remedy works now completed clearing lining/pumps cleared.

b) MCC enforcement list circulation

Clerk to chase meeting to discuss by MCC was 24th January, 2024.

73/23 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

a) Footpaths issues

Clerk to contact Rights of way regarding the footbridge which entrance has collapsed rear of Village Hall. Clerk to ask for schedule of work and costs. Matter to be agenda next meeting.

b) Any other highways issues to be reported to MCC

Chase foliage around light Birdwood Gardens

74/23 COUNCILLORS REPORTS/CLERK REPORTS

a. OVW– No updates.

Training list circulated – Cllr D Harris and Cllr S Stevens to attend 26 02 2024 Use of IT Social Media Website

Cllr S Stevens to attend joint event OVW/Planning Aid 07 03 2024. Cost £50.00

b. Defibrillator checks

All checked and working.

Slab still broken under defibrillator, Mouton Brook aware and scheduled

to change slabbed area.

c. County Councillor Brown advised:

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FEBRUARY 2024

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council on the 18th of January 2024

The County Council meeting covered reports on age friendly communities, review of the decision to charge a second home council tax premium, annual council tax reduction scheme, asset management strategy and investment committee review.

There was a motion to council regretting the lack of engagement with local community and business groups in the development of the Local Transport Plan 2024-29. There were also various questions to council. The details of the meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=541>
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Budget 2023/24

There is a budget consultation commencing on the 18th of January and ending on the 16th of February. The details of which can be found at the following link :

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

The Welsh Government provisional settlement had an average 3.1% increase in Revenue Support grant for Local Authorities in Wales but Monmouthshire County Council only received a provisional settlement of 2.3%.

The following main proposals are being considered by the Labour administration:

- 7.5% increase in council tax.
- £835,000 cut to schools.
- £2 breakfast club charge
- Car Parking charges up 10%
- Garden bin waste fee up 10%
- End to free food waste bags
- Leisure centre opening hours cut
- Outdoor adventure £70K cut.

- Gwent Music Service £39K cut.
- Concessionary school transport cost increase by 10%

The People Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd of January 2024 provides further details in the following link, note that there is also a budget presentation at Appendix 1 of the report.

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

Please remember to complete the Welsh Government Consultation entitles a fairer council tax by the deadline as Comments and responses must be received by the 6th of February 2024. Any increase in council tax for Monmouthshire residents as a result of these proposals will be on top of the usual annual increases.

This is the link to the Consultation:

<https://www.gov.wales/consultation-fairer-council-tax-phase-2-html>

d Cllrs Allowance forms circulated to be returned to the Clerk

These have been returned and Clerk to arrange payments as necessary. Payments to be registered on Cllrs Payment return.

75/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued.

a. New applications –

DM/2023/00731 – Little innage Barns - Demolish existing lean too garage and construct new detached garage with Gym.

No Comments

DM/2023/01631 – Chepstow Garden Centre – Replacing sewerage treatment plant

More details required regarding existing layout before comment is made.

DM/2024/00037 – 14 Birdwood Gardens – Garage Conversion. Change half of double garage into study.

Comment Brick work under window needs to be in keeping with rest of the property.

b. Decisions and Appeals -

c. Enforcement -

Clerk to request a monthly enforcement list for our area.

76/23 CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

11 01 2024 MCC highways issues receipt reference numbers
11 01 2024 TTRO 24th – 30th January road closures
11 01 2024 Update Welsh water meeting
11 01 2024 Invitation Severn wye project launch
15 01 2024 Confirmation South Wales Trunk road paving broken under motorway bridge
17 01 2024 Reply MCC re enforcement list
19 01 2024 MCC Planning application DC/2023/0073
22 01 2024 County Councillors report
24 01 2024 C Wheeler re memorial garden – planting carried over to 2024/2025
24 01 2024 LUF Project slides
25 01 2024 MCC M Hands leaving
26 01 2024 OVW Training Cllr D Harris Booked 29 02 2024
25 01 2024 MCC Dog fouling minutes
26 01 2024 Approved time sheet Cllr M Sidwell
26 01 2024 Proposed Dates for Coffee Morning 6th 27 April

77/23 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Community Resilience - Climate Emergency –

CPR training

This was agreed for Monday 19th February at 7pm in the small room of the village hall.

Course now full.

Pwllmeyric Co-Opt Vacancy –

Clerk to readvertise as no candidates had come forward.

Mounton Co-opt Vacancy –

Clerk to readvertise as no candidate has come forward

Date for Coffee Morning - 27th April 2024 10 till 12

78/23 PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION

Quote for items on Risk Assessments – still outstanding.

70/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: 11th March 2024

Signed

Dated

**MATHERN
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

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