

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Financial Meeting Monday 9th December 2024

Mathern Village Hall

Present –Cllr Matt Sidwell, Cllr Sylvia Stevens, Cllr Jayne Harris, Cllr John McConnachie

Also present–Clerk, Jane Kelley

Apologies- Cllr D Carne , Cllr G Page

1) John McConnachie was unanimously voted on a co-op Cllr for Pwllmeryic Ward

He signed office of acceptance papers and was given declaration of interest forms to be completed and returned to the Clerk. A copy of training was given to enable a Code of Conduct Course to be completed in the new year.

All Councillors Welcomed John

2) Review of current budget 2024/25. Discussion on year-to-date funds not yet spent.

All Councillors had been circulated with an Alpha Detailed Receipts and Payments schedule and an Excel spreadsheet showing 2024/25 spending -to-date.

The Clerk had also circulated a letter from the Welsh Government outlining Section 137(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Limits for 2025/2026.

The appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) is calculated by applying the formula. set out in schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

This means that the maximum Section 137 sum for 2025/2026 increases from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector.

The number of electors in our area is 851

Councillors reviewed the spending –to-date figures and noted the following items: -

- Councillors annual allowance of £156.00 now exempt from tax.
- It was noted that the Solar Farm monies has been Ear Marked for the St Tewdrics Church tower work.
- Councillors noted the increase in dog waste collection both this year and again next year. This will be budgeted for 2025/26 – increase is 2%. - £7.35 per bin

Highlighted overspends to be taken from Reserves. These are:

- Audit Cost due to Wales Audit Office not issuing invoice for 2022/2023 Invoice for this year's audit still outstanding Clerk has chased.
- Telephone Internet

The set up of a community resilience plan was discussed and following the flooding and electric outage this weekend – Cllrs feel now is the time to start the plan – Clerk to Agenda for the next meeting.

2) Review of General Reserves – and EMR Transfers

If was agreed that the no less than 25% and no more than 70% of our annual precept to be kept as a reserve. This would ensure that we can administer salary rises to the Clerk, pay our insurance, IT costs and emptying the dog bins for a minimum of 6 months should MCC be late paying our precept monies or withhold them for any reason.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Current Bank Balances: | HSBC Community Account | £18970.63 |
| | Barclays Bank Deposit | £10726.38 |

Clerk to Transfer to EMR

- Drainage - £1500.00
- Community Plan - £1000.00
- Transfer from Walks Leaflet EMR £3500.00 to community Plan

EMR NOW 9th December 2024

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|-----|---------------------------|----------|
| 322 | EMR Walks Leaflets | £500.00 |
| 323 | EMR Community Solar Farm | £2447.73 |
| 324 | EMR Drainage | £2500.00 |
| 325 | Community Resilience Plan | £5000.00 |
| 326 | EMR Village Upkeep | £1000.00 |

3) Budget setting 2025/2026

The three-year forecast was circulated to all councillors to help with setting the budget for 2025/2026

- Clerk's salary, PAYE and pension payments will continue to be paid at the same rate and by online monthly payment at the end of each month. Any Clerk salary increases due will be discussed when advised by NALCC. Clerk's current spinal point is 23 and will remain unchanged. Increased as 5% added for pension contribution.
- Quote has been requested for New Notice board in Mounton.

This to be added to agenda for January as Cllrs wish to discuss the current design of the noticeboards as unable to display A4 sheets clearly.

- Cleaning of all road signs in 3 Villages, Attending

One quote received £800 for first clean then a cost of £600 per annum , still awaiting 2 quotes – Agenda for next meeting

- Tree surgery to Commemorative trees near Moynes Court – No quotes received

Works still outstanding from last years Risk assessment however this has been transferred to EMR

- 5 seats some need painting some staining to repair and make good as needed prior to painting and staining.
- Telephone box prepare and make ready prior to painting one undercoat and one gloss coat pillar box red.

Work due to be completed before end of March 2025.

- As per Community Council policy, grants will be allocated at meetings in December, February, May and August. Unallocated grant monies for 2024/2025 will be distributed at the February 2025 meeting so that a nil sum is carried over.
- Training for 2 Cllrs – if overspend in this area to be taken from reserves. Cllrs were encouraged to keep themselves fully updated and attend any courses they feel would enhance there role as Cllr.
- If Clerks salary is above monies budgeted this to be taken from reserves.

Solar Farm Community Benefit of £1431.00 was paid in April 2024. Due again April 2024.

In conclusion,

Precept to be submitted to MCC by 21st January. 2025. Therefore, precept to be resolved at the January meeting.

Clerk to email to Cllrs all updated and agreed spreadsheets after this meeting to ensure they all have up-to date documents.

5)Planning -

DM/2024/01426 - Lindys Barn – Conversion of existing domestic garage into an air BNB holiday let – No Comments

6) New Model Standing Orders

Clerk to circulate this for discussion at the January meeting.

7)Payments made since November meeting

| Date | Payee | Amount |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 19 11 2024 | T Bryant (Mounton Cutting annual fee) | 160.00 |
| 20 11 2024 | Bank Charges HSBC | 5.00 |

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------|--------|
| 25 11 2024 | HMRC | 214.53 |
| 28 11 2024 | Salary (including Back Pay) | 805.68 |
| 30 11 2024 | SLCC (Membership annual) | 144.00 |
| 06 12 2024 | Stock It Ltd | 59.40 |
| 09 12 2024 | Internet/Telephone | 73.99 |
| 10 12 2024 | Smart Pensions | 73.99 |
| 16 12 2024 | Training OVW | 20.00 |
| 21 12 2024 | Bank Charges | 5.40 |
| 28 12 2024 | Inland Revenue – Paye | 203.96 |
| 30 12 2024 | J Kelley Salary | 787.71 |
| 30 12 2024 | Home Fee as HMRC | 26.00 |
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| | | |

Receipt Precept MCC 24th December £7742.00

November Bank Statement not received to be reconciled and approved at the January meeting.

Consider a Grant for Monmouthshire Council Sparkle appeal –

CLlr discussed this and unanimously decided that this was outside our remit to donate due to the fact that it did not specifically advantage children in our community.

7) Any other business for Agenda in January

Resilience Community Plan

Clerk to chase quotes for road sign cleaning and Tree surgery.

Clerk to chase Highways re removal of young saplings A48

Clerk to re advertise the Co-Opt CLlr Post for Mathern Ward

Date Time of Next meeting –

13th January 2025. 7pm in small room, Mathern Village Hall

Signed Dated