

Draft Minuets For 10th February 2025

Clerk to the Council – Jane Kelley

<u>1.</u>	<u>Councillors Present -:</u>
a)	Mathern: Cllr M Sidwell, Cllr J Harris
b)	Mounton: - Cllr D Carne
c)	Pwllmeyric: -. Cllr S Stevens, Cllr J McConnachie
d)	County Councillor Louise Brown
<u>2.</u>	<u>Councillors Apologies-:</u>
a)	Mathern: - None
b)	Mounton: - None
c)	Pwllmeyric – Cllr Gareth Page
<u>3.</u>	<u>Members of the Public: -</u>
a)	None
b)	
c)	
d)	
<u>4.</u>	<u>Member of Police</u>
a)	None
b)	
<u>71/24</u>	<u>PROCEDURAL ITEMS</u>
a)	<p>Public Comment: -</p> <p>Public member reported small road sweeper needed up the lane beside Mathern Athletic Club and Drainage ditches need attention due to a vehicle collapsing drainage ditches</p> <p>Clerk to report to Highways</p> <p>Clerk had been asked if toaster/kettles could be disposed of in general waste.</p> <p>These to be disposed of at the local tip not in general Waste.</p>
b)	To receive police Report: -

	<p>There were four incidents around Mathern from 01/01/25 – 31/01/25, this involves different types of incidents.</p> <p>These were dealt with by NPT and Response officers from the Monmouthshire south area.</p> <p>There is one incident, we cannot show with the community council as they are too personal to discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The first incident is a Dog on Dog, which happened in Chepstow this is currently being dealt by local NPT team. 2) The second incident involved two males looking sus in Chepstow grave yard, local PCSO attended the call and could not find the males in question. No further since this incident. <p>What we plan to do in February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active patrols the area. • Still conduct speed monitoring in the village. • Attend the next council meeting (If possible). <p>Clerk to invite local PCSO to next meeting to discuss report format. Clerk also to report drug paraphernalia found at St Pierre Woods.</p>
c)	<p>Apologies: -</p> <p>Cllr Gareth Page</p>
d)	<p>Declaration of pecuniary and personal interest :-</p> <p>Mathern Village Hall Grant application Cllr M Sidwell 72/24 item c</p>
e)	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting: -</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting 13th January 2025 as true and accurate records. These were to be signed by Cllr M Sidwell to be placed on the Website.</p>
<u>72/24</u>	<u>Finance</u>
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below. All approved.
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation authorisation – January approved by Cllr D Carne.
c)	To Consider Grants - Mathern and District Club - £440.00 requested – Agreed £220.00 Mathern V E Day celebrations – £500.00 to be placed in EMR for this event. Cllr M Sidwell left the room whilst the grant for Mathern and District Club was

	discussed.	
<u>Payments January / February 2025</u>		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
21 01 2025	Bank Charges HSBC	5.00
24 01 2025	OWM Training	40.00
27 01 2025	HMRC Paye	134.72
27 01 2025	J Kelley – Home Fee	26.00
30 01 2025	Salary Clerk	630.43
03 02 2025	Batteries defib	26.39
06 02 2025	Stock It (licenses 365)	59.40
07 02 2025	HMRC NIC Employer	150.00
07 02 2025	Mathern District Club (Rent)	20.00
07 02 2025	Stamps	16.00
10 02 2025	Merlin Waste	93.60
10 02 2025	Telephone/Internet	73.99
12 02 2025	Smart Pension	116.18
14 02 2025	Mathern District Club (Grant)	220.00
17 02 2025	VE Day flyers	46.71
17 02 2025	Mathern District Club – Repay PA system Remembrance Service (agreed October 2024)	456.69
<u>73/24</u>	<u>Responses to queries raised at previous meetings: -</u>	
a)	<p><u>Update Welsh Water Meeting Re Mounton</u></p> <p>Meeting held on 21st January 2025 via teams. Further site visit arranged for 6th February – Cllr S Stevens circulated notes from this meeting.</p> <p>Summary of which Still seepage of sewerage into the field from run off and sewer of local properties causing this overflow. This issue to be investigated by Welsh Water.</p>	

	<p>Councillors were very concerned with the signage and warning to local walkers and Dwr Cymru have assigned an individual to ensure signage is clear and that the fence around the discharge sites is made more secure.</p> <p>Next meeting to be arranged for April 2025</p>
b)	<p><u>Community plan 2025</u></p> <p>A Separate meeting was arranged for Tuesday 25th February 2025 – Clerk gave her apologies.</p> <p>Wales V E Day 8th May 2025: Circulars have been posted to all residents re this event. So Far 49 people have shown an interest. £500.00 was agreed to be placed in EMR for this event.</p> <p>Noticeboard in Mounton Village – Defibrillator Mounton</p> <p>Clerk to obtain a quote for a free-standing noticeboard to be placed at Mounton Village.</p> <p>Mounton Church happy for a defibrillator to be installed at Mounton Church. Clerk to investigate grants towards this.</p> <p>Cllr D Carne to be copied in n the Mounton electoral role so that he is clear of the area covered.</p>
<u>74/24</u>	<u>HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS</u>
a)	<p>Response MCC re saplings A48: - MCC advised that they are hoping to get this work scheduled for February half term.</p>
b)	<p>Correspondence received re litter within the community</p> <p>This was discussed at length – Cllr M Sidwell to draft a reply to be circulated to all before the Clerk Sends a reply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways Issues • Report rubbish in Bus shelter to MCC • Report Mud/silt build up in verges of track from Treleny – St Pierre Woods. • Report Rubbish St Pierre Woods
<u>75/24</u>	<u>COUNCILLORS REPORTS/CLERK REPORTS</u>
a)	<p>One Voice Wales –: AGM – 11th March 2025</p>
b)	<p>Defibrillator checks-:</p> <p>All checked and working. Mounton Brook Lodge Batteries changed 02 02 2025, Chairman to email Mounton Brook Lodge re electric supply to Deliberator. Cllr D Carne happy to have a defib fitted to the</p>

	wall of his house backing onto the A48 if another defibrillator can be obtained.
c)	<p>County Councillor Brown Report as attached</p> <p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT FEBRUARY 2025</p> <p>County Councillor Brown advised:</p> <p><u>Democratic Services Committee 13th of January 2025</u></p> <p>The Committee covered proposed changes to the constitution, which subsequently have to be agreed in full council. It proposes to include the Planning Committee protocol within the constitution which will help to formalise procedures. The democratic services committee also covered a report by the independent remuneration panel for Wales draft report. Items on the agenda can be found at the following link:</p> <p>https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=142&MIId=5861</p> <p><u>Cabinet on the 22nd of January 2025</u></p> <p>The Cabinet considered the proposed draft revenue and capital budget for 2025/26, there was a report on members considering options for a new school improvement model and the development of supported accommodation in Abergavenny for care leavers. There is currently a public consultation on the budget as detailed below. The Cabinet reports can be found at the following link which provide more details of the proposed budget:</p> <p>https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=6305</p> <p><u>County Council on the 23rd of January 2025</u></p> <p>The County Council on the above date included reports on the Council reduction scheme, Gwent Regional Area Plan and the Council Diary. In addition, there was a motion passed which Regrets that Monmouthshire, the lowest funded council in Wales, has again received from Welsh Government the lowest increase in funding of any council in Wales.</p> <p>There were various questions raised at this meeting including concerns about the naming of Monmouthshire in the Senedd elections next year and a question on an update on the High Beech roundabout. WEITAG2 stage is now in process for the High Beech roundabout but no report on it yet. There are normally three WeITAG stages, so unfortunately progress is slow for much needed improvements to High Beech roundabout which is the responsibility of the Welsh Government, as is the trunk A48 road into Chepstow town centre.</p> <p>The link to the meeting can be found here:</p> <p>https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5744</p>

Cabinet Member Decision on the 29th of January 2025

This covers the precept regulations which indicated that the following schedule of payments is determined: (i) The Police Authority precept is paid from the Council Fund by twelve monthly equal instalments on the third Tuesday in each month. (ii) The Community Council precepts are paid by three equal instalments on the last working day in April, August and December in each year. The link to the report can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=147&MIId=5729>

Garden Waste Collections.

The Garden waste collection begins on the 3rd of March and runs fortnightly to the 5th of December 2025, the day of collection varies according to where you live in Monmouthshire. You can now register online for this optional service which will cost £55 per bin.

https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/garden-waste/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1pzQ_ivpWp6lIaOlzW_KQOY24rbNYYr_HFKrA2DHHcIkMrWIPJJKFPrsfQ_aem_Y8JDgFzPINL5bTQcmVuh9Q

Draft Budget Consultation

The Draft Budget consultation will run from 9am on Thursday 23rd of January until midnight on Saturday 22nd of February 2025. There are details on the MCC website where you can register for an online team's session at 6pm on Thursday the 30th of January, 10am on Thursday the 6th of February and 6pm on Tuesday the 11th of February. In addition, there are face to face meetings at Caldicot Hub Wednesday the 5th of February 10am to 1pm, Chepstow Leisure Centre Wednesday 5th of February 3 -6pm, Monmouth Leisure Centre Friday 7th of February 2025 3-6pm, Abergavenny Hub Wednesday the 12th of February 10am -1pm and the Usk Hub Wednesday the 12th of February 2pm-5pm. Please see my X account at Louise Brown@ClouiseBrown82 where I have reposted.

The link to this consultation with more details on the proposed draft budget can be found here: <https://www.letstalkmonmouthshire.co.uk>

The Labour administration has proposed a council tax increase of 7.8 percent and set out cuts and changes to services totalling £5.1 million which still leaves it short by £2.8 million of achieving the £8m savings needed to produce the legally required balanced budget. Monmouthshire's allocation under the local government revenue support grant only increased by 2.6% (or 2.8% when separate grants are included) way below the average 4.3 percent. It is hoped that the Welsh Government will provide more funding through a funding floor, but it is not expected that any such floor will fund the remaining budget gap of £2.86 million. It is said that all services the council currently provides will still be provided from April such as Leisure centres, libraries and waste collections. It is making changes such as reducing opening hours of community hubs which will also mean libraries opening hours reduce.

There is concern in Monmouth that the library may be moved to Shire Hall with less space and plenty of stairs. There is an increase in the fees for those who obtain a

	<p>concessionary place on a school bus. How the proposals will impact community hubs/libraries will become more apparent when the budget proposals are scrutinised at the meetings in February. The first meeting being the Place Scrutiny Committee on the 6th of February.</p> <p><u>Place Committee on the 6th of February 2025</u></p> <p>The Place Scrutiny Committee includes the draft budget consultation slides which provides more information on the budget proposals. The link to the meeting can be found here:</p> <p>https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=303&MIId=5830</p>
<u>76/24</u>	PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Plus, any applications received after Agenda is issued.
a)	<p>New applications – DM/2025/00034 – Lindys Barn – Erection of an extension to form a breakfast/dining room – No Comments</p> <p>DM/2024/01579 - Bigwood Bayfield Road – Proposed ancillary building to replace existing garage and storage building – No Comments</p>
b)	Decisions and Appeals –
c)	Enforcement -
<u>77/24</u>	<u>CORRESPONDENCE AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS</u>
	<p>06 01 2025 Booking confirmation OVW Cllr J McConnachie 14/01, 21/01, 18/03, 20/03</p> <p>07 01 2025 Smart pension D D confirmation</p> <p>07 01 2025 Have your say Police</p> <p>09 01 2025 OVW Training list Jan – March</p> <p>10 01 2025 Invoice Wales Audit £221.00 Paid</p> <p>12 01 2025 Police report</p> <p>13 01 2025 Grant application Village Hall</p> <p>13 01 2025 Invoice Rose – Late Cllr D Harris Paid</p> <p>13 01 2025 Link for Water meeting Mounton 21 01</p> <p>14 01 2025 Receipt Precept Notification</p> <p>14 01 2025 MCC Re Palace Farm</p> <p>14 01 2025 PVW Area committee Survey</p> <p>15 01 2025 MCC Highways 22402505/22406206/22406257</p> <p>17 01 2025 MCC reply re footbridge – near St Pierre</p> <p>17 01 2025 MCC Planning DM/2024/01579</p> <p>17 01 2025 Reply Mounton Church re defib and notice board</p> <p>17 01 2025 MCC Planning DM/2025/00034</p> <p>21 01 2025 Slides re meeting 21.01. Mounton / Pwllmeyric Sewage</p> <p>22 01 2025 Cllr D Carne re picture damaged sign Mounton Roundabout</p>

	<p>23 01 2025 Invoice training Cllr J McConnachie £40.00 Paid</p> <p>24 01 2025 Clerk Pay approved Cllr M Sidwell</p> <p>24 01 2025 A Mead – Postcodes with Openreach</p> <p>27 01 2025 Community Bennit response</p> <p>27 01 2025 J Ovenden re computer</p> <p>28 01 2025 MCC Budget engagement</p> <p>28 01 2025 Merlin Watse New Contract – Dog Waste</p> <p>28 01 2025 OVW AGM 11 03 2025</p> <p>29 01 2025 Draft County Councillors Report</p> <p>30 01 2025 OVW minutes 09 01 2025</p> <p>02 02 2025 Invoice Merlin Wast 93.60 Paid</p> <p>02 02 2025 Invoice Stock It 59.60 Paid</p>
b)	02 02 2025 Notification Defib batteries needed – replaced 02 02 25
c)	<p>Cllr M Sidwell and Cllr D Carne to discuss with J Ovenden the issue with his computer following the removal of the Councils email address for the late Cllr C Ovenden.</p> <p>Cllr M Sidwell has spoken to A Mead re the postcodes being used by Open reach.</p>
<u>78/24</u>	<u>OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION</u>
a)	Community Resilience Plan – Climate Emergency See Item 73/24 b)
b)	Website Updates - These were completed by James Anderson Minutes to be updated January 2025
c)	<p>Councillor vacancy Mathern Ward</p> <p>One application has been received from Mr A Crossley – It was unanimously agreed to co-op him on for the Vacancy of Mathern Ward. Clerk to write confirming this advising that we meet Monthly on the second Monday of the Month at 7 pm.</p>
<u>79/24</u>	<u>PROJECTS AWAITING COMPLETION</u>
a)	Work re Risk assessment 2023/2024 Benches/telephone box/ War Memorial fence to be completed before end of 31 03 2025
b)	Road signs to be cleaned in March
<u>80/24</u>	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u>
	<p>Next meeting: Meeting Monday 10th March 2025</p> <p>Meeting ended at 9.00</p> <p>Signed Dated</p>