

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 10th March 2025

Councillor Attendance			
Ward	Name	Present	Apologies
Mathern	Cllr M Sidwell (Chair)	✓	
Mathern	Cllr J Harris (Vice Chair)		✓
Mathern	Cllr A Crossley	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr S Stevens		✓
Pwllmeyric	Cllr G Page	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr J McConnachie	✓	
Mounton	Cllr D Carne	✓	
County Cllr	Cllr L Brown	✓	
Members of the Public			
	Name		
a)	None		
Members of the Police Attending			
a)	None		
81/24	Procedural Items		
a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest		
	None		
b)	Public Comment		
	<p>A representative from Mathern Church has asked how signposts signs can be obtained to go on A48 for signage to St Pierre and Mathern Church.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Highways to enquiry.</p> <p>A letter has been received by all year 6 parents from MCC regarding children's transport to the comprehensive school.</p> <p>Chairman to contact Passengers Trasport as there is no safe walking route for Children from Mathern this was confirmed last school year.</p>		

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c)	Minutes of the Previous Meetings
	10 th February 2025 agreed as true and accurate signed and to be placed on the website.
d)	Monthly Police Report Review
	<p>There were three incidents around Mathern from 28/02/25 – 31/02/25, this involves different types of incidents. These were dealt with by NPT and Response officers from the Monmouthshire south area. There is one incident, we cannot show with the community council as they are too personal to discuss.</p> <p>1) The first incident was about an abandoned vehicle, this was sorted out before officers where needed.</p> <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).

82/24	Finance
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.
	Payments approved
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation
	Cllr D Carne agreed Monthly bank reconciliation
c)	Review of Budget to spending – Analysis attached
	<p>Budget to spending was reviewed Cllrs happy that spending was within our budget and Overspend with office equipment/telephone and internet was noted together with higher Audit costs than anticipated from the Wales Audit Office.</p> <p>Overspend to be taken from reserves to ensure these are lowered.</p> <p>Noticeboard Mounton to be taken from Reserves. A quote for work to the war memorial has been requested.</p> <p>Resolved to transfer £500 to EMR for VE Day May 2025</p>

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Resolved to complete Virement from Churchyard maintenance to Village Up Keep – re completion of risk assessment painting (£1400.00) and Sign clearance £790.00. all due or Payment March 2025

Ear Marked Reserves year end 31/03/25

Walks Leaflets	£500.00
Solar Farm Money	£2447.73
Drainage	£2500.00
Community Plan	£5000.00
Village Up Keep	£1000.00
V E Day	£500.00

Date	Description	Value
18 02 2025	HMRC – Feb	145.70
18 02 2025	Stand for P A – Remembrance Day	47.89
21 02 2025	Bank Charges – HSBC Feb	5.00
27 02 2025	Salary – February	655.70
02 03 2025	Mathern and District Club - rent	20.00
03 03 2025	Home Fee Clerk as HMRC	26.00
04 03 2025	Telephone/internet	73.99
06 03 2025	Stock Its (licenses 365)	59.40
10 03 2025	Merlin Waste (Dog Bin Collection)	93.60
12 03 2025	Smart Pensions – Feb	121.02
21 03 2025	Bank Charges – HSBC March	5.00

83/24 Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting

- a) Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounton Meadows

Next Meeting 10th April 2025

Cllrs had a lengthy discussion regarding this. Clerk to send previous notes from Welsh Water to Cllr DE Carne, Cllr J Mc Connachie and Cllr A Crossley so they can bring themselves up to date with the current situation. Cllrs very concerned that still no signage has been erected, bales of hay were degrading and livestock eating the hay which could have serious health implications. With nicer weather Cllrs concerned that the brook could be

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	used for paddling and cause serious health issues from the contamination of ground water leaks from sewerage pipes.
b)	Community Plan – 2025
	Councillors Met on 24 th February 2025 Matter ongoing and once an action plan is finalised this will be brought to the next full council meeting for actions to be agreed.
c)	VE Day celebrations – 8th May 2025
	Cllrs to encourage residents to confirm if they can make this event by completing the online form. A further planning meeting will be agreed in April
d)	Noticeboard Mounton Village – Defibrillator Mounton
	3 Quotes from Greenbarnes have been received together with a quote from The Noticeboard Company. Cllr M Sidwell to visit the site to check dimensions work in the space available. Cllrs to be contacted via email before a final decision is made. – and cost agreed. Glasdon also contacted for the third quote but unable to quote for composite products. 1 quote received from Noticeboard Company. 11/03/2025

84/24	Highways & Footpaths
a)	Response MCC Highways re A48 removal of saplings Clerk to contact Carl Toohig to chase this matter Road signs for Churches to be requested Matters outstanding to be chased – Road signs near Mounton Brook lodge and Mathern Lane. Signage Mounton village needs replacing – consideration for a Wales in Bloom sign to be placed on the Roundabout once new signs have been erected. Regarding litter in the area Chairman to investigate the purchase of a CCTV mountable camera to be used in problem areas within the villages. Cllrs discussed making retailers accountable for the rubbish its customers are fly tipping as they hold a duty of care. Cllrs to promote reporting via MY Monmouthshire to highlight the issue of litter within the 3 villages
b)	Footpath Issues

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85/24	Councillors' Report / Clerks Report
a)	One Voice Wales Update
	Membership Due 01 04 2025 £181.00 – AGM has been cancelled due to lack of take up
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks
	All checked in working order – The Circuit updated A further CPR/Defib training event to be arranged.
c)	County Cllrs Report
	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT MARCH 2025</p> <p>County Councillor Brown advised:</p> <p><u>Scrutiny Meetings and Cabinet Report of the 5th of March 2025 on the Budget</u></p> <p>The Place Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 6th of February, the Performance and Overview Committee on the 11th of February and the People Scrutiny Committee on the 18th of February discussed the forthcoming budget.</p> <p>The Cabinet report for the 5th of March provides the final assessment of the budget. An extra £1.54 million was provided by the Welsh Government as part of the funding floor for the Local Authorities with the lowest settlements.</p> <p>As a result of the Monmouthshire scrutiny and consultation on the budget, it has been agreed not to cut the opening hours of the libraries/community hubs. Monmouth library will stay at its current location. Unfortunately, all but 11 schools are expecting to finish their financial year having spent more than they received in funding.</p> <p>However, the council tax rise proposed is still 7.8% with increases in car parking of 10% and increases in other council fees and charges. In England council tax rises cannot be 5% or more without a local referendum unless an exception is made by the Government. It means that a number of English councils set the council tax increase at 4.99%. The Welsh Government have provided no similar legislation to limit council tax rises in Wales.</p> <p>It can be seen from the Cabinet report of the 5th of March supporting documents at Appendix K table 1c that the aggregate external finance per capita is £1430 and ranked 22. This means that the Welsh Government has provided Monmouthshire County Council with the worse funding per head of population than any of the other 22 Local Authorities in the whole of Wales. The other Gwent Local Authorities are in the top 10 rankings. This is due to the unfair Revenue Support Grant which takes account of factors such as deprivation but not about the number of elderly.</p> <p><u>Cabinet on the 5th of March 2025</u></p> <p>In addition, Cabinet is proposing to change the Leadership funding of the Secondary schools taking account of pupil numbers, so that Chepstow school will get nearly £78K less but will be supported on a transition basis.</p> <p>The reports from the Cabinet together with the appendices on the final budget proposals can be found at the following link:</p>

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<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=5758>

County Council on the 6th of March 2025

The County Council on the above date includes the Council tax budget which needs to be considered by the full council and the updated contract procedure rules. In addition, there are a couple of council motions and questions. One of these is on the consultation on the review of 30mph to 20mph roads.

There were 143 roads to be considered, and according to press reports 1500 applications were submitted and the council looked at four closely before rejecting them. The council indicated that they would not be making any changes based on the strict guidance from the Welsh Government which was supposed to be about reviewing them. This contrasts with other Gwent local authorities who will be making some changes.

In my opinion, it works well in certain areas such as villages and schools, but not all locations. This does not apply to the trunk roads which come under the Welsh Government control. I have continued to email about the return to 30mph of the road to Chepstow town from the High Beech roundabout, which is a trunk road on a hill. The trunk road review is not going to be considered until the Spring/Summertime.

The County Council reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=5745>

There is a further council meeting on Friday the 7th of March in case the budget on the 6th of March is not approved.

86/24

Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued

a) New Applications

DM/2024/01513

Rosewood – This is an existing double garage with flat over, approved under application number DM/2021/01503. The application wishes to change the use of the flat to an air bnb.

Comments Mathern CC proposed to reject the planning application as we are in support of local residents concerns over the current state of the private driveway and the increased traffic this will encourage. We would request that this application be referred to committee for decision.

b) Decisions & Appeals

None

c) Enforcement

None

87/24

Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings

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Date	Description
	As Agenda Clerk to Chase Electoral Role register for Cllr D Carne with MCC – Advised issued on 6 th March 2025.
88/24	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	Community Resilience - Climate Emergency
	On Going – Community Plan
b)	Website Updates
	Minutes to be placed on Website
89/24	Projects Awaiting Completion
a)	Works to benches/telephone box/war memorial fence
	Work commenced 5 th March 2025
b)	Sign Clearance
	Work commencing March 2025
90/24	Date of Next Meeting
	Monday 14 th April 2025 @ 7.00pm

Meeting Ended @ 8.45			
Signed:		Dated:	14 th April 2025