

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 14th April 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		
20/25	Procedural Items		
a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest		
	Cllrs David Carne – Grant application St Pierre Church		
b)	Public Comment		
	More than one public member has brought to the Chairmans attention the shed which has been erected in the front garden at Bishops Mead. Clerk to contact enforcements to advise them and ask them to confirm if this is construction is within planning scope.		
c)	Minutes of the Previous Meetings		
	10 th March 2025 Minutes were agreed as true and accurate. These to be placed on the website.		
d)	Monthly Police Report Review		
	There were three incidents around Mathern from 01/03/25 – 31/03/25, this involves different types of incidents. These were dealt with by NPT and Response officers from		

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the Monmouthshire south area. There is one incident, we cannot show with the community council as they are too personal to discuss.

The log that has been mentioned can't be discussed with the community council as it does not concern them.

What we plan to do in April:

- Active patrols the area.
- Still conduct speed monitoring in the village.
- Attend the next council meeting (If possible).

Clerk to email Stephen Hayward to ask him to attend the next meeting to discuss ongoing police reports.

21/25	Finance
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.
	All approved
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation
	Authorised by Cllr David Carne
c)	To Consider Grants
	A Grant for St Pierre Church has been received in respect of the graveyard wall at St Pierre Church. The Clerk was asked to contact them for more details regarding the urgent work which is now needed and a copy of the quote received. Once this is received the application will be considered.
d)	Invoice to be agreed and send for Community Benefit
	Clerk has sent the invoice for the community benefit amount due is £1472.06
e)	Clerk to prepare annual accounts 2024/2025 and arrange for internal audit to be carried out

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	Clerk attend a webinar with Welsh Audit Wales re the up and coming full annual audit. Papers to be received by Welsh Audit by 6 8 2025	
Payments / Receipts		
Date	Description	Value
24 03 2025	HMRC	170.63
24 03 2025	OVW Invoice Training Cllr J McConnachie	20.00
25 03 2025	Cllr D Carne (Cllrs allowance 2024- 2025)	156.00
25 03 2025	Cllr M Sidwell (Cllrs allowance 2024 -2025)	156.00
25 03 2025	Cllr G Page (Cllrs allowance 2024 -2025)	156.00
26 03 2025	J D Window Cleaning (clean road signs 3 villages)	790.00
28 03 2025	Internet /Telephone	73.99
28 03 2025	Salary – Clerk	712.31
31 03 2025	Clerk Home work Fee	26.00
31 03 2025	O V W Training Code of Conduct Cllr A Crossley	20.00
07/04/2025	Mathern Village Hall Rent	20.00
07/04/2025	Rialtus (accounts Annual Fee)	352.80
24/03/2025	Cheque 102089-Steve Smith – Painting war memorial/telephone box/ refurbish benches	1400.00
22/25	Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting	
a)	Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounton Meadows	
	Meeting via Teams 10 th April 2025 County Councillor Brown and Cllr Page have responded with a number of questions they require answering. Matter to be reported again in May . A further meeting is to be held date not confirmed.	
b)	Community Plan – 2025	
	Matter on going – after the VE celebrations focus will be placed on action plan to start a the community plan	
c)	VE Day celebrations – 8th May 2025	
	80 Candles to be placed around the war memorial at 6.30 – food to be served at 7.30 volunteers please – singing entertainment at 8.00 close 9pm	

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	Food to be collected from Kibbies in Bulwark – trays to be purchased by village hall. Final push on numbers closing date is 2 nd May 2025
d)	Noticeboard Mounton Village – Defibrillator Mounton
	Cllr D Carne to check with Church / community if they would be happy for the board to be placed on the wall or if Mathern C C just replaces one board as existing and place on the Church frontage.
23/25	Highways & Footpaths
a)	Response MCC Highways re A48 removal of saplings
	On Going awaiting confirmation from MCC re start date.
b)	Correspondence re Litter in Community.
	None received remove from Agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to advise pavements Hayesgate to \garden centre still need more cut back still to narrow. Mounton road – Tree on electricity cable – Cllr S Stevens to advise Western Power.
24/25	Councillors' Report / Clerks Report
a)	One Voice Wales Update
	Nalc retention of documents and records received. Clerk to arrange for files to be archived in County Council archives. AGM Thursday 26 th June 2025
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks
	All checked and working
c)	County Cllrs Report
	COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT APRIL 2025
	<p>County Councillor Brown advised:</p> <p><u>Democratic Services Committee on the 10th of March 2025</u></p> <p>The Democratic Services Committee looked at the Electoral Review Consultation, in view of the short period to respond. The review is examining the number of councillors per electoral ward. It will not impact Shirenewton ward as it is expected that the projected population size will still be represented by one ward Councillor in the forthcoming elections in 2027. The Committee supported the methodology that the number of councillors should be between 41 to 48, it is currently 46 councillors.</p> <p>The Committee concluded that the council should be allowed flexibility in a suitable size of the Council once the electoral review for Monmouthshire starts. A consensus could</p>

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not be reached on Welsh names but recommended that the Commission use bilingual names.

However, in relation to the consultation on the Senedd elections for 2026 the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales will use Welsh only names. So that Monmouthshire paired with Torfaen becomes Sir Fynwy Torfaen. It is not clear when the changes may be made for the County Council elections, whether or not it will be for the 2027 or 2032 elections. The Welsh name for Shirenewton Ward is Drenwydd Gelli-farch. I have argued in favour of bilingual names as I do not believe that the Welsh name for Shirenewton is locally recognised by the majority of local residents. The reports on this Committee can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=6345>

Individual Cabinet Member Decisions- 26th of March 2025

The decision was to increase the offer to Monmouthshire Foster Carers in view of the cost of private providers. The full report can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MId=5733>

Place Scrutiny Meeting 27th of March 2025

The Place Scrutiny meeting discussed the maintenance of the Nedern, particularly throughout the Castle grounds Caldicot. The Committee also discussed the Bats and Habitats regulations appraisal. It became apparent that there would need to be a bat report for the proposed site in the RLDP at Shirenewton at the planning report stage if approved as a site in the RLDP due to the location of hibernating bats near the Carpenters Arms. The meeting was largely one of discussion as opposed to reports and can be watched at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MId=5831>

Cabinet Report on the 2nd of April 2025

Following on from the Democratic Services Committee as reported above, the Cabinet approved the consultation response as set out in appendix 1 of the report. The following link provides the detail of the response from Monmouthshire County Council:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=5759>

Public Services Committee on the 7th of April 2025

The above committee will consider highways responsibilities and funding as well as potholes and repairs. The following is a link to the meeting:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=260&MId=5842>

County Council on the 10th of April 2025.

The County Council on the 10th of April 2025 will consider a report on the Constitution review and the Senior Leadership pay review together with motions and questions. The provision of services such as milk for schools and care contracts has to follow a procurement process. However, one of the motions is about promoting locally sourced goods and services prompted by the concern of care contracts in relation to a non-local provider. The following is a link to the meeting:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=5746>

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25/25	Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued	
a)	New Applications	
DM/2025/000241	Mathern Palace – Proposed change of use of outbuilding to 2 no holiday lets with associated alterations.	
DM/2025/00242	Mathern Palace – Proposed change of use of outbuilding to 2 no holiday lets with associated alterations.	
DM/2025/00464	The Gables – Fast Track single storey extension – No Comments	
b)	Decisions & Appeals	
	None	
c)	Enforcement	
	None	

26/25	Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings	
Date	Description	
	See agenda	
	The quote for the works at the War memorial garden where discuss and resolved to pay – Total £400.00	
	Clerk to contact Cllr J Mcconnachie to discuss suitable dates for further CPR training in June/July.	
	Article for Church magazine in April approved regarding the issues at Mounton Meadows – Clerk to forward this to the editor.	
27/25	Other Matters for Discussion	
a)	Community Resilience - Climate Emergency	
	On Going	
b)	Website Updates	
	Minutes placed on Website -	
c)	Mathern Village Fete possible stall – Saturday 30 th August 2025	

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	Cllr A Crossley agreed to help on the stall to promote what the Council does, Pratts Educational Fund, any topic which are relevant nearer the time.
	Invite local Police to attend
28/25	Projects Awaiting Completion
a)	Risk assessments – Mathern, Mounton and Pwllmeyric
	Cllr M Sidwell and Cllr S Stevens to complete these.
b)	Noticeboard Mounton
	Cllr D Carne to check with Mounton Church re either Board being placed on top of the wall near the bench or Council replacing on of the boards currently in place and Church paying for the additional board. Agenda for next meeting.
c)	Seek a Grant defibrillator Mounton Village
	Ongoing no grants available as yet.
29/25	Date of Next Meeting
	Annual Community Meeting – Date amended due to Cllrs availability Followed by normal monthly meeting Tuesday 13 th May 2025 @ 7.00pm

Meeting Ended @

Signed:

Dated: