

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

Councillor Attendance			
Ward	Name	Present	Apologies
Mathern	Cllr M Sidwell (Chair)	✓	
Mounton	Cllr D Carne (Vice Chair)	✓	
Mathern	Cllr J Harris		✓
Mathern	Cllr A Crossley	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr S Stevens	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr G Page		✓
Pwllmeyric	Cllr J McConnachie	✓	
County Cllr	Cllr L Brown	✓	
Clerk	Jane Kelley	✓	

## Cllr A Crossley left the meeting at 8 pm

Members of the Public	
	Name
a)	None

Members of the Police Attending	
a)	None

41/26	Procedural Items
a)	<b>Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest</b> Cllr M Sidwell agenda item 46/26 b Planning application 12 Birdwood Gardens Mathern
b)	<b>Public Comment</b> Public reported the mud left on the road in Chapel Lane which was very dangerous and very slippery.  <b>Clerk to advise MCC Highways</b>

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

	<p>Public member reported dog walkers and runners in Chapel Lane wearing dark clothes and no reflective clothing. As this section is unlit very dangerous</p> <p><b>Clerk to do a article reminding for the community Facebook page</b></p> <p>Public member reported that MCC work force were collecting bins before 8 am.</p> <p><b>Clerk to contact MCC Waste to advise of Westminster working hours</b></p>
c)	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b>
	<p>September Minutes were resolved as true and accurate. These to be entered on the Website.</p>
d)	<b>Monthly Police Report Review</b>
	<p><b>Notable Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foot patrols are being conducted on a regular basis, providing numerous opportunities for me to introduce myself to the Mathern community. I have made residents aware that I am the newly appointed Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for the area and have invited them to attend my Police Surgeries, where they can voice any concerns, they may have.</li><li>• Speed monitoring was carried out on Mathern Road on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025, between 11:00 and 11:40. Regular monitoring will continue on a fortnightly basis. Residents have indicated that preferred times for speed checks are between 17:00 and 18:00, coinciding with the local nurseries' finishing and pick-up times.</li><li>• Earlier this month, a car drove off the road and into a local pond. Fortunately, both passengers managed to get out safely with no serious injuries. Police quickly arrived on the scene, and the passengers were taken to the hospital for a precautionary check-up. The driver was later arrested on suspicion of reckless and drink driving, and the vehicle has since been recovered from the pond.</li><li>• In a separate incident, an Amazon delivery driver was bitten on the leg by a Jack Russell while making deliveries. Thankfully, the injury was not severe, and the driver was taken to the hospital for a check-up.</li></ul>

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

- I am exploring strategies to raise community awareness and engagement, with the goal of increasing participation in the Police Surgeries. One approach I am considering is distributing leaflets in the Mathern area to generate interest and encourage community involvement.

Police surgery 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and 24<sup>th</sup> November 4 – 5 in Village Hall

42/26	Finance	
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.	
	All Approved	
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation	
	Completed by Cllr J Mcconnache	
c)	Spending to Budget – analysis attached	
	<p>Cllrs happy with spending to budget –                      Noted Drainage budget £2000.00 should this be needed in the future for any future incidents.                      Noted Audit budget still awaiting return of the annual external full audit.                      Grants Paid £2500.00 Mathern Church tower repair (Solar Farm Monies) agreed 2024/2025                      St Pierre Church £250.00 Wall St Pierre Church                      MMVB - £900.00 Over spend on Grants to be taken from reserves                      Current Broadband tied until June 2026</p>	
d)	Grant applications	
	<p>Grant application received from MMPVB – Grant of £900.00 agreed as no grant made last year.</p> <p>Clerk authorised to send payment via bacs</p>	
<b>Payments / Receipts</b>		
Date	Description	Value
22 09 2025	Telephone internet	76.99
26 09 2025	HMRC – NI Paye	317.51

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

28 09 2025	Salary	862.91
29 09 2025	Work home fee – HMRC	26.00
06 10 2025	Stock It Licenses	59.40
07 10 2025	O V W – Training	20.00
10 10 2025	Smart Pensions	59.40
10 10 2025	Merlin Waste – Dog collections	95.56
14 10 2025	Mathern Mounon and Pwllmeyric village in bloom	900.00

## 43/26 Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting

### a) Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounon Meadows

Next Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10 am

### b) Community Plan – 2025

Initial Meeting booked for 9<sup>th</sup> November – Working group Cllrs M Sidwell, Cllr J Mc Connachie and Cllr J Harris to attend.

Once this initial meeting has been held working group to present next steps to full Council.

### c) Speed watch equipment – re energising the speed watch initiative

Cllr S Stevens to contact. Local PCSO currently carrying out speed checks .

Local police surgeries on 24<sup>th</sup> of the month – Villagers attending surgery please advise PCSO if they want more speed checks to be carried out.

### d) Update service bus 73 – replacement bus markings – stop Pwllmeyric funding assistance to undertake our own road assessment audit considering the fact the walking route to school has been declared available

Clerk to chase MCC re faded road markings.

MCC assessment has deemed that the route is available, report completed by WSB.

Mathern C C has been asked by parents and future parents if a further independent assessment were to be carried out would Mathern C C be willing to fund this or contribute towards this.

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

Clerk to Contact OVW to ask if this is something that Mathern C C could contribute towards from our precept.

## 44/26 Highways & Footpaths

- a) Give Way sign leaving village broken
- b) 30 Mile sign Mathern Lane broken
- c) Bus stop sign outside Mopla is twisted around
- d) Mud on road Chapel Lane Pwllmeyric
- e) Signage Pwllmeyric Hill obscured with foliage needs cutting back

## 45/26 Councillors' Report / Clerks Report

- a) **One Voice Wales Update**  
A G M – 01 10 2025 Wales and West Show ground
- b) **Defibrillator Monthly Checks**  
All checked and working
- c) **County Cllrs Report**  
County Councillor Brown advised:  
**Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2025**  
The meeting covered reports on the Housing Support Grant future programme, the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan, the County of Sanctuary Strategy and Real Living Wage Accreditation.  
In 2024/25 in Monmouthshire, there were 403 homeless applications with 160 in temporary accommodation.  
The Monmouthshire Local Area Energy plan produced by ARUP was about achieving net zero by 2050, the report was just noted. There was no clear indication of where the billions of investment would come from. Some of the targets identified in the LAEP include: The

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

installation of 41,000 heat pumps. The installation of 23,000 public EV charge points. 1.8GW of ground mounted solar PV. The installation of rooftop solar PV on 43,000 rooftops. Approval was also given for the County of Sanctuary report and the real living wage accreditation in order to cover all the Council's suppliers as well as MCC employees.

The reports can be found at the following links:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=6106>

## **County Council on the 18th of September 2025**

The County Council considered a report on the Council's self-assessment for 2024/5, together with a number of motions and questions. There was a motion on the Greater Gwent Pension scheme reviewing its own investments and requesting that those of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza.

There was a motion on footway improvements to make Monmouthshire more age friendly. There was a motion on supporting the Bridges Centre in Monmouth to have an affordable and fair rent from the Council. There was also a motion on setting out plans to tackle surplus places in the Monmouth and Chepstow clusters having first fully engaged with schools and the local community in developing such plans.

In addition, a motion received approval that this Council believes that Monmouthshire families should not face such high childcare costs and this Council therefore resolves to write to Welsh Government to call for an extension of the current childcare offer to match the entitlement in England by providing free childcare from nine months old.

The reports and debates can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=6106>

## **Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee 23d of September 2025**

### **Revenue Budget**

The Committee covered reports on the Revenue budget update for 2025/6, with the following findings:

That Cabinet note the forecast revenue budget overspend of £533,000, representing a forecast 0.2% variance against the approved budget for the year.

That Cabinet note the budgetary risks that are inbuilt into this forecast, namely, The volatility of demand for high-cost services, particularly in Adults & Children's Social Care; Higher inflation levels currently being experienced than originally budgeted for; The risk of further non-delivery of the £10.7m of budgeted savings targets, with services currently forecasting 92.1% delivery.

The trend of reducing debt recovery, particularly within Council tax and Social Care where there has been a slowing down in collection rates, and where there are increasing numbers of discounts and exemptions being awarded. The potential impact upon the Council's financial resilience from the forecast increase in the cumulative schools reserves deficit that is being carried on the Council's balance sheet.

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

Cabinet notes that confirmation has been received for funding related to the increased cost of Employers' National Insurance Contributions, resulting in a funding shortfall of £811k or 24% compared to the actual cost increases. The Council will use its contingency budget of £850k to address this shortfall, as reflected within this forecast.

That Cabinet note the forecast increase in the deficit on cumulative schools reserves as outlined in Appendix 4 of this report of £2,835,000. This would result in school balances ending the financial year in a deficit of £6,926,000, with eighteen of thirty-five schools forecast to be in a deficit balance.

That Cabinet note that schools which are budgeting to end the 2025/26 financial year in a deficit balance are required to bring forward recovery plans by October half term to ensure that the proposed actions to address their budget shortfalls are instigated.

## **Other Reports**

The committee considered the Chief Officer of Social Care Annual report and the Safeguarding Annual report.

All the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6158>

## **Place Scrutiny Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2025**

The Place Scrutiny Committee considered a report to scrutinise the content of the RLDP Consultation Deposit Plan report before it went to full Council. Appendix 1 provides the main report and there are numerous supplementary documents. There was an open public forum where contributors expressed concern about particular sites as well as developer comments and representatives from the Monmouthshire Housing Association about the need for affordable housing. One of the public speakers commented on the fact that the vast majority of consultation responses were answered with no change needed. This happened despite over 4000 responses being received.

There were 320 objections to the Mounton Road site at Chepstow, the highest number and 95 objections to the site for 26 houses in Shirenewton. The response of the Deputy Leader to the concern about little change being made as a result of this consultation was that the planning Inspector would look at it at the examination stage of the plan. The Deposit plan will be considered by full council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October and if approved would then go to a later examination stage.

The reports, public contributions and the debate can be watched here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6158>

## **People Scrutiny 30 September 2025**

The Committee considered reports on the Whole Authority Well Being and Prevention Strategy and the Community Meals. The cost of the community meals is subsidised by the Council. The report details can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6158>

## **Place Scrutiny on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2025**

The above committee considered a draft report on the Designation management plan for Monmouthshire ( meaning Tourism) and measures to reduce litter and fly tipping.

The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MId=6387>

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

**Councillor A Crossley left the meeting at 08.05**

d) **Risk Assessments**

Pwllmeyric & Mounton – Cllr Stevens completed  
Mathern – Cllr Sidwell to complete

e) **Dates for CPR Training**

CPR training – Cllr M Sidwell to advertise on Village Facebook site for a Monday or Thursday evening to get numbers interested

## 46/26 Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued

a) **New Applications**

DM/2025/01211 - Newlands – front 2 storey glass extension – No Comments

12 Birdwood Gardens – construction of a raised timber decking over 300 mm in height to the rear of the property

Comments DM/2025/01165 12 Birdwood Gardens

DM/2025/01165

Subject to applicants complying with local Lead Authority and SuDS Approval Report and their concerns being address as per report.

We also note NRW response The applicant should be advised that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure that they secure all other permits/consents relevant to their development.

b) **Decisions & Appeals**

None advised by MCC

c) **Enforcement**

None advised by MCC

## 47/26 Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

Date	Description
	As per agenda

48/26	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	<b>Community Resilience - Climate Emergency</b> Ongoing to be included in Community Plan
b)	<b>Website Updates</b> Clerk to update Minutes
c)	<b>Response Stock it Ltd on analytics of website hits. Review this and discuss council own Facebook page</b> Clerk to chase for the analytics regarding our website
d)	<b>New litter incentive MCC – Representative</b> Clerk to ask Cllr A Crossley if he would represent the Council on this. Cllr A Crossley agreed to represent community in this role
e)	<b>Service Of remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> Clerk to contact Rev Z and B Pimentel to confirm timing of the service.  Clerk to advertise only confirmation has been received

49/26	Projects Awaiting Completion
a)	Mounton Notice Board – awaiting Mounton Church – drawings of proposed new noticeboard
b)	Accounts 2024/2025 to send Welsh Audit Office by 7th August 2025 for annual full audit. – Agreed all can be issued =- response to be received from Wales Audit 30 09 2025

40/26	Date of Next Meeting
a)	Monday 10th November 2025 @ 7.00pm

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 13th 2025

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Meeting Ended @ 8.40pm

Signed:

Dated: