

# Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: November 10<sup>th</sup> 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

51/26	Procedural Items
a)	<b>Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest</b> Cllr M Sidwell item planning DM/2025/01165 - Cllr M Sidwell, Cllr J Harris County Councillor L Brown Planning application DM/2025/01307 -
b)	<b>Public Comment</b>

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c)	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b>
	October 13 <sup>th</sup> 2025 Minutes were resolved as true and accurate. These to be entered on the Website.
d)	<b>Monthly Police Report Review</b>
	<p>Welcome to the October 2025 Edition of the Mathern Council Report</p> <p><b>Crime in Mathern:</b> During the month of October, a total of three crime incidents were recorded in Mathern and the surrounding areas. Encouragingly, none of these incidents were classified as serious offences. This reflects the continued safety and security of our community, which remains relatively free from major criminal activity.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement and Local Concerns:</b> Following a successful Police Surgery held at <b>Mathern Community Village Hall on Friday, 24th October</b>, several parents raised concerns regarding Monmouthshire County Council's decision to cancel the free school bus service from Pwllmeyric Hill to Chepstow Comprehensive School and Wyedean School. Understandably, this matter has caused considerable anxiety among parents whose children are directly affected. I have since made contact with Monmouthshire County Council and received a positive response from the Transportation Manager, who has agreed to arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss potential options for reinstating the school bus service. Any updates or outcomes from this meeting will be included in the next Council Report.</p> <p>During the Police Surgery, attendees were also consulted on their preferred frequency for future sessions. The consensus was to hold surgeries <b>every two months</b>, rather than monthly. I am happy to proceed on this basis and will ensure each event is well-advertised in advance to allow all members of the Mathern community the opportunity to attend. <b>October 2025</b></p> <p><b>Notable Events and Policing Activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Foot Patrols:</b></li></ul> <p>Regular foot patrols continue to be conducted throughout Mathern, providing valuable opportunities to engage with residents and strengthen community relations. I have made residents aware that I am the designated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for the area and have encouraged them to attend upcoming Police Surgeries to discuss any concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Speed Monitoring:</b></li></ul> <p>A speed monitoring operation was conducted on Mathern Road on <b>Wednesday, 15th October 2025</b>, between <b>17:30 and 18:15</b>. Regular monitoring will now take place on a <b>fortnightly basis</b>. Feedback from residents indicates that the preferred time for future checks is between 17:00 and 18:00, coinciding with local nursery finishing and pick-up times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Suspicious Door-to-Door Activity:</b></li></ul>

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A report was received regarding a potential scam involving a person conducting late-night door-to-door visits claiming to represent **Marie Curie**. Although the individual was wearing an identification lanyard and a branded tabard, the timing of the visit raised suspicions. Officers were deployed to the area, but no individuals matching the description were located. Residents are advised to remain cautious and report any similar activity.

- Telephone Fraud Report:

An incident was reported by a concerned daughter who believes her elderly father may have been targeted by **telephone scammers**. Officers have been tasked with contacting the victim to provide support and conduct further enquiries.

- Off-Road Biker Complaint:

A report was received concerning an off-road biker travelling at excessive speeds along the **A48**. Officers were dispatched to conduct visible patrols in the area with the aim of deterring further incidents. **October 2025**

## Continued Plan of Action:

To support ongoing community safety and engagement, the following measures are in place:

- **Fortnightly speed monitoring** will be conducted in the area to address traffic-related concerns and promote road safety.

**Police surgeries** have been scheduled **every two months** to provide residents with the opportunity to raise concerns, seek advice, and engage directly with local officers. All surgeries will be held at **Mathern Community Village Hall. Thursday 18th December | 18:00 – 19:00 hrs**

**Thursday 26th February | 18:00 – 19:00 hrs**

Upcoming sessions are as follows:

These initiatives are part of our continued commitment to maintaining a safe and connected community.

Report completed by PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) 521 D. Cordingley

**Monmouthshire South Neighbourhood POLICING TEAM**

@gwent.

Chairman to ask for details of a RTA from Sunday at the junction of the A48 from St Pierre.

Chairman to investigate when foot patrols have taken place, results from the 2

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weekly speed checks in Mathern.  
Clerk to contact John Charters asking if all 3 villages are in no cold calling zone and where to obtain more stickers for villagers to advertise this in there windows or doors.

52/26	Finance	
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.	
	All Approved	
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation	
	Completed by Cllr J Mcconnache	
<b>Payments / Receipts</b>		
Date	Description	Value
22 09 2025	Telephone internet	76.99
26 09 2025	HMRC – NI – PAYE	317.51
28 09 2025	Salary	862.91
29 09 2025	Work home fee – HMRC	26.00
06 10 2025	Stock It – Licenses 365	59.40
07 10 2025	OVW -Training	20.00
10 10 2025	Smart Pensions	164.16
10 10 2025	Merlin Wate	95.56
14 10 2025	Mathern Mouton Pwllmeyric in Bloom Grant	900.00
20 10 2025	Internet – Telephone	76.99
22 10 2025	HMRC	258.63
29 10 2025	Salary	765.55
30 10 2025	Home working fee	26.00
03 11 2025	Stock It (hosting fee)	90.00

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04 11 2025	Rent Village Hall	20.00
06 11 2025	Stock It Limited – Monthly licenses	59.40
10 11 2025	Merlin Waste – Dog Collection	95.56
10 11 2025	R B L Poppy Appeal	35.00
11 11 2025	Viking Stationery	107.59
12 11 2025	Pension	143.52
21 11 2025	Telephone/Internet	76.99

## 53/26 Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting

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

Next Meeting in January awaiting details

### b) Community Plan – 2025

First meeting taken place and Cllr M Sidwell, Cllr D Carne, Cllr J Mcconachie and Cllr J Harris attended. Next meeting agreed for 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### d) Update service bus 73 – replacement bus markings – stop Pwllmeyric Response from OVW

Clerk to chase MCC re replacement road marking.

OVW advised that monies can only be taken from Section 137 monies towards obtaining a further survey on safe walking route to Chepstow School.

Clerk to ask OVW if monies from this year can be transferred to section 137 .

## 54/26 Highways & Footpaths

- Fly-tipping yellow containers – entrance to Mathern
- A48 Speed sign turned top of Pwllmeyric
- Mathern Lane Large Pot holes
- Leaves pavements need clearing very slippery.
- Large sign A48 – advise that MCC must have a way leave in place to clear obstructions to this sign.
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## 45/26 Councillors' Report / Clerks Report

### a) One Voice Wales Update

OVW updated with circulation list to Cllr M Sidwell and Cllr D Carne

### b) Defibrillator Monthly Checks

All checked and working

### c) County Cllrs Report

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

County Councillor Brown advised:

#### **Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2025**

The Cabinet meeting gave feedback from the performance and overview committee. The other reports were the whole authority preventative health strategy for supporting resilient, healthier communities, the Connect to work supported employment programme and the 2025/6 financial revenue update.

In term of the revenue update the following were noted:

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 school's reserves deficit that is being carried on the Council's balance sheet.

That 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.

The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=6107>

#### **County Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2025**

The County Council had a number of questions from the public questioning the RLDP including one from Richard Liddell with concerns about the impact on the green wedge for Pwllmeyric of the

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Mounton Road site. The Council considered the Governance and Audit Committee Annual report, and the main part of the meeting was taken up with discussing the RLDP.

I asked for an early vote on the RLDP due to infrastructure concerns, in the hope of having the potential numbers to defeat it, but unfortunately that did not happen. I expressed strong concerns about the Mounton Road development due to its proximity to the High beech roundabout causing further traffic congestion there and blocking the free flow of traffic.

The RLDP was discussed prior to this time at the Place Committee and in the minutes for full council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October I said:

“There were 320 objections to the Mounton Road site, Chepstow, the highest number in this consultation. This site is promoted by Barwood Land who specialise in planning primarily for residential and the site is sold on with planning for a profit. They are not a Building company, which is an important consideration for the viability of the site as it would be passed onto another site developer. In comparison, the alternative Chepstow site has a direct Building company interest and on a traffic light basis the alternative site does better. Neither Chepstow sites should go forward due to traffic capacity concerns, but the Mounton Road site is madness due to its closeness to High Beech roundabout.”

I also argued in the full council meeting about the master plan for the site as it adds an extra triangle square near the junction of St Lawrence Road and the roundabout for cycle crossing. Whilst, I got included extra land for future improvements to High Beech on the Mounton Road site. This will be undermined by the fact that the masterplan will add extra blockages to the free flow of traffic to and from the roundabout as there will be an access to and from the site, a crossing, a cycle crossing and the extra triangle square may lead to only one lane rather than two as you approach the roundabout from St Lawrence Road.

The alternative site for housing is the Bayfield site which Barratts Redrow are interested in but the planners are arguing that this does not have capacity for a hotel and care home, only residential development.

I also expressed strong concerns about the Shirenewton site due to infrastructure concerns over both sewerage and water in full council and extracts of the minutes of the Place Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September for full council ( appendix 10) say as follows:

“• Councillor Brown questioned whether public engagement has been meaningful, noting that most responses resulted in "no change needed" and doubted whether the inspector would have time to consider all responses. Officers stated that all responses are recorded and will be considered by the inspector during the public examination, and changes could occur at that stage if warranted....

Councillor Brown commented that the Shirenewton site is unviable due to the sewage issue and referenced conversations with Welsh Water about how additional houses would exacerbate the issue whereby raw sewage overflows from manhole covers and is managed by the placement of straw bales. She also highlighted the frustration of residents who had spent considerable time taking part in the consultation exercise and that it appeared they had been ignored.”

**Following an extensive debate on the RLDP at the full council and it being put to a recorded vote, Council resolved to accept the recommendations:**

**For: 22**

**Against: 22**

**Chair with the casting vote: For**

That Council:

- Approves the Deposit RLDP Consultation Report and the RLDP, as amended following public consultation, and associated documents prior to its submission to Welsh Government and Planning

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and Environment Decision Wales (PEDW) for independent examination.

· Delegates authority to the Chief Officer for Place and Community Well-being and the Head of Planning, so that either in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development and Deputy Leader, may:

- a) make any minor changes to the Deposit RLDP and associated supporting documents, prior to submitting the documents to Welsh Government and PEDW, and
- b) make any changes to the RLDP on behalf of the Council as requested by the Inspector(s) during the Examination.

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

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=143&Mid=6084>

**Below is an indicative timetable extracted from an email from the Chief Officer for Place & Community Well-Being for the next steps, which may change once PEDW confirms the examination work programme:**

- **Submission of Deposit RLDP to WG/PEDW: By 07/11/2025**
- **Examination by PEDW : Predicted to commence End of January/February**
- **Inspector's Report submitted to Council : Estimated August 2026 (subject to examination length)**
- **Adoption at Full Council: Autumn 2026**

**PEDW = Planning and Environment Decisions Wales ( Welsh Government),**

It is therefore expected that the planning inspectorate hearings will be conducted at the start of next year. As part of the examination, PEDW will contact representors who commented on the Deposit RLDP regarding the process, including whether they wish to attend hearing sessions. The Inspector will decide which comments to hear at these sessions and will consider all representations made to date before determining whether the plan is sound. Here is a link to the procedure guidance for Local Development Plans which outlines the examination process for you: - [Local development plan examinations: procedure guidance | GOV.WALES](#).

This document can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.wales/local-development-plan-examinations-procedure-guidance-html>

d) **Risk Assessments**

Mathern Assessments outstanding – Cllr Sidwell to complete

e) **Dates for CPR Training**

CPR training – Advert placed on Community Facebook page awaiting response.

Chairman to product a poster for Use at the Wife's Group coffee morning in case people aren't on Facebook.

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56/26		Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued
a)		New Applications
DM/2025/01307		<p>1 School Cottage. Proposed extension and alterations to the existing single double garage.</p> <p><b>Comment</b>  <b>Clrs feel the construction is too close to the property boundary – leaving no access for maintenance. No details on Foul water or drainage details, over development of the plot, Construction not in keeping with the character of neighbouring property which is a listed building. Materials used not in keeping with neighbouring properties, safeguarding issues With windows overlooking the nursery play yard and field.</b></p> <p><b>If this were passed, we would want a condition on that this building cannot be used for any residential purpose.</b></p>
DM/2025/01315		<p>8 The Crescent – Demolition of existing single rear single storey extension with the erection of a new two storey and single storey rear extension.</p> <p>Comments we note bat box and would also like to see a swift box included. No details of surface water drainage assume this is covered by SUBs report. We note Welsh Water Comments</p>
DM/2025/01165		<p>12 Birdwood Gardens –</p> <p><b>Comment – No Further Comment</b></p>
DM/2025/01041		<p>Barnett Woods – Change of use of part of car park in Great barnets wood for provision of one mobile food/drink van in the car Park</p> <p><b>Comments</b>  <b>Clrs feel that this isn't required concern over increased litter, no toilets available, vermin. Would question the commercialisation of the Countryside</b></p>
c)		Enforcement
		None advised by MCC

57/26		Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings
Date	Description	

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	As per agenda

58/26	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 for October
b)	<b>Response Stock it Ltd on analytics of website hits. Review this and discuss council own Facebook page</b>
	Clerk to chase
	<b>Clerk to agenda MMPVB for January meeting</b>

59/26	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

60/26	Date of Next Meeting
a)	Finance meeting 8 <sup>th</sup> <u>December 2025</u>

Meeting Ended @ 8.40pm			
Signed :		Dated:	