

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Financial Meeting Monday 8th December 2025

Mathern Village Hall

Present –Cllr Matt Sidwell, Cllr D Carne , Cllr Sylvia Stevens, Cllr Jayne Harris, Cllr John McConnachie

Also present–Clerk, Jane Kelley

Apologies- Cllr G Page

Bank reconciliation agreed by Cllr J Mc Connachie

1) Review of current budget 2025/26. Discussion on year-to-date funds not yet spent.

All Councillors had been circulated with an Alpha Detailed Receipts and Payments schedule.

The Clerk had also circulated a letter from the Welsh Government outlining Section 137(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Limits for 2025/2026.

The appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) is calculated by applying the formula. set out in schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

This means that the maximum Section 137 sum for 2026/2027 increases from £11.10 to £11.60 per elector.

The number of electors in our area is 851

Councillors reviewed the spending –to-date figures and noted the following items: -

- Councillors noted the increase in dog waste collection both this year and again next year. This will be budgeted for 2026/27 – increase is 2%. - £7.65 per bin

Highlighted overspends to be taken from Reserves. These are:

- Still awaiting Audit Cost due to Wales Audit Office still not completed annual audit. 2024 2025
-

The Council is continuing to discuss a community resilience plan next meeting January 6th 2026

Review of General Reserves – and EMR Transfers

If was agreed that the no less than 25% and no more than 70% of our annual precept to be kept as a reserve. This would ensure that we can administer salary rises to the Clerk, pay our insurance, IT costs and emptying the dog bins for a minimum of 6

- Possible new website 2026/2027
- As per Community Council policy, grants will be allocated at meetings in December, February, May and August.
- If Clerks salary is above monies budgeted this to be taken from reserves.
- The installation and upkeep of the Christmas tree in Mathern to be precepted for 2026/2027 with C C taking responsibility for the installation. If Pwllmeyric obtain a tree this would also be covered by C C for the installation of lights.
- **Approved** This years installation of lights at a cost of £480 to be taken from reserves and entered under Village Up Keep

Solar Farm Community Benefit of £1472.00 was paid in April 2025. Due again April 2026. If unclaimed after March 2026 this to be entered into EMR solar grants.

Discussion on Community Plan provision this could be EMR for Wellbeing of future generations act main goals are about wellbeing, collaboration and community cohesion. Supporting community transport will also help promote independence and reduce car travel

In conclusion,

Precept to be submitted to MCC by 20st January. 2026. Therefore, precept to be resolved at the January meeting.

Clerk to email to Cllrs all updated and agreed spreadsheets after this meeting to ensure they all have up-to date documents.

5)Planning -

DM/2025/01315 – 8 The Crescent Mathern Chepstow – No Further Comments

7)Payments made since November meeting

Date	Payee	Amount
24 11 2025	HMRC	209.57
28 11 2025	J Kelley Salary	670.36
01 12 2025	J Kelley (Home Fee as HMRC)	26.00
01 12 2025	SLCC Membership	150.00
01 12 2025	SLCC Membership	40.00
08 12 2025	Stock It (monthly licenses 365)	59.40

09 12 2025	Village Hall (Rent)	30.00
09 12 2025	Grant For Lights – Village Up Keep	480.00
10 12 2025	Merlin Waste (Dog Waste Collection)	95.56
11 12 2025	Smart Pension	119.95
15 12 2025	HMRC	286.70
29 12 2025	Home Fee J Kelley	26.00
29 12 2025	Telephone /Internet	76.99

Receipt Precept MCC 24th December £8080.00

Total Precept 2024/2025 24240.00 All Received.

November Bank Statement approved by Cllr J Mc Connachie

8)Any other business for Agenda in January

Resilience Community Plan (meeting Tuesday 6th January 2026)

MMPVB – to be agended

Clerk to chase Highways re removal of young saplings A48

Date Time of Next meeting –

12th January 2026. 7pm in small room, Mathern Village Hall

Signed Dated