

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 12th January 2026

Councillor Attendance			
Ward	Name	Present	Apologies
Mathern	Cllr M Sidwell (Chair)	✓	
Mathern	Cllr J Harris	✓	
Mathern	Cllr A Crossley		✓
Pwllmeyric	Cllr S Stevens	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr G Page		✓
Pwllmeyric	Cllr J McConnachie	✓	
Mounton	Cllr D Carne (Vice Chairman)	✓	
County Cllr	Cllr L Brown	✓	
Members of the Public			
	Name		
a)	None		
Members of the Police Attending			
a)	None		
b)			
71/26	Procedural Items		
a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest		
	Cllr S Stevens – correspondence from CAB		
b)	Public Comment		
	A member of the public had approached a Cllr to say that they felt that the comments on their recent planning application were disproportionate to other planning applications.		
	Mounton residents had asked to meet Cllr D Carne as a get to know you event. This to be arranged in February,		
c)	Minutes of the Previous Meetings		
	Minutes of previous meeting on 14 th November 2025 and 8 th December 2025 were agreed as true and correct these to be signed and placed on the website.		

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d)	Monthly Police Report Review – Note received clerk to chase
	Traffic-Related Issues The Mathern area experienced temporary traffic disruption, primarily due to heavy congestion on the A48. As a result, a number of vehicles diverted through Mathern as a cut-through route to access Chepstow. This led to inconvenience for local residents and farmers, particularly those attempting to reach farmland and attend to livestock. Officers attended the area promptly and implemented traffic management measures, allowing traffic to flow more freely and bringing the situation to a swift resolution.
	Man Walking on the A48 Officers responded to a report of a male walking along the A48 during foggy conditions while wearing dark clothing. Visibility was extremely limited, with the individual only noticeable due to partial reflective trim on his trainers. Officers located the male without incident and ensured his safe return home, preventing what could have become a potentially dangerous situation.
	Disturbance at St Pierre Hotel and Country Club Staff at the St Pierre Hotel and Country Club reported concerns regarding a male who was causing disruption to staff members. The individual was requesting a specific member of staff by name, stating that a date had allegedly been arranged. Officers attended the scene, addressed the matter professionally, and the male was asked to leave the premises, resolving the situation without further issue
	Clerk to contact Police re the incident of the car fire on Pwllmeyric Hill in December.

72/26	Finance
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.
	All approved
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation
	Authorised by Cllr J McConachie
c)	Set Precept for 2026/2027 as attached spread sheets from December 2025 Meeting
	It was unanimously agreed to keep the precept at the same amount as last year £24240.00. Any excess spending would be taken from reserves. Clerk to complete the MCC precept claims form before 20 th January. Confirmation received 19 01 2026.

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Payments / Receipts		
Date	Description	Value
30 12 2025	Salary	814.40
15 12 2025	HMRC	286.70
05 01 2026	Village Hall Rent	20.00
06 01 2026	Stock It Ltd	59.40
12 01 2026	Smart Pension	153.68
12 01 2026	Merlin Waste	95.56
19 01 2026	Internet/Telephone	76.99
27 01 2026	Citizens advise (Donation)	250.00
24 12 2025	Precept IN	8080.00
73/26	Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting	
a)	Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounton Meadows – next meeting date	
	Next meeting Thursday 15th January 2026	
b)	Community Plan – 2025 update following meeting 6th January	
	Next Meeting February – working on questionnaires for distribution	
c)	Replacement bus markings – stop Pwllmeyric	
	Pwllmeyric markings completed – Mathern still not completed Clerk to chase.	
d)	MMPVB – Next steps moving forward	
	Summer flowers ordered. Planting to take place weekend 22 nd May 2026	
e)	St Tewdrics Well – restoration grant application	
	Clerk has contacted Welsh Churches for a grant they are unable to consider grants for Community Councils. Awaiting a quote from a local builder to investigate cost of cleaning the leaves away from the well and cleaning the stonework. Agenda for next meeting.	
f)	Drainage under motorway bridge Mathern	

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	Clerk to contact MCC regarding the clean up under the bridge following recent flooding. Also to advise them of our concerns in Mathern Lane regarding blocked drains and hedge erosion.
64/26	Highways & Footpaths
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items to Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large Pot holes Mathern Lane• Road Sweeper through villages needed especially under motorway bridge Mathern• Verges falling away in Mathern Lane.• Gully sucking urgently needed Pwllmeyric Hill and Chapel Lane• Drain blockage – opposite Marlows vets causing flooding <p>Footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kissing Gate Fisherman’s Walk collapsed.• Broken stile top of Pwllmeyric above snakey lane• Broken stile middle field Moynes Court Mathern• Broken stile behind Petrol Garage out at Mill Mathern
65/26	Councillors’ Report / Clerks Report
a)	One Voice Wales Update
	Next Meeting Thursday 5 th January 2026 – Cllr M Sidwell to attend.
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks
	All checked and working
c)	County Cllrs Report
	COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025, NO REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026 DUE TO HOLIDAY PERIOD.
	County Councillor Brown advised: <u>Land at Mounton Road Chepstow Pre-application consultation</u> The Mathern Community Council and County Councillor put in a response to the preapplication planning consultation at the above site which proposes 146 houses, a hotel and a care home. The closing date for responses was the 19 th of December. In the RLDP recent consultation there were 320 objections to this site, which is just next to the High Beech roundabout, this was the highest number of objections in the recent deposit plan RLDP consultation. The illustrative masterplan fails to include land reserved for High Beech

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roundabout improvements which was included in the Deposit Plan RLDP consultation. Also, the planning pre-application consultation is premature because the strategic site has yet to be approved by the planning inspectorate. It mentions a previous failed planning application at the site of DC/2013/ 00571 but provides no further information.

Governance and Audit Committee 30 October 2025

The Committee covered the council's audited accounts and the Audit Wales- National Fraud initiative 2024/25. There was also a discussion with Social Services on a Call-in request on the My Mates internal audit which had given an unfavourable opinion. It was agreed to have a further internal audit following a presentation by officers. The meeting can be watched at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=135&Mid=6414>

Place Scrutiny Committee 6 November 2025

The Committee considered Placemaking plans for Monmouth, Abergavenny and Magor with Undy. Chepstow is further along with its Placemaking plans. The Committee also considered a Bridges Petition for Monmouth asking the Council to provide Bridges Centre with a Sustainable Long-term lease. Details of the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=303&Mid=6170>

Democratic Service Committee 13 November 2025

The Committee considered a report on a Welsh government consultation to extend the duty to broadcast meetings, which Monmouthshire County Council already does in relation to the majority of its meetings. In addition, the draft annual remuneration report 2026/27 was considered which deals with the allowances of Councillors. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=142&Mid=6127>

Cabinet 19 November 2025

The Cabinet reports noted the feedback from the Place Scrutiny on the destination management plan and the Performance and Overview Scrutiny on the financial side. The Cabinet covered reports for the medium-term financial plan update and the revenue budget update. The Cabinet were asked to note the updated projected revenue budget shortfall of £11.5 million for 2026/27 and a cumulative shortfall of £37.4 million over the medium period to 2029/30.

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A summary of the details of the revenue budget update can be found at the beginning of that report under recommendations. School balances are expected to close the financial year at a deficit of £7,061,000, with 18 out of 35 schools expected to have a deficit balance. The full reports can be found at the following link including reports on ALN, Monmouthshire Car Parking review and Monmouthshire Destination management plan (meaning Tourism):

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=6108>

Governance and Audit Committee 27 November 2025

The Committee covered the Audit Wales report for Monmouthshire on arrangements for commissioning services and made recommendations to establish consistent commissioning arrangements and embed arrangements across the council. The Whole Authority annual complaints report and the Ombudsman annual letter were also reported on at this meeting, and the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6118>

Special Performance and Overview Committee 3rd of December 2025

The Committee has considered reports on the economy, employment and skills strategy and the planning annual performance. Appendix A for the annual planning performance report provides the indicators for Monmouthshire looking at matters such as planning applications being determined in particular time periods. It provides figures on the percentages of member made decisions against officer advice. In Monmouthshire in 2024/5 this was 1 out of 20 or 5% compared to the latest Wales average in 2018/9 to 9%. This suggests that the Planning Committee are less likely to make decisions against officer advice than for the average in Wales as a whole. Unfortunately, the figures for Wales as a whole were last collected in 2018/9, so that is the only comparison currently available.

The planning report at the end provides a blue page which shows that there were 319 completions in 2024/5 with 22% affordable. On enforcement in 2024/5 there were 352 enforcement complaints, 4 planning contraventions, 7 enforcement notices, 1 breach of condition notices, 1 stop notices and 2 section 125 notices. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6644>

County Council on the 4 December 2025

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	<p>The County Council has considered the annual report of the Standards Committee, the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Annual Report, the Annual Safeguarding Annual Report, Annual Directors Social Care Safeguarding and Health report and the appointment of the Chief Executive as an Executive Director of CCR Energy Ltd (with no remuneration). There are 2 motions one on the Marie Curie's UK wide campaign to ensure residents living with a terminal illness receive appropriate Council Tax relief and another on Storm Claudia including a motion suggesting the need for a plan to invest more in flood resilient measures. There were a number of questions asked by individual councillors. The reports can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=6085</p>
d)	Annual Risk Assessment 2025 – Mathern
	Still outstanding
e)	Update Dates for CPR Training
	Dates to be placed on Community Face book page for February
66/26	Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued
a)	New Applications
DM/2025/01211	The Newlands – Front 2 storey glass extension
	Although an extension was requested for Community Council comments Cllrs noted this application has already been approved. Therefore, no comments made.
b)	Decisions & Appeals
	None
c)	Enforcement
	None
67/26	Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings
Date	Description
	As per Agenda
	<p>Cllr J Mc Connachie to attend – Climate Change workshop 21 01 2026 Cllr S Stevens to attend Biodiversity workshop 21 01 2025 A grant of £250.00 was agreed for CAB – Cllr S Stevens to obtain posts and details of the work carried out by CAB to advertise within the</p>

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	villages
68/26	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	Community Resilience - Climate Emergency
	On going
b)	Website Updates
	Clerk to arrange up date of Minutes for November and December and make minor amendments as discussed
c)	Response Stock It on analytics of website use. Review this and discuss.
	Details not received
69/26	Projects Awaiting Completion
a)	Accounts 2024/2025 with Welsh Audit Office for external audit. Clerk to chase again chased November 2025
b)	Mounton Noticeboard – awaiting draft proposal of repair before authorised.
70/26	Date of Next Meeting
	Monday 9 th February 2026 7 pm

Meeting Ended @			
Signed:		Dated:	