

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 9th February 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			
a)	One Member of the public present		
Members of the Police Attending			
a)	None		
71/26	Procedural Items		
a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest		
	None		
b)	Public Comment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A member of the public attended to advise that he was making a vehicle water tight under the motorway bridge. He advised that he would be completing the work by Thursday and have the vehicle moved by Friday to Mathern Palace Farm.• A member of the public had contacted County Cllr Brown re works he suggested would help on St Lawrence Roundabout. He suggested the roundabout green space was made smaller to increase the number of lanes around it.• A member of the public had advised that a foul drain outside 2 Birdwood Gardens had collapsed – Clerk to advise MCC		
c)	Minutes of the Previous Meetings		

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Minutes of previous meeting on 12th January 2026 were agreed as true and correct these to be signed and placed on the website.

Monthly Police Report Review –

Crime in Mathern:

During the month of January 2026, a total of two incidents were recorded within the Mathern area. While one of these incidents was of a more serious nature, it has undergone thorough investigation by the relevant authorities. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

The second incident was minor and did not pose a significant risk to public safety. Overall, these figures remain relatively low and reflect the continued efforts of local authorities and community members to maintain a safe and secure environment. The Neighbourhood Policing Team remains committed to working closely with the community and Council to ensure transparency, accountability, and the ongoing protection of residents. We appreciate the cooperation and vigilance of the community, which plays a vital role in preserving the safety and wellbeing of Mathern.

Abandoned Lorry Under M48 Bridge

It was reported that a lorry had been abandoned beneath the M48 fly-over on Mathern Road and had remained in place for approximately one week. Although the vehicle was not causing an obstruction or posing an immediate hazard, its prolonged presence raised concerns due to the absence of any visible activity or contact from the owner.

- d) Officers attended the location and conducted the necessary checks to establish ownership. The registered owner was subsequently contacted and instructed to remove the vehicle. The owner complied with this request, and the lorry was promptly relocated, resolving the matter.

Female and Dog Knocked Over

An incident occurred involving a speeding vehicle that struck a female pedestrian and her dog before leaving the scene. Both the individual and the animal sustained injuries as a result of the collision.

Officers responded promptly and attended the scene, where initial assessments were carried out. Through swift investigative action, the suspect was identified and apprehended. The injured female was transported to hospital for medical assessment, while the dog was taken to a veterinary clinic for treatment. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

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.

0 **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**

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Community Village Hall.

1 **Thursday 26th February 2026** | 18:00 – 19:00 hrs

2 **Friday 17th April 2026** | 18:00 – 19:00 hrs

3 **Friday 26th June 2026** | 18:00 – 19:00 hrs

4

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.

Clerk to contact police to advise that the Van owner advised that the police haven't spoken to him and he hadn't moved the van.

(See public comments)

Clerk to ask for statistics from 2 weekly speed checks carried out in the village. Dates and number of offences recorded.

Speed of traffic was a concern to Cllrs – previously tried to get a speed watch group started for Mathern but as at least 4 were needed only a had shown an interest in being trained to carry out speed watch work.

Training is given by GO Safe

Ask police to attend next meeting.

Matter to be agenda for next meeting.

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82/26		Finance
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.	
	All approved	
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation	
	Authorised by Cllr J McConachie	
c)	Return of Cllrs Allowance Forms to Clerk	
	Mostly returned Clerk to chase 2 forms	
Payments / Receipts		
Date	Description	Value
27 01 2026	Cab Donation	250.00
28 01 2026	HMRC	199.63
29 01 2026	Home Fee HMRC	26.00
29 01 2026	Salary	636.58
06 02 2026	Stock it Ltd	59.40
09 02 2026	Mathern Village Hall rent	30.00
10 02 2026	Merlin Waste Dog collection	95.56
12 02 2026	Smart Pensions	118.69
83/26		Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting
a)	Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounton Meadows	
	Next meeting April 2026 – Welsh water had agreed to complete the lining of the pipes from Shirenewton to Mounton and investigate the area fenced off in Mounton Meadow with drain leaking.	
b)	Ongoing up date community plan questionnaire	
	Sub meeting to be agreed to finalise questionnaire	
c)	Replacement bus markings Mathern Village	
	Clerk to Chase – also bus times signage as placed in Pwllmeyric	

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d)	Noticeboard Mounton Village Mounton Church to discuss at the next LCC meeting – Cllr M Sidwell to also attend this meeting.
e)	Date for CPR Training Dates agreed as 3 rd and 5 th March – 7 – 9 Cllrs encouraged to advertise this event as only 5 responses so far.
f)	Quote for cleaning and clearing St Tewdrics Well Mathern MCC to start this work on Wednesday 11 th February
g)	Road Clearing – under motorway bridge /Mathern Lane Clerk to chase
h)	Reminder Meet your Councillors event – Mathern Village Hall 10 – 12- 21 03 2026 Date changed to 18 th April 2026 10 – 12
84/26	Highways & Footpaths
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White lines end of Mathern onto A48 unclear.• Chase – Water flooding drain opposite Marlows Vets• Mathern Lane pot holes• Signage Marking Bus stops Mathern• Clearing under Motorway bridge•
85/26	Councillors' Report / Clerks Report
a)	One Voice Wales Update Cllr M Sidwell attended – elections for Cllrs next May 2027 – Check our training plan – on going section 6 biodiversity to be added. A G M 26 06 2025
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks All checked and working
c)	County Cllrs Report COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT FEBRUARY 2026 County Councillor Brown advised: <u>Individual Cabinet Member Decision 14th of January 2026</u> The above meeting covered the museum service collections rationalisation, annual health and safety report, the revoking of the air quality management area order 2005 for Usk and the Welsh Church Fund meeting 3 2025-2026 (with details of the grants approved).

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The reports of the meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=147&MIId=6229>

People Scrutiny Committee 21st of January 2026

The Committee covered the Elective home education and children missing education policy. The reports can be seen at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=304&MIId=6153>

Cabinet 21st of January 2026

The Cabinet approved starting a statutory consultation on the change of age range for Durand primary school from 3-11 to 4-11, the proposed change being due to the significant surplus places. The Cabinet reports also covered the Sale of 2 farm cottages at Leechpool holdings as surplus to needs, section 106 allocations for Church Road and Crick and the Draft Revenue and Capital Budget.

Budget proposals 2026/7- Council Tax In Cabinet report 21st of January and Drop in Sessions

The Cabinet report on the draft revenue and capital budget proposals for 2026/7 provides details of the financial proposals and the proposal for a 5.95% increase in Council Tax. There is a budget gap of just under £1m which the Council hopes to fill with grants. It recommends the use of Capital receipts of £2,707,500 to fund revenue costs as well as an increase in discretionary fees and charges of at least 3.8% as outlined in appendix 6 of the report.

The consultation on the draft revenue budget proposals will run online until the **18th of February 2026**. The consultation on the budget can be found on the Monmouthshire County Council website under Let's Talk Budget and Priorities. There are Budget Drop-in sessions in the local area at Chepstow Library from 11am to 1pm on the 10th of February and Caldicot Library on 10am to noon on the 12th of February 2026.

Details of the Cabinet reports can be found at the following link:

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

County Council 22 January 2026

The County Council approved the diary of meetings for 2026/7 with an extra budget meeting in March 2027 to correspond to the extra provisional budget meeting included in the diary for March 2026 and a report was approved on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

A motion was put forward by Cllr Paul Pavia and approved by full Council on the Chepstow Infrastructure and to reaffirm that addressing traffic congestion in and around Chepstow remains a strategic priority for Monmouthshire County Council. The meeting was cut shorter due to a council member being ill in the meeting with the motion on the budget not proceeded with and the Council questions answered by email.

The reports and full details of the motion can be found at the following link:

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

Special Performance and Overview Committee 27th of January 2026

The Committee considered a report on Fixed Term School Exclusions which continues to increase and were higher than the previous 2 years, most exclusions were for 5 days or fewer with the average length of 1.5 days. The figures for permanent exclusions were also considered in the report. All permanent exclusions come through an Inclusion Panel which allows for multi-agency decision making about next steps and monitoring.

The school health research network covered work led by Cardiff University on pupil well being including how many children exercised and had breakfast.

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	<p>There was an additional Business Strategic Risk Assessment with a table with various risks including high, medium and low risks for Monmouthshire County Council. High risk was shown in relation to the Council’s financial side that some services will become financially unsustainable in the short to medium term due to increasing demand and continuing financial pressures. As well as a high risk that some infrastructure and assets may become inoperative in the medium term due to insufficient capital funding available to sustain the level of maintenance needed. The reports can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIid=143&MIid=6088 Place Scrutiny Committee- 29th of January 2026</p> <p>The Committee considered the Draft Cultural Strategy and action plan and consider how it seeks to champion cultural activity and create sustainable and inclusive cultural growth in Monmouthshire.</p> <p>There was also a report on Biodiversity and resilience, to scrutinise the Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 report to Welsh Government to comply with that legal requirement. The requirement places a duty on public authorities to seek to enhance biodiversity where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. The reports can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIid=143&MIid=6088</p>
	Annual Risk Assessment 2025
d)	All completed – agenda next meeting any items which need attention
86/26	Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued
a)	New Applications
	None
b)	Decisions & Appeals
	None
c)	Enforcement
	None
87/26	Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings
Date	Description
	As per Agenda
88/26	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	Community Resilience - Climate Emergency
	On going – community plan item
b)	Website Updates

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	Clerk to check with Stock it – notice period needed to release web address for hosting. Hosting current cost £100.00
	Clerk to ask James Anderson to update January approved minutes .
89/26	Projects Awaiting Completion
	Notice Board Mounon
	External Audit from Wales Audit – advised by OWV should be approved on Thursday 12 th February 2026
Next Meeting	Monday 9 th March 2026 @ 7.00pm

Meeting Ended @ 8.30

Signed:

Dated: 9th March 2026