

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 9th March 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 | | |
| 91/26 | Procedural Items | | |
| a) | Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest | | |
| | None | | |
| b) | Public Comment | | |
| | None | | |
| c) | Minutes of the Previous Meetings | | |
| | Minutes of previous meeting on 9 th February 2026 were agreed as true and correct these to be signed and placed on the website. | | |
| d) | Monthly Police Report Review – | | |
| | | | |
| | Summary of Recent Incidents in the Mathern Area Two of the incidents recorded during this period related to fallen trees that affected local infrastructure and road access | | |

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| 90/26 | Finance |
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| a) | To consider approval of payments as per below. |
| | All approved |
| b) | Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation |
| | Authorised by Cllr J McConachie |
| c) | External Audit |
| | The Council received an unqualified audit from the external auditors. The recommendations were noted and the Clerks contract to be investigated. Wales Audit have not issued their invoice for payment Clerk has chased this. |
| d) | To consider Grants – none at issue of agenda |
| | None received |
| e) | Budget to spending – any EMR transfers |
| | Cllrs happy with the budget to spending – |
| | Clerk to carry forward amounts as agreed at the finance meeting , And EMR to be completed before 31 03 2026 of Drainage £2000.00 – Community Plan £1000.00 |

Payments / Receipts

| Date | Description | Value |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 23 02 2026 | Telephone/internet | 76.99 |
| 23 02 2026 | Cllr D Carne (Cllrs Allowance) | 156.00 |
| 23 02 2026 | Cllr G Page (“) | 156.00 |
| 23 02 2026 | Cllr J Harris (“) | 156.00 |
| 23 02 2026 | Cllr M Sidwell (“) | 156.00 |
| 23 02 2026 | Cllr J Mc Connachie (“) | 156.00 |
| 23 02 2026 | Cllr S Stevens (“) | 156.00 |

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| 23 02 2026 | Cllr A Crossley (" | 156.00 |
| 26 02 2026 | HMRC | 220.40 |
| 27 02 2026 | Salary | 682.02 |
| 27 02 2026 | Home working fee HMRC | 26.00 |
| 06 03 2026 | Stock It | 59.40 |
| 06 03 2026 | Mathern District Club | 20.00 |
| 10 03 2026 | Viking – Paper/Ink Cartridges/files | 135.65 |
| 10 03 2026 | Merlin Watse – Dog Collection | 95.56 |
| 12 03 2026 | Smart Pensions | 127.44 |
| 16 03 2026 | Planning Wales – Cllr S Stevens – planning training 23 03 2026 | 53.00 |
| 92/26 | Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting | |
| a) | Community Plan – 2025 | |
| | Next meeting 30 th March – Cllrs M Sidwell, Cllr J Harris , Cllr J McConachie. | |
| b) | Replacement bus markings Mathern Village | |
| | Clerk has chased no response. Clerk to keep chasing. MCC response not a priority maybe done in next financial year. | |
| c) | Noticeboard Mounton Village | |
| | Mounton Church have taken away one side of the board to refurbish . If financial cost involved this to be considered via a Grant application. | |
| d) | Update CPR Training | |
| | 7 candidates attended – 3 no shows. This was a shame as others wishing to attend but due to numbers couldn't. | |
| e) | St Tewdrics well cleaning and clearing leaves | |
| | MCC have cleaned out the leaves from the well. Response for meeting from MCC Additional Cleaning Measures We have now sourced and purchased an algicide that is safe for use on historic stone surfaces and will not cause damage or discolouration. Our team will be able to apply this product to the affected stonework and carry out a careful wipe-clean to remove the green growth present on the well walls and surrounding paving. This will be undertaken during the scheduled follow-up visit next week (weather dependent). Specialist Requirements | |

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| | <p>The request regarding dredging of the well and any potential structural concerns has been passed to our colleagues in Highways, who are best placed to advise on feasibility and required structural expertise.</p> <p>Clerk to respond Mathern C C do not expect dredging of the well, but for a netting to be placed over the well to make clearing leaves away easier in future.</p> |
| f) | <p>Meet your Cllrs event Saturday 18th April 2026 10 - 12</p> |
| | <p>Matters for the morning – launch pad for the community plan questionnaire, consultation on the A48 proposed crossing, invite to local PCSO, Best Kept Garden Competition, on going issue Mounon Meadow with sewerage overflow</p> |
| g) | <p>Response re hosting website</p> <p>We are not tied to stock it. We pay a monthly amount for independent 365 per Cllr and this covers any support which the clerk make require. It would be important to check what support would be left with Stock it should we move away from hosting for a new website.</p> <p>Cllrs to come to the next meeting with items they would like to see on a new website. Clerk advised that legal items must appear policies, finance, annual audit , Agenda’s and Minutes of meetings, Cllrs details.</p> |
| h) | <p>Statistics from Police speed monitoring</p> <p>None available</p> |
| i) | <p>Training plan update and section 6 biodiversity statement</p> <p>Clerk to circulate training sessions available from OVW for April, Clerk to organize a code of conduct refresher for 2026. Suggested that a HR group of Cllrs is agreed and The Council as an employer session to be attended by 2 or 3 Cllrs to be agreed.</p> <p>Clerk to contact OVW re sub committees.</p> <p>The Biodiversity statement to be updated. Cllr S Sevens and Cllr J Mc Conachie to work on this before the next meeting.</p> |
| j) | <p>Update meeting with MCC re A48 crossing 03 03 2026</p> |

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Monmouthshire County Council has drawn up a proposal for a pedestrian crossing in Pwllmeyric, following a study of the area and traffic conditions. The consultation dates have not been published yet. The suggested position of this is the top of Pwllmeyric Hill near the current bus stops.

Community Cllrs hope that the consultation will be open when they hold there meet the Cllrs session on 18th April 2026.

M C C will be consulting with As well as talking to the Community Council and residents in the area around the proposed crossing, we would like to gather the views of any others who would be likely to use a crossing and the bus stops. We can do this by contacting local groups and businesses.

- Mathern Brownies
- Mathern U3A
- Sign & Sign Chepstow
- Mathern Nursery
- Mathern Fellowship Group
- Chepstow Garden Centre (local employer)
- Mathern Toddler group
- Mathern Athletics Club
- Bus users (via a poster at the bus shelter)

Community Councillors are keen to have add on if this puffin crossing goes ahead. Cllrs feel that the speed limit from Wyelands Lodge to past the garden centre should be changed to 30. That the road is resurfaced before the installation of this puffin crossing as the road surface of this stretch of the A48 is very poor, Cllrs are concerned that any new markings would break up very quickly if installed on a poor surface. A new surface would also decrease roads noise.

Clerk to chase MCC for the date of the consultation.

93/26 Highways & Footpaths

- a)
 - Any issues – Clerk to contact MCC re signage in Mounon a welcome to Mounon sign ideally on the Roundabout.

Report to Cllrs New online reporting portal for footpaths

94/26 Councillors' Report / Clerks Report

- a) **One Voice Wales Update**

A G M

- b) **Defibrillator Monthly Checks**

All checked and working by Cllr J McConachie and Clerk

- c) **Items from Risk assessment Mathern . Pwllmeyric, Mounon**

Clerk to ask Steven Smith to stain the 2000 bench and fix 2 panels of

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| | <p>glass in the telephone box.</p> <p>Clerk to obtain a quote for the interpretation panel at St Tewdrics Church made from recycled material.</p> |
| d) | <p>County Cllrs Report</p> <p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT MARCH 2026</p> <p>County Councillor Brown advised:</p> <p><u>Performance and Overview Committee 10th of February 2026</u></p> <p>The above meeting discussed the draft revenue and capital budget for 2026/27, and the minutes provide the answers to the various questions raised on this draft. The meeting reports can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=305&MIId=6359</p> <p><u>Cabinet 11th of February 2026</u></p> <p>The Cabinet covered the feedback from the Performance and Overview Committee on the 2026/7 budget; the Revenue Budget update; Monmouthshire Cultural Strategy 2026 – 2036; the development of supported accommodation in Monmouth for 16 + care experienced leavers by the purchase of a property and Place Making delivery for the towns in Monmouthshire using transforming towns placemaking grant. For Chepstow this included grants for conversion of a shop at 18 High Street into 10 one-bedroom flats on first floor, refurbishment of toilets, Thornwell allotments new site and the funding for shop front improvements in Bulwark.</p> <p>The reports can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=6111</p> <p><u>People Scrutiny Committee 24th of February 2026</u></p> <p>The People Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-28 for care experienced children and young people. The Committee also covered a report on the Council as a Disability Confident Employer (Level 2) to show that the Council is a disability inclusive employer. The reports can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=304&MIId=6360</p> <p><u>Individual Cabinet Member Decisions- 25th of February 2026</u></p> <p>The report was to endorse the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience (Environment Wales Act Section 6)report. The report can be found at the following link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=147&MIId=6232</p> <p><u>Cabinet 4th of March 2026</u></p> <p>The Cabinet report includes the minutes of the Performance and Overview Committee scrutiny of the budget 2026/27. The Cabinet is requested to approve the purchase of a low-cost home ownership Property at Usk. Also to consider the refurbishment of the vacant Deri View primary school in Abergavenny to make it suitable for a 2 form Welsh Medium Education primary school.</p> <p>The Draft Monmouthshire local growth fund report details projects proposed in relation to the previous levelling up fund, many of which are a continuation of existing work but there is more of an emphasis on capital than revenue spending.</p> <p>The Cabinet report details the proposals for the revenue and capital budget following scrutiny and public consultation. The Council tax increase is proposed to remain the same</p> |

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with a 5.95% increase for 2026/27 but with an additional capital investment of £2 million, phased over 3 years of approx. £667K per year, to address potholes and improve the condition of the County’s road network.

Whilst the percentage funding increase of 4.4% from the Welsh Government from last year’s amount, Monmouthshire ranks 10 out of 22 LAs in Wales in terms of a percentage increase. However, Monmouthshire still receives the lowest amount of external aggregate amount funding (RSG plus NNDR) per head of population for 2026/7 of £1,525 of the 22 LAs with the top-ranking Blaenau Gwent receiving £2439 per head of population.(See Supporting Documents Tables in 5j. Appendix J- Welsh Government Funding Settlement).

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIid=144&MIid=6112>
County Council on the 5th of March 2026

The County Council meeting covers the corporate parenting strategy, the Council tax resolution and capital and revenue budget for 2026/7, together with a couple of motions and some questions. The Council tax resolution report details the different council tax bands. The detailed revenue and capital budget information can be found in the Cabinet report of the 4th of March including the consultation responses. The first motion to full Council is about Magor and Undy Station and the second about potholes. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIid=143&MIid=6089>
RLDP (Revised Local Development Plan 2018-2033) Update

The RLDP Inspector hearings are starting on the 16th of June 2025 with various dates and ending on the 16th of July. The website from the programme officer gives details of the hearings and examination dates and participants. It is assumed (unless I hear otherwise) that the participants are those that made written representations and asked to attend the hearings, with the notification to the programme officer required of their attendance by noon on Friday the 20th of March 2026. The details can be found at the programme officers’ website in the following link:

<https://www.hwa.uk.com/projects/monmouthshire-rl dp-examination/>

95/26 Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued

a) New Applications

DM/2025/01390

Mod removal of condition Land at Newhouse Farm

Comments as below 2023.

This application will place further vehicles heading for Chepstow from the M48 and create further impact on the movement of the traffic at this busy roundabout.

This could encourage further anti social behaviours. Mathern C C are very concerned about the negative impact to the village of light

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| | <p>pollution, environmental and noise pollution on the surrounding villages and Bulwark. If application was successful, a condition on litter management needs to be in place and enforceable as already, take away items are found in our area and the nearest litter outlet is currently 15 miles away.</p> <p>A safe crossing needs to be in place for local residential areas in Chepstow Ward.</p> <p>Mathern C C note that the application is for land which will be above the bund which was specifically built to stop noise and light issues effecting Mathern Village.</p> |
| b) | Decisions & Appeals |
| | None |
| c) | Enforcement |
| | None |
| 96/26 | Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings |
| Date | Description |
| | As per Agenda |
| 97/26 | Other Matters for Discussion |
| a) | Community Resilience - Climate Emergency |
| | On going |
| b) | Website Updates |
| | Send approved Minutes to James Anderson for update on the website. |
| 09/26 | Projects Awaiting Completion |
| | Items from Risk assessments |
| | Invoice Wales Audit for external audit report |
| 10/26 | Date of Next Meeting |
| | Monday 13th April 2026 @ 7.00pm |

Meeting Ended @

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MATHERN
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Signed:

Dated: