

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 8th June 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
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11/27 Procedural Items

a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest
	None
b)	Public Comment
	Rubbish being left as fisherman are leaving the fishing lakes. It was noted that the fishing lakes had placed a warning on social media that anyone found leaving litter would receive a life ban from the lakes .
c)	Minutes of the Previous Meetings
	Minutes of previous meeting on 11 th May 2026 were agreed as true and correct these to be signed and placed on the website.
d)	Monthly Police Report Review –
	Welcome to the May 2026 Edition of the Mathern Community Council Report Crime in Mathern: During the month of May 2026, a total of One incident was recorded within Mathern and the surrounding areas.

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Overall, the area has remained calm and free from significant criminal activity throughout this period.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team remains committed to working in close partnership with the community and the local council to ensure transparency, accountability, and the continued safety of residents.

We greatly value the cooperation and vigilance of the community, which plays a crucial role in maintaining the safety and wellbeing of Mathern. I will continue to make every effort to attend and support council meetings, local events, and community engagements wherever possible. **May 2026**

Summary of Recent Incidents in the Mathern Area

Community Reassurance Patrol at Mathern Fishing Lakes

A report was received regarding the suspected use of cannabis at the Fishing Lakes in Mathern. I was personally deployed to investigate the concern and conducted a thorough, high-visibility patrol of the area surrounding the lakes. During my attendance, I engaged with several members of the public who were using the lakes and took the opportunity to introduce myself and provide reassurance regarding local policing activity. A comprehensive search of the area was carried out; however, I neither observed any individuals using cannabis nor detected any smell indicative of cannabis use at the time of my patrol.

I am pleased to report that no evidence of cannabis-related activity was identified during this visit. Nevertheless, I will continue to include the Fishing Lakes in Mathern as part of my regular patrol strategy and will maintain a visible presence in the area to provide reassurance to the local community and address any ongoing concerns.

Incidents Managed Without Deployment

During this reporting period, several incidents were appropriately resolved by the Police Control Room without the need to deploy response officers or neighbourhood policing teams. These incidents primarily involved low-risk matters that could be effectively assessed, managed, and concluded through remote engagement, established safeguarding procedures, and standard operational checks.

Examples included accidental emergency calls, commonly referred to as “pocket dials,” where emergency services are contacted inadvertently and no police assistance is ultimately required. In such cases, Control Room staff carry out appropriate welfare and safeguarding enquiries to ensure there are no underlying concerns or risks to the caller. Where no threat, harm, or vulnerability is identified, incidents are safely closed without further police action.

This approach enables policing resources to remain focused and available for higher-priority incidents, while still ensuring that every call received is dealt with in a proportionate, professional, and responsible manner. **May 2026**

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.

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

Friday 14th August 2026 | 18:00 – 19:00 hrs

Thursday 22nd October 2026 | 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.pnn.police.uk

Clerk to ask Dave and Steve Hayward to attend the next meeting and to supply details of the speed watch sessions completed in the last two months.

12/27	Finance
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.
	All approved
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation
	Authorised by Cllr J McConachie
c)	Barclays Bank Dormant Account
	Account has been closed with balance of £11056.99 being paid into our HCBC community Account on 21 05 2026. Clerk to investigate a savings account and present details to the next meeting. Possible Metro/Unity Bank.
d)	To sign and adopt Annual Governance Statement – following internal audit
	This matter to be agended for next meeting due to delay in internal audit being carried out due to Clerk and Auditors holidays. The notice of late conclusion will be displayed on website and Notice boards after 30 06 2026. Last year's external audit fee still not been received

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e)	Advertise electors rights 6th July – 31st July 2026	
	To be agended for next meeting (20 days advertising) These dates to be amended once internal audit completed	
f)	To check budget to spending progress – Rialtus forms circulated	
	Cllrs Noted Insurance paid for year with a small overspend to be taken from reserves. • A Sum of £1500.00 to be set aside for the production and circulation of a new quarterly what’s on leaflet. • Clerk to obtain a quote for weed killing within the 3 villages . Cllrs to understand what produce would be used. • Still advertising for a regular cutter for the Mounon Roundabout – sum £160.00 per annum • Clerk to check renewal of Boadband as contract renewed June 2026 Cllrs happy with spending to Budget	
g)	Purchase new pads and batteries for Defib – Mathern Village Hall	
	These have been ordered at a price of £210.00 including VAT	
Payments / Receipts		
Date	Description	Value
06 05 2026	Stock It Ltd	59.40
11 05 2026	Merlin Dog Waste	99.46
12 05 2026	Smart pension	136.19
18 05 2026	Telephone/Internet	79.99
18 05 2026	HMRC	251.92
28 05 2026	Salary	620.12
05 06 2026	Viking stationery	171.00
Receipts 21 05 2026	Barclays bank account to HSBC	11056.69
02 06 2026	Rhewl Farm Solar Farm Benefit	1400.18
13/27	Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting	
a)	Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounon Meadows	
	Meeting held with Welsh Water 08 06 2026 regarding the signage new signage to be displayed shortly. Bales of Hay to be changed around the leakage.	

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b)	Community Plan – 2026
	On going- meeting held 08 06 2026 questions all set format to be circulated to Cllrs – Then questionnaire rolled out in August with a deadline for 30 10 2026 - electronic copies and details on how to obtain a hard copy of the questionnaire with be advertised.
c)	St Tewdrics Well cleaning response MCC
	Clerk to chase MCC – Re use of algicide to clean stonework
d)	Update meeting your Councillors Saturday 16 05 2026
	Event went well – low attendance – event to be repeated in October
e)	Community newsletter / request from St Tewdrics Church
	Meeting held to discuss further meeting July – ideally a quarterly magazine with input from all areas of the community. Council agreed to set a budget for this from reserves of £1500.00 to be added to precept for future years. The magazine would be a free edition with a chose of hard copy booklet or digital version.
f)	Mathern in Bloom following planting day
	Planting went well - £2500.00 left in budget of Mathern in Bloom account Autumn planting key planters to be planted Village Hall, Millers, Triple stands through villages, Church. Some old planters to be taken away.
g)	Work to War Memorial Garden
	On going Clerk to arrange for the plaque to be collected and re etched Cllr M Sidwell to liase with trades man re lose slabs etc.
h)	Adoption Bio Diversity Plan – and policies
	Plan was adopted – Clerk to arrange for this to be placed on our agenda.
14/27 Highways & Footpaths	
a)	- Saplings Mathern Lane growing out of control - Entrance to Mathern verges over footpaths – willow trees branches - Railings near pumping station broken
15/27 Councillors' Report / Clerks Report	
a)	One Voice Wales Update
	No details of next meeting
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks
	All checked and working

Mathern Community Council

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c)	County Cllrs Report COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT JUNE 2026 County Councillor Brown advised: <i>Note that all the Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) meetings below can be found and watched on you tube by pressing Your Council at the top of the Monmouthshire County Council website and then press meeting Calendar and adjusting the date and pressing the relevant meeting.</i> <u>County Council 14th of May 2026</u> The above committee dealt with the appointment of the Labour Leader of the Council, The Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, the political representation on the different council committees and appointment to outside bodies. It also approved a local resolution protocol which deals with low level complaints between members. <u>People Scrutiny Committee on the 28th of May 2026</u> The meeting considered a report on an investment package to improve Caldicot Leisure Centre. This involves a refurbishment and reconfiguration of the fitness studio and the first-floor areas of the Leisure Centre. The cost is £601,429 with £300K capital funding and the rest borrowing based on the assumption that the 10-year loan repaid at £40K per year with the expectation that will be matched by a similar amount of approximately £41,400 by 100 extra members. <u>Governance and Audit Committee 4th of June 2026</u> The meeting reports on the internal audit report which had an overall opinion of reasonable assurance but with 6 limited and 1 no assurance audit opinions issued for 2025/6. The committee also covered a whistleblowing report. In the last 5 years Monmouthshire County Council has dealt with 5 whistleblowing cases in the area of 4 employee conduct concerns and 1 safeguarding concern. A Freedom of information report shows an increasing number of FOI requests from 992 in 2022/3 and 1058 in 2025/6 with an increase in internal reviews from 19 to 41 from 2022/3 to 2025/6. Internal reviews are where the timescales in legislation to reply has not been met or where the requester believes that inaccurate or incomplete information has been sent. <u>Public Services Committee 8th of June 2026</u> The meeting is scheduled to have an update presentation at the meeting itself by the National Highways on the Severn Bridge HGV restrictions, a six-monthly update presentation. The meeting can be watched on you tube. <u>Let's Talk Public Consultation on Active Travel- Walking, Wheeling and Cycling in Monmouthshire- closes on the 30 August 2026</u> There is currently a consultation on the above subject with the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) shows existing routes and highlights future routes planned for upgrades or development over the next 15 years. It's part of a Wales-wide effort to make local journeys healthier and more sustainable, supported by the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. Monmouthshire's current map was approved in 2022, and it is now time to update it to reflect recent progress and plan for the future with your input. All Welsh councils are required to regularly review and improve their active travel networks. Improvements may include creating new routes or upgrading existing ones. For example, resurfacing paths, widening footways, or adding features like dropped kerbs and tactile paving to improve accessibility.
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	Monmouthshire Council website states as follows: “Please help us ensure these routes work for everyone who want to use them and have your say before the consultation closes on Sunday 30 August.” To find out more and add your feedback directly to the interactive map, visit www.letstalkmonmouthshire.co.uk/atnm-2026 If you have any questions, you can email activetravel@monmouthshire.gov.uk
d)	Annual Risk Assessment 2025
	Clls to complete – agenda next meeting
e)	Best Kept garden as seen from road side
	All in order Judging Week 13 th July 2026
	16/27 Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued
a)	New Applications
DM/2026/00571	Field View Barn – demolition of existing porch and partial demolition of lean to construct a new porch and insertion of BI folding doors No Comments
DM/2026/000229	Knovil House – Listed Building heritage consent Repair and upgrades to include replacing modern ground floors with breathable limecrete floor and slabs and radon protection, structural repairs and strengthening to the roof, replacement of some windows internal refurbishment and up grades to heating plumbing and electrical services. Comments happy as long as CADW involved in application progress
DM/2026/00415	Fairwinds, - demolish existing single storey garage and rear room to the existing. Construct two storey extension and rear, with pitched roof to match existing. Extends rear dormer roof. Enlarge window to the front bedroom and form a balcony No Comments
DM/2026/00415	The Grange – Mod or Removal of condition ; Application reference number DM/2025/00948 condition 1 Clerk to advise MCC new plans not uploaded plans PMC 24 and PMC 04 both same produced on 10 10 2024. To be looked at next meeting assuming plans updated
b)	Decisions & Appeals
	Notice of Appeal DM/2025/01307 1 school cottage Mathern
c)	Enforcement
	None

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17.27	Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings
Date	Description
	As per Agenda
	Clerk to Email MCC for a statistic feedback on the consultation re A48 proposed crossing
18/27	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	Community Resilience - Climate Emergency
	On going – Remove this from future Agenda
b)	Website Updates – New website
	Minutes – Bio diversity statement to be updated Cllrs to investigate new website via Vision ICT Lt and Parish Online
c)	Defibulators when used
	Clerk to ensure that forward responses are put in place on emails when on holiday not just a out of office . This is to ensure that any Cllr can order and replace pads and batteries if clerk is away.
19/27	Projects Awaiting Completion
	Risk assessments – Mathern, Mounton and Pyllmeyric
	Work to War Memorial Garden
10/26	Date of Next Meeting
	Monday 13 th July 2026 @ 7.00pm Mathern Village Hall Small room

Meeting Ended @

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Signed:		Dated:	
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