

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 13th July 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)	2 members of Public

Members of the Police Attending

a)	None
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21/27 Procedural Items

a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest
	Cllr M Sidwell and Cllr J Harris – Grant application Mathern in Bloom item 22/27 (f)
b)	Public Comment
	Planning consultants made a presentation regarding the planning application for change of use at Mounton Houe school - The plan is to change the use of the old Monton House school building which has been closed since 2020, The building stands in AONB area and is near the listed main house. The re purposing of the premises is for garden vehicles and staff. Cllr thanked the consultants for coming to the meeting to give clear details of the application A public member has brought to the attention of the Council that a member of the public is applying to the Animal licencing department for a licence for dog boarding. The member was very concerned regarding Noise, safety to public due to the close proximity of the Village Hall field and car park and the property borders this, increase in dog waste and were this would be placed for refuse (this could be a financial cost to the Council, increased vehicle use to and from the premises.

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Clerk to email animal licenses out lining the above concerns.

It was brought to the attention of the Council that waste was being stored at a premises in Parklands.

Cllrs wondered if help was needed to remove this however the chairman advised that help had been rejected. Cllrs felt this was a low risk and just noted the comments.

It was brought to the attention that the road sweeper has been 3 times to Mathern on a Saturday morning when most residents are parking their cars on the highway.

Clerk to write to MCC to ask if this could be undertaken on a working day Monday to Friday when less cars are parked in residential street.

c) **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Minutes of previous meeting on 8th June 2026 were agreed as true and correct these to be signed and placed on the website.

d) **Monthly Police Report Review –**

MATHERN

Welcome to the June 2026 Edition of the Mathern Community Council Report
Crime in Mathern:

During the month of June 2026, a total of Three incident was recorded within Mathern and the surrounding areas.

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. **June 2026**

Summary of Recent Incidents in the Mathern Area

Missing Person Report

A concern was raised regarding the welfare of an individual who had been reported missing, with their whereabouts unknown. Officers were promptly deployed to conduct enquiries and locate the individual. Following a thorough search, the person was found safe and well and was subsequently returned home, ensuring their welfare and safety.

Lightning Strike Affecting Power Cable

A report was received of a lightning strike impacting a power cable in the vicinity of

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Broadwell Road. Officers attended the location to assess the situation, ensure public safety, and identify any immediate risks. The incident was reported to the National Grid, who attended the scene and carried out the necessary repairs to restore the infrastructure and resolve the issue.

Incidents Managed Without Officer Deployment

During this reporting period, a number of incidents were effectively managed 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 appropriately assessed, managed, and resolved 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 unintentionally and no police attendance is required. In each case, Control Room staff carried out appropriate welfare and safeguarding enquiries to ensure there were no underlying concerns or risks to the caller. Where no threat, harm, vulnerability, or safeguarding issues were identified, incidents were safely closed without the need for further police action. Managing these incidents remotely allows frontline policing resources to remain available for higher-priority emergencies while ensuring that every call for service is assessed and handled in a proportionate, professional, and accountable manner. This approach supports the efficient use of police resources without compromising public safety or the quality of service provided to the community. **June 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.

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 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.

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Clerk to contact police regarding the enforcement of the no right turn at St Pierre as Cllrs are very concern with the lack of people keeping to this and not turning left to leave St Pierre.

22/27	Finance	
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.	
	All approved	
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation	
	Authorised by Cllr S Stevens	
c)	To sign and adopt Annual Governance Statement – following internal audit	
	Annual Report signed by Clerk (RFO) and Cllr M Sidwell Papers to be sent to the external auditor.	
d)	Advertise electors rights 6th July – 31st July 2026	
	Advert to be placed on Website and noticeboards dated from tomorrow 14 th July 2026.	
e)	Renewal of internet/broadband contract	
	This was renewed for 24 month contract at a cost of £60.99	
f)	Grant Applications	
	An application has been received for Mathern in Bloom – a grant for £750.00 was agreed	
Payments / Receipts		
Date	Description	Value
08 06 2026	Stock It Limited	59.40
10 06 2026	Merlin Waste – Dog collection	99.46
16 06 2026	Brunel engraving	76.74
22 06 2026	Telephone/internet	79.99
25 06 2026	Information Commissioner	47.00
26 06 2026	Postage	7.30
26 06 2026	HMRC	204.60
29 06 2026	Salary Clerk	812.63

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29 06 2026	Home Office Fee	26.00
06 07 2026	Stock it Limited	59.40
07 07 2026	Viking (stationery ink cartridges)	184.22
07 07 2026	P Brabon (internal Audit)	150.00
07 07 2026	J Kelley (stationery)	9.00
10 07 2026	Smart Pension	157.42
10 07 2026	Merlin Waste (dog Collection)	99.46
14 07 2026	Mathern district club (Rent)	40.00
14 07 2026	Stock it Ltd	54.00
14 07 2026	J Kelley – Postage External Audit/cards	18.75
14 07 2026	MMPVB Grant Villages in Bloom	750.00

23/27	Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting
a)	Update Welsh Water Meeting re Moun-ton Meadows
	Bales have been removed but not replaced. Next Meeting Thursday 16 June 2026
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
	Cleaning work completed by MCC – Matter now closed
d)	Community newsletter / request from St Tewdrics Church
	Next Meeting is on Monday 20 th July 2026.
e)	Work to War Memorial Garden
	Plaque has been re etched and returned to the memorial. Cllr M Sidwell to chase tradesman to do foundations under the planter and the lose slab at the entrance to the garden.
f)	Discuss post consultation update from MCC re crossing A48
	Comments received following MCC concultation.
	Post-consultation update on the proposed ‘puffin’ crossing on the A48 in Pwllmeyric
	Public consultation on the crossing proposal (in May 2026) found that, from 46 comments that came largely from postcodes local to the crossing, to the nearest percentage, 65% stated specific

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support for the crossing. Comments noted the volume of traffic and other problems that make crossing the A48 in Pwllmeyric difficult at present. An additional 7% supported the idea of a crossing but preferred a different location, and 15% supported the idea of a crossing but had concerns about the proximity to the speed limit change zone, known traffic speeds in the area, existing surface quality and whether this crossing was needed. We have previously discussed how the proposal, type of crossing and location followed traffic and speed data collection, assessment of crossing and location options, feeder routes, visibility splays and constraints of the area, so I will summarise the information:

- *Location:* The location allows crossing between the bus stops (for return journeys) and crossing onto the only footway towards Chepstow, for people walking through Pwllmeyric via the A48 and Chapel Lane. Providing a controlled crossing does not prevent people from crossing elsewhere. This location was selected as it is at the top of the hill, so vehicles heading west have not yet picked up momentum going downhill through the village, and vehicles heading east will be coming up-hill and have less momentum. This would not be the case if a crossing were placed at the west (downhill) end of the village. The location is also the closest possible place to cross for the Public Right of Way (PROW), with driveways and junctions negating any other any location further west within the village, near the PROW.
- *Speed limit change proximity and traffic speeds in the area:* The crossing type and location have been recommended based on actual traffic speeds at the location. In recognition of the speed limit zone, the 30mph zone rumble strips will be refreshed, and anti-skid surfacing will be added near the crossing. The crossing signal-heads and white lines will affect driver behaviour further. Once installed, we will assess if further measures need to be considered. I have specifically checked these points:
 - *Speed limit:* The speed limit will remain at 30mph in the area. The crossing has been located and designed in the existing speed context.
 - *Speed limit transition point:* The 30mph speed limit transition point will remain in the same place. The crossing has been located and designed in the existing speed limit transition context.
 - *Request for move of/ additional Speed Indication Device (SID):* A SID is in place just west of the crossing location. This should remain in situ because the downhill stretch is where vehicles gain momentum as they go downhill. Moving the sign to the plateau at the top of the hill would not have the same effect on the place where the acceleration happens. An additional, lit-up sign, in combination with the signalheads for the crossing, could cause confusion and compromise drivers' attention to the crossing. The visible, controlled crossing point, line painting and anti-skid will in itself calm traffic.
- *Surface quality:* The road surface will be assessed for soundness and maintenance carried out if required, before the anti-skid surface is laid.
- *Need for a crossing and potential to cause network congestion:* There is no accessible crossing in Pwllmeyric. Furthermore, the response to the consultation shows that people see the need for a crossing. Potential traffic congestion impact from the proposal has been judged to be negligible and should be weighed against accessibility of walking routes.

13% of responses were negative, giving reasons such as:

- *A crossing is not needed:* See above 'Need for a crossing'.
- *There are other highway problems in the area that the crossing does not address:* Funding available is for active travel measures, and the existence of other problems does not negate the need for a crossing. Post-implementation monitoring will be carried out and additional measures can be considered if required.
- *Concern over risk created by change to highway:* The design has been based on actual traffic speeds and network vehicle mix at the location, taking into account sight-lines and turning movements. People already walk across the road in Pwllmeyric, but this can be

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	made easier and more accessible with a crossing. The visible, controlled crossing point, line painting and anti-skid will in itself calm traffic. The overall response to the proposed design has been positive. Concerns raised in the consultation have been or will be mitigated. Therefore, following this consultation, the statutory process for changes to the highway (TRO, or Traffic Regulation Order) will be followed, whilst the construction plan is finalised. Information on the consultation responses will be made publicly available on Chepstow – Monlife (Please see ‘Pwllmeyric ‘Puffin’ crossing’, about halfway down the page) Cllrs to respond to this consultation Cllrs are very disappointed that the concerns and suggest by the Community Council to reduce the speed limit to 30 from the Wyelands Lodge on the A48 was not to be implemented. Cllrs also are concerned that feedback received from the public have not been taken seriously.
24/27	Highways & Footpaths
a)	• Cut back hedges and verges – Mathern Lane, Mounton Road, Chapel Lane, main road into Mathern. Brambles need hand cutting as obscuring footpath • Road surface Mathern Lane now very uneven following recent pot holes work – Council feel this lane needs to be re surfaced as very dangerous especially to cyclists. • Footpath () very dangerous recent fall reported to MCC
25/27	Councillors’ Report / Clerks Report
a)	One Voice Wales Update Next meeting Thursday 16th July 2026
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks All checked and working
c)	County Cllrs Report COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT JULY 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> Performance and Overview Committee 9th of June 2026 The above committee had reports on Building the Foundation for Data and A1 Enabled Public Services, with a three-year SRS partnership programme based on a total one-off contribution from earmarked reserves of £851,154. The meeting also provided an update on the Pupil Referral Services (PRS) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN). The number of

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PRS pupils has increased from 74 in 2024 to 119 in May 2026 the increase being attributed to medical and permanent exclusion reasons. The number of ALN pupils projected on the roll for September 2026 is 207 with most needs being met locally in Monmouthshire schools in Specialist Resource Bases (SRB) but there are still 37 out of County placements for those with more complex needs.

Cabinet 10th Of June 2026

The Cabinet meeting considered the same report on Building the Foundation for Data and A1 Enabled Public Services, as described above. It also approved the allocation of Crick Road offsite recreation funding. There was a report on strategic risk assessment and an update on the active travel bridge from Llanfoist to Abergavenny.

In addition, the council considered the need for a pilot Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

The notes for the meeting indicate that the proposal responds to a clearly identified insufficiency in local Additional Learning Provision (ALP), particularly for learners with complex autism and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs who cannot be supported within current school or SRB models and seeks Cabinet's approval to establish a new Specialist Resource Base (SRB) with a therapeutic environment for learners with complex SEMH needs at the former Ysgol Y Fenni site, and to approve the associated capital and revenue costs.

One stated aim is to help to reduce the costs of out of county placements. It comes as no surprise that this is needed as a number of people, including myself campaigned to try to prevent the closure of the former Mounton House School Pwllmeyric, as the only specialist SEMH needs provision in the County.

Special People Scrutiny Committee on the 18th of June 2026

The People Scrutiny meeting had reports on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and Welsh language to scrutinise these plans, as well as the Strategic Equality Plan 2025-26.

County Council on the 25th of June 2026

The County Council had a number of reports included in the agenda. Firstly, on the proposed Chepstow by-pass which is at a funding standstill with this administration and were accused by opposition members in lacking ambition to at least try to progress it. Secondly, the Code of Corporate Governance. Thirdly, WG Salix Loan Funding Bid for Energy Retrofit works. Fourthly, a Panel Performance Assessment of the Council. Fifthly, the Caldicot Leisure Centre- First Floor Fitness Suite Investment. And Lastly, Political Representation of members on committees.

The Opposition Leader challenged the administration in relation to the Code of Corporate Governance in view of its emphasis on values and integrity which was seen to be in conflict with the allegations of bullying of an elected member by the Labour group. The Leader indicated that these allegations were under investigation.

There were a number of motions and questions asked by members. One motion on healthy rivers and a number on local issues outside the Chepstow area. There was a motion on asking the Council to ask Openreach to delay the turnoff of copper lines by the 31st of January 2027 due to recognising that many properties in rural Monmouthshire do not have access to Fibre to the property (FTTP).

The question I asked was how the administration is communicating with stakeholders, elected members and residents about the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan.

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Performance and Overview Committee on the 30th of June 2026

The Committee reports firstly, covered the financial update for 2025/6 with an overall message that the 2025/6 outturn is a positive but prudent end of year position, one off improvement has been used to strengthen reserves and financial resilience but does not remove the underlying structural pressures on the need for continued close financial management through 2026/27 and beyond.

It is of concern that the school balances continue to require close monitoring, with deficits worsening by £2.8 million in year to a cumulative year end deficit of £6.9 million reducing the overall benefit of the positive outturn.

Secondly, there was a report on a self-assessment of the Council's Community and Corporate Plan with assessments given on a traffic light colour basis across a wide range of issues.

Thirdly, a report on the Council's strategic risk assessment which included the additional risk of a possible disruption of global supply of fuel, impacting council's delivery of services and a re-escalation of the possible risk of the rising cost of living tipping more families into crisis requiring public services intervention.

Cabinet Report 8th of July 2026

This Cabinet meeting has reports on firstly, the Social Duty to engage unions on procurement that impacts the work force. Secondly, the proposals on Durand Primary school to change the age limit from 4 to 11 rather than 3 to 11 as early years education will be provided by an approved non-maintained setting on the site of the Durand Primary. Thirdly, the financial update, as referred to above in the Performance and Overview Committee. Fourthly, the adoption of the Charter of Rights for Rivers. Fifthly, the disposal of land adjacent to Leechpool Holdings. Sixthly, the development of supported accommodation provision for 16+ care leavers in Monmouth. And lastly reports restricted from the press and public on land acquisition for active travel routes Undy to Rogiet Severn Tunnel junction and a path alongside the B4245 between Undy and Rogiet.

The RLDP

The Inspector hearings on the RLDP for Monmouthshire have been postponed due to the failure of Monmouthshire County Council to follow the regulations to advertise them on its website at least 6 weeks before the start date. The Inspectors considered that just a link was not sufficient in order to do so. The hearing dates are now expected to start in September 2026. The website for up-to-date information and documentation can be found at the following link from the Programme Officer for the RLDP Examination. Hearing dates have been amended a few times but updates can be found on this link:

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

Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan (CCRS DP) 2026-2051

This CCRSDP plan will look on a regional basis at development across the whole of the Cardiff capital region, which is composed of 10 Local Authorities including Monmouthshire. The first stage of this has started with an 8-week period of call for Candidate sites from the 26th of May 2026 to 21st of July 2026. My question to Council on the 25th of June was based on the lack of information provided by the administration of Monmouthshire County Council to elected members, stakeholders and residents. It is important to keep an eye on the CCRSDP as this may consider sites anywhere in Monmouthshire in the same way that the RLDP has done but may have more limited procedural safeguards on local consultation.

The details of this CCRSDP can be found at the general website at the following link

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	including links to other documents under summary documents and above that a link to guidance on the Candidate sites: https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/governance-transparency/strategic-development-plan/ Summary Documents Approved Delivery Agreement Appendix 1- Evidence Base Assessments Appendix 2 – A summary of community and stakeholder involvement in the SDP key stages Appendix 3 – General Consultation Bodies Appendix 4 – Local Government Principal Offices Appendix 5 – SDP Detailed Timetable SDSC Appendix 6 – Risk Assessment
d)	Annual Risk Assessment 2026
	Clls to complete – agenda next meeting
e)	Best Kept garden as seen from road side
	All in order Judging Week 13th July 2026 Prizes have been donated by Chepstow Garden Centre.
16/27	Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued
a)	New Applications
DM/ 2026/00686	Mounton House School – change of use Cllrs support this application and note that the application will have its own sewerage system and not be linked to the current over used sewerage system . Note the bat conditions which will be in place. Cllrs Note the bund which is to be built to block out noise - this is a very important part of the development. Cllrs would like the level of construction traffic to be considered onto the A48 and traffic management to be implemented at peak times ensuring that no traffic uses Mounton village which would not take large construction vehicles. Cllrs would like the clients to be mindful of the surrounding residents regarding noise and disruptions.
Dm/ 2026/00798	Millers Arms - Planning Permission – for a temporary timber framed structure that can provide a covered area • The Council seeks clarification on how this development, as illustrated, can be proposed as a temporary structure? • Working on peak time (6 months of summer) and inclement weather period (6 months of winter) the structure would be in place all year around. • Drawings do not show any details of how it can be removed/re-instated easily, in line with the proposed application statement. • The current drawings indicate that it has a fixed roof structure and wall construction. • As currently proposed, the plan drawings are not in keeping with the village's appearance within the conservation area. • The current plan seems to be based on the rejected previous structure, albeit further from

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	the road and smaller in scale. • The Council feel a more appropriate temporary structure would be the use of a gazebo/strong fabric type covering for over spill customers at peak times and inclement weather. • The proposed design information is very limited and the finishes indicated are not in keeping to the surrounding properties.
b)	Decisions & Appeals
	Notice of Appeal DM/2025/01307 1 school cottage Mathern
c)	Enforcement
	Correspondence received re Mathern Day Nursery – details have been passed to MCC enforcement department for them to investigate.
27.27	Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings
Date	Description
	As per Agenda
28/27	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	Website Updates – New website
	Audit notice to be uploaded together with approved June minutes. New website to be agended for next meeting
29/27	Projects Awaiting Completion
	Risk assessments – Mathern, Mounon and Pwllmeyric
	Work to War Memorial Garden
30/26	Date of Next Meeting
	Monday 14 th September 2026 @ 7.00pm Mathern Village Hall Small room

Meeting Ended @			
Signed:		Dated:	