

Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: 12th October 2026

Councillor Attendance

Ward	Name	Present	Apologies
Mathern	Cllr M Sidwell (Chair)	✓	
Mathern	Cllr J Harris		✓
Mathern	Cllr A Crossley (Left meeting at 8pm)	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr S Stevens	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr G Page	✓	
Pwllmeyric	Cllr J McConnachie	✓	
Mounton	Cllr D Carne (Vice Chairman)	✓	
County Cllr	Cllr L Brown	Remote link	

Members of the Public

	Name
a)	None

Members of the Police Attending

a)	None
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31/27 Procedural Items

a)	Declaration of Pecuniary and Personal Interest
	None
b)	Public Comment
	A member of the public brought it to the attention of the Council that the public bus 73 which school children now use is very overcrowded and children are standing most of the way to school. It was also reported that the 69 bus to Monmouth is also very overcrowded due to students from Chepstow going to Monmouth due to certain subjects for A level not being covered at Chepstow School. A member of the public reported that shotting at Coppers Brake over the summer where an individual was shooting Pigeons – concern was that young children from his family were watching this and collecting up the deceased birds. 101 were informed of this. Cllrs felt this was a safeguarding issue as children were involved. A member of the public was concerned that a Monmouthshire housing flat was being sub-let – they have informed Monmouthshire housing.

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c)	Minutes of the Previous Meetings
	Minutes of previous meeting on 13 th July 2026 were agreed as true and correct these to be signed and placed on the website.
d)	Monthly Police Report Review –
	Not received Clerk chasing

32/27	Finance	
a)	To consider approval of payments as per below.	
	All approved Clerk advised that the current shredder which C C have had for over 7 years needs replacing – Clerk advised to get suitable lubricant to use on cutting area to see if this helps.	
b)	Monthly Bank Reconciliation Authorisation	
	Authorised by Cllr J McConachie	
c)	Nalc National Salary award – Spinal 23 £17.85 increase to £18.44 Authorise increase – Correction of Contract of employment as per External Audit 2025	
	Resolved for back pay of £171.89 to be paid with September salary and new rate of £18.44 noted. (spinal 23)	
d)	Grant Applications	
	None received	
Payments / Receipts		
Date	Description	Value
17 07 2026	Stationery	14.00
17 07 2026	External Audit 2024/2025	600.87
20 07 2026	Paye – NI	236.66
20 07 2026	Internet Telephone	57.03
23 07 2026	Stock It Ltd (Norton)	42.00
23 07 2026	Stamps	14.40
29 07 2026	Salary	656.31
06 08 2026	Stock it Ltd (365 License)	59.40

Mathern Community Council

3 Parklands, Mathern, NP16 6JL

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10 08 2026	MerlinWaste Collection	99.46
12 08 2026	Smart Pensions	126.19
25 08 2026	Internet /Telephone	63.99
28 08 2026	Hmrc	221.77
28 08 2026	Salary	623.89
01 09 2026	Home working fee	26.00
04 09 2026	Mathern village Hall Posters for Fete	105.69
07 09 2026	Stock It Ltd (365 licenses)	63.00
28 08 2026	Precept Receipt	8080.00

33/27 Progress Report on Actions from Last Meeting

a)	Update Welsh Water Meeting re Mounton Meadows
	No update next meeting October 2026
b)	Community Plan – 2026
	Flyers to be produced and delivered to all residents in our community.
c)	Community newsletter / request from St Tewdrics Church
	Cllr M Sidwell advised that this was to be lead by the Church and costings to be circulated by the Church .
d)	Work to War Memorial Garden
	Clerk to contact local Trades Man re the emptying of the planters – painting of the planters and the slab to be placed under the planters.
e)	Weeding entrance to Mathern /Pwllmeyric
	As MCC are not prepared to remove weeds on Pavements and roads – Clerk to make an advert for facebook and website asking residents to think about clearing section of pavements outside their properties.

34/27 Highways & Footpaths

a)	• Contact MCC re removal of saplings A48 – Wyelands lodge to Marlows vets. • Pot holes Mathern Lane • Agenda for next meeting – Signal changes January M48 bridge . • Cllr J Mc Conachie and Clerk to work together to identify footpaths which are hard for residents with mobility issues and contact MCC to try and make these
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	more assessable.
35/27	Councillors' Report / Clerks Report
a)	One Voice Wales Update
	Next meeting October
b)	Defibrillator Monthly Checks
	All checked and working It was resolved that following a offer sent to us from defib supplies where a unit with cabinet could be purchased for £1080.00 + vat that a further 3 units would be purchased. £3888.00 - £1000.00 to be taken from EMR for village upkeep remaining to be used from reserves. Units to be placed Mounton – lower Mathern Church and Pwllmeyric Hill near Noticeboard. Clerk to check if electricity is needed to the unit.
c)	County Cllrs Report
	COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026 County Councillor Brown advised: This report covers July to the community council meeting in September 2026 (as no public meeting in August). <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>July 2026:</u> <u>People Committee 14th of July 2026</u> The People committee received a report on a Homelessness Update. On 31st March 2026, open cases had fallen to 370 from 658 at the start of 2023/4 meaning the team is able to focus more on individual applicants. The total applicants at the end of 2025/6 were 3412 with 468 in Band 1 and 188 Homeless in Band 1. Unfortunately, the average time homeless households spend in Band 1 before they are accommodated has increased. The average for 2025/6 was 20.06 months which was an increase of 10.96 months from the start of the year. The reason for this is because there are a disproportionate number of single people waiting for permanent housing and a disproportionate number have higher needs. Further information can be found in the report itself. <u>County Council 16th of July 2026</u> The County Council considered a report on the Greater Gwent Pension Fund investments following a council motion on this subject noting the finding that there were no direct holdings in individual defence contractors, arms manufacturers or military companies that have been identified within that portfolio. There were a number of motions to council including one on asking the Welsh Government to review the revenue funding formula so that it fairly reflects the realities of serving largely rural populations. There was also a motion approved on large scale ground mounted solar farms which asked for the Welsh Government for changes in policy to have a rooftops before fields approach. There was a motion asking for a review

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of the weed management policy of the Council which was defeated, mainly on the grounds that the word herbicide was used but it was pointed out that the motion was just asking for a review in view of the weeds on paths and roadsides. The full wording of the motion can be found under the general agenda items for this meeting.

There were questions on unauthorised encampments, on High Beech roundabout and a number of other questions were raised.

Full details of the motions and questions can be found for this meeting by following the Note instructions in italics at the start of this County Councillor report.

The High Beech roundabout proposals included active travel links, enhanced public transport opportunities and changes to the roundabout entry and exit arrangements. The next stage would be a public consultation exercise but there was absolutely no clear indication of when that would happen.

Democratic Services Committee 20th of July 2026

The Council has started using some new software for meetings instead of teams and there was a discussion of the pros and cons of this software. Teams is still used for Scrutiny meetings. I expressed concern that both teams and zoom were well known and the change may act as a barrier to public participation in meetings, even if training is offered.

There was also a report on South Wales Fire Authority remuneration.

Public Services Scuritny Committee 27th of July 2026

The Committee considered a report on the Best Start in Life Update which covered the Flying start childcare provision and the aspiration to extend that but this is dependent on Welsh Government funding. Should funding continue, future aspirations include:

- Universal access for all eligible two-year-olds
- Expansion of the full entitlement of 20 hours childcare per week for 48 weeks per year.
- Extension of eligibility to children from nine months of age to 4 years of age.

Whilst childcare provision is expanding across the county, protecting childcare provision within Core Flying start areas will remain a priority. Children attending the four local authority-led Flying Start settings are more likely to be living in communities with higher levels of disadvantage and are more likely to require the additional developmental family or wellbeing support.

Place Scrutiny Committee 30th of July 2026

The Committee received a petition on the Prohibition of driving except for access for Goldwire Lane, Monmouth.

There was also a long report on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy with 5 appendices. Of interest to the local area is the identification of Mounton Brook SFRA (Strategic Flood Risk Area) Flood Action plan as a flood risk area (pages 85 to 92 of the Flood Action Plan). The main settlements in this area include Itton, Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Pwllmeyric and Mathern. Western edges of St Arvans and Chepstow also fall within the SFRA boundary.

The Mounton Brook flows in a southerly direction along the spine of the SFRA and becomes a designated main river south of the A48 at Pwllmeyric. The brook then continues in a southerly direction where it outfalls into the Severn Estuary.

August 2026 (few meetings due to School /Council Break).

Individual Cabinet Member Decision = 12th of August 2026

Various Traffic Orders but none in the Shirenewton Ward

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September 2026 to date of community council meeting: Special Meeting Performance and Overview Committee 8th of September 2026

The Committee had a report on performance assessment of enabling strategies during 2025/6. The strategies set the direction for the council's resources to deliver the purpose and objectives set in the Community and Corporate Plan.

In addition, there was a report on For Purpose and On Purpose (F-POP), to update the Committee about F-POP and its implications for the Reorganisation of Project Management.

According to the draft minutes, the framework will guide changes across the council services and how limited resources are prioritised. It will require clear choices of what the Council will do, what it will do less of and what it will stop doing. Activities arising from the programme are expected to feed into the budget for 2027/28 with potentially greater contributions in subsequent years. Residents should expect a Council that works more closely with communities, makes better use of local skills and capabilities, and directs resources towards the priorities that matter most. The vision of what the Council ultimately wants to achieve should be determined politically by elected members rather than officers.

Governance and Audit Committee 10th of September 2026

The Committee covered reports on internal audit quarterly update progress report; Whistleblowing ;the Treasury report; the draft statement of accounts-charitable trust funds (3 funds including the Welsh Church Act Funds accounts); Audit Wales Review of Housing Adaptations; Audit Wales- Monmouthshire County Council's(MCC)- Recruitment and Retention Challenges; MCC Grants returns report and Draft Self-Assessment 2025/26 for Performance. On the Audit side, the reports tend to cover Audit recommendations and Audit aims such as value for money.

d) Annual Risk Assessment 2026

Mounton and Pwllmeyric completed.

Cllr A Crossley to complete for Mathern Clerk to send the relevant forms

e) Best Kept garden as seen from road side

Winners announced at the fete were

f) Adopt New Model Standing Orders

Item to be carried over to next meeting .

36/27 Planning Applications – Plus any applications received after Agenda is issued

a) New Applications

DM/2026/00879

Red Roses Mathern – alteration to semi detached dwelling with front 2 storey extension and rear single storey extension

No Comments - discussed via remote discussion due to summer break

DM/2026/01008

Box Tree Cottage – construction of a new front boundary wall with pedestrian gate and electric sliding vehicle gates

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	Comments – Object to this application as electric gates would be a safety concern onto the busy A48 – Gates like these were removed from Land at Brook House 2 detached houses due to safety issues onto the A48.
DM/2026/01040	1 School Cottage – extension to current garage structure to meet the boundary at the back and side current garage. The garage side and back will with then become the boundary which is currently provided by a stand-alone fence. No other aspects of the garage will be changed as in its height or roof construction type.
	Comments - Acknowledge wall is on boundary all foundations must be within the applicant's boundary and not onto the neighbouring property. Also, note that the height of the wall to not exceed the height of the existing garage height as indicated on the drawings.
b)	Decisions & Appeals
	None
c)	Enforcement
	Bishops Mead shed to be removed and replaced with a bike shed Clerk to chase still not been replaced.
37/27	Correspondence & Forthcoming Meetings
Date	Description
	As per Agenda
38/27	Other Matters for Discussion
a)	Website Updates – New website
	Clerk to arrange for full details from Vision ICT Limited - https://visionict.com/ Parish Online - https://www.parish-online.co.uk/
39/27	Projects Awaiting Completion
	Risk assessments – Mathern,
	Work to War Memorial Garden

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40/26	Date of Next Meeting
	Monday 12 th October 2026 @ 7.00pm Mathern Village Hall Small room

Meeting Ended @			
Signed:		Dated:	