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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 22nd June, 2023 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor Meirion Howells (Chair)
County Councillor Su McConnel (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: Rachel Buckler, Laura Wright, Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Alistair Neill, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Jane Lucas, Emma Bryn, Peter Strong, Paul Griffiths, Jackie Strong, Rachel Garrick, Maria Stevens, Steven Garratt, Angela Sandles, Ben Callard, John Crook, Tomos Davies, Dale Rooke, Catherine Fookes, Sue Riley, Jayne McKenna, Jill Bond, Louise Brown, Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas and Armand Watts

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Phillips	Chief Officer People and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy, Performance and Scrutiny
Ian Saunders	Chief Operating Officer, MonLife

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors Ann Webb

1. Declarations of interest

County Councillors Simon Howarth and Rachel Buckler declared a prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 8a with regards to tourism tax.

2. Public Questions

None.

3. Chair's Announcement

Noted.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

In doing so we noted that County Councillor Simon Howarth had been in attendance.

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5. GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD: WELL-BEING PLAN

The Leader of Council presented the report to ensure that members understand the challenges facing Gwent and the steps being taken collaboratively by public services in the region to address these and to approve the Gwent Public Service Board's Well-being Plan ahead of publication.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1pLY11dkyzM?feature=share&t=476>

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That Council approve the Well-being Plan ahead of approval by the Gwent Public Services Board.

6. CHIEF OFFICER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Officer for Children and Young People presented the report to provide members with an overview of the status and performance of the education system in Monmouthshire and to provide the Chief Officer's perspective of the relevant strengths and weaknesses in the system, the risks that the service faces and the opportunities that exist to improve.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1pLY11dkyzM?feature=share&t=1377>

Council resolved to note the report.

7. Motions to Council

8. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council:

- *Notes that tourists contribute nearly £200million to Monmouthshire's economy and sustain over 3,000 jobs in the tourism industry.*
- *Notes the commitment of the Welsh Government to give local authorities the powers to impose a tourism tax by 2026.*
- *Recognises the damage a tourism tax would inflict on our tourism industry and rules out the introduction of a tourism tax in Monmouthshire.*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1pLY11dkyzM?feature=share&t=9917>

County Councillors Simon Howarth and Rachel Buckler declared prejudicial interests and did not take part in the discussion.

Upon being put to a recorded vote Council resolved to reject the motion:

Votes For: 15

Votes Against: 23

Abstentions: 2

County Councillor Simon Howarth left the meeting at 17:14

9. Members Questions

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10. From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader make a statement about the relationship the administration has with the Welsh Government?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1pLY1dkyzM?feature=share&t=13065>

11. From County Councillor Penny Jones to County Councillor Rachel Garrick, Cabinet Member for Resources

Can the Cabinet Member please explain the administration's plans for the future of the old Primary School site in Raglan and the timeline involved?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1pLY1dkyzM?feature=share&t=13596>

12. Urgent Question from County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Chepstow is about to experience major music events over three consecutive days where it will encounter a record number of visitors to an area that is renowned for traffic congestion.

Councillors and residents want to see businesses thrive, Chepstow prosper, and the town remain a happy place for residents to live, work and play. Residents' concerns are real and based on evidence, having experienced such events and activities in the area but on a smaller scale.

What reassurances can the Cabinet Member give residents of mine and surrounding wards that the council's traffic management plans will work and that residents won't feel trapped in their homes, or have their streets used as rat runs or car parks for visitors? Will the council also take on board feedback provided before and after the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is in force, and act on it to improve the lives of residents?"

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1pLY1dkyzM?feature=share&t=12685>

13. Date of next meeting - 20th July 2023

Noted.

The meeting ended at 17:50

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