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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 14th May, 2026 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor Tudor Thomas (Chair)
County Councillor David Jones (Vice Chair)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Matthew Gatehouse	Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
James Williams	Chief Officer Law & Governance
Deb Hill-Howells	Chief Officer Infrastructure

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. To elect a Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2026/27

[Watch part one of the meeting here](#)

The Chair of Council, County Councillor Peter Strong opened the meeting and took the opportunity to thank Council for the opportunity of representing the Council.

Group Leaders took the opportunity to address Council expressing thanks to County Councillor Strong for his year in office as Chair.

It was proposed by County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, and seconded by County Councillor Paul Griffiths, that County Councillor Tudor Thomas be elected as Chair of Monmouthshire County Council for the Civic Year 2026/27. There were no further nominations.

Upon being put to a vote it was agreed to elect County Councillor Tudor Thomas as Chair. County Councillor Thomas made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for their support. He thanked Council for the opportunity and introduced Mrs Jan Thomas as his consort for the year in office.

4. To appoint a Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2026/27

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The Chair welcomed nominations for Vice-Chair of Council.

It was proposed by County Councillor Frances Taylor and seconded by County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby that County Councillor David Jones be appointed as Vice Chair of the County Council for the Civic Year 2026/27.

Upon being put to a vote it was resolved that County Councillor David Jones be appointed as Vice Chair. County Councillor Jones made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He thanked Council for their support and introduced Mrs Shirley Jones as his consort for the year.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2026 were approved as an accurate record.

6. To elect a Leader of the County Council and to receive notification of Leader delegations (appointments to Cabinet)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/cDbp-4wxTQ?si=rokXSoO3tFA0byJW&t=147>

County Councillor Ben Callard nominated County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby as Leader of the Council for the year 2026/27. This was seconded by County Councillor Angela Sandles.

County Councillor Lisa Dymock nominated County Councillor Richard John as Leader of the Council for the year 2026/27. This was seconded by County Councillor Alistair Neill.

Upon being put to a recorded vote County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby was appointed Leader. Votes were:

For: 23

Against: 22

Abstain: 1

Cabinet Appointments were announced as:

- County Councillor Paul Griffiths - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Sustainable Livelihoods.
- County Councillor Ben Callard – Cabinet Member for Resources.
- Councillor Laura Wright – Cabinet Member for Education.
- County Councillor Ian Chandler – Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services.
- County Councillor Catrin Maby – Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.
- County Councillor Angela Sandles – Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement.
- County Councillor Sara Burch - Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

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NAME	Cllr Brocklesby	Cllr John	Abstain
Councillor J BOND	√		
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY	√		
Councillor F BROMFIELD		√	
Councillor L BROWN		√	
Councillor E BRYN			√
Councillor R BUCKLER		√	
Councillor S BURCH	√		
Councillor J BUTLER		√	
Councillor B CALLARD	√		
Councillor I CHANDLER	√		
Councillor J CROOK	√		
Councillor T DAVIES		√	
Councillor L DYMOCK		√	
Councillor A EASSON	√		
Councillor C EDWARDS		√	
Councillor M. NEWELL		√	
Councillor S GARRATT	√		
Councillor R GARRICK	√		
Councillor P GRIFFITHS	√		
Councillor M GROUCUTT	√		
Councillor S.G.M. Howarth		√	
Councillor M HOWELLS	√		
Councillor R JOHN		√	
Councillor D. W. H. Jones		√	
Councillor P. Jones		√	
Councillor T KEAR		√	
Councillor M LANE		√	
Councillor J LUCAS		√	
Councillor C MABY	√		
Councillor S MCCONNEL	√		
Councillor J MCKENNA		√	
Councillor P MURPHY		√	
Councillor A NEILL		√	
Councillor P PAVIA		√	
Councillor M POWELL		√	
Councillor S RILEY	√		
Councillor D ROOKE	√		
Councillor A SANDLES	√		
Councillor M STEVENS	√		
Councillor J STRONG	√		
Councillor P STRONG	√		
Councillor F TAYLOR		√	
Councillor T THOMAS	√		
Councillor A WATTS	√		
Councillor A WEBB		√	
Councillor L WRIGHT	√		

7. Local Resolution Protocol

<https://www.youtube.com/live/cDbp-4wxxTQ?si=T4cwpjEDHCdCPXNL&t=1128>

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement presented the report for Council to receive and approve the Local Resolution Protocol (“the LRP”) attached at Appendix 1, and for it to be incorporated into the Council’s Constitution.

Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To approve the LRP attached at Appendix 1;

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To instruct the Monitoring Officer to update the constitution to incorporate this new LRP.

8. Representation of Political Groups Review

<https://www.youtube.com/live/cDbp-4wxXTQ?si=JPVE6DZM0TQB8QP0&t=1380>

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement presented the report for Council to review the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.

Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That the Council approves the report as a review under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to allocate ordinary committees with the numbers as indicated below representing political balance.

Committee	Welsh Labour	Welsh Conservatives	Independent Group	Green Independent Group
Scrutiny (9) *(x4)	16	15	3	2
Licensing & Regulatory (12)	6	5	1	0
Planning (16)	7	7	1	1
Democratic Services (12)	5	5	1	1
Governance & Audit (8) (excluding lay members)	4	3	1	0
Appointments (5)	2	2	1	0
Aggregate Entitlement (89)	40	37	8	4

9. Appointments to Committees

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement presented the report to appoint committees, together with their membership and terms of reference in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

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

That the committees be appointed as set out in the report.

That Council appoints County Councillor Frances Taylor as Chair of Democratic Services Committee.

10. Outside Bodies Report

<https://www.youtube.com/live/cDbp-4wxXTQ?si=aWwI9AzWf1Uq3H8k&t=1742>

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The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement presented the report for Council to appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies.

Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That Council notes the appointments made at its 2025 AGM for the term of Council and confirms or amends the appointments that require annual renewal as well as confirming appointments to new positions.

If appointments are not able to made at the meeting itself then political group leaders should communicate their appointments to the Head of Democratic Services as soon as possible following the meeting.

11. **Date of next meeting - 25th June 2026**

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm

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