

Wednesday, 12 April 2023

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 20th April, 2023 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1:50pm. All members are welcome to join the Chair for prayers should they wish to do.

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Public Questions	
4.	Chair's Announcement	1 - 2
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2023	3 - 8
6.	Community and Corporate Plan 2022-28	9 - 72
7.	Motions to Council	
7.1.	<p>Submitted by County Councillor Richard John</p> <p>This Council: Recognises that Monmouthshire's bus services reduce private car journeys, help tackle rural isolation and are key to aspirations of an integrated transport network alongside the South Wales Metro.</p> <p>Is gravely concerned that the Welsh Government's withdrawal of the Bus Emergency Scheme funding on 24th July 2023 will see buses in Wales reduced to a 'skeletal' service.</p> <p>Resolves to intensively lobby the Welsh Government to protect Monmouthshire's bus services, especially in rural areas where they are a lifeline for our residents.</p>	

7.2. Submitted by County Councillor Steven Garrett

This Council is appalled by the UK government's illegal immigration bill which proposes to detain and later remove anyone who arrives in the UK on a small boat, meaning the Home Office will not consider any of their Asylum claims regardless if they have fled war or persecution.

These people seeking sanctuary will then be deported back to the country they have fled from or a 'safe' third country. This third country could be Rwanda, or another country deemed safe by UK Govt, potentially with a questionable record on human rights.

This ill-thought out and inhumane legislation will punish the most vulnerable people from across the world. Questions have been raised surrounding the legality of the Bill and whether it is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and consistent with the 1951 Refugees Convention. The Prime Minister has also stated in writing that if you come to the UK illegally "You cannot benefit from our modern slavery protections".

This Council also notes and condemns the dangerous and dehumanising language which has been used to support this Bill. This rhetoric cultivates and provides a platform for a culture of abuse, racism and even violence against refugees, asylum seekers and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

As an aspiring County of Sanctuary, this Council and the people of Monmouthshire have opened their hearts and homes and welcomed and accepted refugees and asylum seekers for decades, particularly in recent times following the Ukraine war. This has made our county a more interesting, diverse, and tolerant place.

This Council condemns the action of the UK Government in bringing forward this legislation and calls upon the prime minister and his ministers to withdraw these egregious proposals.

We call upon the Leader of Council to write to the Prime Minister in the strongest possible terms to outline our concerns.

8. Members Questions

8.1. From County Councillor Ian Chandler to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Can the cabinet member provide residents in Skenfrith and Cross Ash with a firm date by which the B4521 near Trebella Farm will be repaired and the 'temporary' traffic lights removed?

8.2. From County Councillor Ian Chandler to County Councillors Angela Sandles/Catherine Fookes, Cabinet Members for Equalities and Engagement

In response to the UK Government's policy to require a photo ID for English and UK elections, which many experts predict will reduce voter turnout among young people and those from disadvantaged communities, can the cabinet member give an update on plans to ensure that every eligible voter in

Monmouthshire is able to cast their vote at the next UK parliamentary election?

8.3. From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

What progress has the administration made towards delivering on its manifesto pledge to eliminate all potholes within five years?

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

What has the administration achieved in the past year?

8.5. From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education

Can the Cabinet Member give a commitment that the new 3-19 school in Abergavenny will have single sex toilets for all years?

8.6. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities

A traveller community has recently encamped in Chepstow Leisure Centre car park on two occasions in a matter of 6-weeks. As you will be aware, this is a car park that also adjoins Chepstow School. This has caused disruption for residents, businesses, the school and leisure centre, not to mention the extra work for council staff and the police.

Can the Cabinet Member explain what options the council will be taking in the future to prevent this crucial and busy Chepstow car park; used by residents, parents, children, leisure centre users and tourists from being used and abused in this way. There are authorised traveller sites in Monmouthshire, however, Chepstow is being seen as an easy target and council facilities mistreated, with residents also unable to take full advantage of the services they come to expect from a council.

8.7. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy and Deputy Leader

In January 2023, the Deputy Leader confirmed to this council that any future Highbeech roundabout improvements will be discussed again with the Welsh Government's "Transport Deputy Minister" and that he had been contacted to ask for a further study on Highbeech Roundabout, and that the Cabinet Member will be holding a meeting at the end of the month [January] with the minister.

As the original agreed funding for this further study was pulled by Welsh Government in 2022, can the Cabinet Member confirm if the meeting went ahead, what exactly was discussed, and the subsequent outcome of this meeting, and any further meetings that may have taken place since to look at improving the infrastructure in Chepstow which is greatly needed.

9. Next meeting - 18th May 2023

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Rachel Buckler	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Catrin Maby	Drybridge;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler	Goetre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ian Chandler	Llantilio Crossenny;	Green Party
County Councillor Sara Burch	Cantref;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Alistair Neill	Gobion Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby	Llanelly Hill;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Fay Bromfield	Llangybi Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Peter Strong	Rogiet;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent Group
County Councillor Paul Griffiths	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Catherine Garrick	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ben Callard	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Catherine Fookes	Town;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Sue Riley	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard John	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

County Councillor Armand Watts
County Councillor Ann Webb

Bulwark and Thornwell;
St Arvans;

Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
Welsh Conservative Party

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Welsh Language

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Gofynnwn yn barchus i chi roi rhybudd digonol i ni er mwyn darparu ar gyfer eich anghenion. The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

