

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 12th December, 2024 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.45pm. 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.	Chair's Announcement	1 - 2
4.	Receipt of petitions	
5.	Public questions Submitted by Mr. Jonty Pearce Why has Monmouthshire County Council Removed Key Protection for Monmouth's Endangered Greater Horseshoe Bats?	
6.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2024	3 - 12
7.	Reports to Council:	
7.1.	DEFORESTATION FREE CHAMPION COUNCIL	13 - 30
7.2.	CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED THROUGH PUBLIC TRAGEDY (The Hillsborough Charter)	31 - 34
7.3.	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES	35 - 36

8. Motions to Council:

8.1. Submitted by County Councillor Jan Butler

This Council:

- Thanks the emergency workers, volunteers and all those who supported Monmouthshire residents during Storm Bert
- Expresses concern that a lack of maintenance of the county's drainage infrastructure will have exacerbated flood risks
- Calls on the council to reassess its processes to mitigate flood events and evaluate the size and funding of the workforce dedicated to drainage maintenance and environmental management.

8.2. Submitted by County Councillor Rachel Buckler

This Council:

- Greatly values the role of Monmouthshire farmers in producing high quality food, providing food security and acting as the guardians of our natural environment.
- Regrets the UK Government's proposed changes to inheritance tax, specifically the removal of Agricultural Property Relief, which threatens the future of family farms in Monmouthshire.
- Agrees to work with local farming unions and other Welsh councils to persuade the UK Government to protect our rural communities and not kill off family farms.

9. Members Questions:

9.1. County Councillor Steven Garratt to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the experimental prohibition of driving (except for access) on the section of Goldwire Lane, Monmouth from the junction with Somerset Road to the junction with Drybridge Street?

9.2. County Councillor Martin Newell to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

In light of the flooding on Wonastow Road last month, when will the Cabinet Member abandon plans to partially close Goldwire Lane?

9.3. County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the Council is doing to ensure the Penallt Viaduct (also known as the Wye Bridge in Redbrook), remains open to users for the foreseeable future, considering the fact that the attached footbridge, built in around 1955 is now well beyond its expected lifespan and is showing severe signs of decay. Next Year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wye Valley walk and so there is likely to be an upsurge in walkers.

9.4. County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Following the news that the extensive Wye Bridge (Wyesham/Mayhill) repairs will not now take place until at least the spring of 2025 can the cabinet member please let us know what will be done to ensure the rutted potholes that plague the bridge surface will be repaired to standard that will last until then.

9.5. County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Can the cabinet member please provide an update on the progress of the Wyesham/Mayhill to Monmouth Town walking and wheeling bridge?

9.6. County Councillor Tony Easson to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Footpath 376/8 alongside the Neddern Brook, Caldicot, has been closed for well over 500 days. There is a recommendation from the H & S Executive that the adjacent recycling yard has created a risk to the public. Can the Cabinet Member provide me with a firm update on when this problem will be resolved, and the footpath will be reopened?

9.7. County Councillor Meirion Howells to County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

Could you provide an update on the support being provided to looked-after children and young care leavers during the Christmas period? Specifically, what initiatives or measures are in place to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion during this time, and how can we, as elected members, and members of the public get involved by contributing gifts or other forms of support to make their Christmas brighter?

9.8. County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources

Could the Cabinet Member provide a statement on the administration's assumptions regarding the increase in National Insurance rate for employers and its impact on the Council's budget?

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

What discussions has the Council had with Welsh Government and partners about improving road safety on the A40 junction between Raglan and Tregare?

9.10. County Councillor Jayne McKenna to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on plans to resurface R46, the main road through Mitchel Troy?

9.11. County Councillor Jane Lucas to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader

Will the Leader provide an update on the Vauxhall/Inglis Bridge?

9.12. County Councillor Laura Wright to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader

Following the devastating fire in Abergavenny town centre, can the cabinet member please give an update on what the County Council is doing to support the local community and businesses in the aftermath?

9.13. County Councillor Laura Wright to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

There has been a rise in the number of recorded incidents of antisocial behaviour in Abergavenny. Will the cabinet member please tell us what the County Council is doing to tackle this problem?

9.14. County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader

What steps is the administration taking to support high street businesses?

9.15. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Please could the cabinet member advise of the current details of road sweepers in use in Monmouthshire, how their use is deployed and managed across the county and in particular the allocation to Llanbadoc and Usk Ward.

9.16. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Please could the cabinet member give an update on road repair schedules / backlog progress and priorities in Monmouthshire, with particular reference and context to the deteriorating surfaces in my Ward on Chepstow Road, Maryport Street and Porthycarne Street.

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

**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
County Councillor Paul Griffiths	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel 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;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
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 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

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

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.

Public Speaking at Full Council

Members of the public may register to ask a question of the members of cabinet at full council meetings. There is no facility for the public to register to speak as part of the debate of an item on the agenda at full council meetings. The total time allocated for all questions at a meeting of full council is 15 minutes.

No more than one question is permitted per questioner at a meeting of full council and questions will be asked in the order that they are submitted.

In order to submit a question at a full council meeting, notice must be given in writing or by email to the head of democratic services no later than midnight three working days before the day of the meeting with each question providing the name and address of the questioner.

Questions may be rejected if the question;

- Is not about a matter for which the council has responsibility or which affects the county
- Is defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- Is substantially the same question which has been put at a meeting of full council in the past 6 months
- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information

Where a person is not able to ask the question to full council in person, the chair may decide to read the question out on their behalf, instruct a written response be provided or choose to not deal with the question in their absence. Those who do ask a question in person will be entitled to one supplementary question which must arise out of the original question or the reply. The chair may reject a supplementary question on these grounds.

Any questions that cannot be dealt with at the meeting due to exceeding the time limit for public questions will be dealt with by a written response.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

- to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

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.

