

Wednesday, 26 February 2025

## Notice of meeting

# County Council

**Thursday, 6th March, 2025 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.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 23 January 2025	3 - 18
6.	Reports To Council	
6.1.	Council Tax Resolution	19 - 34
6.2.	Capital Strategy and Treasury Management	35 - 94
6.3.	Updated Contract Procedure Rules	95 - 104
7.	Councillor Motions	
7.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Richard John	
	<i>That this Council recognises the valuable role that our libraries and community hubs play in community life across Monmouthshire. Regrets the administration's recent aborted attempt to downgrade Monmouth</i>	

*Library and Community Hub.*

*Calls on the administration to pause its plans for the 'realignment of community hubs' until the public have been properly consulted.*

**7.2. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John**

*That this Council notes the administration's recent 20mph speed limit consultation.*

*Instructs the administration to publish the redacted consultation responses in full.*

*Requests the Democratic Services Committee to consider and make recommendations to the administration following several recent badly-run consultations.*

**8. Members Questions**

**8.1. County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the future of Mounton House School Site in Pwllmeyric?

**8.2. County Councillor Meirion Howells to County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Service**

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic this Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, I would like to ask what plans the Council has to mark this significant milestone? It is an opportunity not only to remember those we lost — including my own father — but also to recognise the invaluable contributions of our essential key workers and the many volunteers who stepped forward to support our communities during such a challenging time. Their dedication, compassion, and resilience made a profound difference when it was needed most.

Could you please share any initiatives or events being considered to commemorate this anniversary and to honour the sacrifices and efforts made by individuals, volunteers, and organisations across the county?

**8.3. From County Councillor Jayne McKenna to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment**

*Why is the council encouraging littering and fly-tipping by dumping tarmac, soil and other materials in lay-bys?*

**8.4. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education**

*Given the recent expansion of childcare support in England under the former Conservative government to include children from nine months old, what discussions has the cabinet member had with Welsh Government about the introduction of a similar offer for working families in Monmouthshire?*

**8.5. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development**

*As the council prepares to adopt the Mill Meadows site in Sudbrook from the developer, can you advise what steps will be taken to ensure that all complaints and outstanding issues in public spaces are fully resolved before the adoption process is completed? Residents are keen to see these matters addressed to avoid long-term maintenance issues falling on the council.*

**8.6. From County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment**

*Could the Cabinet Member please advise: In each financial year since May 22, how many claims have been submitted by motorists in respect of damage to their vehicles caused by pot holes or defects in Monmouthshire's highways; how many of these claims have been paid out and how much that equates to in monetary terms?*

**8.7. From County Councillor Jane Lucas to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development**

*Why were residents in Osbaston ward denied the opportunity to share their views on the siting of the new health centre during the RLDP consultation?*

**8.8. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment**

*Could the Cabinet Member give an update on the administration's plans for better road traffic safety along Welsh Street, Chepstow.*

**8.9. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment**

*Could the Cabinet Member inform council of any progress with grant funding bids to Welsh Government for road safety improvement works for St Lawrence Road (between Kingsmark Lane/Barnets Wood and the Racecourse roundabout), Chepstow.*

**8.10. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education**

*Following the recent announcement in the Senedd that almost a quarter of all Welsh schools require urgent maintenance work with a £93m backlog of urgent works and total maintenance bill of more than £500m; could the Cabinet Member inform council of how many of Monmouthshire's 35 schools fall into this urgent category and outline the administration's immediate plan of action for dealing with the backlog.*

**9. Council Pay Policy**

105 - 130

**10. To consider whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, that it involves the information as defined in Paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act (proper officers view attached)**

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**10.1. Head of Service Appointments**

135 - 176

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**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
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 Martin Newell	Town;	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  
County Councillor Armand Watts  
County Councillor Ann Webb

Park;  
Bulwark and Thornwell;  
St Arvans;

Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru  
Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru  
Welsh Conservative Party

## 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](http://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.

