

Wednesday, 7 May 2025

Notice of meeting**County Council**

**Thursday, 15th May, 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.	Declaration Of Interest	
3.	To elect a Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2025/26	
4.	To appoint a Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2025/26	
5.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th April 2025	1 - 18
6.	To elect a Leader of the County Council and to receive notification of Leader delegations (appointments to Cabinet)	
7.	Representation of Political Groups Review	19 - 26
8.	Appointments to Committees	27 - 52
9.	Outside Bodies Report	53 - 56
10.	Members Motions	
10.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Lisa Dymock This council: Notes with concern the impending ban on HGVs crossing the M48 Severn Bridge and the implications for local haulage firms.	

Calls on the Welsh Government and Monmouthshire County Council to urgently assess the current and projected traffic impacts at Junction 23A M4 to Magor as a result of the M48 Severn Bridge restrictions and bring forward costed proposals to improve the road infrastructure at and around Junction 23A Magor to ensure traffic can be safely and effectively managed.

Calls on the Welsh and UK Governments to work at pace on a medium-term solution to reintroduce controlled HGV movements on the M48 Severn Bridge as soon as possible.

10.2. Submitted by County Councillor Frances Taylor

That this Council recognises that direct payments are intended to improve choice, control and independence, and is committed to ensuring that those who meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, are provided with the necessary support to access direct payments should they wish, in a timely manner.

11. Member Questions

11.1. From County Councillor Simon Howarth to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Would the cabinet member be able to offer a full explanation to the public of this county as to the 7ft galvanised fence installed on the mountain side at Pwllde National parks and also the buffer to the world heritage site?

Whilst it was installed for road safety it's one off the worst cases of open countryside abuse I've ever encountered, and the residents of Clydach also feel let down as no contact was made with their representatives or the farming community.

11.2. From County Councillor Simon Howarth to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Does the cabinet member Catrin Maby believe that litter bins in our towns and villages, and also highways, play an integrated part in keeping our communities clean, tidy and most important lead by example?

11.3. From County Councillor Meirion Howells to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Could you provide an update on the progress and any findings of the recent county-wide parking review? In particular to Usk, where there is genuine concern in my joint ward of Llanbadoc and Usk from businesses, residents, surrounding villagers and town commuters. Could you please advise on the current status, any proposed changes, and the expected timeline for the conclusions of the review to be published?

11.4. From County Councillor Richard John to the Cabinet Member for Resources

How many households in Monmouthshire have secured a council tax exemption since 2022?

11.5. From County Councillor Tomos Davis to the Cabinet Member for

Resources

To ask the Cabinet Member to respond to the UK Government's decision to withdraw funding for the Western Gateway partnership.

11.6. From County Councillor Tomos Davis to the Leader of the Council

To ask the Leader, what action has the authority taken following the recent public meeting regarding the erection of a fence on Pwll ddu Road?

11.7. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

Please can you provide an update on the armed forces event being hosted by the council, including any details about the schedule, participants, and public engagement and access?

11.8. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

Given the vital role our leisure centre plays in supporting the community's health and wellbeing, what is the council doing to urgently secure funding for Caldicot Leisure Centre and its refurbishment to ensure residents have access to high quality, accessible facilities that encourage active and healthy lifestyles?

11.9. From County Councillor Rachel Buckler to the Cabinet member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

The lifeblood of rural hamlets and villages are often the community assets such as local public houses. They are a vital part of knitting together our communities and preventing rural isolation. A thriving rural pub is like a beacon of hope and hospitality. They are an essential way for friends and neighbours to keep in touch, have local get together and keep rural communities alive. When they close, as has The Star on the Hill at Llanvihangel Tor-y-Mynydd, it devastates the area. Would the Cabinet member for Rural Affairs please commit to gathering together an MCC led community asset team that local communities can access for advice and help on how to go about a community led bid to be able to buy their local public house for the benefit of all?

11.10. From County Councillor Fay Bromfield to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

What is the cabinet members position on the loss of Prime agricultural land for energy generation?

11.11. From County Councillor Fay Bromfield to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Thank you to the highways officer for their work on speeding in Llangybi. However, data from recent years shows limited impact, Can the Cabinet Member outline any permanent solutions being considered to effectively reduce speeds and improve safety for residents and all road users?

11.12.	From County Councillor Martin Newell to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Please could you provide an update regarding Goldwire Lane in Monmouth that is subject to an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) that restricts driving to residents, visitors, deliveries, and emergency services?	
11.13.	From County Councillor Frances Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services Could the cabinet member clarify how many residents await a social work assessment and give an indication of how long are they waiting, and the longest wait times?	
11.14.	From County Councillor Frances Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Could the cabinet member please provide an update on the potential impact on the Junction with the M4 at Magor in relation to the proposed introduction of the Severn Bridge 7.5t weight Limit?	
12.	To exclude Press and Public	57 - 58
13.	Appointment of Members of the Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council (SAC) for Religion, Values and Ethics	59 - 72
14.	Next Meeting - Thursday 26th June 2025	

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 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.

