

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

Notice of meeting**County Council****Thursday, 18th September, 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.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held at 10:00am on the 17th July 2025	3 - 4
5.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held at 14:00pm on the 17th July 2025	5 - 14
6.	Public Question:	
6.1.	Submitted by Mr. Peter Short Will the Council immediately consider divesting from all 'complicit' companies and exert pressure on the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Local Government Pension Fund, and through them on the Wales Pension Partnership, to divest from all complicit companies. To not do so would seem to be contrary to both Monmouthshire's, Torfaen's and the Wales Pension Partnership's 'Responsible Investment Policy'.	
7.	Reports to Council	
7.1.	Monmouthshire County Council Self-Assessment 2024/25	15 - 114

8. Motions to Council

8.1. Submitted by County Councillor Ian Chandler

This Council notes with grave concern the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the widespread international calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Council further notes the findings of the United Nations and respected human rights organisations that serious breaches of international humanitarian law are being committed, including the targeting of civilians and the obstruction of essential aid.

Council recognises its responsibility to ensure that public money, including its own investments and those of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund, is used in a manner consistent with our values of peace, human rights, and respect for international law.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Review its own investments and request that those of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza;
2. Work with its asset managers to take steps to end such investments and request that the Greater Gwent Pension Fund does the same; and
3. Report back to Council within three months on progress made.

8.2. Submitted by County Councillor Emma Bryn

Following the announcement in August that Monmouthshire has joined the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities:

- *The WHO Network which commits to listening to the needs of their ageing population, assess and monitor their age-friendliness, and work collaboratively with older people to create age-friendly physical and social environments.*

This Council agrees that it will support towns and communities to becoming better places to grow older and resolves to increase its investment and focus on enhancing highway infrastructure to improve residents' mobility beyond private vehicles and to advance the reporting and recording of footway taxonomy required to achieve this within the county.

8.3. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council:

Recognises the significant contribution the Bridges Centre in Monmouth makes to the lives of residents across Monmouthshire.

Calls upon the Cabinet to seek an affordable and fair agreement with the trustees of the Bridges Centre to secure its long-term future.

8.4. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council:

Calls upon the administration to set out its plans to tackle surplus places in the Monmouth and Chepstow clusters.

8.5. Submitted by County Councillor Lisa Dymock

This Council notes that access to affordable childcare is essential for parents/guardians seeking to return to work and that the current Welsh Government childcare offer provides funded childcare from the age three to four, while in England parents will now be entitled to 30 hours per week funded childcare starting at nine months.

This Council believes that Monmouthshire families should not face such high childcare costs and this Council therefore resolves to write to Welsh Government to call for an extension of the current childcare offer to match the entitlement in England by providing free childcare from nine months old.

9. Member Questions

9.1. From County Councillor Jan Butler to County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

Changes in treatment modalities have resulted in residents who previously held blue badges for their medical condition being refused renewal. Neither their underlining condition nor the disability they might cause will have gone away.

It is usual in the case of refusal for applicants to be referred to an independent assessor: *the designated assessor, Able2 (a subsidiary of Nottingham Rehab Ltd), is no longer operational following the parent company's closure on 31st July 2025.*

What measures are being put in place to correct these two issues?

9.2. From County Councillor Alistair Neill to County Councillor Catrin Maby Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Some two months after private construction work by European Energy began, using large heavy trucks on the narrow lanes adjoining the B4598, there is still no construction traffic management plan in place, communicated to local residents, and being implemented. The consequence has been entirely avoidable chaotic problems for local residents either in 'stand-offs' with large trucks or convoys, or reversing hundreds of yards, potentially compromising safety. Would the cabinet member please ensure that the draft plan is immediately fully communicated and implemented and take this matter up with the planning authority, the Welsh Government?

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

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the road safety review of Welsh Street, Chepstow that was promised by herself on behalf of the council's Traffic Team at full council in March of this year.

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

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the review of the B4235 junction (particularly the road-markings and signage) off St Lawrence Road in Chepstow that was agreed at full council in March of this year.

10.	Date of next meeting - 23rd October 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;	Independent Socialist
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.

