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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday 6th October 2025

Notice of Meeting:

Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

Tuesday, 14th October, 2025 at 11.00 am
Remote Meeting

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust.	1 - 4
4.	To consider whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act. (Proper Officer's view attached).	5 - 6
5.	To consider a report by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding applications received against the Trust Fund for the Academic Year 2025/26.	7 - 14
6.	Next Meeting: Monday 26th January 2026 at 11.00am.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Trustees:

Martyn Groucutt
David Jones
Jayne McKenna
Phil Murphy
John Crook
Laura Wright
M. Cross
C. Andrews
R. Clark
H. Morgan
P. James
W. Symondson

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.

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.

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.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust held at Remote Meeting on Monday, 14th July, 2025 at 11.00 am

PRESENT: County Councillors: David Jones, Jayne McKenna, Phil Murphy, John Crook, R. Clark, H. Morgan and P. James (substituting for Maria Stevens).

Councillor Richard Clark, (Torfaen County Borough Council
Helen Morgan, Coleg Gwent
Penry James, Aberystwyth University

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nikki Wellington	Finance Manager
Louise Connolly	Accounting Technician Trainee
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt and C. Andrews

1. Election of Chair.

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt was elected as Chair.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair.

County Councillor Phil Murphy was appointed as Vice Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest.

None received.

4. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as an accurate record.

In matters arising, it was requested that an aide memoire is provided to assist Committee Members when awarding grants for commonly requested items such as laptops to recall previous amounts awarded. The Finance Manager agreed to compile a suitable document for consideration at the next meeting [ACTION].

5. Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The Committee received the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2025.

In doing so, it was noted that £28,413 was made from investments. An investment of £206,000 has matured and Arlingclose Treasury Advisers have been contacted with a

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust held at Remote Meeting on Monday, 14th July, 2025 at 11.00 am

view to re-investment. Some additional funds in the region of £50,000 may be added to the new investment. £512 interest was made from the Roger Edwards Trust.

£7,474 was spent on grants. Other expenditure included audit fees and £200 for the support provided by Monmouthshire County Council.

It was discussed whether to increase the amounts spent on grants. It was agreed that this should be aligned to the aims and objectives of the Council, and should be considered in a structured and organised way. It was agreed that this point should be reviewed at the next meeting.

Trustees agreed that these can be passed to external auditors for an independent examination.

We resolved accordingly.

6. Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Travel Policy.

We discussed the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Travel Policy and agreed that the overriding principle for sustainability reasons is that public transport should be the first choice. It was accepted that the rurality of Monmouthshire will sometimes preclude this option. It was agreed that the application process should request some justification when public transport is not used. This will be added to the policy.

We resolved to endorse the policy with the amendment suggested.

7. To consider whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act. (Proper Officer's view attached).

We excluded the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

8. To consider a report by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding applications received against the Trust Fund for the Academic Year 2025/26.

We considered 2 applications received against the Trust Fund, presented on behalf of the Chief Officer for Children and Young People.

The Trust resolved that:

(i) awards be made to both applicants, subject to appropriate receipts and evidence being received.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 11.00am.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust held
at Remote Meeting on Monday, 14th July, 2025 at 11.00 am**

The meeting ended at 11.32 am

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SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS

REPORT: APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

AUTHOR: SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER - LSE

MEETING AND DATE OF MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE FARM SCHOOL
ENDOWEMENT TRUST
MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 2025

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendation to the Proper Officer:-

Exemptions applying to the report:

Likely to reveal information relating to a particular individual (Paragraph 12).

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14).

Factors in favour of disclosure:

Accountability of the Trustees for the proper disbursement of Trust Funds.

Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:

May discourage potential applicants (Applications depend on assessment of financial need).

My view on the public interest test is as follows:

Factors against disclosure outweigh those in favour.

Recommended decision on exemption from disclosure:

Withhold

Date: 29th September 2025

Signed: Sophie Evans – submitted electronically

Post: Deputy Finance Manager

I accept the recommendation made above.

Nikki Wellington – Submitted electronically
Proper Officer

Date: 29th September 2025

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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