

Wednesday, 8 July 2026

Notice of meeting**County Council**

**Thursday, 16th July, 2026 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.	Public Questions	
3.1.	Question from Kelvin Vater to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Why is the evidence sent to the Council in the form of the 1881 Census, our electoral roll address and a petition signed by 35 residents of the village - to support the historic Welsh name of our road as Banal Lane - deemed to be circumstantial and unsubstantiated?	
3.2.	Question from Charles Heaven to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Please can the Council explain what long-term, sustainable measures the Council intends to implement to protect both Sudbrook Cricket Club and the neighbouring school playing fields from repeated unauthorised encampments?	
4.	Chair's Announcement	1 - 2
5.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th June 2026	3 - 16
6.	Response to Council Motion: Review of Council and Greater Pension Fund Investments	17 - 38

7.**Motions to Council****7.1.****Submitted by County Councillor Peter Strong**

This council notes that in the manifesto of Plaid Cymru for the most recent Senedd election, commitments were made to review and reform the Local Government funding formula, including the statements:

“And we will review and reform the Local Government funding formula, so that it fairly reflects the realities of serving largely rural populations” And

“Review the funding formula for Local Government so that it better reflects the real cost of delivering services in different parts of Wales.”

Any changes to the Local Government funding formula could have significant implications for Local authorities across Wales, including Monmouthshire County Council. The importance of ensuring that any reform to the funding formula reflects fairness, transparency and does not disadvantage communities within Monmouthshire.

This council therefore resolves to:

Write to the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, seeking urgent clarification on the detail scope and proposed implementation of the commitments made regarding reform of the Local Government funding formula.

To also, seek assurances that any proposed reforms will not have a detrimental impact on communities within Monmouthshire.

We request that Monmouthshire County Council be fully consulted on any proposed changes to the funding formula prior to implementation.

7.2.**Submitted by County Councillor Emma Bryn**

Council notes: The considerable impact that the current lane closure on Staunton Road (A4136) is having on residents, businesses, public & school transport operators travelling between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire. The growing concern amongst residents regarding the lack of certainty around a permanent solution to the land slippage affecting the highway.

Council believes:

That restoring the A4136 to a condition that safely accommodates two-way traffic should be a priority for the Authority.

That residents and businesses deserve clarity regarding the long-term future of this important route.

That transparency around the options, costs and timescales for delivery is essential in maintaining public confidence.

Council therefore resolves:

To request that the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways brings forward a report to Full Council setting out:

- The proposed long-term solution for the restoration of the A4136.
- The estimated cost of delivering that solution. Including funding options.
- A projected timetable for delivery of the scheme.
- The risks associated with delaying or not proceeding with the preferred option.

7.3.**Submitted By County Councillor Fay Bromfield**

This Council:

Notes the increasing number of proposals for large-scale ground-mounted solar farms on productive agricultural land in Monmouthshire, including the proposed Candwr Solar Farm between Ponthir and Llangybi.

Believes that renewable energy development should prioritise previously developed land, commercial and industrial rooftops, public buildings, car parks and other suitable brownfield sites before productive farmland is considered.

Is concerned about the cumulative impact that multiple large-scale solar developments could have on the county's rural landscape, agricultural economy, biodiversity, tourism and food security.

Resolves to:

a) Ensure that the Council's Local Impact Reports on Developments of National Significance give full consideration to the loss of agricultural land, landscape and visual impact and the impact on biodiversity, highways and the local economy.

b) Write to the Cabinet Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity and Energy calling for planning frameworks and policies to be strengthened by introducing a presumption against large-scale ground-mounted solar developments on prime agricultural land.

c) Request that the Welsh Government adopt a "Rooftops Before Fields" approach to solar energy, prioritising rooftop, brownfield and previously developed land for solar generation before productive agricultural land is considered.

7.4. Submitted by County Councillor Tony Kear

This Council:

Notes that current methods of controlling weeds largely rely on manual and mechanical methods, which can be time-consuming, damage highways and raise concerns about effectiveness.

Calls on the Cabinet to commission a review of the Weed Management Policy, including:

- A cost-benefit analysis of current and alternative methods; assessment of environmental impact, operational effectiveness and whole-life costs;
 - consideration of an Integrated Weed Management approach combining targeted herbicide use with non-chemical methods where appropriate;
 - identification of pilot locations, particularly near schools, parks and environmentally sensitive areas; and
 - consultation with residents, community councils, environmental groups and staff.
- Expects findings and recommendations, including any policy or budget implications, to be reported to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet within six months.

8. Members questions

8.1. From County Councillor Meirion Howells to County Councillor Mary Ann Brockelsby, Leader of the Council

In light of the recent period of exceptionally high temperatures, which has affected communities across Monmouthshire, could the Leader outline what measures the Council has taken to support residents—particularly vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, young children, and those with health conditions—during the recent heatwave?

8.2. From County Councillor Jackie Strong to County Councillor Angelas Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

Can the Cabinet member provide an update on progress made towards protecting Monmouthshire County Council property in Caldicot from further unauthorised encampments.

8.3. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on plans to improve the Highbeech Roundabout in Chepstow?

8.4. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for for Climate Change and the Environment

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the financial and operational implications of transitioning the Council's fleet of heavy goods vehicles, including refuse trucks, to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles?

8.5. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the resilience of Monmouthshire's school estate to periods of extreme heat and the council's plans to respond to the increasing frequency of such events?

8.6. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member for Resources

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the current status of the Section 106 funding associated with ARW Primary School expansion and the Church Road development?

8.7. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member Resources or Planning and Economic Development

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the total cost to the Council of clearing and restoring the site following the previous unauthorised encampment, alongside Sudbrook Cricket Club and Caldicot Comprehensive School?

8.8. From County Councillor Jan Butler to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Can Cabinet Member Catrin Maby give residents of Goytre Fawr some idea when repairs and resurfacing might take place in Lapstone Lane and Nant-y-Derry Road from Goytre Hall to Chainbridge?

9.	Date of next meeting - 24th September 2026	
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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 &	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Larkfield;	
County Councillor Rachel Garrick	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ben Callard	Magor East with Undy;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor John Crook	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sue Riley	Chepstow Castle &	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Larkfield;	
County Councillor Jill Bond	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Independent Group
County Councillor Louise Brown	Mitchel Troy and Trellech	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	United;	
County Councillor Tony Easson	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Richard John	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Penny Jones	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mitchel Troy and Trellech	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	United;	
County Councillor Martin Newell	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
	Town;	Welsh Conservative Party
	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
	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

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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.

