

## MINUTES

### 1. Attendance

Cllr Colin Deakins, Cllr Jo Storey, Cllr Janet Clarke, Cllr Jenny Carpenter, Cllr Ann Bowyer, Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent (online), Cllr Hannah Dando (online)

County Councillor Tony Howells

### 2. To receive Apologies

County Councillor Meirion Howells

### 3. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ann Bowyer declared an interest in item 12a planning

### 4. To receive Chair's Remarks

Colin Deakins has circulated a letter to all councillors that he will be stepping down as Chairperson at the end of the meeting. The vice-chair will chair November's meeting until a new Chair is nominated and / or selected. If a chairperson is not selected Councillors will have to assume the responsibility on a rotating business to conduct the ordinary meetings.

### 5. To receive County Councillor's Reports

Tony reported that the Local Development Plan had been debated by MCC Councillors and a motion to approve was made by a casting vote by The Chairperson due to an even number of votes for / against across the quorate.

Speed loops have been installed throughout the wards

The SID at Monkswood has been relocated. Cllr Storey has reported that the brightness is low making it difficult to see during the day.

Meirion reported:

- a) Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby (MCC Leader) is offering to come along to talk to community groups, to register, visit <https://www.letstalkmonmouthshire.co.uk/lets-talk-together/surveys/register-your-interest>
- b) 15 blocked drains reported to MCC on 6 October from Woodside to County Hall. The Vacuum Tanker visited Woodside on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, other drains have yet to be cleared.
- c) Bridge St Road Closure Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 8am to 8pm - Christmas on Bridge St 10am to 7pm
- d) Usk Civic Society have unveiled a life size glass mosaic of a 57-inch Salmon on Conigar Walk to commemorate the fish that was caught in 1782 downstream of Usk. The artwork was produced by Newport artist Stephanie Roberts in collaboration with Usk Primary School.
- e) Resident of Island House are concerned with speeding traffic making passing their entrance on a blind bend in 20 mph zone. Speed loops have gone down
  - a. MCC have quoted a figure of £3,300 SIDS (Speed Indication Signs) to be installed in Llanbadoc. (Solar) It was agreed that two SIDS would be required

for each direction. LCC are prepared to cover the cost of one device if the second device can be match funded by either MCC or another partner.

Cllrs commented that the replacement bus stop has not been replaced and is still outstanding. One is in Usk and one is adjacent to Yew Tree Lane in Llanbadoc.

**6. To receive Comments from Members of the public**

No members of the public were present.

**7. To receive Clerk's Report & Action points**

A copy was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. A copy is available in the appendix.

**8. To Approve Minutes of previous meetings**

- a. September ordinary meeting
  - i Proposed by Ann Bowyer and seconded by Julian Bowen-Sargent

**9. Community**

- a. To confirm police reports for September
  - i Noted and received
- b. To confirm receipt of Usk & Llanbadoc Bulletin
  - i Noted and received.
- c. To consider issue with road-closure notices
  - i **ACTION:** Clerk to write to MCC to be added to emergency road closure list

**10. Finance & Procedure**

- a. To approve the following payments

Merlin Environmental September	£114.66
Salaries & PAYE September	£635.20
G. Tucker Balsam treatment	£150
Pathcare Group	£150 increased to £250 to include materials

Payments approved: proposed by Colin Deakins and seconded by Hannah Dando to include an additional £100 for materials.

**b. To consider appointment of payroll company to manage PAYE responsibilities**

- i Members of public and The Clerk left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed. The item was discussed last.
- ii Resolved. The Council decided against the RFO's recommendation to appoint a payroll company and have agreed to 'monitor payroll with better scrutiny'.
- iii Councillors agreed that The Clerk will adjust the remaining financial year's monthly payroll to repay an overpayment of wages that was made after the

SCP increase in November 2024. This will balance the end of year figures for salary and tax payments.

**11. Maintenance**

- a. Consider maintenance work at Llanbadoc Island: Repair / replace damaged picnic tables. Clearing and improving the accessibility path to the park. Potholes at the top of the access road.
  - i To have a look at the bench and see if the top slats can be turned over. If this cannot be achieved a request for new top planks will be requested from a bench installation company.
  - ii To seek a quotation for clearing the accessible path to the park
  - iii To seek a quotation for repairs to the Llanbadoc Island access road

**12. To consider planning applications**

- a. **DM/2025/01331** - Detached domestic Garage with home working office space in roof space – The Cedars, Llanbadoc: No objections on the condition the property is used as set out in the application.
- b. **Standing orders were suspended** to note the additional planning notices / applications
  - i DM/2025/01223: Noted the request for Heritage planning consent for application at Estevarney Farm: No objections.
  - ii No update on the temporary licence for the dog park located on Estevarney Lane in Monkswood.
- c. DM/2025/01195: Highways did not object. Noted by LCC that it would be preferable for the entrance to have gates installed.

**13. To receive Councillor Reports**

- a. Cllr Colin Deakins & Janet Clarke attended the OVW local area meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. The guest speaker was unavailable to attend.
- b. No other reports received.

**14. Next ordinary Meeting**

Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Room P3 – County Hall – 6:00pm