



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of St Arvans Community Council held at St Arvans Meeting Rooms on Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 7.00pm.		Action
2602.01	<b>ATTENDANCE</b> Cllrs P Farley, P Taylor, A Clay, H Hathaway, B Howells, I Costello and County Cllr A Webb <b>Apologies:</b> Cllr T Houghton <b>Also in attendance:</b> C Arvanitis (clerk)	
2602.02	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> No members of the public attended.	
2602.03	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEM(S) ON THE AGENDA</b> -None	
2602.04	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21 November 2026 were approved and duly signed.	
2602.05	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> -Clerk to organise digital signing of handyperson contract -Cllr Farley to organise plaque for Grange Road bench	CA, PF
2602.06	<b>REPORTS RECEIVED</b>	
a	Neighbourhood Police Crime & Traffic report from PCSO Kraig Jackson: -There were 6 recorded crimes in January consisting of -violence with injury. -violence without injury. -criminal damage (graffiti was sprayed onto a path), police attended and the graffiti was washed away. -The Council resolved to pay for the hire of the Meeting Rooms for upcoming police surgeries.	CA
b	County Council report: -MCC budget will be determined in March.	
	Other reports: -Cllrs Farley and Howells attended the February meeting of Wye Valley Villages.	
2601.07	<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	

	<p>Representatives from MCC Highways proposed measures for road safety, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A priority give way at the top of Devauden Road to slow cars going downhill.</li> <li>-Removal of the central white line on Devauden Road to slow vehicles down by making the road seem narrower.</li> <li>-Tightening of the junction to Grange Road to discourage drivers from cutting the corner at speed.</li> </ul> <p>-These measures were approved by Council and MCC will implement as soon as possible but some elements are weather dependent.</p> <p>-Vehicle speeds will be tracked to assess level of success.</p> <p>-Further road safety measures (including Nudge 20 and Active Travel) will be considered next financial year.</p> <p>-The Council thanks MCC Highways for progressing this initiative and Cllrs Howells, Costello and County Cllr Webb for organising the presentation.</p> <p>-Penterry Lane potholes have been repaired.</p>																									
<b>2602.08</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; RECREATION</b>																									
	<p>-Query regarding Jungle's proposed hours to be sent to MCC Licencing.</p> <p>-Racecourse to be asked to reinstate event alert communications to Council.</p>	CA, PF																								
<b>2602.09</b>	<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>																									
	-2026-27 plan to be developed and approved.	CA/HH																								
<b>2601.10</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>																									
a	<p>Balances at bank &amp; building society:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">31.1.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MBS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10,339.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£36,399.06</td> </tr> </table>		31.1.26	MBS	£10,339.79	Unity Trust	£36,399.06																			
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c The December- January cash book was approved:

<i>Supplier</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
St Arvans Village Trust	19.11.25 (3 hours)	£27.00	
Merlin Waste	Dog waste Dec	£157.78	
Carole Arvanitis via ICO	Data protection fee	£52.00	
M Jones – handy person	Labour / materials	£155.68	
Merlin Waste	Dog waste Jan	£157.78	
Barclaycard	JAMF (£12.59), Microsoft (£12.10)	£24.69	
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Clerk	Clerk salary December	£496.50	
HMRC	Tax Dec	£124.00	
Clerk	Clerk salary January	£496.50	
HMRC	Tax Jan	£124.00	
Three	Clerk's mobile	£8.40	
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MCC	Precept		£7,965.00
Unity Trust	Bank charge	£6.00	
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<b>Total</b>		<b>£1,869.18</b>	<b>£7,965.00</b>

d	The following new payments for February were approved:	CA																														
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e	<p>Other financial matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Council resolved to pay member allowances as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Councillors basic- £156.00</li> <li>-Chair- £500.00</li> <li>-Vice chair- £250</li> </ul> </li> <li>-The Council resolved to agree the new 26-27 Merlin contract (costs increase from £7.35 to £7.65 plus VAT per bin per empty).</li> <li>-MCC grounds maintenance contract approval deferred until we have the costs split between King George’s Field and the Council.</li> <li>-Clerk to clarify with MCC whether the November road clean replaced the general (roads and pavements) clean.</li> <li>-The results of the 2024-25 audit have been received.</li> </ul>	CA																														
<b>2602.11</b>	<b>2025-26 BUDGET</b>																															
	-Council resolved to await proposals from the Finance team regarding further expenditure against the 2025-26 budget	CA, AC, PF																														
<b>2602.12</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>																															
	New applications: -None.																															
	Planning decisions: -DM/2025/01620, 10 Woodlands Close, Householder Erection of a lean-to glass house 3.1m wide 4.5m long and 3.0m tall at the ridge to the rear left hand side elevation (street view) of 10 Woodlands Close – approved. -Footpaths order																															
<b>2601.13</b>	<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>																															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Communications Group met in January and presented their report.</li> <li>-They proposed a further meeting with the clerk to cover housekeeping matters in respect of Council IT and digital assets and their use.</li> <li>-The Communications Group will review the Council's IT policy before the annual meeting in May.</li> <li>-The Council resolved to have the website updated to https for security purposes.</li> <li>-Cllr Taylor to investigate best approach to accessing the internet in the Meeting rooms.</li> <li>-The Council thanks Cllr Costello and the Communications Group for their work this month.</li> </ul>	IC, PT, PF, CA
<b>2602.14</b>	<b>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</b>	
	-Nothing to report.	
<b>2602.15</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-MCC, Let's Talk Budget and Priorities 2026-27 Consultation Toolkit</li> <li>-MCC, Media release – Cross-border efforts to tackle congestion in Chepstow</li> <li>-MCC, MEETING UPDATE: Monmouthshire County Council- Let's Talk Budget and Priorities 2026-27. Town and Community Councils Meeting Invite</li> <li>-OVW- <b>RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2026 – Registration now open</b></li> <li>-OVW- FW: Older People Commissioner survey- finishes 30.1.26</li> <li>-OVW, Covid-19 National Day of Reflection 2026</li> <li>-OVW, Age Friendly Communities Newsletter</li> <li>-Hope Rescue, A Second Chance for Richard</li> </ul>	
<b>2602.16</b>	<b>CLERK'S REPORT</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Council agreed to consider a formal mission statement and set of short and long term aims for 2026-27. Clerk to circulate suggestions.</li> <li>-All policies will need to be reviewed prior to the annual meeting in May.</li> </ul>	CA
<b>2602.17</b>	<b>FORTHCOMING MEETINGS</b>	
	-None.	
<b>2602.18</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	18/3/26, 7.00pm at The Meeting Rooms, St Arvans.	

The meeting closed at 21:00.

Chair's signature: .....

Date: .....