

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Shirenewton Recreation Hall
on **Monday 7th July 2025** at 7.00pm

Councillors: P. Butterworth (Chair), C Martin, I Martin, G Todd, G Mitchel

Also in attendance: J McLagan Clerk, Mrs. L Brown County Councillor, G. MacDonald and B Millar.

1. **Minute 5062 – To Receive Apologies for Absence** None.
2. **Minute 5063 – To confirm the minutes** from Shirenewton Community Council meeting held on 2nd June 2025 as a true record.
The minutes were approved and signed by Council.
3. **Minute 5064 – Public Participation Glynis MacDonald and Bob Millar**

Bob & Glynis confirmed that the money to repair the clock as quoted by The Cumbria Clock Company has been raised, with many thanks to the community and generous donations. Bob explained the quote was valid for 6 months and would expire in August. It was mentioned there is a waiting list with the company, and although a repair before Remembrance Sunday would be nice, it is probably unlikely. Bob discussed the nuances of the contract and requested that SCC take over the contract as they have custody of the Memorial Clock and also takeover the funds. **Cllr Martin** stated that to take over the contract, SCC would have to show due diligence, this included acquiring references, transferring the quote to SCC and also being aware of who donated (a council requirement confidentiality being noted). Full faculty approval is required.

Actions –

Bob will speak to the CCCo and ask for the transfer of quote and references and speak to donors.
Cllrs to speak to the Church/Faculty regarding approval of works.
Council to open holding account for funds.

Cllrs thanked Bob and Glynis for coming and agreed to have 2 Cllrs in a sub committee to manage clock affair, congratulating them and Mike Penny (who was unable to attend) on their hard work, dedication and achievements for the Memorial Clock.

4. **Minute 5065 – To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests.** None declared by Councillors
5. **Minute 5066 – Items for Planning – DM/2025/00754** Little Cherry Orchard Chapel Lane Earlswood - Proposed extension to dwelling with hard and soft landscaping.

Not to be confused with the stately Cherry Orchard, this site lies off Chapel Lane just past Little Bushes. Councillors can see the property in detail on Powells' website:

[Cherry-Orchard-Farm Earlswood Brochure.pdf](#)

The site is limited to the existing house and its immediate curtilage though the farm itself comprises some 23 acres. The house dates back to the beginning of the last century and has been extended over decades since. Currently it is a brick 1960s 2 storey house containing 3 bedrooms, kitchen, lounge/diner and sitting room – essentially a 2 up 2 down dwelling. The house sits back from Chapel Lane and overlooks the Castroggi brook and Wentwood Forest from the front. The main entrance is at the rear. The proposal is to add a 2 storey extension across the back, with new entrance porches in the right-hand end and in the new rear elevation. The front elevation will have two gables with 2 storey windows and a central section similarly equipped with 2 storey windowing. The remaining wall elevations will be dressed in stone and timber cladding (not specified). Existing windows are to be replaced though sizes will largely remain other than on the southwest elevation. Parking is not shown though there is mention of a carport and courtyard. The new volume, allowing for the

removal of the existing single storey front elevation and attached store shed, is stated to be 121% of the original.

Summarising the applicant's Planning Statement:

The existing dwelling is coated in a non-breathable cementitious render which is painted pink, which is now in poor condition and harming the existing structure by preventing moisture from escaping.

This render is to be replaced with a breathable lime render finished in white, save where there is an existing stone finish. A stone finish will be applied to the gable projections and as a low-level band all around the property.

Above the stone banding will be vertical timber cladding (species & board spec TBC) weathering to a silver tone blending into its surrounding context. The porches are to be oak and stone in a nod to the old property. The roof will be covered in slates as existing.

Windows are to be black sleek frames. Rainwater goods will be black.

The bat survey considers the site to be of limited ecological value for bats, and no roost was located. Bat and bird boxes are to be provided though no details are given.

The immediate curtilage of the house is to be hard and soft landscaped but no details of the soft landscaping are given; likewise, car parking and a proposed car port are not detailed.

Councillors will note that whilst parts of the original dwelling date back to the early 20th century and might be considered to be utilitarian and of little architectural interest, the house sits discreetly in our typical local countryside. Councillors may therefore wish to consider whether the proposed elevations and the mass of the proposed building works transform the appearance and character such that none of the original house will be recognizable and neglects any connection with its countryside setting and traditional Monmouthshire architecture.

SCC OBJECTS to this application on the grounds that :

1. The proposed mass of the design and in particular the excessively prominent gables the ridges of which are as high as the main roof ridge along with the 2 storey windows between the gables impose an uncharacteristic dominance over the open countryside and would be clearly visible from the public highway and beyond, contrary to Policy H6, as also is the immense increase in size. The proposed gable windows and the windows in the wall in between bear no resemblance to the existing house and fail to match patterns of openings. The original form of the dwelling is unrecognisable.
2. Insufficient details are given in regard to the external timber finishes including paint colours, foul water drainage, ecology enhancement measures, landscaping, external lighting, parking and carport. Although the Planning Statement refers to car parking and existing outbuildings none are shown within the application site. The site plan will need to be revised to include the parking area, carport and outbuildings needed for the residential use of the house.
3. There is no detail of the proposed access gating or its location nor what entrance widening requirement might be needed to enable vehicles to wait off the public highway whilst the gates are operated. There is a public footpath along the access which needs to be kept open at all times and there are no proposals as to how this would be achieved.
4. Subject to the revision of the site plan as above, there is no provision for outbuildings necessary for the enjoyment of the property.

SCC reserves the right to make additional comments when these further details are provided.

Cllrs voted unanimously to object. Action: Clerk to notify Planning officer.

6. Minute 5067 – Finance: To approve a list of expenditure as detailed

EXPENDITURE AND INVOICES – July 2025

Clerk's salary/allowances.
Clerk's Pension (Council 25% & Clerk's contribution)
HMRC Employers NI Contribution

June 2024 £1009.30
June 2024 £339.19 incl £20 AVC
June 2024 £143.22

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total £	Type
C Martin	Monthly Microsoft 365	8.51	1.70	10.21	BACS
C Martin	Monthly Google storage	1.33	0.26	£1.59	BACS
Clerk	Expenses	63.88		63.88	BACS
Merlin Environmental Services Ltd	July Collections – Invoice	127.50	25.48	152.88	BACS
Chepstow Accountancy Services Ltd	Inv July payroll Clerk 309722	25.00		25.00	BACS
One Voice Wales	Training invoice 9686	21.00		21.00	BACS
One Voice Wales	Training invoice 9663	21.00		21.00	BACS
One Voice Wales	Training invoice 9711	21.00		21.00	BACS
One Voice Wales	Training invoice 9599	21.00		21.00	BACS
Cllr Remuneration	1 Cllr.	208		208	BACS
Bank Charges LLOYDS	June 24	4.25		4.25	Deduction
Bank Charges HSBC	June 25	5.00		5.00	Deduction
			Total	2046.52	
To fulfil Expenditure	Transfer			1000.00	Transf

Breakdown of Clerk's expenses June 2025

Mileage = 104.40 @45p per mile (Meeting, noticeboards x 2)
£46.98
Purchases = 50% Stamps £14.90 Envelopes £2.00
Total = £63.88

The above list of liabilities was approved by the council.

Balances

Bank Account £2,663.38
Savings account £67,397.64 (44.69 Interest)
Other Bank account £717.79
Received £1,472.06 Rhwel Farm £925 VAT refund

Items for Discussion:

7. **Minute 5068 – Memorial Clock Repair: As above Minute 5064:** Fundraising from the community for the repair of the clock has raised enough to meet the Cumbria Clock Co quote. The council will undertake due diligence and liaise with bellringers, noting that the deadline is tight. The council were happy to see the community coming together to enable this repair.
8. **Minute 5069 – Earlswood field rental:** Email from Powells read, discussed and agreed costs to set up an agreement after onsite visit. **Action: Clerk to instruct Powells.**
9. **Minute 5070 – Audit:** Clerk confirmed submission of audit information and Audit notice currently displayed.
10. **Minute 5071 – Grants:** Applications received and to be considered next month.
11. **Minute 5072 – Traffic order - Notice of Intention to make a permanent order for speed restrictions:** Notice taken as read, 40mph speed limit on B4523 Chepstow to Mynyddbach, no comments to MCC from SCC.
Traffic Incidents: It was agreed to minute traffic incidents and near misses.
 - a) Near miss on Gaerllwyd Junction 27th June – 3 cars, and 2 pedestrians.
 - b) Near miss cyclist and HGV 29th June
 - c) Serious RTA life changing injury at Coppice Mawr 29th June.

12. Minute 5073 – ANPR: Cllr B attended on-site meeting with Gwent Police and discussed the following:

- *The proposed camera location 'on lamppost by Upper House opposite the entrance to Redd Landes'.*
- *Electrical voltage in the lamppost checked and meets the needs of the camera.*
- *Camera will be mounted high up on the lamppost and will be pointing up the hill towards Earlswood.*
- *Camera will be in passive mode and record number plates of passing vehicles and will be accessed if there is an incident in the area.*
- *It will not record speed.*
- *The camera is one of 20 going out to 20 Police Forces in the UK and they are being funded by NFU*
- *The next step will see Police doing door-to-door canvassing to measure resident reactions to the proposal.*
- *Police hoping to complete by end of July.* **Action: Gwent Police**

13. Minute 5074 – Email from Mr & Mrs Brabon regarding Planters: Look at putting 2 planters in Mynyddbach, Triangle opposite Hall looking untidy, **Action: Cllr C Martin offered to visit the proposed sites and find out who owns them prior to getting permissions. Clerk to contact MCC regarding the Triangle and verges.**

14. Minute 5075 – Email regarding footpath issues, Action awaiting response from MCC Enforcement.

15. Minute 5076 – Multiple emails regarding Manure pile near play area in Shirenewton. Clerk has reported issue to NRW and Environmental Health. **Action MCC & NRW**

Items for Information:

16. Minute 5077 - To receive reports from County Councillor & Clerk.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT JULY 2025

County Councillor Brown advised:

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee- 10th June 2025

The meeting considered various reports including the Welsh Language Annual Report 2024/25, Public Protection Performance Report 2024/25 and Registration Services Annual Report 2024/5 covering the registration services for births, deaths and weddings. The reports and questions asked can be found and watched at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6164>

People Scrutiny Committee – 17th June 2025

The People Scrutiny Committee presented 2 main reports. The first on the Audit Wales report on hospital discharges Gwent wide and provides delayed discharge figures for the different health boards with recommendations for improvement. The second report being on Play assessment.

The link to the meeting can be found here.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=304&MId=6148>

Cabinet on the 25th June 2025

Cabinet reports covered the feedback on the Performance and Overview Committee, the Call in on the letting of the former Abergavenny Library, the Strategic Risk Assessment and Nature Recovery.

Following the Call in on letting of the former Abergavenny Library for a 30-year lease at £6K a year (£500 per month) as a Mosque and community centre the Cabinet accepted its original decision, despite the Council's own budget paperwork showing a reasonable market rental achievable of £20K to £25K per annum, with call in concerns on the legal duty of best value.

The Call in details of the Special Place Scrutiny Committee on the 11th of June 2025 can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MId=6383>

The Cabinet reports for the 25th June 2025 can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=6103>

County Council 26th June 2025

County Council on the 26th June 2025 covered reports on Licensing and Gambling Policy issues, appointment to outside bodies and the Shape and Leadership Structure of Monmouthshire County Council. There were 2 motions one on prosecution or fining of the registered keeper of a car who throws litter and the other on Magor station. There were a number of questions on the agenda. In relation to the Chepstow area, this included one on the weight limit for HGVs on the Severn Bridge and another on the High Beech roundabout. I asked about

Home to school transport and SAC which covers the agreed syllabus for RVE in schools.
The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=6081>

Public Services Scrutiny Committee – 7th July 2025

This committee provides reports on the Adult Mental Health Services with a specific focus on Suicide and Care for People in the Community with Dementia.

The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=260&MId=6312>

Special Performance and Overview Committee on the 9th July 2025

The special meeting covers a review of the process and decision making involved in commissioning Care Contracts in the South of the County, following concerns by care providers and residents of a change in providers.

The report can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6381>

Clerks report as circulated and taken as read.

17. Minute 5078 - Police report – The graph shows five recorded incidents in June 2025 relating to Shiernewton and the broader community.

SHIRENEWTON

5

Incidents of note;

- Ambulance requesting assistance for a missing person
- Abandoned vehicle in the woods
- A road traffic collision on the B4235

Ambulance were called to attend the Hunstman hotel regarding the welfare of a hotel resident. The male was not in the hotel when ambulance arrived. Police were called to aid in assisting and conducting an area search in locating the male.

The abandoned vehicle relates to a vehicle that has broken down in the coppice mawr woods area that was suspected abandoned. After officers enquiries it was revealed the vehicle was awaiting recovery. The vehicle has now been successfully recovered.

The road traffic collision on the B42345 is a motorbike rider who has come off and has some life changing injuries. The rider was conveyed to the Southmead hospital Bristol and conveyed by ambulance. The road was closed for a short duration of time and a social media post was published regarding the closure to make people and residents aware at the time of the incident.

There are no further incidents of note. There will be more speed monitoring taking place in the upcoming weeks/ summer time.

18. Minute 5079 - Meetings attended. None Cllrs were unable to attend the Rec Hall meeting this month.

19. Minute 5080 - AOB and ward reports –

AOB – Clerk raised: Email from E Brennand regarding road safety, repassed to Cllr Brown for comment as unaware of the funds mentioned.

Cllr Todd raised :- Email from E Brennand regarding an events association. Suggested Emma get in touch with Earlswood Hall and Church Hall, to discuss. **Clerk to forward contact email address’.**

Cllr Butterworth; No issues to report.

Cllr Mitchel – no issues reported
Cllr I Martin – no issues reported
Cllr C Martin – no issues reported

20. Minute 5081 - Correspondence - As circulated and taken as read

21. Minute 5082 - To agree the date of the next meeting

Councillors agreed the date of the next meeting as **Monday 4th August 2025** at **7.00pm** by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Google meet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.00pm.