

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Shirenewton Recreation Hall
on **Monday 6th October 2025** at 7.00pm

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

Also in attendance: J McLagan Clerk, Mrs. L Brown County Councillor, S Todd

- Minute 5127 – To Receive Apologies for Absence** Cllr C Martin.
- Minute 5128 –** To confirm the minutes from Shirenewton Community Council meeting held on 1st September 2025 as a true record.
The minutes were approved and signed by Council.
- Minute 5129 – Public Participation –** None
- Minute 5130 – To disclose personal and pecuniary interests –** None
- Minute 5131 – Items for planning –** 1 Item **STR066 Goss Hawk Coffee, Wentwood.**

Cllrs have no objection to this matter.

- Minute 5132 – Finance:** To approve a list of expenditure as detailed

EXPENDITURE AND INVOICES – October 2025

Clerk's salary/allowances.	Sept 2024	£941.66
Clerk's Pension (Council 25% & Clerk's contribution)	Sept 2024	£349.50incl £20 AVC
HMRC Employers NI Contribution	Sept 2024	£247.87

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total £	Type
Clerk	Monthly Microsoft 365	8.51	1.70	10.21	BACS
Clerk	Monthly Google storage	1.33	0.26	£1.59	BACS
Clerk	Expenses September	38.42		38.42	BACS
Merlin Environmental Services Ltd	Sept Collections – Invoice	127.50	25.48	152.88	BACS
Chepstow Accountancy Services Ltd	Inv Aug payroll Clerk	25.00		25.00	BACS
Distinct IT	Website Annual	25.00		25.00	BACS
Bank Charges LLOYDS	Aug	4.25		4.25	Deduction
Bank Charges HSBC	Sept 25	0.00		0.00	
	Total	1800.00	Transfer	1000.00	

Breakdown of Clerk's expenses September 25

Mileage £34.92 = 77.30 @ 45p per mile
Purchases = £3.50 paper
Total = £38.42

The above list of liabilities were approved by council.

Balances:
Bank Account £1,751.44
Savings account £75,843.41
Previous Bank Holding account £708.55
Clock Account £21,907.77

Items for Discussion:

7. **Minute 5133 – New Councillor, Co** Option Council discussed and voted to accept S Todd application for Councillor for Shirenewton and Mynyddbach. **Action** Clerk to forward relevant information.
8. **Minute 5134 - Memorial Clock Repair:** CCCo are due to attend this week, SCC awaiting update from them regarding the inspection and schedule of works. **Action** none
9. **Minute 5135 – Earlswood field rental:** Contact potential Leasee for update on Manure removal as per MCC biodiversity controls. **Action** Clerk to chase
10. **Minute 5136 – Funded ANPR update:** Confirmation received from D Counsell that the camera will go ahead, awaiting MCC to instate power supply. **Action** none
11. **Minute 5137 – Planters and verges:** Mr A Orell requested to make planters. Action Clerk to chase
12. **Minute 5138 – Traffic events.** Go safe visited the village with speed testing on the 6/10/25 however it was noted that this is quiet time. Speed loops to be placed in village to record traffic speeds. It was confirmed that the speed limit coming towards MynyddBach from Chepstow will be 40, awaiting road surfacing before this is actioned. **Action** none
No reports of speeding witnessed in the area or near misses.
13. **Minute 5139 – Budget meeting:** **Action** Clerk to forward budget to Councillors prior to budget meeting
14. **Minute 5140 – Memorial Path & Wreaths –** Quote received. **Action** Clerk to arrange works during the next few weeks. **Action** Clerk to purchase 3/4 wreaths for SCC.
Also Quote received for verges and grass cutting of triangle. **Action** Clerk to speak to Cllr C Martin, prior to confirmation.
15. **Minute 5141 – Email regarding hedging by Tan House.** Cllrs discussed the issues with Tan House, and overgrown areas affecting the Bus stop. Cllrs and C Cllr Brown voiced their frustration that little has been done regarding enforcement at the site. **Action** Clerk contacted MCC and will chase.

Items for Information:

16. **Minute 5142 -** To receive reports from County Councillor & Clerk.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT OCTOBER 2025

County Councillor Brown advised:

Cabinet on the 17th of September 2025

The meeting covered reports on the Housing Support Grant future programme, the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan, the County of Sanctuary Strategy and Real Living Wage Accreditation. In 2024/25 in Monmouthshire, there were 403 homeless applications with 160 in temporary accommodation.

The Monmouthshire Local Area Energy plan produced by ARUP was about achieving net zero by 2050, the report was just noted. There was no clear indication of where the billions of investment would come from. Some of the targets identified in the LAEP include: The installation of 41,000 heat pumps. The installation of 23,000 public EV charge points. 1.8GW of ground mounted solar PV. The installation of rooftop solar PV on 43,000 rooftops.

Approval was also given for the County of Sanctuary report and the real living wage accreditation in order to cover all the Council's suppliers as well as MCC employees.

The reports can be found at the following links:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=6106>

County Council on the 18th of September 2025

The County Council considered a report on the Council's self-assessment for 2024/5, together with a number of motions and questions. There was a motion on the Greater Gwent Pension scheme reviewing its own investments and requesting that those of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza.

There was a motion on footway improvements to make Monmouthshire more age friendly. There was a motion on supporting the Bridges Centre in Monmouth to have an affordable and fair rent from the Council. There was also a motion on setting out plans to tackle surplus places in the Monmouth and Chepstow clusters having first fully engaged with schools and the local community in developing such plans.

In addition, a motion received approval that this Council believes that Monmouthshire families should not face such high childcare costs and this Council therefore resolves to write to Welsh Government to call for an extension of the current childcare offer to match the entitlement in England by providing free childcare from nine months old.

The reports and debates can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=6106>

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee 23rd September 2025

Revenue Budget

The Committee covered reports on the Revenue budget update for 2025/6, with the following findings:

That Cabinet note the forecast revenue budget overspend of £533,000, representing a forecast 0.2% variance against the approved budget for the year.

That Cabinet note the budgetary risks that are inbuilt into this forecast, namely, the volatility of demand for high-cost services, particularly in Adults & Children's Social Care; Higher inflation levels currently being experienced than originally budgeted for; The risk of further non-delivery of the £10.7m of budgeted savings targets, with services currently forecasting 92.1% delivery.

The trend of reducing debt recovery, particularly within Council tax and Social Care where there has been a slowing down in collection rates, and where there are increasing numbers of discounts and exemptions being awarded. The potential impact upon the Council's financial resilience from the forecast increase in the cumulative schools' reserves deficit that is being carried on the Council's balance sheet.

Cabinet notes that confirmation has been received for funding related to the increased cost of Employers' National Insurance Contributions, resulting in a funding shortfall of £811k or 24% compared to the actual cost increases. The Council will use its contingency budget of £850k to address this shortfall, as reflected within this forecast.

That Cabinet note the forecast increase in the deficit on cumulative schools reserves as outlined in Appendix 4 of this report of £2,835,000. This would result in school balances ending the financial year in a deficit of £6,926,000, with eighteen of thirty-five schools forecast to be in a deficit balance.

That Cabinet note that schools which are budgeting to end the 2025/26 financial year in a deficit balance are required to bring forward recovery plans by October half term to ensure that the proposed actions to address their budget shortfalls are instigated.

Other Reports

The committee considered the Chief Officer of Social Care Annual report and the Safeguarding Annual report.

All the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6158>

Place Scrutiny Committee on 25th September 2025

The Place Scrutiny Committee considered a report to scrutinise the content of the RLDP Consultation Deposit Plan report before it went to full Council. Appendix 1 provides the main report and there are numerous supplementary documents. There was an open public forum where contributors expressed concern about particular sites as well as developer comments and representatives from the Monmouthshire Housing Association about the need for affordable housing. One of the public speakers commented on the fact that the vast majority of consultation responses were answered with no change needed. This happened despite over 4000 responses being received.

There were 320 objections to the Moun-ton Road site at Chepstow, the highest number and 95 objections to the site for 26 houses in Shirenewton. The response of the Deputy Leader to the concern about little change being made as a result of this consultation was that the planning Inspector would look at it at the examination stage of the plan. The Deposit plan will be considered by full council on the 23rd of October and if approved would then go to a later examination stage.

The reports, public contributions and the debate can be watched here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6158>

People Scrutiny 30 September 2025

The Committee considered reports on the Whole Authority Well Being and Prevention Strategy and the Community Meals. The cost of the community meals is subsidised by the Council. The report details can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6158>

Multi- Agency Meeting on the 29th of September 2025

The road safety grant will allow for the speed limit to be 40mph rather than 60mph from the Chepstow side to Mynyddbach. It will start from the Chepstow end where the road starts to bend. The reason for the change is due to road traffic accidents and the number of bends in this route and as a road safety measure. The change in speed limit will not be implemented until the first part of 2026 due to using a specialised road surface near the bends.

In view of concern about speeding in Shirenewton village, checks will be undertaken on a date in October in Shirenewton village with both the police and fire service in attendance.

It was also agreed with the highways representative that loops could be placed on the road to measure the speed. It was suggested that the Shirenewton community councillors could suggest the best location for the loops by what's 3 words. It is best if they can be attached to a post but can be screwed to the road.

One of the local PCSOs has been successful in the interview process to become a PC. It is expected that new PCSOs will be appointed in November but there will be a 2-month gap for training. This will limit obtaining police monthly reports and attendance at any community council meetings until the first part of 2026.

Clerks report as circulated and taken as read.

17. Minute 5143 - Police report – No report received due to a change in SPCO in the area.

18. Minute 5144 - Meetings attended No meetings attended

19. Minute 5145 - AOB and ward reports –

Cllr I Martin – Raised the issue of the 5 year survey for village due next year, **Action** Clerk to agenda next year and look up previous costs and add to budget 26/27.

Cllr Todd raised – Complaints received regarding parking on Earlswood road. **Action** Noted Concern regarding potholes on Earlswood to Wentwood Rd. **Action** Clerk and Cllr Todd to report on My Mon App

Biodiversity – Section 6 report when the review is required. **Action** Clerk to forward report and check when it needs to reviewing.

Cllr Butterworth – Reports of cars parking on green in Mynyddbach, **Action** Cllr Butterworth requests residents to contact clerk via email.

Cllr Mitchel – No issues reported

Cllr C Martin - Absent

Cllr S Todd – N/A

20. Minute 5146 - Correspondence - As circulated and taken as read

21. Minute 5147 - To agree the date of the next meeting

Councillors agreed the date of the next meeting on **Monday 3rd November 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 8.55 pm.