

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Shirenewton Recreation Hall and online on **Monday 2nd February 2026** at 7.00pm

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

Also in attendance: J McLagan Clerk, Mrs. L Brown County Councillor, member of the public (3)

1. **Minute 5206 – To Receive Apologies for Absence:** None

2. **Minute 5207 –** To confirm the minutes from Shirenewton Community Council meeting held 5th January 2026 as a true record. The minutes were approved and signed by Council.

3. **Minute 5208 – Public Participation** 2 x members of the public raised the following issues/concerns.

Potholes – Mr Harris expressed safety concerns regarding unrepaired potholes in the ward, He has reported them to Cllr L Brown – who has reported to MCC. Mr Harris has reported on ‘fix my street app’ but they have not been repaired. Concern for pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, lorries, tractors and cars, some potholes are a significant size and dangerous in the West End – Gaerllwyd - Earlswood Road area along B4235.

Action: Clerk to chase MCC.

Footpath – Mr and Mrs Arnold came to explain the situation regarding footpath 17 and a recent diversion, via Public Path order (which was triggered by the owner of the adjoining field) Discussed associated problems with the individual and mess/removal of soil created at base of footpath. Issues are ongoing and SCC thanked them for the update and hope they can resolve the situation quickly.

4. **Minute 5209 – To disclose personal and pecuniary interests –** None

5. **Minute 5210 – 4 x Items for planning**

DM/2025/00153 – Replacement Dwelling, White brook Farm, Bully Hole Road, Earlswood, NP16 6SA

Councillors will recall considering the original application in March last year. Whitebrook Farm sits in the upper reaches of the Moun-ton valley in some 0.4 acres. The immediate surroundings are mainly small traditional fields enclosed by hedgerows with occasional scattered dwellings and farm buildings. The farmhouse is a traditional smallholding with 2 bedrooms upstairs. The structure of the house continues to the left with a large store with a pitched roof slightly higher than the main roof as it stands on rising ground. Beyond the store is a further, single storey store and carport, roofed with corrugated metal sheet.

The proposal is to replace the structures with a modern 2 storey house with 4 bedrooms, 2 with dressing rooms and en suite facilities, and a lounge, study, kitchen/diner and utility room. The roof will be natural slate to east and west elevations and dark grey standing seam metal roof to north and south. Dark grey ply or grp flat roof to dining room, plant room and utility. Walls will be natural stone with mineral paint finish, smooth painted render to kitchen, with horizontal timber cladding natural finish larch boards.

A 2 storey garage is also proposed for 2 cars and a large garden store reusing the old barn doors, with a home office/studio upstairs. The garage will have natural slate roof, with roof lights, and smooth painted render walls.

The Bat report reveals the large store is a breeding home to lesser horseshoe bats and possibly some long eared bats. To mitigate for the loss of the existing maternity roost, it recommends like-for like replacement roost (as close as possible, or better), the new roost must be available and used by bats in the summer season before original removed, the new roost must be constructed of concrete block or brick with a slate roof and bitumen felt roof liner ideally having a roof void with an apex height more than 2.8m and a length and width of 5 m or more, minimal or no removal of vegetation, and subdued or no lighting near the roost.

MCC SUDS have objected that the application has not demonstrated a means of surface water discharge (rainwater harvesting, infiltration, watercourse, surface water sewer or combined sewer). However, as there is a watercourse within the site boundary, their view is the worst-case scenario for surface water drainage will be discharge to a watercourse.

Councillors objected pending clarification on foul and surface water treatment, external paint and finish colours, bat mitigation and the lack of a Design statement justifying the development, adding they will wish to make further comment when these details are provided.

The following comments have now been made:

Surface water drainage will be captured initially in rain butts. The overflows will be channelled to a new water detention and drainage basin with any excess going to the existing watercourse (presumably Mounton Brook).

NRW states that the site lies within 3km of the Wye Valley Lesser Horseshoe bats SSSI and Mwyngloddfa Mynydd-bach SSSI, part of the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC. Given the proximity to these sites and that the proposals have implications for lesser horseshoe bats, a notified feature of the SAC, NRW advise that a European protected species (EPS) Licence is required. The applicants had already proposed a separate building dedicated as a bat roost and this is now to be relocated under the flight path, closer to the trees to the North. It will be 6m long x 4m wide internally with a ridge height to apex of at least 2.8m, and have an earth floor. The external walls will be clad with horizontal timber boarding. The roof will be natural slate on Type 1F bitumen underfelt. A letterbox roost entrance, baffled internally to reduce light ingress into the roost and heat loss from the roost and fitted with a cowl to prevent predators and bird entry.

There is still no indication of external wall and opening colours or finishes, nor is there a Design Statement or GI proposals.

MCC's Landscape Officer has commented extensively as appears in the annex below. In brief the proposal is not acceptable because :

The existing farmhouse and attached barn are important to the visual and intrinsic character of the landscape and should not be demolished. The buildings can be viewed from the nearby lane and public footpath and contribute visually to local distinctiveness within the valley setting and to Monmouthshire's valued rural character.

The existing farmhouse and barn have not been demolished, abandoned or fallen into such a state of disrepair so that it no longer has the appearance of a dwelling. The structures are intact, albeit aging.

The replacement dwelling is not of a similar size to that replaced. The existing dwelling has a ridge line of 5.7m. The proposal is for a dwelling with ridgeline of 7.75m, a 2m increase in height and accompanying increase in architectural mass and volume. The immediate area of the site is a settled rural landscape typical of that found across rural areas of Monmouthshire. There appear to be few traditional farmhouses of the Whitebrook farmhouse and associated barn character retained within the landscape. Traditional farmhouses and barns contribute to the distinctive character of Monmouthshire. Policy H4 – Conversion / Rehabilitation of Buildings in the Open Countryside for Residential Use, should guide the retention of the character of the existing farmhouse and barn through sympathetic conversion and appropriate modest extension.

It is also considered that the current application should be supported by a design and access statement that explains the rationale for design approach and response to current policy, together with GI statement describing how green infrastructure will be incorporated into the proposal and the step wise approach adopted as part of the design process. Light spill will need to be considered carefully and a lighting strategy will need to be provided to ensure that all external light fittings and glazed areas are appropriately designed.

Recommendation: Objection for the want of a) detail on the external wall cladding, paint and finish

colours and materials, and (b) a Design statement justifying the development and (c) a Green Infrastructure Statement. SCC will wish to make further comment when these details are provided.

Cllrs voted unanimously to object to this planning matter.

Annex (MCC Landscape Officer's comments)

It is considered from a Landscape and GI perspective that the proposal is not acceptable hence an objection for the following reasons:-

- The existing farmhouse and attached barn is considered from landscape perspective as being a traditional farmhouse and outbuilding that is important to the visual and intrinsic character of the landscape and should not be demolished. The front and rear extensions do not necessarily contribute to value however the main building and its relationship with the attached adjacent barn are similar to a small linear combination of farm barn and cow house. The structures which can be viewed from near proximity from the nearby lane and PROW provide:-
 - o a visual contribution to local distinctiveness within the valley setting and that of Monmouthshire's valued rural character and farming history
 - o a contribution to the cultural landscape of Monmouthshire and visually relay how farmsteads and their buildings have developed over centuries, illustrate the story of farming and settlement that can be read in the landscape
- The existing farmhouse and barn have not been demolished, abandoned or fallen into such a state of disrepair so that it no longer has the appearance of a dwelling. The structures are intact, albeit aging and showing signs of settlement, ref plan 1779(PL)02, and contribute to the intrinsic landscape setting and character
- The replacement dwelling is not of a similar size to that replaced. The existing dwelling has a ridge line of 5.7m. The proposal is for a dwelling with ridgeline of 7.75m, a 2m increase in height and accompanying increase in architectural mass and volume. The immediate area of the site is a settled rural landscape typical of that found across rural areas of Monmouthshire. There appear to be few traditional farmhouses of the Whitebrook farmhouse and associated barn character retained within the landscape. Traditional farmhouses and barns contribute to the distinctive character of Monmouthshire. It is suggested that from a landscape and GI perspective that a more appropriate approach, guided by Policy H4 – Conversion / Rehabilitation of Buildings in the Open Countryside for Residential Use, is to retain the character of the existing farmhouse and barn through sympathetic conversion and appropriate modest extension that seeks to adapt the buildings appropriately. It is also considered that the current application should be supported by:-
 - a) An appropriate design and access statement that explains the rationale for design approach and response to current policy
 - b) The provision of a Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS). PPW12 chapter 6 highlights that a GIS should be submitted with all planning applications and will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development. The statement will describe how green infrastructure will be incorporated into the proposal and the step wise approach adopted as part of the design process.
 - c) A landscape plan that demonstrates how development will integrate with setting, responds to the GI statement, includes SUDs and contributes to net GI and biodiversity benefit.
 - d) The provision of a Landscape / GI Management
 - e) The site is in a rural location and benefits from being in a shallow valley landform. Light spill will need to be considered carefully. A lighting strategy will need to be provided to ensure that all external light fittings and glazed areas are appropriately designed. CONDITIONS Should the application progress to be approved it is anticipated that the following conditions should apply if not satisfactorily provided during the application process prior to determination.

Conditions

1. LANDSCAPE CONDITION Prior to the commencement of development full and comprehensive details of soft and hard landscape works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Details shall include:

- Detailed scaled plans, showing existing and proposed levels
- Proposed and existing utilities/services above and below ground.
- Soft landscape details for landscaping to include planting plans, specifications including species, size, density, number and location, cultivation and other operations associated with planting and seeding establishment.
- Hard landscape materials to include surfacing, SUDs, location of proposed lighting, fencing, gates, minor artefacts and structures (e.g. signs, bins, stores).
- Lighting strategy Reason: In the interests of visual and landscape amenity; in accordance with Policies DES1 & LC1/5 of the Local Development Plan

2. LANDSCAPE WORKS IMPLEMENTATION All hard and soft landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and to a reasonable standard in accordance with the relevant recommendations of appropriate British Standards or other recognised Codes of Good Practice. Planting of Trees shall be in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. The works shall be carried out prior to the occupation of any part of the development or in accordance with the timetable agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the provision, establishment and maintenance of a reasonable standard of landscape in accordance with the approved designs and ensure the provision afforded by appropriate Landscape Design and Green Infrastructure LC5, DES 1, S13, and GI 1 and NE1.

3. LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE A schedule of landscape maintenance for a minimum period of five years shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to works commencing and shall include details of the arrangements for its implementation inclusive of roles and responsibilities. All planting, seeding or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding season following the occupation of the building(s) or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner, and any trees or plants which within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species. Reason: To ensure the provision of amenity afforded by the proper maintenance of existing and / or new landscape features. INFORMATIVES

DM/2025/01452 - Garage Conversion to 1 Bed Dwelling House, Yew Tree Cottage West, Old School Hill, MynyddBach, NP16 6RN

Councillors will recall the application last year framed as a Garage Conversion to 2 Bed Dwelling House. In essence the existing building had an extra storey added.

SCC objected to that application on the grounds:

- 1. The application flies in the face of previous planning consents imposing conditions limiting the height of the garage to 4.5m and tying the use of the extension to storage purposes ancillary to Yew Tree Cottage.*
- 2. The proposal does not satisfy policies H2, 3 or DES1 and in particular DES1 (l) in that it does not ensure that existing residential areas characterised by high standards of privacy and spaciousness are protected from overdevelopment and insensitive or inappropriate infilling.*
- 3. Road safety is compromised. The site is on a very narrow lane at a busy road junction with a safe to school route without any provision for parking or turning around off road*

4. The additional storey will render the rear of the building prominent in the rural landscape and prejudice neighbouring properties' privacy

5. Materials and colours for the roof tiles and rendering are not specified

6. The enlargement of the building changes the street scene from detached houses to a terrace row with the proposed additional storey standing out extraordinarily. SCC reserved the right to make additional comments when provided with these details.

The revised application no longer adds a storey. The garage door at the front is replaced with 3 windows, and the door at the rear is replaced with a patio window. The front part becomes a living room and the rear a bedroom, with the lower storey as the kitchen diner.

Whilst the revised plan does not increase the height of the garage, the application still contravenes the previous planning condition tying the use of the extension to storage purposes ancillary to Yew Tree Cottage, nor does it satisfy policies H2, 3 or DES1 and in particular DES1 (I) in that it does not ensure that existing residential areas characterised by high standards of privacy and spaciousness are protected from overdevelopment and insensitive or inappropriate infilling.

No parking provision is shown either for the application site nor for Yewtree Cottage to which the previous planning consent tied it. Neighbours complain that Weyloed Lane is narrow, unsuitable for large delivery vehicles and busy particularly at school start and finish times.

Materials and colours for the roof tiles and rendering are still not specified.

There is no Design statement justifying the development, nor, as pointed out by MCC's Ecology Officer is there a bat and nesting birds survey, the site being close to optimal habitat for bat species.

Welsh Water has objected as there is insufficient capacity in the public sewerage network.

Recommendation: Objection on the grounds that:

The revised application still flies in the face of previous planning consents imposing conditions tying the use of the extension to storage purposes ancillary to Yew Tree Cottage.

The proposal does not satisfy policies H2, 3 or DES1 and in particular DES1 (I) in that it does not ensure that existing residential areas characterised by high standards of privacy and spaciousness are protected from overdevelopment and insensitive or inappropriate infilling. There is a fundamental difference between a garage in which to store vehicles and a self contained dwelling.

No details have been provided for parking on site nor for the parking at Yewtree Cottage

Road safety is compromised. The site is on a very narrow lane at a busy road junction with a safe school route without any provision for parking or turning around off road

Materials and colours for the roof tiles and rendering are not specified

We support Welsh Water's objections on the grounds that there is insufficient capacity in the public sewerage network.

We reserve the right to comment further when the above details are provided.

Cllrs voted unanimously to object to this planning matter

Modified or removal of condition, DM/2025/01111 Oxpool Barn, Lower Argoed, Shirenewton

SCC considered this at the meeting in January and commented:

SCC objects to the removal per se of any of the conditions set out in M08655 and requests that:

Condition 4 stands until MCC is satisfied that the removal of the internal sections of wall does not affect the structural integrity of the building.

Condition 6 be varied to substitute Drawing 1649(10)C with dwg no 2437/202a.

Condition 7 be varied to substitute Drawing 1649(11)D with dwg no 2437/203a but otherwise should stand as written since grey ridge tiles are stipulated.

Condition 8 be varied to stipulate the rainwater goods be black.

Condition 9 requires LPA approval of the roof lights, but no particular type or manufacturer is stipulated. The condition should stand as written.

MCC is further requested to take note that:

Work on the barn conversion is believed to have started only in July last year, beyond the 5 year period permitted by M08655, when the application site was stripped of undergrowth and the barn roof removed, which would have displaced flora and fauna including many protected species of wild life, particularly bats, great crested newts and dormice in the breeding season. It has been reported to SCC that there were in the immediate vicinity an abundance of bats, great crested newts and dormice prior to the work.

Given the lapse of time since the original consent, SCC would expect to see a retrospective planning application seeking to validate the work so far carried out so that all aspects of the conversion could be considered.

Furthermore, SCC is disappointed that the site works had commenced prior to the December report which was limited to a 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' and to species including bats with a 'Preliminary Roost Assessment' and 'Daytime Bat Walkover' survey, and that the survey was carried out in winter in daytime when there would be the least wildlife and vegetation activity. A full appraisal should be conditioned, were MCC minded to approve the application, along with extensive remediation to compensate for the extensive loss of flora and fauna, its destruction having taken place in the midst of the breeding season, in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

SCC would be grateful to receive a copy of MCC's biodiversity and ecological comments and reserves the right to submit additional comments in the light of these.

Councillors will have noted that MCC has now confirmed it is satisfied there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that work on the development began in about 2010 and that the planning consent remains in force.

Councillors will also have noted the explanation received from the Applicants as to the clearance of the site and their ecology proposals.

It has now been brought to Councillors' attention that some considerable distance from the original barn a large concrete and breeze block foundation has been commenced. The access to it was originally taken through the hedge on Argoed Road but was clearly visible from the field behind. The concern is that this is not referred to in the current application and no information is provided as to its intended use. Councillors may wish to seek assurance as to its purpose and whether a planning application is appropriate.

Recommendation: SCC welcomes the explanations received from MCC's planning officer and the Applicants. SCC's comments on conditions 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 still hold, and a full bat and bird nesting survey should be conditioned, as should a comprehensive landscaping and planting scheme, were MCC minded to approve the application.

SCC would be grateful to receive a copy of MCC's biodiversity and ecological comments and would be grateful if the recent installation of a large concrete and breeze block foundation could be investigated as this is not referred to in the application.

SCC reserves the right to submit additional comments when details regarding the above are received.

Clerk to respond to this planning matter.

DM/2026/00052 - Tyna Rhos Usk Road Earlswood Shirenewton - New access onto highway. Including driveway to barn and to new future house. Part of the road approx. 75 sq. metres will be in the adjacent field so will need change of use.

Tyna Rhos stands to the right-hand side in a large plot opposite the Bully Hole Bottom turning on the Usk Road and looks across the Mounton valley. The applicant's plans indicate that a planning application for the barn extension will be submitted as soon as possible, and that there is to be an application for a new 3 storey house, the existing house and outbuildings to be demolished.

The existing house is served by a rough tarmac track from an entrance off the Usk Road directly opposite Bully Hole Bottom Road. The application shows that a new entrance will be created some 30m down the road. It is unclear whether the existing entrance will be closed off nor whether the tarmac will be removed and the route remediated as grassland or garden. No sight lines are shown for the new entrance. The new entrance will have gates set back some 13m from the road.

The new road forks to the right to serve the house, being 3m in width and gradient of 1:17. The left fork is 4m and 1:12.5, formed in an S shape to climb the gradient and in so doing it will be sited in part in the adjoining field. It would appear from the applicant's certificate of ownership that the applicant owns that field.

There is no Green Infrastructure statement nor bat and bird surveys.

Whilst there has been a pre-application consultation with MCC its contents are not disclosed on the planning website. Councillors may be concerned that this application is made ahead of applications in respect of the house and barn.

Recommendation: Objection on the grounds that:

1. This application and the proposed applications for a new house and barn extension should be considered simultaneously as the outcome of those intended applications may require changes to the driveways shown on this application, bearing in mind that no demolition or site clearance work in regard to the proposed new house and barn extension is permissible until consent is granted for them. Were MCC nevertheless minded to grant consent we would request conditions that no development under such consent can proceed until a full planning consent has been granted for a newbuild house and barn extension.

2. No sight lines are shown, it being acknowledged that Usk Road is a category B highway subject only to the statutory limit of 60mph.

6. There is no Green Infrastructure statement nor any newt and other protected species survey, nor any proposal for the removal of the existing entrance driveway, re-hedging the resulting gap on the Usk Road border, nor the remediation and restoration of the land under the existing driveway.

7. The section of driveway outside the red site line should be included within the application site.

SCC reserves the right to comment further when the above details are received.

Cllrs voted unanimously to object to this matter. **Action** Clerk to notify all of above

6. Minute 5211 – Finance: To approve a list of expenditure as detailed

EXPENDITURE AND INVOICES – February 2026

Expenditure -

Clerk's salary/allowances.	Jan 2025	£1298.26
Clerk's Pension (Council 25% & Clerk's contribution)	Jan 2025	£ 349.50 includes £20 clerks AVC
HMRC Employers NI Contribution	Jan 2025	£ credit

Payments

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	Jan Expenses	48.96		48.96	BACS
Merlin Environmental Services Ltd	Feb Collections – Invoice	127.50	25.48	152.88	BACS
Chepstow Accountancy Services Ltd	Inv Jan payroll	25.00		25.00	BACS
Bank Charges	Jan 25	4.25		4.25	Deduction
Llanvair Landscapes	Memorial Path Triangle works	490 640	206	1236.00	BACS
To fulfil Expenditure					Transfer £3126.00

Breakdown of Clerk's expenses Jan 26

Mileage = 58.8 @ 45p per mile (Meeting, & noticeboards & course)
£38.81
Purchases £12.15
Total = £48.96

Balances:-

Bank Account £2,970.91
Savings account £81,177.91
Holding bank account £708.55
Clock (holding) account £21,951.73

The above were read and approved for payment.

Items for Discussion:

- 7. Minute 5212 – Memorial clock repair** – Clock is completed and awaiting refitting. Date unknown. **Action:** Cumbria Clock Company to notify.
- 8. Minute 5213 – Earlswood field rental** – Interest in renting field for livestock, Clerk to contact Powells for a rental agreement. **Action** Clerk
- 9. Minute 5214 – Planters and verges – Action:** A Orell confirmed he is happy to make 2 more planters at stated price and suggested including the Scouts if they are willing. **Action;** A Orell.
- 10. Minute 5215 – Traffic events** –Accidents reported,
 - a) Speeding incident involving car driving into a wall in Gaerllwyd - Police attended
 - b) A lorry was stuck on bank – Police attended
 - c) B4235 Car on tipped onto side - Police attended
 - d) 26th Dec Bike incident in the area, Air Ambulance attended
 - e) 2nd Jan incident with van
 - f) 14th Jan incident on Ditch Hill.

Cllrs discussed speeding in the village, Clerk to contact MCC to arrange a walk through, with Community Councillors to address speed and dangerous driving. **Action:** Clerk to email GF @ MCC.

11. Minute 5216 – Noticeboard: Delivered and quote for fitting submitted. It was resolved to accept the quotation. **Action:** Clerk to arrange date with builder.

12. Minute 5217 - Precept and VAT – Precept confirmed and VAT refund received.

13. Minute 5218 – Funding Grant for Litter Picking - Resolved to apply, then place equipment in telephone box in the Village **Action:** Clerk to arrange

Items for Information:

14. Minute 5219 - To receive reports from County Councillor & Clerk.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

County Councillor Brown advised:

Individual Cabinet Member Decision 14th of January 2026

The above meeting covered the museum service collections rationalisation, annual health and safety report, the revoking of the air quality management area order 2005 for Usk and the Welsh Church Fund meeting 3 2025-2026 (with details of the grants approved). The reports of the meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MId=6229>

People Scrutiny Committee 21st of January 2026

The Committee covered the Elective home education and children missing education policy. The reports can be seen at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=304&MId=6153>

Cabinet 21st of January 2026

The Cabinet approved starting a statutory consultation on the change of age range for Durand primary school from 3-11 to 4-11, the proposed change being due to the significant surplus places. The Cabinet reports also covered the Sale of 2 farm cottages at Leechpool holdings as surplus to needs, section 106 allocations for Church Road and Crick and the Draft Revenue and Capital Budget.

Budget proposals 2026/7- Council Tax In Cabinet report 21st of January and Drop in Sessions

The Cabinet report on the draft revenue and capital budget proposals for 2026/7 provides details of the financial proposals and the proposal for a 5.95% increase in Council Tax. There is a budget gap of just under £1m which the Council hopes to fill with grants. It recommends the use of Capital receipts of £2,707,500 to fund revenue costs as well as an increase in discretionary fees and charges of at least 3.8% as outlined in appendix 6 of the report.

The consultation on the draft revenue budget proposals will run online until the **18th of February 2026**. The consultation on the budget can be found on the Monmouthshire County Council website under Let's Talk Budget and Priorities. There are Budget Drop-in sessions in the local area at Chepstow Library from 11am to 1pm on the 10th of February and Caldicot Library on 10am to noon on the 12th of February 2026.

Details of the Cabinet reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MId=6170>

County Council 22 January 2026

The County Council approved the diary of meetings for 2026/7 with an extra budget meeting in March 2027 to correspond to the extra provisional budget meeting included in the diary for March 2026 and a report was approved on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

A motion was put forward by Cllr Paul Pavia and approved by full Council on the Chepstow Infrastructure and to reaffirm that addressing traffic congestion in and around Chepstow remains a strategic priority for Monmouthshire County Council. The meeting was cut shorter due to a council member being ill in the meeting with the motion on the budget not proceeded with and the Council questions answered by email.

The reports and full details of the motion can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=6127>

Special Performance and Overview Committee 27th of January 2026

The Committee considered a report on Fixed Term School Exclusions which continues to increase and were higher than the previous 2 years, most exclusions were for 5 days or fewer with the average length of 1.5 days. The figures for permanent exclusions were also considered in the report. All permanent exclusions come through an Inclusion Panel which allows for multi-agency decision making about next steps and monitoring.

The school health research network covered work led by Cardiff University on pupil well-being including how many children exercised and had breakfast.

There was an additional Business Strategic Risk Assessment with a table with various risks including high, medium and low risks for Monmouthshire County Council. High risk was shown in relation to the Council's financial side that some services will become financially unsustainable in the short to medium term due to increasing demand and continuing financial pressures. As well as a high risk that some infrastructure and assets may become inoperative in the medium term due to insufficient capital funding available to sustain the level of maintenance needed. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=6088>

Place Scrutiny Committee- 29th of January 2026

The Committee considered the Draft Cultural Strategy and action plan and consider how it seeks to champion cultural activity and create sustainable and inclusive cultural growth in Monmouthshire.

There was also a report on Biodiversity and resilience, to scrutinise the Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 report to Welsh Government to comply with that legal requirement. The requirement places a duty on public authorities to seek to enhance biodiversity where it is within the proper exercise of their functions.

The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=6088>

Clerks report as circulated and taken as read.

15. Minute 5220 - Police report – None received. 1 incident reported - a break-in in Clearview. New PCSO for the area is now due end of March.

16. Minute 5221 - Meetings attended – a) Cllr Butterworth confirmed attending the Rec Association meeting, minutes to follow. SCC agreed to take on the maintenance of the planter outside the Rec Hall. **Action.** Clerk to ask A Orell if he is able to make an additional one.
b) Cllr Butterworth and Cllr Brown attended the Welsh water meeting. Reported nothing can be/ or needs to be done in relation to Shirenewton. Water Meters currently being fitted in the area.

17. Minute 5222 - AOB and ward reports –

Cllr I Martin – Reported low flying aircraft from Caerwent Army Barracks **Action;** Clerk to contact Caerwent for an updated on future flying activity.

Cllr G Todd – Nothing extra to report. Requested Clerk to rearrange meeting with MCC & Devauden CC **Action:** Clerk to contact all parties.

Cllr Butterworth: Nothing new to report

Cllr G Mitchel – No issues to report.

Cllr C Martin – Nothing extra to report

Cllr S Todd – No issues to report.

C Cllr Brown - Nothing extra to report.

18. Minute 5223 - Correspondence - As circulated and taken as read

19. Minute 5224 - To agree the date of the next meeting

Councillors agreed the date of the next meeting on **Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.00pm** by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Google meet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02 pm.