



Skenfrith Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Ynysgynwraidd

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Welcome to the Skenfrith Community Council Annual Report for 2025–26. This report summarises the Council's activities, achievements and finances over the past year. It highlights how councillors have worked with residents, Monmouthshire County Council and local organisations to support the communities of Skenfrith, Cross Ash and Llanvetherine.

Highlights of the year

- We awarded almost £3,500 in grants to local organisations.
- We worked with Cross Ash School to address parking concerns.
- We supported discussions following flooding in Skenfrith.
- We arranged refurbishment of the Skenfrith village telephone kiosk.
- We reported numerous highways issues including potholes, drainage and signage defects.
- We welcomed two new councillors to the Council.

Your councillors

Your councillors volunteer their time to support village life, respond to resident concerns, and work with Monmouthshire County Council on local issues.

Councillor	Ward	Email
David Hughes Jones – Chair	Llanvetherine	DavidHughesJones@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Sarah Dickins	Llanvetherine	sarah@blackwelshlamb.com
Andrew Phillips	Cross Ash	Amanda-phillips@btconnect.com
Jim Beavan	Llanvetherine	kate@stumpupfortrees.org
Valerie Diamond	Cross Ash	Valeriediamond123@btinternet.com
Alan Elkins	Skenfrith	alan.elkins@gmail.com
Natalie Gholami	Skenfrith	natalieraewalden@gmail.com
County Councillor – Ian Chandler	Monmouthshire County Council	IanChandler@monmouthshire.gov.uk

As well as our regular meetings, individual Councillors attended other meetings this year, including, road safety debates and flooding discussions.

What we do

Community Councils are made up of local people who give their time to work for, and on behalf of, their community.

Skenfrith Community Council (SCC) meets monthly, usually on the third Monday of every month (except August and December) at 7.30pm. We rotate between Cross Ash and Skenfrith village halls. The meetings last approximately 2 hours and are open to the public. Our chief responsibility is to make known the concerns of local people to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and other public bodies, for example the Police and Natural Resources Wales.

MCC has a duty to consult with us over local services such as planning and licencing applications.

In addition, Skenfrith Community Council:

- Provides small grants for local organisations and projects
- Owns and maintains notice boards.
- Owns and pays for the maintenance of Skenfrith war memorial.
- Consults with residents and makes recommendations on planning applications – in 25-26, we made recommendations on almost 20 planning applications.
- Reports highway problems to MCC – in 25-26, we reported numerous potholes as well as broken road signs, overgrown hedges, speeding problems, blocked drains and road repair needs.
- Consults with MCC and the Police on issues of speed and road safety.
- Has a biodiversity plan.
- Investigates resident enquiries and questions.
- Appoints representatives on bodies such as local village halls and schools.

What we cost 2025-26

The Council received a precept of £15,000 and spent £9,052 during the year. Underspends in grants and audit costs contributed to an overall surplus, helping to maintain reserves for future projects and unforeseen costs.

Expense	Budget	Spend
Admin	£6,036	£4,922
Grants	£6,000	£3,400
Communications / IT	£400	£276
Insurance	£224	£224
Grass cutting	£150	£155
Audits	£700	£75

Chair's report

2025-26 was another busy year for the Council.

Following the terrible flooding in Skenfrith, I attended a flood meeting, and the Council is currently looking at ways we can help.

Grants were awarded to Skenfrith village hall, Cross Ash village hall, Cross Ash PTFA, The Village Life project (who look after the defibrillators in our area) and to the churches in our area for churchyard upkeep.

Councillors Phillips and Diamond collaborated with Cross Ash school on parking issues.

Councillor Diamond was appointed a Minor Authority Governor for Cross Ash School.

We consulted with BT to get the telephone box in Skenfrith refurbished and repainted.

We welcomed Councillors Elkins and Gholami onto the Council.

County Councillor Chandler held a visitor impact meeting in Skenfrith and developed a visitor impact report – which we continue to consult.

The Council continues to focus on practical issues that matter to residents, including road safety, flooding, community facilities and support for local organisations. We remain committed to working collaboratively with residents and partner organisations to improve quality of life across the community. We look forward to continuing this work in 2026–27.

On behalf of the entire Council, I extend my sincere thanks to all residents, volunteers, and local groups who have given their time, shared their ideas, and helped keep the Skenfrith Community Council area welcoming and well-cared for.

David Hughes Jones (Chair)

Contacting Us

Residents are warmly encouraged to attend meetings, raise concerns, or volunteer for village projects.

To get in touch with us via the Clerk, please email skenfrithcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Our website is www.skenfrithcommunitycouncil.cymru