

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 21 February 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. John Watkins (Chairman), Cllr. Glyn Williams (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr. David Williams, Cllr Steve Jolliffe, Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner, County Cllr. Rachel Buckler, County Cllr. Fay Bromfield, Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. James Hawkins, Cllr Malcolm Hatfield.

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 January 2023:

Agreed as a correct record by all present and signed by the Vice Chairman.

County Councillors Rachel Buckler and Fay Bromfield were present at the meeting and provided some background into their roles as Councillors. Cllr Buckler said she was looking forward to tackling road issues and Broadband in the area, adding nothing was insurmountable and she looked forward to working with us to help improve these issues.

Cllr. John Watkins agreed these were also the Councils key issues.

Cllr. Buckler advised she had recently undertaken a road survey with the Chief Engineer from Monmouth County Council and Cllr. David Williams raised the issue of the poor condition of the road to Llansoy. Cllr Buckler confirmed they had seen the bad state of the road and promised it was a top priority to be resolved. She went on to add that roads are not being inspected and the current way of surveying just did not work. Some of the reported potholes had now been filled but were really a stop gap and the patching wasn't good. However, there is very little available budget to use.

Cllr. Buckler advised she had also been contacted by a Llansoy resident regarding speed in the village. Cllr David Williams explained there were often Speed Camera Police present and it might be beneficial to look at the statistics that were being gathered. This would establish how many of the motorists were caught speeding. Cllr Buckler agreed with this adding the information could be obtained from the Police records. Cllr. Watkins suggested analysis of the data be carried out to determine how best to move forward with the problem.

Cllr. Fay Bromfield introduced herself as the Councillor for Llangybi Fawr and said she had been working hard on the problem of drainage, particularly in the areas of Llangybi and Llantrisant. She was also looking at the problem of speeding and was waiting to hear if the current speed limits in Llantrisant could be lowered to 40MPH. She also touched upon the new 20 MPH Speed limits due to come into effect in some local areas later this year.

Another issue being investigated was the weight allowance and condition of some bridges locally. Councillors added these issues had been reported on numerous occasions but nothing was done and the bridges remained in the same condition and were a legacy of years of poor maintenance.

Councillors also mentioned the problem of parking in Usk particularly around the area of the One Stop Shop. Cllr. Bromfield felt this could be raised with the Usk Councillor.

Signed _____

Date _____

3. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 17 January 2023:

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Website – Following the decision to appoint Isobel Brown of Usk Valley Promotions to design, build and host the new Llantrisant Fawr website. Cllr Watkins along with the Clerk attended a meeting to discuss the possible lay out of the website along with the Councils expectations and requirements.

Several Council websites designed by Isobel were considered and a layout similar to that of Llanbadoc Council was decided on. It was felt the emphasis should be on producing a user-friendly interface, providing all the relevant and essential information. But still with the capability for upgrading as and when required.

It was agreed to provide Isobel with the relevant information she required and she confirmed work would begin on the design and build at the start of March. The Clerk confirmed she would provide Agendas and Minutes in PDF Format from October 2022 onwards and Cllr Watkins would take Photograph's of the Community Councillors at the next meeting. He would also provide photographs of the local area which would reflect our combined Wards.

A logo for the website was suggested by Isobel and Cllr Watkins offered to speak to the school in Usk to ask if they might like to hold a competition for pupils to design something suitable. With a prize being awarded to the Winner. Councillors agreed this was a good idea and a way of involving children from our joint Communities.

Cllr Watkins asked Councillors if they agreed payment of the new website should be made in full at the start of the build, rather than in two halves and this was approved by Councillors.

Broadway Broadband

It was confirmed by the Clerk that an Invitation had been accepted by the new Manager for Wales Reece Simmons, to attend our April Council meeting. Both County Councillors confirmed they would also like to be present. Cllr Watkins felt it would be beneficial to establish before that time which of our local areas did not currently benefit from fast Broadband. Also, to gain knowledge of which providers currently offer connection in these areas. There continues to be gaps with poor Broadband coverage in the outlying areas and some villages missing out completely.

Bridge Inn Llangwm

Further contact was received from Huw Owen (Principal Environmental Health Officer of Monmouthshire Council). Asking if it was possible for the Council to confirm details of ownership of the Bridge Inn Llangwm. He explained any local knowledge the Council might have would be helpful to them. So far, no reply has been received from the letters sent to the owner held on record.

Cllr Watkins advised he would speak with the local resident who had approached the owner in the last year with a view to purchasing the property and would report back any information.

Signed _____

Date _____

4. Highways Issues:

Updates on Matters reported –

An account on the state of the Highways was given by Cllr Buckler at the start of the meeting with an update provided on the current position of all reported issues. Many of the potholes have now been filled but remains an ongoing problem which the Councillor continues to address.

Vehicle Messaging Sign – Correspondence was received following the request put forward for the installation of a VMS system in Usk. A reply from the Road Safety and Traffic Management team at Monmouth County Council confirmed that currently they do not install such an informative type of electronic sign. However, the request would be added to the Road Safety and Traffic Management Programme for future consideration and possible funding.

It was, however, quite unlikely to receive funding given the high levels of demand on the budget currently. The letter suggested the Community Council might like to enquire with the County Council if other funding streams or budget headings might be available. Cllr Trigg explained the issues surrounding the request and both County Councillors will be sent a copy of the email concerned. Clerk to action.

Overbridge Closures B4235 Llangeview to Usk. The Clerk advised the previously planned closures for the start of February had been cancelled due to bad weather. Councillors commented that when the road is closed as it has been frequently over the last year. The diversion causes great inconvenience to motorists. Often the road shows closed but motorists can drive through, despite closed signs being displayed there is no work being carried out. The Highways Department are aware of this situation and await notification from the contractor as to when the work will be completed.

Ad Hoc road Gritting - The Clerk confirmed this had been reported to the Highways dept and she was awaiting feedback on how the gritting was planned for. Cllr Trigg said he felt this was an ongoing coordination problem.

New issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner raised the issue of the dangers being faced by families in Gwernesney due to the speed of the traffic passing through. He pointed out in the last few years the number of children in the village had increased to around 13 in total. Many of them walk along the road from the Gliding club, where there are no pavements to meet the school bus on the main road in Gwernesney. He explained traffic coming off the Usk road travelling towards the Gliding club did not drop their speed or slow down. The walkers took their life in their hands every day when making this journey. Councillors agreed this problem needed to be examined more closely to identify if any action could be taken to improve the situation.

Cllr Jolliffe informed Councillors he was hosting an evening for residents of Llantrisant at the Greyhound Pub on March 14th, 2023. He hoped they would share any concerns or issues they have, and he would report back.

Signed _____

Date _____

New issues raised by others:

The Clerk raised the possibility of having a two-way safety mirror installed on the main road through Llangwm at the point of the layby along from the Bus shelter. This would provide improved visibility for motorists when turning right onto the main Chepstow Road out of the Llan Y Nant Road turning. During daylight hours it can be hazardous as it is not always possible to see traffic approaching in either direction easily. Vehicles are often required to reverse back into the turning at the sudden approach of an unseen speeding car. Most vehicles using this road through the village do not adhere to the speed limit and frequently overtake at the point of the bus shelter. It was agreed this should be put forward to the Traffic and Highways department.

5. Crime Prevention:

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors. There had been few incidents reported in the previous month, mainly traffic and flood related along with a couple of heating oil thefts. The Clerk was awaiting a leaflet on protecting Oil Tanks and would circulate this once received. County Councillors requested to also receive these reports in the future. Clerk to action.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report: No report was received.

7. Finance:

- a) Review of Assets was discussed but owing to the possibility of there being a further bench situated in Llanllowell it was decided to confirm this and a final review would then follow at the March meeting in readiness for the Internal Auditor.
- b) The Financial Regulations 2022/23 were Reviewed and Adopted by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
- c) Llantrisant Fawr Council Bank Account – The Clerk advised the additional signatories had now been confirmed by National Westminster Bank and that providing there were no issues surrounding this the Clerk would proceed to remove the Signature of the previous Clerk from the Bank Account and update the Correspondence address to reflect her own. Councillors AGREED with these changes.
- d) Financial Accounts: A statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending 1st February 2023 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- e) Bank Statement: For the period 31 December 2022 – 1 February 2023 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- f) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED
Clerks Salary February 2023 (incl additional 6 hours worked during January) £638.87
Clerks Expenses Jan 30th – Feb 24th, 2023, £28.49
Invoice for The IT Medic. Remote visit, Anti-Virus Software renewal, Remote support Software License £84
Invoice for Llangwm Village Website Annual Domain £35.36
Invoice for rental of the Parish Hall Llangwm £117.22
Invoice for One Voice Wales Annual Subscription £146

Total £1,049.94

Noted – Due to the rising costs of hiring the hall Councillors will revisit and review the situation.

Signed _____

Date _____

8. Correspondence:

A letter was received from Mr. John Spencer of Parc View Llantrisant requesting help with a proposed planning application. Cllr Glyn Williams contacted the gentleman concerned and offered advice where possible.

Correspondence was received from Huw Owen Chief Environmental Officer at Monmouth County Council re the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Controls. The Council discussed the document regarding Dogs on leads or Dog Exclusion areas and Dog Fouling (a proposal requiring people to clean up after their dogs, which foul any public space in the County). It was agreed the Clerk would reply confirming the Council wouldn't wish to put forward Dog Exclusion areas due to the fact we are a Rural Community. However, they fully agreed on the need for owners to clean up after their dogs in any public space. Clerk to report these conclusions back to Monmouthshire County Council.

A Quote was received from the IT Medic following contact with the Clerk concerning the issues of updating the laptop from the previous clerk details to her own. Also, to check the Back Up Drive and Antivirus software was working correctly. The Clerk advised Councillors this had always been done previously and a budget had been set aside for these ongoing costs. Councillors agreed this should be carried out and the Clerk will make the arrangements.

Correspondence had been received previously from a Local resident in relation to the obligation of the Community Council to display the Agendas and Minutes to the Community. This had been circulated to Councillors and with this in mind the Clerk had approached Lyn Bennett who currently updates the Llangwm Village Website with a view to him uploading the Agendas and Minutes of our Meetings, whilst the new Llantrisant Fawr website was under construction. Lyn had agreed he was happy to do this on our behalf. Councillors felt this was a good option and the Clerk confirmed she would proceed accordingly.

Correspondence was received from One Voice Wales and forwarded to Councillors concerning a training needs survey that had been produced to enable them to plan for future needs. Councillors held a short discussion and the Survey will be looked at further by the Chairman and Clerk.

Correspondence was received from Sue Parkinson (Green Infrastructure and Litter Education and Awareness Officer) of Monmouthshire County Council regarding a complaint that has been received over an overflowing rubbish bin outside the Llangwm Bus Stop. She had enquired whose responsibility it was to empty the bin as she understood the bin was owned by Llantrisant Fawr Community Council. The Clerk advised she would establish who currently emptied the bin and asked if it might be possible for the Council to take over this task. It was agreed both parties would investigate further and report back their findings.

Correspondence was received from Monmouthshire County Council acknowledging receipt of the Councils Precept request, confirming the date of receipt would be advised once the current consultation has been completed.

Signed _____

Date _____

Environment Wales Act 2016, Section 6: The Council considered their duties, under Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 which required them to contribute positively to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Supporting documents from One Voice Wales had been circulated and were discussed by members. The Council are a small Authority with no landholdings or responsibility for land. It owns several bus shelters, a phone kiosk, several notice boards and a bench. A plan to support and enhance Biodiversity was AGREED as follows:

- A) To further support the Well-Kept Villages Scheme by providing plants to encourage much needed sources of food for pollinators.
- B) To identify pockets of land which might be enhanced by flowers/seeds.
- C) To consider the placing of bird and bat boxes.
- D) To encourage Community members to litter, pick their Hedgerows.
- E) To encourage and spread information locally using social media, email and the Council Website to raise general as well as location specific awareness of measures or changes that the public might see in the name of biodiversity.
- F) Whilst the Council does not have responsibility for churchyards, to make maintenance grants conditional on church councils, being encouraged to introduce biodiversity possibly through green compost bins and encouraging Dormouse/Bird boxes to be put up.
- G) To ensure that the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity is embedded into any community engagement project the council undertakes in 2023/24.

9. Planning – Two notifications were received from Monmouthshire County Council: Application number DM/2023/00099 – Listed building Consent Heritage – Councillors advised no reason to object.

Application number DM/2022/01456 – Change of Use of Site - Councillors advised no reason to object.

Noted - Cllr Bob Trigg advised there had been a complaint put forward: Ref E23307 re Unauthorised Planning, Councillors noted this advice.

10. Ward Reports – None received.

11. HMPS – Cllr Gardiner confirmed no meeting date had been set to his knowledge.

12. Any Other Business:

Churchyard Maintenance donation requests

Requests are still awaited from the following Churches and Cllr Glyn Williams advised he would investigate this. LLangeview Churchyard and Pen Y Cae Mawr Chapel.

Cllr David Williams reported he had approached St Teilo, Llansoy - but the grant had been declined.

Defibrillator updates

Cllr John Watkins reported he had discussed the possibility of the placement of a further defibrillator at the Greyhound pub with Phil Hill. Also, the need for training, servicing and maintenance of all defibrillator sites in the Llantrisant Fawr Wards. Further information to follow in due course.

Signed _____

Date _____

The Clerk advised she had received a Census from One Voice Wales regarding Defibrillators for completion by Community and Town Councils. This information is important to establish where there are gaps in Wales that need further support. The Census findings are to be collated by Phil Hill who is employed by Aneurin Bevan UHB Research and Development.

Cllr Trigg had previously requested if it might be possible for the Council to pay a donation towards the cutting of the grass verges at the Village Car Park and behind the Village Hall. Llantrisant Fawr Council currently pays for cutting of the grass verge at the front of the Hall. Cllr Trigg has been cutting these lawns himself for some years now, but due to poor mobility is finding this increasingly difficult. Councillors suggested a quote should be obtained for the cutting of all three areas in question.

It was noted that a Coronation Hog Roast is to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall from 2pm on Sunday 7th May 2023. Tickets are available to purchase by emailing hefinarendle@gmail.com

It was noted to date there had been no donation requests received to formally commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May 2023.

The Clerk raised the offer of Gwent Police to hold a 'We don't buy Crime' Presentation. Councillors agreed they would like to proceed with this and suggested the presentation could take place at the June meeting, with a start time of 7pm. It should be limited to 45 minutes allowing the meeting to follow on afterwards. The Clerk agreed she would make the necessary arrangements.

The Clerk requested confirmation from Councillors as to whether she should invite Mark Hand (Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding) to join us at a future meeting. He had previously agreed to come and discuss speed limits in our local area and the criteria of the new 20MPH limit. Councillors agreed this would be beneficial and the Clerk will extend an invitation for him to join us.

There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 21st March at 7:30pm

Date of future Meetings for 2023:

18th April, 16th May, 20th June, 18th July, No meeting in August, 19th September, 17th October, 21st November. ** A possible date to be set in December to discuss 2023/24 Budget and Precept.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____