

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr. Glyn Williams (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr. David Williams, Cllr Steve Jolliffe, Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield, Cllr. James Hawkins, Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner, Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. John Watkins (Chairman).
- 2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 6 December 2022:**
Agreed as a correct record by all present and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 6 December 2022:**

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Website – the Clerk reported a second quote had now been received from Isobel Brown of Usk Valley Promotions. For the design, build and hosting of a website. The possibility of a third quote had also been put forward and One Voice Wales approached with a view to obtaining a further recommendation.

Councillors went on to look at the two quotes received so far, comparing costs involved and the content provided by both. Whilst Councillors felt they were similar in cost they agreed it would be beneficial to work with someone who lived locally and having both the knowledge and experience of setting up other local Community Council Websites. It was AGREED by all present the work should be given to Isobel Brown. The Clerk will advise her of this decision and arrange a meeting to plan the way forward.

Broadway Broadband – It was confirmed an Invitation had been extended to Broadway asking them to join us at a future meeting to discuss Broadband in the local area. No reply has been received as yet. It appears there is work being carried out locally by contractors, but no improvements have been noted with additional installations or service improvements. Clerk to follow up.

Bridge Inn Llangwm – Recent feedback received from Steve Griffiths, Strategy & Policy Officer / Housing & Communities Monmouthshire Council advised a second letter had been sent to the owner, no reply had yet been received. In view of this a further land registry of ownership will be carried out to determine whether the existing details are out of date. If the search confirms the details currently held are correct, the issue will be forwarded on to Environmental Health to see if they are able to take action in any way. Clerk to follow up.

4. Highways Issues:

Updates on Matters reported –

Vehicle Messaging Sign – Clerk requested update on the request – Awaiting response.

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Date _____

November Highways Issues raised following the Council Meeting were reported in the usual way. But notification was also received from Cllr Rachel Buckler requesting help with identifying existing and new areas of roads in poor condition. Cllr Buckler was due to survey with the Chief Engineer of Monmouthshire Council, to establish what could be done to improve the situation in our local area. The Clerk sent out a request to Llantrisant Councillors and placed a notice on the Llangwm Facebook page. The clerk passed on all previous and current outstanding issues and a link was also provided to enable reporting by others.

Councillors commented that the roads in the area had suffered years of neglect and that lack of maintenance only added to the problems.

New issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Bob Trigg raised the issue of the Overbridge closures on the B4325 Llangeview, Usk. He was concerned the work has been ongoing for some considerable time and was causing much inconvenience to those who live in the area. The Clerk contacted Highways who reported the work had been hampered by the discovery of Asbestos at the onset and since then by bad weather conditions which affect the planned road closures. The company was approached by Monmouthshire Council to establish a finish date but this is not yet available.

New issues raised by others:

None reported.

5. Crime Prevention:

Reports previously forwarded to Councillors. The Clerk confirmed she would approach Gwent Police with a view to arranging a presentation by the We don't buy Crime team.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report: None received.

7. Finance:

a) Llantrisant Fawr Council Bank Account – updating Signatories.

The Clerk advised the process was still underway but that she had now received notification from the Bank that the issue should be resolved within the next 14 days.

b) Closure of Llangwm Council Bank Account:

The Clerk advised papers had been received from Barclays Bank requesting that Account information be updated. The advice stated if details were not provided, the Account would be closed. The Clerk spoke with the Business team at Barclays to explain the situation regarding the termination of Llangwm Council and advised no further funds would be submitted to the account. It was agreed the Account would be noted accordingly and in due course would be closed automatically by the Bank.

Councillors AGREED this was the best way forward due to the fact it was difficult to speak with a Banking branch and to make contact with previous Signatories.

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c) Audit Wales for Llangwm Council

The Clerk confirmed she had written to Audit Wales regarding the request for an Audit of Llangwm Council. She advised this request had been declined by Councillors. Llantrisant Fawr Councillors agreed they were not responsible for carrying out and paying for an Audit for Llangwm Council when it no longer existed. Cllr John Watkins confirmed this to the Auditors with a phone call.

d) Review of Assets:

The Clerk presented an updated list of Assets for 2022/23. But as the values shown were reflecting a value for Insurance purposes, Cllr James Hawkins advised these needed to be shown at original cost. It was therefore agreed the Asset list should be amended and presented again at the February meeting.

e) Precept 2023/24.

The Clerk confirmed she had completed and submitted the Precept request form to Monmouthshire County Council and in due course would be advised when funds were to be paid. There has been a recent survey received asking Councils if they would prefer to carry on with payments on a quarterly basis or receiving the Precept payment as a lump sum in April. The Llantrisant Council had elected to receive the payment as a lump sum but the outcome of this decision has not yet been confirmed.

f) Financial Accounts: A statement of expenditure and Income for the period ending 22nd December 2022 was received, AGREED and signed by the Vice Chairman.

g) Bank Statement: For the period 2 December – 22 December 2022 was received and signed by the Vice Chairman.

h) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED:

Clerks Salary December 2022 (incl additional 15 hours worked during November) £755.42
Clerks Expenses Dec 5th – Dec 30th 2022 £37.56
Clerks Salary January 2023 £561.17
Clerks Expenses Jan 2nd – Jan 27th 2023 £28.49
Beverley & Williams Acct's Ltd - Admin charge for Clerks Pay Roll. Oct– Dec 2022 £36.00
Total £1,418.64

Noted – Going forward expenses to be paid will also appear in each month's Agenda.

8. Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Marie Curie asking for the Community Council's financial support towards services in the County and across Wales. Councillors discussed the request in some detail and whilst agreeing it was a very worthy cause, felt the council should be supporting local issues at this time. It was AGREED that going forward the Council would not accept any requests from outside of the local community.

A letter was received from the Clerk of Llangwm Parish Hall Committee outlining the associated costs of providing valuable services, such as Wireless broadband and the defibrillator to the community and the general public. The letter explained how the halls running costs were already high and continuing to escalate and the committee asked if the

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Community Council would be in a position to make a regular contribution to help with ongoing running costs. The request was discussed and Councillors agreed they would be happy to assist Llangwm Parish Hall with their Electricity costs. The payment would come from funds set aside for Donations in the Community Council Budget set out for 2023/24. The Councillors AGREED upon a payment of £100 to be paid annually, as a lump sum at the start of each new financial year. The first payment to be made at the start of the new Financial year in April.

9. Planning – No Applications received.

10. Ward Reports – None received.

11. HMPS – Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner advised a report would be due at the end of February.

12. Any Other Business:

Churchyard Maintenance donation requests were received for the following churches:

Friends of St John's a donation towards the cutting of both Llangwm Churches.
Llangwm Baptist Church a donation to help with the upkeep of cutting the burial ground.
St Peter, Paul & John donation for help with maintenance at Llantrisant and Llanllowell.

It was AGREED payments would be taken from funds set aside for Donations in the Community Council Budget set out for 2023/24 and would be paid at the start of the new Financial year in April.

It was noted that several Churches receiving donations previously had so far not submitted a request and Councillors would try to make contact with the following:
Llangeview Church, St Mary's Usk, Pen Y Cae Mawr Chapel, St Teilo Llansoy.

Installation of Defibrillator to be situated at the Greyhound Pub Llantrisant:

At the last meeting in December, the possibility of installing an additional Defibrillator at the Greyhound pub was raised and the question of whether perhaps funds might be available to support this. The maintenance due on the two other Defibrillators installed in Llantrisant and Gwernesney was also discussed. Cllr John Watkins advised he would contact Phil Hill to raise these points and the Clerk also followed up with a letter. A response is awaited.

Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner also brought to our attention the defibrillator installed in the Phone Box in Gwernesney. He advised the Defibrillator instructions have become worn and need replacing, this will also need to be raised with Phil Hill.

Councillors raised the issue of implementing training for the use of the Defibrillator. This was thought to be an excellent suggestion and the Clerk confirmed she would raise the request with Cllr John Watkins to see if this might be arranged.

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Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner raised the issue of the danger being faced daily by children and families walking to and from their school bus collection point in Gwernesney. He explained there was no pavement available for them to use on the road from the Gliding Club and speeding cars coming straight off the main road from the Show ground, travelling along the Monmouth Road were a real hazard and he felt this needed to be addressed with some urgency.

Councillors agreed this should be discussed fully and raised again at the February Council Meeting. Clerk will add to the February Agenda.

Cllr Bob Trigg brought to our attention the ad hoc way in which the gritting of our roads was carried out during the cold and icy spells. He explained whilst some main roads in our local area had been treated, others had been missed altogether making driving extremely hazardous. The Clerk agreed she would raise the issue with the Highways Department at Monmouthshire Council.

Cllr Bob Trigg explained he had investigated the costs of grass cutting of local verges. He had been advised that cutting of the area extending from the Alpaca Farm to the Usk Interchange would be a day and a half of work at a cost of £780. He also asked if it might be possible to obtain a contribution towards the Cutting of the grass at the Llangwm Car Park and at the back of the Parish Hall. It was suggested this should be added to the February Agenda for further discussion.

The Clerk advised that both Cllr Rachel Buckler and Cllr Fay Bromfield would be joining us at the next Council meeting in February.

Councillors requested a list of dates for Council meetings to be held in 2023. The meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (Please see below).

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

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

Date of future Meetings for 2023:

March 21st, 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.

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