

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 1 November 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr. John Watkins (Chairman), Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr. Glyn Williams (Vice Chairman), Cllr. David Williams, Cllr Steve Jolliffe, Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Malcolm Hatfield, Cllr James Hawkins, Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations or conflicts noted. Councillors advised they had completed a Declaration of Interest Form with John Pearson of MCC when the Council merged. Cllr John Watkins suggested this should be checked and those Councillors who hadn't completed a form would be required to do so.
- 3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 4 October 2022:** Agreed as a correct record by all present and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 4 October 2022:**

Bridge Inn Llangwm – Councillors were advised by the Clerk that a letter had been sent to Nicholas Keyse Estates Development Manager at MCC. He had passed on the Councillors concerns regarding the poor state and deterioration of the Building to Stephen Griffiths (Strategy and Policy Officer for the Housing & Communities Department). Cllr John Watkins suggested we obtain a telephone number in order to speak with the department, should we fail to receive updates going forward. Clerk to action.

Defibrillator Battery – Confirmation had been received stating the new battery was fitted and in working order. Phil Hill advised the Defibrillator Pads would also be due for renewal on 30th September 2023. Clerk to diarise.

I.T. Engineer – It was noted that Matthew Hammond of The I.T. Medic was the company the Council use currently for Computer issues.

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Website - Cllr John Watkins spoke about his contact with Juliet Sidney of Bamboo Web design, a company based in Cardiff. Links had already been sent to Councillors via email for their consideration. The Company has experience of building and managing similar Council Websites over many years. We were informed Approximate costs for a typical 5 page Website started at £1500, with hosting around £100 Annually. The Domain would be free in the first year and thereafter around £10- £20. Cllr John Watkins explained the website would be used for Council Correspondence, Agendas, Minutes, blog space etc. Training would be required to enable us to keep the website current and finally there would be a need for ongoing maintenance. Councillors agreed a second quote should be obtained and Cllr Steve Jolliffe suggested Izzy Brown, who was also experienced in constructing websites and whose work he had experienced.

Signed _____

Date _____

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council – the Clerk confirmed details of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council had now been advertised on Local Social Media platforms- Noted.

5. Highways Issues:

Cllr Bob Trigg reported the Safety Fence at the Usk Interchange had now been repaired.

Vehicle Messaging Sign – Cllr Bob Trigg gave an update regarding the sign which had been requested for Usk but declined by the Welsh Government. He also advised he had received an email of support from Llanbadoc Council and was aware that Usk Council also supported his proposal. The view was held that the Vehicle Messaging Sign would be of great benefit to the Community enabling them to know in advance of any Traffic issues which would affect their travel and commute. Cllr John Watkins suggested in view of this we should lodge a formal request to MCC.

Traffic and Speed limits – Councillors were informed the Clerk had contacted Mark Hand Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding at MCC. Inviting him to join us at a meeting to discuss speed limits and traffic issues in the area. Mr Hand agreed he would be pleased to join us and a date could be arranged in the New Year.

Welsh Water Traffic Diversions – The Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent addressing the issues arising when diversions were put in place following the Closure of Route 71. No response had yet been received and the Clerk would follow up on these concerns.

New issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Bob Trigg reported Road Gullies between the Lodge Bistro on Chepstow Road going towards the Usk Interchange were in need of clearing to avoid flooding on the road. Clerk to action.

There are also potholes still in need of repair on Llan Y Nant Road Llangwm. In the area of the Bridge alongside Llan Y Nant Cottage, continuing up to the first fields on either side of the road. Clerk to action.

New issues raised by others:

None reported.

6. Crime Prevention:

Following contact with CSO Christopher Watkins, Councillors were informed of the changes that had taken place within policing our area. CSO Christopher Watkins covers Llantrisant as it forms part of Trellech Ward and CSO Andy Jones from Chepstow/Caldicott covers Llangwm. CSO Watkins sent a short report which was read by Councillors. Both CSO's confirmed they would like to attend a Council meeting later in the New Year.

7. Monmouthshire Borough Council Report:

Confirmation was given that County Cllr Rachel Buckler had retained the Conservative seat for Devauden and that Conservative County Councillor Fay Bromfield had replaced Peter Clark. An invitation should now be extended to both Councillors to join us at a meeting.

8. Finance:

a) Llantrisant Fawr Council Bank Account – Updating Signatories.

The Clerk advised the process was underway and currently new Signatories were being verified by the Bank.

Signed _____

Date _____

b) Transfer of funds Llangwm Council Bank Account:

The Clerk advised she was awaiting a cheque to be signed which would enable the balance to be paid into the Llantrisant Fawr Account. Cllr David Williams agreed to sign as an existing Signatory and Cllr John Watkins said he would contact Colin Evans to provide the second signature.

c) Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Indemnity Insurance:

The Clerk confirmed the Insurance had been renewed with Zurich and the Invoice was now due for payment.

d) Precept:

The Clerk advised she had contacted Ruth Donovan at MCC to investigate why this year's Precept payments had not been received by the Council. It appeared the Council did not have the relevant Bank Account Information. The Bank Account details were provided by the Clerk and an email was received on the 25 October, confirming the first two payments of this year's Precept had been paid.

Cllr John Watkins said in view of the Council only receiving the Precept payments in late October and having been without a Clerk for the majority of the year, the Council had not been able to function as it normally would. He felt it would be beneficial that he contact John Pearson of MCC to raise these points. Particularly as in the coming months we would be setting the budget and considering the 2023 Precept Funding.

e) Llantrisant Fawr Council Internal Audit:

The Clerk confirmed the Invoice for John Turner had now been settled. Noted

f) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Return:

It was confirmed none of the Councillors claim remuneration for the duties carried out on behalf of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council. The Clerk will submit a Nil return on behalf of Councillors.

g) Financial Accounts: A statement of expenditure and income, up to the period ending 1 July 2022 was received and AGREED and signed by the chair.

h) Bank Statement: For the period 2 June – 1 July 2022 was received and signed by the Chair.

i) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED:

Clerks Salary Sept 12 – Oct 31st 2022 £785.61

Clerks Expenses Sept 12 – Oct 31st 2022 £63.74

ICO Data Protection Fee £40 (For the period 18 June 2022 – 18 June 2023)

Zurich Indemnity Insurance £300 (For the period 14 Oct 2022 – 13 Oct 2023)

Green Grafter Tree and Garden Services £52 – 30 Oct 2022

Total £1,241.35

9. Planning: Notices received of Planning Applications:

Tump Farm. Tump Tonics Llantrisant, NP15 1LU - Application DM/2022/00969

Cllr Glyn Williams declared an interest at this point and did not participate in the proceedings. The application was for Spring Water on the land at Tump Farm to be bottled, an inspection carried out today (1 Nov 2022) with Planning agreed these plans should be passed.

Signed _____

Date _____

Cllr Bob Trigg raised a concern with regard to additional large lorries passing through Usk, however it was agreed that formal concerns would have already been raised to the Council.

Gypsy Site Upper Maerdy Farm – Land adjacent to Upper Maerdy Farm, Llangeview
Application DM/2021/02005 - A request had been received to increase the number of Static Mobile Homes from 7 to 8 and this was passed by the Planning Department.

10. Correspondence - None received

11. Ward Reports – None received

12. Any Other Business:

HMPS Update - Cllr Gwyn Gardiner to report at next meeting.

Digital Information Boards Usk – The Clerk brought this to the attention of Councillors as it could prove beneficial for advertising when the need arose.

Tree Planting in Llantrisant – It was NOTED that Cllr Glyn Williams offered thanks on behalf of Llantrisant for the funds donated by the previous Council to new Tree Planting in their area.

Bob Trigg raised the issue of Broadband in the area stating the Installers Broadway, had sold the WiFi to the village as it being Fibre Broadband. However, this was not the case with the majority of the village connected using overhead cables.

It was agreed the WiFi installed by Broadway had very much improved Connectivity speeds. But was weather dependent and during times of heavy rain, performance was compromised and breaks in service were experienced. This causes a very negative impact on the way of life in a rural community.

It was agreed a letter should be sent to Broadway raising these issues. Both for marketing the product as Fibre Broadband and concerning the poor connectivity and loss of service experienced during times of bad weather.

Concerns were also raised on the issue of many other communities in the Monmouthshire Council Area including Llantrisant, who still do not have the benefits of a fast Fibre connection. It was agreed a letter should be sent to David Davis to raise this issue.

Cllr Bob Trigg asked a question regarding marking the Coronation of King Charles III. He enquired whether the Community Council would be prepared to fund a tree for the occasion. A discussion followed where it was agreed Councillors should approach their own wards, to enquire if they would also like to commemorate the Coronation in a similar way. Cllr Bob Trigg agreed he would speak with the Parish Hall Community, Cllr Glyn Williams – Llantrisant, Cllr Dave Williams – Llansoy and Cllr Gwyn Gardiner – Gwernesney.

The Coronation will be held on Saturday May 6th 2023 and there will be a bank holiday to mark the occasion. This is scheduled for Monday May 8th 2023, two days after the service at Westminster Abbey.

There being no further business, the chair declared the meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 6th December at 7:30pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____