

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence: None.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declaration or conflicts noted.

3. Notes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 August 2022: Agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 23 August 2022:

It was agreed by all present that the Traffic Flow issues relating to the Usk Show held in September were much improved and there had been much less congestion in the area. Partly due to the Park and Ride system but also improved traffic management at the site.

It was confirmed that Jayne Stoodley had taken up her position as Clerk on the 12 September working 10 hours per week and that she had met with both former clerks for initial support. It was agreed that additional help could also be provided when the need arose for which they would be remunerated.

The Clerk advised she was now in possession of the Llantrisant Fawr Council Laptop and Portable Hard Drive and agreed she would establish the name of the I.T. Engineer used by the Council should his services be required at any time in the future.

Cllr John Watkins informed members he now had a copy of the new Boundaries map, but would endeavor to obtain an electronic copy as this would be a better solution.

5. Handover Issues Legacy Issue of the External Audit:

Having already been Approved at the July Council meeting, the Audit report was signed by the Chair and will now be passed to the Audit Authority by Julie Bainbridge Tod.

6. Highways Issues:

Councillor Bob Trigg confirmed that the Potholes he had reported had now been filled and the Hedges had been cut. Although it was still felt there were ongoing road issues in some areas and these needed resolving before Winter set in. Councillors advised they would highlight these for our attention.

Signed _____

Date _____

The issue of Traffic and Speed limits - Councillors pointed out that worn road notices should be replaced and that there was need for some limit, particularly around the areas of Llantrisant, Gwernesney, Llangwm and Pen-y-Cae-Mawr.

Cllr John Watkins suggested in view of these concerns the issue could perhaps be raised formally and it might be beneficial to invite someone from the Highways Agency to attend our Council meeting.

New issues raised: Traffic Management with the occurrence of Acute events.

Cllr Bob Trigg explained he had approached Welsh Government with the aim of installing a Vehicle Messaging Sign, which would warn motorists as they were leaving Usk of any potential Traffic issues/diversions that were in place. He advised this had been declined by the Welsh Government.

Cllr David Williams was unhappy when issues arose causing Welsh Water to close local roads. A closure of Route 71 had added further problems, when the diversion sent traffic through unclassified lanes which were not suitable for this purpose. This brought further disruption and difficulty to those working and living in the area. It was agreed a letter should be written to Welsh Water advising of the problem.

A discussion was held over the Bridge Inn on the main road into Usk. It continues to be an eyesore and an ongoing problem with the building further deteriorating. It appears the property has been up for sale but the outcome is currently unknown. Councillors wondered if the building and its demise could be brought to the attention of Monmouthshire County Council.

7. Crime Prevention:

Councillors commented that historically they had received a report from Gwent Police updating them on the latest Crime reports. It was agreed the local representative would be identified and approached with a view to re establishing this link.

8. Monmouthshire Borough Council Report – bi-election Devauden

The bi-election for Devauden Ward will be held on Thursday 20 October at the Village Hall in Llangwm. Following the election it was agreed an invitation should be extended to invite both the new Councillor and County Councillor to join us at a future meeting.

9. Finance:

- a) The chair requested nominations for Signatories on the Llantrisant Fawr Bank Account. It was decided there should be 4 in total and these would be:
Cllr John Watkins (Chair), Cllr Glyn Williams (Vice Chair), Cllr James Hawkins and Cllr Malcolm Hatfield.
- b) The transfer of funds and the closure of the Llangwm Bank Account were discussed. All Councillors present were in agreement that when the last 2 remaining cheques awaiting clearance on the account had been presented, the balance remaining should then be paid into the Llantrisant Fawr Bank account and the Account closed.

Signed _____

Date _____

- c) Llantrisant Fawr Council lapsed Indemnity Insurance with Zurich. The Clerk advised she had spoken with Zurich Insurance and was currently in the process of obtaining a quote. The Assets of both the old Llangwm and Llantrisant Fawr Councils along with the addition of a new Bench recently purchased for Gwernesney would need to form part of this quote. It was agreed the Indemnity Policy should be put in place as soon as possible.
- d) Clerks Contract of Employment and Payroll Services. The contract was agreed by the Councillors and signed by both the Chair and Clerk. The company previously used for Payroll Services Beverley and Williams of Newport had been approached and provided a breakdown of their costs and these were accepted by the Councillors.
- e) Outstanding Invoices – The Invoice presented by John Turner for his Internal Audit on Llantrisant Fawr Accounts dated 31 March 2022 was still unpaid. It was agreed that as the new Signatories for the bank account were not yet in place, the current signatories from the old Llantrisant Fawr Council - Vice Chairman Glyn Williams and Clerk Julie Bainbridge Tod would be able to sign a cheque for this Invoice providing they were happy to do so.

10. Planning: Alyson Price Planning Application DM/2022/00235

The Chair explained contact had been made by Alyson Price requesting support with a planning application that had been submitted impacting both herself and her neighbours. An outline of the application was given for a Stable and Dwelling at The Barn Upper Maerdy Farm Llangeview Usk. Three Objections had already been raised by building control and Monmouth Heritage Department along with objections by the immediate neighbours. Following discussion it was felt currently there was not enough information available and judgement should be reserved until this has been provided.

11. Correspondence: None received

12. Ward Reports: None given

13. Any Other Business:

Prison Update – Usk Prison Information Board. Councillor Gwyn Gardiner spoke about his visit to Usk prison and meeting the new Governor. He explained Usk Prison is a closed Prison for men from across the country with a maximum capacity for 280, there are currently 279 prisoners in attendance. The prison has an ageing population and is managed jointly with Prescoed Open Prison which is self funding. Gwyn will be attending further meetings at the prison and will keep us updated going forward. **Noted**

Medical Services – access to GP's in the Council area. The matter had been raised previously and Cllr John Watkins had been able to verify there was free movement within Medical Services and that people are free to register with a Doctor of their choice. **Noted**

Signed _____

Date _____

Cllr John Watkins also highlighted that the Defibrillator Battery for Llangwm Village Hall had been ordered and paid for and Phil Hill of ABUHB would be coming to fit this shortly.

Councillor James Hawkins raised the matter of the Website for Llantrisant Fawr Council and suggested we should now begin looking into what is involved in setting this up. Concern was shown over how this would be funded and the additional burden it would place on the annual precept provided. It was agreed this needed to be explored further and quotes obtained going forward. The Item should be raised again on the November Agenda.

Councillor Bob Trigg raised the issue of payment for the rental of the Village Hall and said he had been approached by Sue Evans, the Hall Treasurer with a request that the invoice now be paid on a Quarterly basis. Councillor John Watkins will contact Sue Evans to advise our meeting date for November and going forward booking the Village Hall for the 3rd Tuesday of every month excepting August and December when no meeting will be held.

It was noted that advertising for Llantrisant Fawr Community Council had been made to the Llangwm and Usk Facebook Administrators which would enable us to raise the profile of the Council and provide contact details.

It was also advised that for the next Council meeting in November a copy of the Agenda should be placed by Councillors into their relevant notice boards.

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

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 1st November at 7:30pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____