

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. John Watkins (Chairman)

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 February 2023:

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

3. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 21 February 2023:

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Website – Councillors were informed an initial draft had been completed and work on the new website will continue into the next month. A further meeting will soon be scheduled to make changes and additions.

Councillors shared some impartial feedback and discussed various points that could be improved. In particular they felt that green text could be a problem for those with poor visibility. Councillors reiterated their initial requirement for a simple and user-friendly website which in time could be enhanced as required.

Broadway Broadband

It was confirmed by the Clerk that Reece Simmons, Manager for Wales, would attend the April Council meeting. Cllr Rachel Buckler said we could expect a short presentation to be given followed by a question/answer session. She added a survey had recently been carried out locally on a small selection of Broadway customers to obtain feedback on the service.

Cllr Fay Bromfield had earlier in the week provided a map of the areas that will receive Broadway Fibre Broadband going forward.

Bridge Inn Llangwm

The Clerk advised she had so far been unable to confirm ownership of the Bridge Inn but that Cllr Watkins would endeavor to pursue the matter further. Recent correspondence from the Principal Environmental Health Officer at Monmouthshire Council advised he would look to escalate the matter further and serve a legal document to the Director of the company.

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4. Highways Issues:

Update on Matters reported –

All previous issues raised had been reported to Highways and a reference number received. However, some updates come in the form of an automated email requesting the user to view details by logging in to the portal. This process requires a username and password which the Community Council does not currently hold. The issue has been reported to the relevant department and Cllr Buckler will also investigate this further. Councillors felt outstanding issues continue to take longer than is acceptable and don't appear to move forward.

Vehicle Messaging Sign – Following confirmation received advising funds were unlikely to be available for an inforatory type of electronic sign. Councillors agreed the request was unlikely to move forward, this being the case it was decided not to pursue the issue further.

Overbridge Closures B4235 Llangeview to Usk. The Highways Department are aware of this situation and awaiting notification from the contractor as to when the work is likely to be completed.

Ad Hoc road Gritting - The Clerk shared an update from the Highways team responsible for Snow, Ice and gritting. The information provided highlighted the gritting routes which can be found on the Monmouthshire County Council website. Whilst this was helpful it did not address the complaint that the main road to Chepstow was left untreated during a recent spell of bad weather.

The Clerk confirmed she had reported Cllr Gwyn Gardiner's observations around the danger faced by families walking along the main road from Usk Gliding club to Gwernesney. The road conditions there are hazardous and would benefit from an investigation to determine how matters could be improved. The Highways department acknowledged the request and feedback is awaited.

Both County Councillors asked for the matter to be highlighted to them for further investigation. Clerk to action.

The request for a two-way safety mirror to be installed on the main road passing through Llangwm Village going towards Chepstow has been declined. The Council does not support the installation of mirrors on Highways due to the additional risks they can present to other motorists.

New issues raised by Councillors:

Following last month's meeting Cllr Bob Trigg subsequently reported two new issues.
16444421 - Bridge Inn Llangwm collapsed gabion upstream of the bridge parapet.
16444377- C63-1 Cefn Buchan farm blocked gully.

Both issues were reported to Monmouthshire Highways department and the Councillor himself had also received feedback on the situation.

Cllr David Williams reported the Stop Sign at the Crossroads between Raglan and Llansoy (Route 71) had been knocked to the ground and needed replacing. Clerk to action.

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New issues raised by others:

None reported.

5. Crime Prevention:

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors. There had been few incidents reported in the previous month. A report has been received of the theft of 47 sheep in Gwernesney which the rural crime team are investigating but no relevant crime had been reported in the Llangwm and surrounding areas. It was highlighted there had been several residential burglaries in the Chepstow area, mostly when residents had been away from their properties for just a few hours. Residents should be vigilant and ensure their properties are as secure as possible at all times.

The Clerk confirmed the Gwent Police 'We don't buy Crime' team would be joining the June Council meeting at 7pm to give a 45-minute presentation.

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

7. Finance:

- a) The Statement of Fixed Assets for the year ending 31/03/2023 was reviewed by the Council and updated to reflect an additional Bench in Pentwyn owned by the Council. ADOPTED
- b) Llantrisant Fawr Council Bank Account – The Clerk confirmed the additional signatories were now active and the process to remove the signature of the previous Clerk and to update the Correspondence address had been put forward to National Westminster Bank.
- c) Financial Accounts: A statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending 1st March 2023 was received, AGREED and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- d) Bank Statement: For the period 2nd February 2023 – 1 March 2023 was received and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- e) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks Salary March 2023 (incl additional 6 hours worked during February) £638.87

Clerks Expenses Feb 27th – March 31st, 2023, £39.93

Invoice - Beverley & Williams Accountants Ltd – Clerks payroll Jan – March 2023.

Handling of RTI Submissions for 2022/23, Issuing of P60 and charge for year end stationery. £89.39

Invoice - Llangwm Best Kept Village – Joan Bennett £97.84

Invoice - Usk Valley Promotions – Website Design and Build for Llantrisant Fawr Community Council including Annual Website Hosting Fee March 23 – Feb 2024.

£1,210.00

Total £2076.03

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8. Correspondence:

A further request was received from Rev'd Sally Ingle-Gillis for a donation towards the upkeep of the Churchyards at St David's Llangeview and St Michael and All Angels in Gwernesney. It was agreed both churches would receive their donation at the start of the new Financial year in April.

The Clerk confirmed a request had still not been received from Pen Y Cae Mawr.

A letter was received from Jemma Rodgers (County Organiser) on behalf of GWENT Young Farmers Club. An overview was given of the work carried out by the organisation and highlighted the opportunities it provides to its members. Offering the chance to make lifelong friends and to make a difference to the local community. A comprehensive skills and training program is also offered to help members advance their skills and career. The Gwent YFC are asking for financial support to enable them to offer another 12 month contract to their staff member.

Councillors discussed the importance of the Young Farmers Clubs in the Community and voted in favour of giving a donation. It was AGREED £100 could be given at the start of the new financial year in April.

Cllr Malcolm Hatfield said he felt an additional amount should be set aside in next year's budget to cover donation requests of this type.

Following last month's Correspondence with Sue Parkinson (Green Infrastructure and Litter Education and Awareness Officer) at Monmouthshire County Council. It was agreed Council Refuse Collectors would be happy to empty both Bins in Llangwm. The Bin situated at the bus stop is padlocked and the key is missing. For it to be emptied the padlock would need to be removed and Cllr Bob Trigg agreed he would carry out this task. The bins will then be emptied fortnightly and the Clerk confirmed there would be no charge for this.

A letter had been received from Rod King of the '20's Plenty team' explaining how he and his team are helping communities in Wales to maximise the benefit of the new 20mph speed limit which becomes operational this September. A series of zoom sessions are being offered to help explain the process. Councillors agreed in the right places this speed limit was particularly relevant. However, they felt in our local area this was not the case.

- 9. Planning** – A notification was received from Monmouthshire County Council: Application number DM/2023/00282 – Old Uplands Farm Gaer Fawr Usk. Councillors agreed there was no reason to object.

10. Ward Reports – None received.

- 11. HMPS** – Cllr Gardiner and Cllr Bromfield advised they had no further information but would make enquiries as to when the next meeting was to be held as it was long overdue.

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12. Any Other Business:

Defibrillator updates:

The Clerk advised she had completed a Census sent out to Community and Town Councils from One Voice Wales regarding Defibrillators in the area. The Census results were collated by Phil Hill who is employed by Aneurin Bevan UHB Research and Development. Investigations were carried out on our local sites and the findings reported.

Llangmw Parish Hall – The Defibrillator is registered online with Jacks Appeal ABUHB and is in good working order. Pads and Batteries were replaced last year.

Llantrisant Parish Church – The Defibrillator has now been adopted by Jacks Appeal as the site has been shown as unclaimed and unchecked since 2019. However, the previous Clerk noted Batteries were due to be replaced in 2025. Phil Hill commented that due to the present site of the Defibrillator, it was unlikely to be within Manufacturers operating moisture/temperature guidelines. He recommended the installation of a cabinet and the re-siting of the Defibrillator somewhere else in the village. He pointed out if it remained at its current location there should be adequate signage at the front of the church and he went on to raise Health and Safety concerns over the risk of slips, trips and falls in the graveyard at night.

Councillors agreed this could be investigated and felt Cllr John Watkins should be involved in this process.

Llansoy Bush Farm – The Defibrillator located in the village had been included in the census. However, it did not belong to Llantrisant Fawr Community Council and had been installed by local residents of the village by Fundraising. Sean Fawcett a local resident has now made himself known to Phil Hill and registered online as the contact. A new Battery and pads are to be replaced by Phil Hill and the costs met by using the monies from the original fundraising. Cllr David Williams has since spoken with Sean Fawcett and the Council has agreed when the current funds are depleted the Council will take over the Defibrillator costs.

Gwernesney – Phil Hill reported that he had difficulty in locating the telephone box containing the Defibrillator and although he has since been made aware of the location, it appears the telephone box was somewhat hidden by the hedgerow. He has requested someone locally contacts him to establish what is required in the way of replacement pads and the battery. The information passed to the Council by the previous Clerk suggests the battery does not need changing until 2025. Cllr Gwyn Gardiner agreed he would contact Phil Hill in relation to this.

The matter of a Defibrillator for The Greyhound Pub in Llantrisant is still under review and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr Steve Jolliffe provided an update on the meeting hosted with residents from the area of Llantrisant. Several issues were raised including the cutting of the grass area known as the Hand and maintenance of the fencing. Cllr Jolliffe suggested approaching a Ukrainian gentleman living locally who was looking to carry out work of this kind. He asked whether Councillors would agree to him obtaining a quote for this work with the costs to be funded by the Council. He felt there

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might also be the possibility that the cutting of the grass at the back of the Parish Hall and the Car park in Llangwm could be carried out by the same person.

Cllr Bob Trigg added he was also trying to reach the contractor who usually cuts the grass at the front of the Parish Hall to obtain an estimate for this work.

Cllr Jolliffe said they were hoping to also carry out alterations to the Bus Shelter in Llantrisant which would enable it to be used as a book swap area and having heard the update regarding the Village Defibrillator wondered if that could also be housed there. He enquired whether funds might be available to carry out these changes and it was agreed this could be investigated further.

A discussion followed regarding the various parties taking place in surrounding villages to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on the first weekend in May. Cllr Jolliffe asked if the Community Council felt it would be a good idea to fund the cost of these celebrations.

It was suggested a contribution of £500 could be given to each of the areas of Llangwm, Llantrisant, Llansoy and Gwernesney as part of this year's Community Engagement Project.

Cllr Steve Jolliffe PROPOSED and Cllr James Hawkins SECONDED for this purpose the Community Council fund the cost of a Hog roast or similar. The majority of Councillors voted to agree the proposal but it was not a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the Vice chair declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 18th April at 7:30pm

Date of future Meetings for 2023:

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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