

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

County Cllr. Fay Bromfield joined the meeting remotely.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner

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

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Website –

Councillors were informed a further meeting had taken place and improvements put forward. There were potentially some gaps on the site which could be populated with a useful contacts tab with links, for example to the Monmouthshire County Council website. It could also include information about things such as local places of interest and hostelrys. County Cllr Fay Bromfield suggested a tab for County Councillors News and Notifications. Cllr Watkins suggested instead a link be added to their individual Social Media pages. Each Councillor will receive an email address and it was suggested Councillors might like to provide a short biopic of themselves, however this is still under consideration. Isobel Brown advised buttons had been added to the top of the main page allowing users to enhance the Font and change it for their own benefit and this will aid those with visual impairment. The Website can be refined over time and the Clerk will receive training on how to use the site for the uploading of information on behalf of the Council.

Broadway Broadband

Communication had been received from Reece Simmons, Manager for Wales, advising that currently all funding had been removed from the company and there was a high chance that some if not all the local area would instead be part of a procurement lot. The company management was currently speaking with the UK Government with a view to having projects returned to them. He had felt it would be better to join us at a future meeting when updates have been received.

Councillors agreed this was an awful blow for the area and County Councillors said they would approach both David Davies MP and Paul Griffiths, Deputy leader of Monmouthshire County Council, to establish why funding has been withdrawn. Enquiries would also be made to establish whether Welsh Government were able to provide funding for our rural community.

Signed _____

Date _____

Bridge Inn Llangwm

Notification has been received from Monmouthshire County Council confirming legal documentation has been sent to the owner of the Bridge Inn. This by law requires a response within 14 days and it is hoped this will prompt action by the owner.

Defibrillator updates

Following concerns raised by Phil Hill (Health Board Co Ordinator for our area) regarding the Defibrillators sited at Gwernesney and Llantrisant. Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner has now made contact and agreed to be the registered guardian for the Gwernesney site.

Cllr Glyn Williams will also speak with Llantrisant Church Warden Sandy Blair, concerning the current siting of the Llantrisant Defibrillator with a view to an improved location being sought. Once this has been decided, an approach can be made to someone locally to take over as the appointed guardian.

Grass Cutting in the areas of Llangwm and Llantrisant

Cllr Bob Trigg provided a quote by the Green Grafter for the cost of strimming grass in the areas of the Llangwm Village car park and Parish Hall. The cost was £90 and would be in addition to the approximate £57 charge for the cutting of the verges normally carried out 6 times a year.

Councillors agreed the work should go ahead and the Clerk confirmed she would arrange for this to be carried out before the Coronation Celebrations if possible.

Coronation Celebrations

It had previously been agreed a donation of £500 would be provided to local villages within the Llantrisant Fawr Wards to enable Community parties to be held to Celebrate the Kings Coronation. The following parties are now being planned:

Gwernesney - Hog Roast to be held in the Village Field
Llansoy - Event type to be confirmed.
Llangwm - Hog Roast to be held in the Parish Hall
Llantrisant - Hog Roast to be held at the Greyhound Pub who have offered the use of their outside terrace for the event.

It was confirmed that reimbursement for these events would be paid by cheque following receipt of an invoice.

Cllr Bob Trigg left the meeting following the discussions on the Coronation Celebrations and was not present for the remainder of the evening.

Signed _____

Date _____

4. Highways Issues:

Update on Matters reported –

All previous issues raised had been reported to Highways and a reference number received. Problems outstanding for some considerable time have been followed up and notification received from MCC Highways Department stating their current position. The outstanding issues are awaiting works or under review.

County Councillors added they would continue to report problems and put pressure on Monmouthshire County Council to further investigate all outstanding Issues. Cllr Rachel Buckler advised Pot Holes throughout the County were very bad and the danger from them was compounded by the speed at which vehicles travelled on the roads. Cllr Buckler said there is no money available to deal with these problems and residents should continue to claim compensation from Monmouthshire County Council for the damage to their vehicles.

Councillors had previously discussed the problem of speed in the Llantrisant area. Cllr Fay Bromfield shared data which had been collected by Monmouthshire County Council on vehicular movements and speeds in the area. Consultation began on April 5th and Councillors were encouraged to voice their opinions regarding this. It was agreed the Clerk would write a letter to Graham Kinsella of Monmouthshire County Council on behalf of the Council, to show their full support for the consultation and for the lowering of current speed limit variations in the area.

New issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Bob Trigg had put forward additional Highways defects in the local area of Llangwm prior to the meeting and these have been reported to the Highways Dept for their consideration and action.

Cllr Fay Bromfield advised she had received reports from her constituents regarding the Sawmills lorries constantly travelling along the Usk to Caerwent Road at excessive speeds. The Councillor expressed her concern over this matter and asked if Councillors would be willing to write a letter to the Pontrilas Sawmill to support this. Councillors felt that as many local businesses and farmers used the same route, it might be best on this occasion for the County Councillor herself to raise the issue with the company.

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 and the message was to always remain vigilant.

Signed _____

Date _____

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

Cllr Rachel Buckler informed the meeting she had heard from a resident in Llansoy that a family had been involved in a near miss in the village due to the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. Cllr Buckler had been in contact with the Go Safe Police who confirmed the 30 MPH is enforced by the Go Safe Van. However, no reports have been made to the police concerning any issues that had taken place in the village and Cllr Buckler added any accidents or near misses should be reported to the police to enable them to record the incident and provide a log number.

Cllr Buckler reported that going forward Llansoy would be keeping their 30MPH limit but added if Cllr Dave Williams would like to speak with residents himself, to get a feel of whether a lower speed limit should be introduced, then Cllr Buckler would endeavor to work towards this being put forward.

7. Finance:

Precept 2023/2024

Confirmation was received from Monmouthshire County Council that the Precept monies for the coming year would be paid in 3 installments - 28th April 31st August and the final payment on 29th December 2023.

Audit 2021/2022

A Report had been received from Audit Wales for the previous Llantrisant Fawr Council and had been circulated to Councillors.

Audit 2022/2023

Documentation has now been received from Audit Wales and the Annual Return completed. Additional reports, Minutes, Agendas, etc have been collated as far as was possible. In view of the newly formed Council being without a Clerk for the first 6 months of last year. The Internal Auditor John Turner will begin his work at the end of this month.

Rental cost for Llangwm Parish Hall

Following the Halls lack of Income mainly due to the Pandemic and the increasing costs of electricity. The charges for hire of the Parish Hall have continued to climb, a discussion followed which considered the possible option of holding the meeting elsewhere. Councillors still wish to support the Parish Hall in Llangwm, but Council budgets also need to be taken into account.

It was agreed the Clerk would contact the Sessions House in Usk to establish their hire costs and Cllr Watkins would approach the Parish Hall Committee with a view to a meeting taking place. The matter will be reviewed at the next Council meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____

- a) Financial Accounts: A statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending 31st March 2023 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Bank Statement: For the period 2nd March 2023 – 31 March 2023 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- c) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks Salary April 2023 (incl additional 5 hours worked during March) £625.92
Clerks Expenses April 3rd – April 28th, 2023, £36.52
Invoice – The IT Medic – Paid in full by Jayne Stoodley £257.99.
Donation to Gwent Young Farmers Club £100
Annual Donation to 2023/24 Llangwm Parish Hall Electricity costs £100
Donation Churchyard Maintenance for both Llangwm Churches £400
Donation Churchyard Maintenance for Llangwm Baptist Chapel £200
Donation Churchyard Maintenance for Llantrisant and Llanllowell Churches £400
Donation Churchyard Maintenance for Llangeview and Gwernesney Churches £400
Llangwm Parish Hall Rental for February and March 2023 £113.94

Total £2,634.37

8. Correspondence:

A letter was received from Citizen's advice requesting the payment of the annual donation which was usually received in December. Councillors reiterated the decision taken in the first part of the year, when it was agreed the Council going forward would only be invested in supporting local communities. The Clerk confirmed she would write to advise of the Council's decision.

- 9. **Planning** – A notification was received from Monmouthshire County Council: Application number DM/2022/00961 – Camp Cottage Georges Delight Gaer Fawr Usk Councillors agreed there was no reason to object.

10. Ward Reports – None received.

11. HMPS

Cllr Bromfield confirmed she had attended a meeting on April 5th which had mainly been an introduction to new personnel. However, a further meeting is planned to take place in July which is due to be held at the jointly managed open prison at Prescoed.

Signed _____

Date _____

12. Any Other Business:

Cllr Malcolm Hatfield informed Councillors that following last month's meeting concerning the notice board at Gaer Fawr, he had taken it upon himself to establish the exact location. He confirmed he had been unable to see the Notice Board in the area he had expected to find it and further investigations would be necessary. It was agreed Notice Boards would be discussed again in the future.

The Clerk advised Councillors both the AGM and Ordinary Council meetings would be held in May when the current Chairman would be required to stand down and another Council member would take his place. Councillors agreed this process was normally decided by Alphabetical order and saw no reason to change this.

It was agreed the AGM should start at the earlier time of 7PM and the Ordinary meeting would follow afterwards.

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

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 16th May at 7:00pm

Date of future Meetings for 2023:

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 _____