

# Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Cllr. Glyn Williams (Chairman), Cllr. David Williams (Vice Chairman), Cllr. John Watkins, Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr Steve Jolliffe, Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner, County Cllr. Fay Bromfield, County Cllr. Rachel Buckler (joined the meeting remotely), Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield

2. A presentation was given by the 'We don't Buy Crime Team' of Gwent Police. The Team explained they promote safer neighbourhood's using an award winning and evidence based approach. The Team aims to work with communities to make them less attractive to Criminals by looking to property mark as many households as possible and to significantly reduce the risk of Burglary and theft.

The team would like to work with the Community Council by encouraging residents to use the latest technology of Smart Water. A water-based solution which contains a unique forensic code to fight crime, ensuring that property in homes is marked appropriately and that signage is displayed accordingly. Councillors agreed the presentation had been of great interest and thanked the Team for taking the time to attend the meeting.

It was agreed the scheme should be discussed in more detail by the Councillors at the next meeting.

**3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 May 2023:**

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

**4. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 May 2023:**

Agreed as a correct record by all present. A request was made by County Cllr Buckler to note although no formal report is received by Monmouthshire County Council both herself and County Cllr Bromfield, report throughout the meeting on relevant and current issues that concern everyone. It was agreed this should be NOTED and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 16 May 2023:**

**Broadway Broadband**

Following the news that Broadway had been placed into Administration, Councillors discussed whether there might be a potential buyer for the company. County Cllr Buckler commented a lot of the Technology used had been outdated and it was unlikely a potential buyer would want to take this on. County Cllr Bromfield added although the future was uncertain, she was hoping to shortly meet with Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community at Monmouthshire County Council to establish what the way forward will be.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Website –**

The Clerk confirmed she had now received basic training from Isobel Brown on the uploading of Council Documents and she also suggested the Website could now be promoted via social media platforms as a resource for the community to use and Councillors agreed with this.

The issues surrounding the setting up of Councillors email addresses was discussed and it was decided the best way forward would be to contact the IT Medic, the Community Councils IT specialist, to enquire if he were able to carry out a 'Teams meeting' to help guide Councillors through the initial set up required on their own equipment.

### **Bridge Inn Llangwm**

The Clerk received feedback from Huw Owen, Principal Environmental Health Officer of Monmouthshire County Council. He confirmed that following a telephone conversation with the owner of the Bridge Inn the building would now be made safe by the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023. If this was not completed by that date the Council would be required to take further action. The owner had confirmed he was hoping to meet with Monmouthshire County Council to establish what type of Planning Application might be granted to him.

County Councillor Buckler agreed to speak with the Reinforcement Department at Monmouthshire County Council, to establish further information on the building on the Councils behalf and would report back at the next meeting.

### **Defibrillator updates**

The Clerk confirmed Defibrillator training had been held earlier this month and positive feedback had been received from those present. She also confirmed the issue of a further Defibrillator for the Greyhound Pub in Llantrisant had been raised with Phil Hill who had agreed he would put forward a request to the Charity, Jack's Appeal to establish if this might be funded by them. Cllr Steve Jolliffe confirmed that in recent months staff at the Greyhound Pub had been required to collect the Defibrillator on two separate occasions.

The issue surrounding a registered keeper for the Defibrillator at the Church in Llantrisant was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the Church Warden Sandy Blair to enquire if he would be willing to become the formal registered keeper. It was felt that for the time being the Defibrillator should be left in its current situation at the church as this site is one that Villagers are familiar with and has worked well for everyone involved recently.

The Defibrillator at Gwernesney also requires a registered keeper and has been reported by Phil Hill to be somewhat hidden in its current location. The Clerk will meet with him at the site next week along with Cllr Gardiner who has confirmed he would be happy to become the registered keeper.

### **Hire of Llangwm Parish Hall**

The Clerk informed the Councillors she had made further enquiries with the Sessions House concerning room availability for Council meetings. However, there are no available rooms to hire for meetings on Tuesdays, but a Monday or Wednesday evening would be a possibility.

County Councillor Bromfield had also contacted John Pearson at Monmouthshire County Council who confirmed that the Council were able to hold meetings at Licensed premises if required.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr Watkins advised he had received a letter from Peter Gough, Chairman of the Parish Council which thanked the Council for the Donation to the Community Hog Roast held in Commemoration of the Kings Coronation.

In the letter Peter also referred to the issue around increased rental costs for hiring the hall and the proposal by the Community Council that they should look at alternative venues for meetings. He felt there were several issues which should be taken into consideration and asked that Council members reconsider this before deciding to hold meetings outside of the Community area.

It was agreed Cllr Watkins would write to Peter Gough to ask if he was available to join Councillors at the July meeting where these issues could be discussed further.

## **6. Highways Issues:**

Update on Matters reported –

### **Overhanging Road Hedges**

Councillors commented that this problem was even worse at this time of year when cutting back was unable to take place. The Hedges cover speed limit signs and hang over the roads obscuring drivers' visibility. This is a country wide issue which continues to be an ongoing dangerous situation. NOTED.

County Cllr Fay Bromfield confirmed she had written to Carl Touhig (Head of Neighborhood Services) and invited him to attend a Council meeting. Councillors would then be able to address with him any outstanding issues and to discuss the current state of the roads. Mr Touhig would be happy to attend a meeting and would like to receive a list of issues to be referred to him.

Councillors felt Mr Touhig should attend the meeting allowing Councillors to put across their concerns at that time, rather than a list be drawn up prior to the meeting. County Cllr Fay Bromfield will ask Mr Touhig if he is available to attend the September Council meeting.

### **Consultation on Vehicular Movements and Speed Consultation in Llantrisant**

County Cllr Bromfield reported the Consultation on the lowering of speed variations in the area had been approved and that changes would be implemented over the coming weeks. The next stage will be for Signage to be discussed.

### **Llansoy Speed Petition**

County Cllr Buckler confirmed following the petition launched by Villagers, Llansoy will now be part of the speed initiative roll out in September, when the change takes place from the current '30mph to become 20mph'. She added the villagers of Llansoy are mostly keen for this to happen and both Cllr Buckler and villagers will be meeting with David Davies this coming Friday to discuss speeding and other issues.

County Cllr Buckler went on to share with Councillors her thoughts on an event she had attended recently concerning Regenerative Agriculture. The visit had taken place at Townsend Farm in Ross on Wye, where Ben Taylor Davis had given a tour of his farm and which Cllr Buckler said had been an extremely interesting and intriguing event. Cllr Buckler advised an initiative had been launched to find two Monmouthshire Farmers with 80 Acres or above to apply for Mentoring from Ben with the opportunity to take up farming in the same way. Cllr Buckler asked if the details of this opportunity could be circulated and the Clerk confirmed she would ask for the notice to be placed onto the Llangwm Facebook page.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **New Highways issues raised by Councillors:**

Cllr Glyn Williams reported that once again a lorry had tipped over into the ditch at the Bridge towards Wentwood on the R113. The white road lines are no longer visible there and this wasn't the first time this had happened. Cllr Williams said he had raised the issue many times and no action had ever been taken. Cllr Bromfield confirmed in view of this being an historical issue she would report back to Highways and ask for a visit to be carried out with both herself and Cllr Glyn Williams in attendance, if he was able to make the scheduled date.

Cllr Trigg reported the Gullies between 'the Lodge by Cefn Tila' at Llangeview and the Usk Interchange were blocked. This could result in flooding in times of heavy rain and storms. The Clerk will report the issue to the Highways Department.

### **New issues raised by others:**

Residents of Llangwm have reported an increasing number of instances where drivers are overtaking and speeding in the area between the Llangwm Village Car Park and the Village Bus shelter. Residents take their life in their hands when trimming their garden hedges or when trying to cross the road from the opposite side when drivers frequently overtake on the wrong side of the road at that point, with little disregard for the safety of those waiting on the pavements. At that point there is a 30 mph speed limit in force, however drivers constantly travel at far greater speeds. One resident has asked whether it would be possible for villagers to take part in monitoring drivers speeds with the use of a hand held Speed radar gun. County Cllr Buckler suggested that stretch of road could be lowered from the current 30mph to the new 20mph in the September initiative and that she would have a conversation with the Police 'Go Safe Van' to establish if they were able to come to Llangwm and monitor speeds.

### **7. Crime Prevention:**

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

### **8. Monmouthshire County Council Report:**

The County Councillors informed and updated Councillors throughout the meeting of current issues relevant to the Council and their local Communities.

### **9. Finance:**

- a) Financial Accounts: A statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending 30 May 2023 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Bank Statement: For the period 29 April 2023 – 30 May 2023 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- c) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks Salary June 2023 (incl additional 13.25 hours worked during May)- £732.76

Clerks Expenses May 29th – June 30th, 2023 - £57.87

The Green Grafter Grass cutting Llangwm -£147

Llangwm Parish Hall Hire cost with Electricity for May- £45.47

John Turner for Internal Audit of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council 2022/23- £150

Beverley & Williams Accountants – Charge for Payroll April – June 2023 - £36

**Total £1,169.20**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**d) Internal Auditors Report 2022-2023:** was received. It was proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and ADOPTED.

## **10. Correspondence:**

Notification was received from Audit Wales stating that Llantrisant Fawr Community Council was required to carry out a Full Audit this year. Guidelines and Instructions were sent via email setting out the requirements. The Clerk will complete this as required and include a covering letter advising of the difficulties experienced throughout the last year following the amalgamation of Council wards. Also not being able to fill the position of the Clerk until September 2022.

Notification was received from GAVO in partnership with ABUHB, who were offering a new grant scheme for organisations managing a Community Building to apply for Financial Support with Energy Costs. This communication was forwarded to Llangwm Parish Hall along with the Application form in the event they might be able to claim assistance.

A request was received from Richard Baker, Manager/Secretary for the Roger Edwards Almshouses. He enquired if Councillors knew of a resident of Gwernesney who may be interested in taking up the position of Trustee on the Charity Board which helps to provide affordable houses to local people at the Almshouses at Llangeview. Councillors agreed they would circulate the request and forward details of any interested parties to the Almshouses secretary.

A letter of thanks was received from Sandra Hanbury, Secretary of Pen y Caew Mawr Chapel for the donation in respect of their Churchyard maintenance.

A letter of thanks was received from Llangwm Parish Hall Committee in relation to the donation received towards the Hog Roast to celebrate the Kings Coronation.

## **11.Planning – Notifications received from Monmouthshire County Council:**

Application number DM/2023/00465 - Development of garage at Yew Tree Cottage, Llantrisant

Application number DM/2023/00769 - Development of Proposed Orangery and roof terrace at Pen Y Cae Mawr

Application number DM/2023/00795 - Building of retaining wall at rear of property at Tyr Berllan – Llantrisant to NantyGelli Farm

Application number DM/2023/00412 - Change of use of former Glebe land to create extension to the graveyard at St Tysoi's Church

Councillors had no comments to add on these proposals and agreed there was no reason to object.

## **12.Ward Reports – None received.**

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **13. HMPS**

County Cllr Bromfield confirmed the meeting due to take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May had been cancelled and she was awaiting a future date to be announced.

### **14. Any Other Business:**

The Clerk asked about the possibility of cutting back overgrowth in the lane leading down from the main B4325 Chepstow Road (opposite the Parish Hall) into Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm. The lane is between the houses of Swyn Y Nant and Nant Y Bwthyn (the old Post Office). Councillors confirmed this pathway was owned by the Council and would require cutting by them and so any approach should be made to Carl Touhig at Monmouthshire CC.

The Clerk raised the following issues and it was agreed discussions could take place at the next meeting:

The renovation or replacement of the Bench seat and Noticeboard outside of Llangwm Parish Hall.

The Llangwm Village Website had previously been suggested as needing updating by Cllr Watkins.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10 pm.

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

### **Date of future Meetings for 2023:**

No meeting in August. 26<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 21<sup>st</sup> November. \*\* A possible date to be set in December to discuss 2023/24 Budget and Precept.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_