

# Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 7.30pm.**

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. John Watkins, Cllr. Steve Jolliffe, County Cllr. Fay Bromfield

## **2. Llangwm Parish Hall**

The Community Council had extended an invitation to members of the Parish Hall Committee to join a discussion regarding the use of the hall for Council meetings. Cllr Glyn Williams began the meeting by welcoming Colin Evans and Hefina Rendle and went on to speak about the changes in Electoral boundaries brought about by the Welsh Government in May 2022, which resulted in the new Community Council being formed.

Cllr Glyn Williams began by saying he had always believed Council meetings should be shared between the two main areas of Llangwm and Llantrisant. This would allow residents an equal opportunity to join in the Community Council meetings within their own areas. However, as Llantrisant does not have a Hall of its own meetings have so far have been held at the Parish Hall in Llangwm.

Cllr Glyn Williams added with the increasing costs over the last year for the hall rental it had become necessary for the Council to look at and consider alternative options. The possibility had been discussed of alternate meetings being shared between Llangwm Parish Hall and either the local Public House in Llantrisant or the Sessions House in Usk. Which had been the previous venue used by the old Llantrisant Fawr Council.

Following this introduction Colin Evans and Hefina Rendle were invited to express their views and thoughts on the Council's proposal. They explained the difficulties the Parish Hall had experienced in recent times, with the biggest loss of income resulting from the Pandemic and the hike in electricity charges. Running costs continue to remain high resulting in rental charges being increased. Although plans are now in place for assorted fund-raising events to bolster the Parish Hall reserve, the Committee feel should the Council decide to hold their meetings elsewhere the loss of revenue could affect the ability of the Hall to stay afloat and survive. This would be a great loss to the Community as the hall is used for Village functions, the local History Group and for the purpose of Voting.

Hefina Rendle went on to say she felt the choice of a pub for Council Meetings would be thought unsuitable by the general public and for some individuals on many grounds. Cllr Glyn Williams explained a separate room would be used for this purpose and that the Council had checked with Monmouthshire CC who had confirmed this was allowable.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

County Cllr Buckler spoke at this point suggesting Llantrisant Fawr residents should also be given the opportunity to attend meetings in their local area. Cllr Hawkins added the Community Council needed to be inclusive of the communities it had been asked to represent.

Hefina Rendle went on to raise several other points – the fact that many people were unaware of the Community Council, adding that not enough is being done to advertise on the Council Notice Boards. The old website continues to feature and redirect you with a message stating use this link to visit the new website and then the issue of the Community Council's name - which remains unchanged following the merger and no longer reflects the communities it represents.

Cllr Hatfield agreed the Community Council noticeboards were very important and could be improved. He said the only information held there should be for the Community Council and its residents.

Cllr Glyn Williams asked County Cllr Buckler if the name given to the new Community Council by Monmouthshire CC was a matter that could be raised with the Council directly and she agreed to do so.

The Clerk confirmed she would contact the old Website Administrator to ask if there was a possibility it could be removed.

Cllr Gwyn Williams confirmed the hiring of the Parish Hall would be raised again at the next Council meeting in September. When a full contingent of Councillors would be present and a decision could be reached.

Hefina Rendle said there were three further issues she still wished to raise and these were Broadway Broadband, Rubbish management and Highways issues including incorrect signage around Court Robin Lane, Llangwm.

County Cllr Buckler advised that Broadway Broadband was currently under discussion with Monmouthshire County Council and it was hoped a resolution/solution would soon be reached. She also agreed to raise the other issues with the appropriate departments at Monmouthshire.

Cllr Glyn Williams thanked both Colin and Hefina for attending the meeting and for their input and the meeting continued as per the agenda.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023:**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023:**

##### **'We Don't Buy Crime Presentation.'**

Following the presentation held last month by Gwent Police and Crime it was agreed a further discussion would follow at the July meeting. Due to time constraints this will now be postponed for a future meeting.

##### **Broadway Broadband**

Cllr Buckler confirmed there was currently no new information available and that further updates were awaited.

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

The Clerk confirmed an email had been sent to Matthew Hammond, the IT Medic with a view to arranging a Teams Call or similar, to assist Councillors with the setting up of the new Website email addresses. However, Matthew was currently away on holiday and this will be arranged on his return.

##### **Bridge Inn Llangwm**

County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had spoken with Huw Owen, Principal Environmental Health Officer at Monmouthshire CC. He confirmed that following a further site visit made on the 29<sup>th</sup> June the back door of the property had now been made secure. However, further concerns had been raised with the owner over the flat roofing on the lower level. Contractors would shortly be visiting to rectify this.

County Cllr Buckler has also spoken with Andrew James the Enforcement Officer at Monmouth CC regarding the eyesore the building had become.

##### **Defibrillator updates**

The Clerk and Cllr Gardiner met at the Gwernesney Defibrillator site where the Defibrillator Co Ordinator Phil Hill had hoped to join them to discuss the site. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen work commitments he was unable to attend. The Phone Box housing the Defibrillator is in poor condition currently and so repainting was discussed. This renovation would allow the site to become more noticeable and easier for the public to locate.

Cllr Gardiner confirmed he would be happy to take on this renovation himself and the Council agreed they would pay for the cost of materials. Cllr Gardiner has also agreed to become the registered keeper for the Gwernesney Defibrillator.

The Clerk passed on the relevant Website information to Cllr Gardiner to enable him to register his details online. The Clerk has also been able to obtain a copy of the National Signage for display at Defibrillator sites where it can be displayed prominently once laminated.

The option of a Defibrillator for the Greyhound Inn at Llantrisant is being pursued between Phil Hill, our local Coordinator and the owners of the Inn, Cllr Jolliffe and his wife. Progress updates will follow in due course.

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The Clerk has also made initial contact with a resident living close to the Church in Llantrisant with a view to her becoming the Registered Keeper of the Defibrillator held there. Further updates to follow.

### **Llangwm Grass Cutting the Green Grafter**

The Clerk advised Councillors that on the last monthly cut of grass around the Parish Hall, the area at the Bus Shelter had also been cut. There had been no charge for this, but if Councillors felt this should continue going forward an additional £5 would be added to the Monthly Invoice. Councillors agreed the additional cost could be paid.

### **5. Highways Issues:**

Update on Matters reported –

County Cllr Bromfield has confirmed Carl Touhig (Head of Neighborhood Services, Monmouth CC) would be joining the Council meeting on Tuesday September 26th. The Clerk asked whether the meeting should start at the earlier time of 7 P.M. and Councillors agreed it should.

Following the report by Cllr Glyn Williams last month of a Lorry which had tipped over at the collapsed road near the Bridge on the R113 towards Wentwood. Both he and County Cllr Bromfield had met at the site with a member of Monmouthshire CC Highways Department. Road bollards had been erected straight away and Highways agreed it was a dangerous situation which needed to be dealt with and would now be highlighted for further action.

County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had been in contact with the Police concerning vehicle speeds that were causing great concern to residents in the village of Llangwm. Despite the 30 MPH speed limit currently in place, motorists continue to drive dangerously in the area and frequently overtake at the point of the Village Bus shelter.

Following this report to Police it was confirmed a covert camera would be installed to monitor both the volume and speed of traffic in the village over a period of 7-10 days. The data gathered will be analysed to see what action if any 'Go Safe' can take in the locality.

County Cllr Buckler will pursue the results and provide feedback at the next meeting. She also raised the possibility of installing Flashing Speed Signs and suggested this could be raised with Carl Touhig at the next meeting. The signs are considered a good deterrent by the Police and have produced significant improvement to speed in many other areas.

Cllr Gardiner had earlier in the year highlighted an issue regarding dangerous Road conditions and excessive motorist speeds in Gwernesney. But particularly the difficulties children faced when walking along the old Raglan Road to meet their school buses on the Main road. This had been reported by the Clerk to the Highways Dept and a confirmation response received stating the situation would be investigated.

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The Clerk had recently requested a follow-up and this had resulted in an apology for the delay which was due to the Traffic dept dealing with a large backlog of requests.

The department confirmed the authority would not support any road alterations along the road concerned due to the minimum width required for a road. Therefore, a pavement was unable to be installed. However, Araf/Slow markings could be considered along with 'Pedestrians in road signs'.

Further contact followed requesting the names of the relevant School Transport Companies used in Gwernesney. The Clerk also reiterated the need for possible changes to road markings and to the speed limit.

**New Highways issues raised by Councillors:**

None reported.

**New issues raised by others:**

None reported.

**6. Crime Prevention:** Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

County Cllr Bromfield had contacted Peter Evans of Gwent Police regarding her concerns over the number of burglaries that had taken place within a short period of time. She asked whether a greater police presence within the wards would be appropriate due to it being mainly rural areas that were being targeted.

**7. Monmouthshire County Council Report:**

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

**8. Finance:**

- a) Financial Accounts: A statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending 28 June 2023 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
  
- b) Bank Statement: For the period 2 June 2023 – 30 June 2023 was received and signed by the Chairman.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**c) Expenditure:** The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks Salary July 2023 (incl additional 18 hours worked during June)- £794.27  
Clerks Expenses July 3rd – July 28th, 2023 - £37.29  
The Green Grafter Grass cutting Llangwm -£147  
Llangwm Parish Hall Hire cost with Electricity for May- £46.71  
Marvellous Matt's Gardening Service Llantrisant - £70  
Usk Valley Promotions for Website training session, support and travel - £90  
Audit Wales Fee for Old Llantrisant Fawr Audit 2021/22 - £220

**Total £1,405.27**

**d) Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Return**

The Clerk confirmed she had completed and submitted a NIL Return on behalf of Councillors for 2022/23. The Return would now be published on the Llantrisant Fawr Website and is also required for the Full Tri Annual Audit by Audit Wales and which the Clerk will submit by the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**9. Correspondence:**

An Invitation was received from One Voice Wales for two representatives to join the Newport/Monmouth Area Committee Meeting at the sessions House on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Chairman Cllr Glyn Williams attended the event on behalf of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council.

Correspondence received from One Voice Wales highlighting the Training Sessions available for online attendance. Forwarded to Councillors and NOTED.

Correspondence received from Monmouthshire CC for the meeting of the Peoples Scrutiny Committee, to be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Forwarded to Councillors and NOTED.

**10.Planning –** No applications received.

**11.Ward Reports –** None received.

**12. HMPS**

A future date to be announced.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **13. Any Other Business:**

The renovation of the Bench and Noticeboard outside of Llangwm Parish Hall. Cllr Trigg confirmed he would make enquiries about the possibility of an overhaul for both items and it was agreed the Community Council would pay the cost.

Cllr Hawkins raised the issue of the Hard Landscaping Depot that had been erected on Common Land at Allt Y Bella and enquired if we had seen any Planning Applications for this. County Cllr Buckler confirmed she would investigate this on the Councils behalf.

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

**Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 26th September at 7:00 PM**

**Date of future Meetings for 2023:**

17<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November.

\*\* A possible date to be set in December to discuss 2023/24 Budget and Precept.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_