

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Incorporating the wards of Llantrisant, Llanllowell, Gwernesney, Llangwm and Llansoy

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant, on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield
- 2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21st November 2023:**

Agreed as a correct record by all present and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 21st November 2023:**

Audit Wales

The Clerk confirmed no further correspondence had been received to date regarding the Llangwm Community Council Audit.

The sale of St John's Church Llangwm

Additional information and a proposed site plan had been received since the last meeting and in view of this it was proposed a meeting should now go ahead.

Councillors said it was important to support such a meeting as many in the community and further afield had loved ones buried there. Councillors agreed their position should be one of facilitating and recording. However, a structured agenda would still be required to keep the meeting on track and ensure all important points were covered and dealt with sensitively.

It was agreed an open meeting be arranged to establish the facts and reasons surrounding the intended sale. Appropriate representatives from the church should be present also to address the issues raised.

The meeting should be widely advertised to allow adequate notice to the community and would be held at Llangwm Parish Hall. The following dates were put forward, either Monday 27th February or Tuesday 11th March 2024. The clerk will liase with Hefina Rendle to set arrangements in place.

Defibrillator updates

Following the crash that took place in Gwernesney at the end of October, the Village Telephone box housing the council defibrillator was unfortunately destroyed and the defibrillator was found lying in the garden.

Signed _____

Date _____

The telephone box was disposed of by the householder and it then became apparent a live wire was still in place at the site. It appears the former owner BT had not removed or dealt with this prior to the exchange of ownership.

Monmouthshire CC visited the site and confirmed the wire needed to be dealt with by BT. However, as the situation remained unsafe the National Grid were contacted and attended to the property to remove the wire and make the area safe.

The defibrillator has since been sent off for checking and to establish if it is still in working order. The site has been marked temporarily out of order with the parties concerned.

The Clerk had already contacted the Insurers with a view to making a claim for both items and was advised a claim could be made on a like for like basis. Councillors agreed it would be necessary to do so as the crash had destroyed a valuable community resource.

Cllr Gardiner confirmed a new site would be required as a telephone box would no longer be welcome in the neighbours garden. However, there was a possibility it could be located alongside the Village Notice board.

Councillors suggested that if a telephone box wasn't suitable for that location, then perhaps alternative housing might be funded instead by the Insurers.

The clerk will contact the Insurers with a view to claiming for the lost equipment once the condition of the defibrillator has been established.

Cllr Gardiner confirmed he had now obtained two suitable boxes in which to store the Llantrisant and Gwernesney defibrillators.

The clerk advised she had received a request from Phil Hill (Community CPR and Defibrillator Manager) asking if the Council would now be able to find someone to take over from him, as guardian of the Llangwm defibrillator. Due to his current workload, he was no longer able to provide this support.

The clerk had placed a notice on the Llangwm Facebook site and two local residents had come forward to offer their help. Matthew Walker of Llangwm has now registered himself as the guardian and will monitor the defibrillator going forward to ensure everything is kept up to date and in good working order.

The Community council is very grateful for Matthew's support and to both residents for offering their help with this task.

Phil Hill also confirmed the Llangwm defibrillator was due replacement pads and enquired who should receive the invoice for the cost. The clerk advised as was previously agreed the upkeep of the defibrillators including the one in Llansoy, would be paid for by the Community Council.

Event for D Day 80th June 2024

Cllr David Williams has promised to speak with the landowner regarding the lighting of the Llansoy Beacon to mark the D Day 80th Anniversary and will report back at the next meeting.

Evaluation of overnight services at Neville Hall

Cllr Watkins advised an audit had taken place which highlighted there was very little call for the overnight service, with on average only two patients attending.

Signed _____

Date _____

The base was dealing with minor injuries only and it was felt this could be better dealt with either via 111 or a surgery visit with a GP the following day.

He went on to say that when the new Grange Hospital had opened, a lot of staff from the other hospitals had been transferred there instead, which meant now there weren't enough staff to cover all three bases.

Gwernesney – Tree branches overhanging Telegraph Lines

Cllr Bromfield again confirmed the responsibility for the Tree fell to the landowner. Monmouthshire CC advised they would write to the landowner and advise them of this. Cllr Gardiner confirmed BT had recently visited to carry out work on the Telegraph pole, but that no action had been taken regarding the overhanging branches.

Gwernesney Army Manoeuvres

County Cllr Bromfield explained she was still trying to establish who was responsible for the incident. Cllrs agreed that when such an event is planned it is only right that residents should be informed in advance.

4.Highways Issues: Update on Matters reported:

Gwernesney/Lower Raglan Road - Monmouthshire C.C. Reference :16583772
Dangerous road conditions for local children walking to meet school buses.

The Highways department had previously confirmed the authority would not support any road alterations due to the minimum width required for the Lower Raglan Road. However, Araf/Slow markings could be considered along with Pedestrians in road signs and the possibility of having the school bus pick up points changed. However, no further updates have been received on when action might be taken to improve conditions.

County Councillors also raised concerns over the current speed limit in the area and are hoping to arrange a site visit with Gareth Freeman (Traffic and Road Safety) when the new budget is released. It is hoped Monmouthshire CC might install speed monitoring strips along this stretch of road, with a view to lowering the speed limit from 40MPH to 30 MPH.

Llangwm Village – Speed and Safety concerns

Cllr Buckler confirmed there were still no updates from the Police regarding the data collected towards the end of last year or for the possibility of having the Go Safe van attend the area. Cllr Buckler suggested she invite the police to join a meeting so these issues can be discussed further.

Installation of Flashing Speed Signs

Cllr Bromfield advised she had contacted Monmouthshire CC regarding the possibility of installing Flashing Speed signs but that currently there was no budget for this. There was a possibility signs could be funded by the Community Council themselves, however permission would need to be sought by Monmouthshire CC. The County Cllrs will investigate the opportunity further.

Llantrisant Motorcross

Cllr Bromfield reported she had received numerous complaints concerning the noise from the events and advised residents to contact MCC Environmental Health in relation to this. Noise level tests had been conducted but Monmouthshire CC hadn't considered them at nuisance level. Photographs provided by residents have been passed to the Monmouthshire Enforcement Officer Guy Delamere and he is currently working on this.

Signed _____

Date _____

At this point there is no planning application in place to further raise concerns and it is understood the event will only take place between November to March, after which the field will be used for crops. The owner has said that under permissive development he is allowed to hold 14 outdoor events.

Cllr Hawkins reported that at the site in the area behind the Church, the ground had been levelled and a Chalet erected. He said a track had been laid in the woods and mature Oak trees taken down.

The area can be accurately pinpointed using- What3Words: ///presides.handwriting.older

Potholes Llangwm

Cllr Trigg advised he had reported the reappearance of large potholes on Llan Y Nant Road from the bridge behind Llan Y Nant Cottage and on up the hill towards Cefyn Bychan Farmhouse.

Pothole Llansoy to Nant Y Gethly

Cllr David Williams raised the issue of outstanding potholes on Route 60.2 Llansoy to Nant-Y-Gethly crossroads. County Cllr Buckler agreed to investigate the ongoing problem.

The area can be accurately pinpointed using- What3Words:
///wasps.dodging.melt

Cllr Buckler last month requested Councillors make her aware of any areas they felt required a site visit. It was agreed by Councillors that all sites in question had been reported previously and were still under consideration awaiting further action.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Watkins reported that driving home following working a late shift and in complete darkness he had suddenly come upon sheep on the B4235 on the double bends coming out of Gwernesney at Steppes Fields. The encounter could have resulted in a bad accident and the situation needed to be addressed. The clerk will report the issue to Monmouthshire CC. Environmental Health.

The area can be accurately pinpointed using- What3Words:
///milky.obey.thud

Cllr Watkins also raised concerns over a further large pothole which had appeared on the B4235 between the Tollhouse and Llangwm. The clerk will report the issue to Monmouthshire CC Highways.

The area can be accurately pinpointed using- What3Words:
///soldiers.brochure.revamping

New issues raised by others:

None

Signed _____

Date _____

5. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

'We Don't Buy Crime – Smart Water'. Following last month's meeting it was agreed an updated notice would be prepared by Cllr Hawkins and would serve as a call to action, highlighting the opportunity and benefits of joining the scheme. It will be presented to Councillors for agreement at the meeting in February.

Cllr Buckler also confirmed her intention to highlight the scheme in her newsletter later this month.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

Cllr Buckler updated members on issues relating to local communities that had arisen throughout the month and advised that the consultation for Monmouthshire Council's budget 2024-25 was about to open. She highlighted that £12m of savings needed to be found, adding this would have a massive impact on services.

Cllr Watkins asked if the additional allocation for Health and Social Care was factored in this and whether Monmouthshire was getting its fair share of the extra funds allocated. Cllr Buckler explained costs for Adult Social Care were unbelievably high and along with Childcare for those with Special Educational Needs it was a major problem. In relation to Monmouthshire having its fair share of the extra funds she replied No, but added she would bring this point to the fore as it was a very important key point.

7. Finance:

Bank Statements

The clerk informed members there had been a problem again this month with the Bank statement not arriving. Cllr Watkins contacted National Westminster Bank to establish why this had happened and was informed the November statement had been returned to them as undelivered. This meant a marker had been placed on the account meaning no further statements would be sent until a signatory had visited the branch.

Cllr Watkins requested that the Clerk be allowed to address such issues with the bank and for her to be able to request cheque books and order statements, when necessary, either at the branch, over the telephone or by email. It was agreed that if a letter was sent, signed by two of the current signatories, the request would be actioned.

The clerk confirmed she would visit the branch in Abergavenny to try to resolve the issue.

Financial Accounts: A Statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending the 8th January 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

A Statement of Account: For the period 6th November 2023- 8th January 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.

Signed _____

Date _____

Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks Salary January 2024 (incl additional 7 hours worked during November 2023)
Total - £651.82

Clerks Expenses Monday 1st January – Friday 2nd February 2024
Total = £44.47

Llangwm Parish Hall rental inclusive of electricity for November 2023 - £64.95

Grass Cutting Llantrisant August & September- Matthew Baker £70.00

Beverley & Williams Accountants – Payroll costs for October – December 2023 - £36

Llangwm Website Domain renewal – Mrs S Fowles - £35.36

The I.T. Medic – Cost of Licenses for Antivirus & Remote Software - £86.40

Total £989.00

Review of Clerks Salary

Cllr Watkins had reviewed the National Salary Awards for Authorities and Councils 2023/24 and confirmed there had been a flat rate award of £1,925 p.a. This amount equated to an increase of £1 per hour across the board, backdated to April 2023.

The Clerks current pay rate was £12.95 per hour and so she should now receive a pro rata increase of £1 per hour, taking the new hourly rate to £13.95.

Cllr Watkins said this pay award needed to be implemented and Councillors AGREED.

Beverley and Williams Accountants would be instructed backpay would be due to the Clerk at the increased rate, on all hours worked from April 2023 up to January 2024. From the February salary the new hourly rate of £13.95. should be applied.

It was agreed any increase in the Pay awarded for 2024-25 would be addressed as and when it happened. Cllr Watkins added he would further investigate with One Voice Wales the criteria required for progression to the next banding.

Budget/ Precept 2024-2025

The Clerk confirmed the Precept Request Form had been received from Monmouthshire CC and had since been submitted.

8.Community Engagement Plan

The Community Council has prepared a report outlining the plan for Community Engagement and Consultation. Following discussion of the actions and principles proposed, Councillors AGREED to accept the plan.

Signed _____

Date _____

9. Correspondence:

A list of agendas received by the clerk throughout the month from Monmouthshire CC and One Voice Wales were NOTED by Councillors.

Notification was received from Matthew Hammond of the IT Medic, in relation to an increase in fees which would be implemented from January 2024. Noted by Councillors.

Correspondence was received from Michael Collier, a Llangwm resident wishing to bring to the attention of Councillors, the update received from David Davies MP. This highlighted the proposed campaign by Monmouthshire County Council to reintroduce tolls on the Severn bridge. The notice provided a link to view the Local Transport Plan 2024-2029 and allowed the public to make their views known.

A notice received from One Voice Wales in conjunction with the Welsh Government and Gwent Police, offered an invitation for an online session about Community Speed Watch. A national initiative in partnership with the Police, where members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds.

Both County Cllrs confirmed they would reply to the invite and attend the session.

An invitation was received from Severn Wye Energy Agency in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, to attend the launch of a new 'Community based energy support' which aims to provide help to people in Monmouthshire who are struggling to manage their Energy use.

Both County Cllrs requested the Invite be forwarded to them with a view to looking into this further.

10. Planning:

No new applications received.

Enforcement:

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables - originally permission was given for holiday rental between October and March, but concerns were raised as this appears to have been disregarded.

Additionally, a further dwelling and Vehicle now also seem to be offered for rental.

Under investigation.

Wern Panna Llangwm - Original plans show the Entrance Gate to be set back 5 metres from the carriageway, however this does not appear to be the case.

Under investigation.

Allt Y Bela Llangwm - Concerns had previously been raised over a hard landscaping depot which had been erected on common land at Allt Y Bela. Enforcement had visited the site but were unsure what they were looking into. Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the area had been cleared and it appeared a Groundworks company were using it, although recently it seemed as though it was being used for Agriculture. Cllr Buckler will go back to Enforcement to discuss further.

11. Ward Reports: None

Signed _____

Date _____

12. HMPS

Cllr Bromfield confirmed no meetings had been arranged recently as far as she was aware. Cllr Gardiner added he too hadn't received any correspondence and had been hoping to raise the issue of the renovation of the Bench and Noticeboard at Llangwm Parish hall, but because of the lack of meetings the opportunity hadn't arisen. Cllr Bromfield said she would request his details be added to the Prison contact list.

13. Any Other Business:

None

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday **20th** February 2024 at **7:30 pm** at Llangwm Parish Hall

Date of future Meetings for 2024:

- Tuesday 19th March at 7.30 pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
- Tuesday 16th April at 7.30 pm to be held at The Greyhound Inn Llantrisant
- Tuesday 21st May at 7.30 pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
- Tuesday 18th June at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
- Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
- Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm to be held at The Greyhound Inn Llantrisant
- Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
- Tuesday 19th November at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____