

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. David Williams (Vice Chairman), Cllr. John Watkins, Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield, Cllr. Gwyn Gardiner, Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Glyn Williams, Cllr James Hawkins, Cllr Steve Jolliffe, County Cllr Rachel Buckler, County Cllr Fay Bromfield.

2. Visit by Andrew Jones, Community Support Officer, Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Andrew Jones introduced himself and explained how Community policing for our rural areas was now shared between himself, based in Chepstow and Christopher Watkins in Usk.

He provided a brief update on recent crimes including the theft of 200 litres of Red Diesel from a works compound off the Itton road and the theft of plant machinery batteries from another works compound off the Usk Road. He reiterated how communities should remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity/crime via 101 or 999.

He went on to address the Councils report concerning loose sheep appearing on local roads, advising he had spoken to farmers in the area reiterating the serious consequences of their sheep being involved in an accident and suggested they all recheck their security fencing. The rural crime unit will also put out a bulletin to farmers locally highlighting the issue.

Councillors raised the issue of the missing/confusing 20 mph Speed limit signs within Llangwm and Andrew confirmed he would discuss this with Monmouthshire CC.

Cllr Trigg highlighted that in the evenings in Usk, there was a vehicle parked in a dangerous position at the entrance to the roundabout outside of the Castle pub, which he felt should be addressed. He also commented on the danger faced by pedestrians due to the parking of vehicles outside of the One Stop shop in Usk.

Both issues will be passed to Chris Watkins, the Officer in Usk for further investigation.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th January 2024:

The clerk highlighted some confusion in the reporting of the Enforcement update in respect of Wern Panna Llangwm and confirmed the required amendments would be made. The Vice Chairman said he would sign the updated version following agreement by all present that the minutes were a correct record. AGREED.

Signed _____

Date _____

4. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 16th January 2024:

The sale of St John's Church Llangwm

The date of Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm was now confirmed for the public meeting to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall. The open meeting will be hosted by the Community Council and will follow a prepared agenda.

The meeting will be attended by Bob Evans, Chair of the Monmouthshire Diocese Advisory Committee for the care of churches and Revd Sally Ingle Gillis, Vicar of Usk and the new Ministry Area Leader.

The meeting has been widely advertised locally and will allow the Church to provide information regarding the proposed sale and residents to make their views known.

Defibrillator updates

The clerk confirmed she had begun a claim with the Council's insurance company Zurich with a view to replacing the Gwernesney Telephone box and possibly the village defibrillator following the crash that took place last October.

The defibrillator is currently undergoing checks by a specialist company to determine whether the damage is superficial or if a replacement defibrillator will be required.

The clerk advised she was gathering the information requested by the insurers and will present this to them in due course.

Cllr Gardiner confirmed a new site would need to be found as a telephone box could no longer be sited at the original location. He has agreed to speak with the Gwernesney residents to confirm if they felt a Telephone Box was still the best option and if so where it should be located.

Event for D Day 80 6th June 2024 – Lighting of the Llansoy Beacon

Cllr David Williams confirmed he had spoken with Peter and Tim Williams and they are prepared to allow their site to be used for the D Day 80 Celebrations and will be happy to light the beacon. Cllr David Williams said he would establish whether the Young Farmers might be interested in arranging a BBQ which the Community Council could contribute towards.

The Community Council recognise it is a special day and would be in favour of supporting an event should the Community want it.

Severn Wye Energy Agency

Following an invitation received last month by the agency to attend a meeting in Abergavenny, Cllr Bromfield checked the company's credentials with Monmouthshire CC and it was confirmed Severn Wye Energy had been successful in securing grant funding to provide a free energy advice service for Monmouthshire residents.

Signed _____

Date _____

4.Highways Issues: Update on Matters reported:

Gwernesney Speed limits

County Councillors confirmed that speed monitoring strips had been requested for the main road through the village, with a view to lowering the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph and a site visit was also planned.

Installation of Flashing Speed Signs for Llantrisant and Llangwm

County Cllr's had sent an update to advise they had been speaking with Highways dept and were attending a site meeting with Gareth Freeman on Wednesday 28th February to discuss the problems and solutions for both wards. With regards to the flashing speed signs, Community Councillors said they could highlight the problem areas but felt MCC would need to look at the feasibility of installing the signs.

Llantrisant Motorcross events

A planning application had today been received for the site but as the Community Councillors for the area were not available to comment, it was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting. The Planning application had been forwarded by the clerk to Council members.

Potholes Llangwm

Large potholes on Llan Y Nant Road, from the bridge behind Llan Y Nant Cottage up the hill towards Cefyn Bychan Farmhouse, had already been reported by Cllr Trigg. These were still awaiting repairs. The clerk will take photographs of the area and report the problem again.

Pothole Llansoy to Nant Y Gethly

Cllr David Williams had raised the issue of outstanding potholes on Route 60.2 Llansoy to Nant-Y-Gethly crossroads. County Cllr Buckler had sent a request asking if the matter had now been dealt with satisfactorily. If not, she would ensure when meeting with Highways that they took the route to further inspect the area. Cllr David Williams said two small potholes had been filled, but there were many others that required attention. The clerk will highlight this to the County Councillor.

Pothole between the Tollhouse Llangwm and the village

Cllr Watkins confirmed this had still not been dealt with. The clerk will further investigate.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Hatfield reported that the potholes in the vicinity of his home that had been reported and filled last year, were once again in poor repair. The clerk suggested that photographs were provided to enable her to report the issue again.

New issues raised by others:

Cllr Watkins raised the issue of a tree that appeared to be suffering from Ash dieback situated on the left-hand side of the grassy bank, on the road leading up to the School House in Llangwm. A photograph was provided and the clerk will report the problem to Monmouthshire CC for further action.

5.Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

Signed _____

Date _____

6. Review of Biodiversity Policy

Environment Wales Act 2016, Section 6: The Council considered their duties, under Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 which required them to contribute positively to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Supporting documents from One Voice Wales had been circulated and were discussed by members. The Council are a small Authority with no landholdings or responsibility for land. It owns several bus shelters, a phone kiosk, several notice boards and a bench. A plan to support and enhance Biodiversity was AGREED as follows:

- A) To further support the Llangwm Village Scheme of providing plants to encourage much needed sources of food for pollinators.
- B) To identify pockets of land which might be enhanced by flowers/seeds and by leaving some grassy areas uncut to promote this.
- C) To consider the placing of bird and bat boxes and to invest and support in the installation of Swallow nesting boxes to help with the declining bird population.
- D) To encourage Community members to litter pick their Hedgerows.
- E) To encourage and spread information locally using social media, email and the Council Website to raise general as well as location specific awareness of measures or changes that the public might see in the name of biodiversity.
- F) Whilst the Council does not have responsibility for churchyards, to make maintenance grants conditional on church councils, by encouraging biodiversity in the churchyards with the introduction of green compost bins.
- G) To ensure that the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity is embedded into any community engagement project the council undertakes in 2024/25.

7. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

County Councillors had informed and updated Councillors throughout the month on issues relevant to their local Communities.

8. Finance:

Bank Statements

The clerk confirmed she had visited the banking branch in Abergavenny to resolve the issue over bank statements which were not being received. The letter of Authority from the Community Council was provided and the details updated on the branch banking system.

A bank statement has since been received along with a letter from Business Banking confirming they would be happy to assist with requests from the clerk providing all security questions could be answered.

Financial Accounts: A Statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending the 26th January 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Vice Chairman.

A Statement of Reconciliation: For the period 9th January 2024- 26th January 2024 was received and signed by the Vice Chairman.

Signed _____

Date _____

Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks basic Salary for February 2024 (plus additional 10 hours worked in January 2024) including backpay accrued, for the period from April 2023 - January 2024.

Total - £1250.10

Clerks Expenses Monday 5th February – Friday 1st March 2024.

Total = £46

Total £1,296.10

9. Correspondence:

A list of agendas was received from Monmouthshire CC and One Voice Wales throughout the month and these were advised to Councillors. NOTED

A reply has now been received from Donna Fanariotis of Audit Wales following the complaint raised by Cllr Hawkins last year, over the way in which members of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council had been spoken to by Deryck Evans, Audit Manager. The reply will be circulated for Councillors to view.

Correspondence from John Pearson of Monmouthshire CC was forwarded to Councillors inviting them to attend the Budget Consultation for the coming year - NOTED

Correspondence was received from One Voice Wales offering the Community Council the opportunity to celebrate the new reign of His Majesty the King, by applying for a free framed portrait, the offer is open to all Community, Town and City Councils in Wales - NOTED

10. Planning:

Application received: Number DM/2023/01578

Land at Junction of B4235 Chepstow Road and A449 Chepstow Road Llangeview

Proposed siting of 2 Glamping lodges and 1 Glamping pod with associated Foul Treatment plant.
NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2024/00160

St Llywels Church Usk Road Llanllowell NP15 1LJ

Conversion of Grade 2 listed medieval church into a 2-bed home, with off road parking and separate plant room in the lower garden.

NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2023/01345

Plot of land to north of : Coed Y Prior Farm Llantrisant

Agricultural diversification comprising 5 Yurts for self-catering holiday accommodation with Ancillary toilet/shower building, parking, tracks and landscaping.

NOTED – it was agreed the application would be investigated further once all Community Councillors were together and had the opportunity to discuss the issue further.

Signed _____

Date _____

Enforcement:

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm

An update received from Cty Cllr Buckler stated that Enforcement had not found a breach of planning control in relation to permission given in particular to condition no 7: The development shall be occupied as holiday accommodation only and not occupied as a person's sole residence or main place of residence by any persons exceeding a period of 28 days in any calendar year. The Enforcement case would now be closed.

However, both Cllr's Trigg and Watkins confirmed after checking the original planning permission of 2015, the permission granted stated that the holiday accommodation could only be used from March until October and not the 28 days in a calendar year as was now being quoted.

The clerk will advise Cllr Buckler of their ongoing concerns regarding this.

Wern Panna Llangwm- Original plans showing Entrance Gate to be set back 5 meters from Road. An update received from Cty Cllr Buckler advised the gates had been found to be in breach of planning consent and Highways have lodged objections to their current position as it is highly dangerous.

Allt Y Bela Llangwm

Cty Cllr Buckler continues to pursue the concerns raised over a hard landscaping depot which appears to have been erected and is in discussion with Guy Delamere of Enforcement. No updates yet received.

11. Ward Reports: None

12. HMPS

Cllr Gardiner confirmed he was now back on the prison notice circulation list. He confirmed that moving forward he hoped to raise a request over the possibility of having the Llangwm Parish Hall bench and notice board renovated in the prison workshop.

13. Any Other Business:

Cllr Watkins explained he had recently attended the Parish Hall Committee meeting and would like to raise a point on their behalf. The Hall Committee had wondered if there might be a way for the Community Council to provide permanent funding to assist with the running costs of the hall. For example, an annual payment to cover the cost of Annual Buildings Insurance which costs around £2000. The Hall is a valuable Community resource and this type of funding would greatly assist with the ongoing cost and upkeep of the building and allow the Committee to be able to offer the hall for hire at a much lower cost.

The request was noted by the Councillors present and agreed the matter should be raised again at the next meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____

Cllr Trigg raised an issue concerning the large 8-wheeler lorries that for months had been travelling up and down Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm. On some occasions up to three times a day, carrying heavy loads and appeared to be disposing of these loads at farmland, opposite the Almshouses in Llangwm. He felt the issue should be raised to Monmouthshire CC not only to establish what is being offloaded but also to highlight the further damage being caused to the road in Llangwm. The clerk will raise the issue with the County Councillors for them to investigate further.

Cllr Trigg also raised the point that to date, the Friends of St John's had been using legacy funds for the upkeep of the churchyard. However, these funds were now running out and there was concern over how this would be paid for in the future. Cllr Trigg asked whether the Community Council might be able to consider funding this going forward.

It was agreed the matter should be raised again at the next meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday **19th** March 2024 at **7:30 pm** at Llangwm Parish Hall

Date of future Meetings for 2024:

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 10.00 pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____