

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 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20th February 2024:

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

3. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 20th February 2024:

Visit by Andrew Jones of Gwent Police

The issue of parking off the roundabout at Twyn Square Usk was raised and subsequently advised to Christopher Watkins, the Community Support Officer for the area. A reply followed confirming the issue had existed for some time now, but as oncoming vehicles had an unobstructed view the parked vehicles were not causing unnecessary obstruction. Enforcement falls to Civil Parking Enforcement at Monmouthshire CC, with only 4 officers to cover a vast area.

A link was provided to report any parking offences direct to Monmouthshire Civil Parking Enforcement. County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she would raise the matter with Graham Kinsella Highways Manager at MCC.

The Public Meeting for the sale of St John's Church Llangwm

Councillors agreed the meeting had been successful and there was good attendance by members of the community. Both Bob Evans Chair of the Monmouthshire Diocese Advisory Committee and Rev'd Sally Ingle Gillis, Vicar of Usk were in attendance and explained their role in the process and shared the plans for the sale of the Church. Rev'd Sally assured everyone the churchyard of St John's would stay open and emphasised that the care of the churchyard was of paramount importance to her.

At last month's meeting, Cllr Trigg explained to members that the Friends of St John's had been supporting the maintenance of the churchyard for some time now. He advised very soon the funding for this would run out and asked if the Community Council would be able to pay for this instead.

However, at the public meeting, Bob Evans had informed everyone that a dedicated bank account which held £19,000 in funds was set aside for the sole purpose of ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the church and graveyard.

Councillors felt in view of this it would be appropriate for the clerk to write to Rev'd Sally and enquire how the church wished to proceed in relation to the grass cutting in the churchyard. Would they prefer to arrange this for themselves or to continue using the 'Green Grafter Grounds Maintenance Services' and receive the invoice directly.

Signed _____

Date _____

Lorries in Llangwm

An issue was reported last month concerning the frequency that heavy 8-wheeler lorries had been driving through the village. Cllr Trigg was very concerned with the effect this was having on the already badly damaged surface of Llan Y Nant Road. The lorries appeared to be travelling to a farm opposite the Almshouses and offloading their contents there. The County Cllr's were made aware of the issue and had spoken with Guy Delamere of Monmouthshire CC Enforcement who will continue to monitor the situation.

Llangwm Parish Hall

Cllr Watkins last month raised the issue of the ongoing struggle to fund the upkeep of the Parish Hall. He asked if Councillors would be happy to open a discussion with the Hall Committee regarding the possibility of the Community Council assisting with funding the Insurance and high running costs of the building. Currently the upkeep was reliant on fundraising alone. It was agreed a meeting should be arranged to discuss the matter further.

Defibrillator updates

The Gwernesney defibrillator is currently undergoing checks by a specialist company following the crash in the village, to determine whether damage to the defibrillator is superficial and can be rectified. Or if the defibrillator would need to be replaced. The clerk has been advised this process could take 7-8 weeks.

Cllr Gardiner explained that since the last Council meeting, he had spoken with residents and they had agreed it would be best for the Telephone box to be replaced by a cabinet, which could be situated alongside the village bus stop. Councillors asked if this might be agreed to by the Insurers and the clerk felt as it was a lesser cost it was quite possible the insurers might agree this.

The Llantrisant Defibrillator

A new box has now been sourced to house the defibrillator and it will shortly be moved to the bus shelter in the village. It was agreed this was a preferable location and easier to find in an emergency.

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

Cllr David Williams previously confirmed Peter and Tim Williams were prepared to light the beacon for D Day 80 celebrations but had yet to establish if Young Farmers might be happy to arrange a BBQ.

Gwernesney nocturnal army maneuvers at Usk Show Ground

Despite several attempts it has not been possible to ascertain who organised this event and so it was agreed no further action could be taken at this point.

Community Speed watch

County Councillors reported there was very little enthusiasm within communities for participation in such a scheme, as previous volunteers had experienced abuse by drivers. Instead, Cllr Buckler confirmed she would contact the Police Go Safe team to request further visits to our communities.

Signed _____

Date _____

4.Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Gwernesney Speed limits

County Councillors advised they had requested a risk assessment with the possibility of resurrecting a Go Safe van in the area and confirmed ground loops were due to be installed in April/May time with a view to reducing the speed limit in Gwernesney from 40mph to 30mph.

Road signage Llanllowell and Llantrisant

The newly installed road signs of 60mph in Llanllowell lane and 50mph through Pen Y Cae Mawr were discussed as many people in the area were unhappy with these speed limits. County Cllr Bromfield advised she had requested a reduction in these limits but was told the speeds wouldn't warrant being changed as the natural lay of the land meant motorists were unable to reach such speeds through the lanes regardless.

Llangwm Road Monitoring data

County Cllr Buckler confirmed she was still awaiting an update on the data collected by the police following installation of road speed monitoring cameras at the end of last year. She confirmed she would chase this again, as it was unusual not to receive feedback. The previously promised Go Safe van for the area will also be requested again.

Installation of Flashing Speed Signs

County Cllr Buckler met with Gareth Freeman of Monmouthshire CC Highways dept with a view to installing speed signs in Llangwm. The visit involved looking at areas where electricity points could be easily sourced. County Cllr Buckler was told there were currently signs that could be made available to the village without any cost. Whilst these weren't exactly what the Councillors had been considering, the signs Flashed 30mph at oncoming motorists and would certainly be of benefit with aiming to reduce motorists' speed throughout the village.

County Cllr Buckler felt this would be a good option and suggested to Councillors that Monmouthshire install them and then Councillors could monitor their effectiveness, with a view to upgrading them if necessary. It was agreed this was a good way forward.

Traffic Lights Old Raglan Road

County Cllr Bromfield updated members concerning the traffic lights installed on the Old Raglan Road. She advised these were ongoing and that Monmouthshire CC have advised the work to resolve the problem would be carried out during the summer months.

Potholes

Llansoy to Nant Y Gethly

County Cllr Buckler reported she had driven the route following the update on the continued poor state of the roads and said she had found them to be virtually undriveable. She has since reported her findings back to Monmouthshire Highways and will continue to monitor the situation.

Llangwm

The heavily potholed road surface from the bridge behind Llan Y Nant Cottage up towards Cefyn Bychan Farmhouse remains in very poor condition. Photographs have been provided but the road is still awaiting repairs.

Signed _____

Date _____

County Cllr Bromfield advised she had raised the issue of potholes on Monmouthshire's roads with the County Council and was told that only roads with potholes graded 135 or above would be actioned.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors:

A report of a sink hole at Llanllowell Bridge was notified and County Cllr Bromfield will investigate this further with the Highways dept at Monmouthshire CC. The sink hole which appeared at the end of last month on the R113 has now been repaired and the road reopened.

Cllr Trigg reported on the cutting of bus services, particularly the number 63 travelling via Cwmbran, Pontypool, Usk and Chepstow. He commented on the effect this was having on those who were now needing to find alternative ways to travel this route. Cllr Gardiner added it was the same for bus service 65 and these cuts were having a profound effect on the communities that need to use them. These services currently provided by Phil Anslow will cease from the 1st of April 2024.

The County Cllr's advised they had already raised concerns over this situation with Deb Hill-Howells, Head of Decarbonisation at Monmouthshire CC and were still waiting to hear back.

Cllr Trigg highlighted the recent cleaning of gulleys in Gwernesney. He said the rubbish which had been collected, instead of being removed was left on site. Cllr Bromfield said she would report this back to Carl Touhig – Head of Neighbourhood services.

Cllr David Williams reported the road signs at the Crossroads between Llansoy and the road into Raglan (Route 75) were turning around in the wind and needed attention. Clerk to report to MCC.

New issues raised by others:

None

5. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

We Don't Buy Crime - Scheme run by Gwent Police

An updated notice has been produced with the aim of encouraging residents to join the scheme and to highlight the Council's proposal to purchase and distribute the kits as part of their Community Engagement commitment. The notice will be posted using social media, email, the Council website and post where necessary.

The County Cllrs will also highlight the scheme in their forthcoming newsletters and when speaking with residents within their communities.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

County Councillors informed and updated Councillors throughout the month on issues relevant to their local Communities, but additionally highlighted following a recent meeting they had discovered the Monmouthshire CC initiative to buy locally sourced food and produce had now ceased. Monmouthshire CC has stopped contracts with both Raglan Dairies and Holsworthy of Abergavenny and this had a big effect on local producers. It appears that Castle Howell in Powys is now being used to source produce instead.

Signed _____

Date _____

The County Cllrs said they were working on a plan to tackle this issue and were extremely unhappy with the decision made by Monmouthshire CC as this went against everything they were supposed to stand for.

Community Councillors expressed their concern over this news and asked to be kept informed and updated on these issues. MINUTED.

6. Finance:

- a) The Statement of Fixed Assets for the year ending 31/03/2024 was reviewed by the Council and a note added to reflect the Gwernesney Telephone Box was pending an insurance claim. ADOPTED.
- b) Independent Remuneration Payments – Councillors received notifications of the allowances to which they were entitled to receive for the work carried out on behalf of the Community Council. All Councillors declined to receive this remuneration and stated they wish to carry out the role voluntarily.
The clerk requested Councillors complete and sign an opt out form for the year ended 31st March 2024.
- c) Bank Statement: For the period 26th January 2024 – 1st March 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending the 1st of March 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- e) A Statement of Reconciliation: For the period 29th January 2024- 1st March 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- f) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED.

Clerks basic Salary for March 2024 (plus additional 14 hours worked in February)
Total- £799.80

Clerks Expenses Monday 4th March – Friday 29th March 2024.
Total - £70.48

Usk Valley Promotions Annual Website Hosting
Total - £360

Llangwm Best Kept Village Committee – Mrs Joan Bennett
Total £80.70

Llangwm Parish Hall Hire Council meeting.
Total £62.67

Llangwm Parish Hall Hire Public meeting.
Total £58.11

Total £1,431.76

Signed _____

Date _____

7. Correspondence

A list of meetings and agendas were received from Monmouthshire CC throughout the month and advised to Councillors. NOTED

Received from Catherine Wacey – advice the Llangwm bus shelter was to be cleared of books. NOTED

Received from the Gwent Federation of Women's Institute- A donation request towards a replacement projector to be shared amongst members of the various Gwent Women's Institute groups. NOTED

Received from the Chair of the 2024 Eisteddfod - A request for support and a donation towards the work of the National Eisteddfod. NOTED

9. Planning:

Application received: Number DM/2023/01047
Listed Building Consent Heritage – Timber Trusses to Chancel and Gable Crosses at St Michael and All Angels Church, Gwernesney, Usk. Monmouthshire NP15 1HF
Comments to Planning at MCC within 21 days from date of letter - 23/02/2024.
NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2024/00208
Listed Building Consent Heritage - Replacement /Repair of existing windows and frames to improve insulation. The Almshouses, Llanllowell Lane, Llangeview. Monmouthshire
Comments to Planning at MCC within 21 days from date of letter - 26/02/2024.
NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2024/00315
Planning Permission for Stone Track across field.
Land to the rear of Coed Y Prior Farm, Llantrisant. Monmouthshire NP15 1LG
Comments to Planning MCC within 21 days from date of letter- 12/03/2024.
NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2024/00335
Replacement of roof and external insulation to main dwelling
Great House Farm, Red Hill, Usk. NP15 1EN
Comments to Planning MCC within 21 days of letter - 15/03/2024.
NOTED

Updates and Enforcement Issues:

Application received: Number DM/2024/00160 St Llywels Church Usk Road Llanllowell NP15 1LJ.
Following last month's Council meeting and subsequent discussions between Councillors it was agreed to fully support this application by sending a letter to MCC Planning dept.

Signed _____

Date _____

Application Number: DM/2023/01345 Plot of Land to North of Coed Y Prior Farm White Hall to The Cwm Llantrisant.

Following last month's Council meeting and subsequent discussions, grave concerns were raised concerning this application. It was agreed a letter should be sent to MCC Planning dept requesting full site visits and inspections should take place to ensure stringent regulations would be enforced and closely adhered to.

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm -

Councillors agreed this outstanding issue would be monitored and moved forward to next month's meeting.

Wern Panna Llangwm

Councillors agreed this outstanding issue would be monitored and moved forward to next month's meeting.

Allt Y Bela Llangwm

Councillors agreed this outstanding issue would be monitored and moved forward to next month's meeting.

10. Ward Reports: None

11. HMPS

Cllr Gardiner confirmed no date had yet been received for a future meeting.

12. Any Other Business:

Cllr David Williams explained there had recently been an issue in Llansoy concerning the post box, which had been sealed overnight. He investigated the issue and provided the following account:

Llansoy Postbox closure

On or around the 9th March, the Postbox outside of the Old Post Office in Llansoy was sealed up with a notice saying it was no longer in use until it had been moved to a new position. Having spoken to the occupier of the Old Post Office, she told me that she liked having the Post Box there, it was an old feature of the village and went with the property. But when I asked why it was closed in such a hurry, she told me that the Police had advised her to do so. She felt very vulnerable at times due to issues with a neighbour.

Cllr David Williams 19/3/2024.

Cllr Williams went on to add that the Post Box would need to be relocated in the village and so Royal Mail should be contacted and asked to reposition the Post Box as a matter of urgency. The Village does not wish to lose out on their last remaining amenity.

Clerk to action.

Signed _____

Date _____

13. Date of next Meeting: Tuesday **16th** April 2024 at **7:30 pm**, to be held at The Greyhound Inn Llantrisant.

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr Gardiner, he will be unable to attend due to work commitments.

Date of future Meetings for 2024:

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 _____