

# **Llantrisant Fawr Community Council**

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

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr. Glyn Williams (Chairman), Cllr. David Williams (Vice Chairman), Cllr. John Watkins, Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield, Cllr Steve Jolliffe, County Cllr Rachel Buckler, Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr. Gwyn Gardiner, County Cllr Fay Bromfield, Cllr. James Hawkins.

### **2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19th March 2024:**

County Councillor Buckler referred to the report on Monmouthshire CC which stated the initiative to buy locally sourced food and produce had ceased. She informed Councillors the incentive was still in place, but by sourcing produce outside of the local area Monmouthshire CC were contravening their own initiative. NOTED.

Following this amendment the minutes were Agreed as a correct record by all present and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 19th March 2024:**

#### **Parking Twyn Square Roundabout Usk**

Following the report of parking problems at the Usk Roundabout, Cty Cllr Bromfield raised the issue with Graham Kinsella, Highways Manager and Cllr Tony Kear of Usk and Llanbadoc Councils. Monmouthshire CC confirmed the issue would be investigated, however long-term sickness within the department meant Civil Enforcement was currently stretched very thin.

#### **Grasscutting at St John's churchyard Llangwm**

Following a request from members the clerk had written to Rev'd Sally Ingle Gillis explaining due to diminished funds, the Friends of St John's were no longer able to continue paying for the Churchyard maintenance of St John's and St Jerome's in Llangwm. In view of this the clerk asked if it might now be possible for the church to take over the paying of these costs.

Correspondence was subsequently received from Sandy Blair (MA Treasurer for Heart of Monmouthshire Ministry Area.) He explained the Ministry Area was ultimately responsible for the maintenance of all 6 churchyards. Llantrisant, Llanllowell, Gwernesney, Llangeview, St Jerome's and St John's of Llangwm. He confirmed the Church would now take full responsibility for the maintenance of both churchyards in Llangwm. He added that the Church preferred to use local contractors and so they would be happy to continue using the services of the Green Grafter. He said the Church was extremely grateful for the donations received from the Community Council for the upkeep of all its Churchyards.

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It was AGREED by Councillors that the Green Grafter should be instructed to carry on with his maintenance of both Llangwm Churchyards for the time being and that the Community Council would fund these costs until such time new instructions were received from the Church. Clerk to action.

### **Llangwm Parish Hall Funding Meeting**

Cllr Watkins said he would discuss the possibility of a date when the Parish Hall committee held their next meeting.

### **Defibrillator updates**

The Gwernesney defibrillator is still undergoing checks by Zoll the manufacturers, to determine whether damage is superficial and can be rectified or whether a replacement will be required. The estimated time for this was quoted at 7-8 weeks and so we expect this should be advised shortly.

The clerk informed the insurance company of the current position and the possibility of needing to replace the Telephone Kiosk with an alternative unit.

### **The Llantrisant Defibrillator**

Cllr Jolliffe confirmed that the defibrillator was to be moved in the next couple of days and said he would confirm the new destination postcode and what3words location to the clerk.

The clerk will update the relevant authorities and ensure the Council website is updated.

### **Event for D Day 80 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Lighting of the Llansoy Beacon**

Cllr David Williams confirmed the Beacon was currently under construction by Tim Williams and said the Young Farmers would be asked if they would like to put on a BBQ. He asked what sort of amount could be expected as a donation and would be reasonable to put towards such a community event. Cllr Trigg Proposed a donation of £300 and whilst Cllr Hatfield confirmed he was unable to support this proposal, the remaining members AGREED this proposal by a majority vote.

### **‘We Don’t Buy Crime – Smart Water’**

The clerk confirmed the updated notice had been circulated to Councillors and posted on the Llangwm Facebook page and Council Website. A request has also been put forward for the notice to be sent out with the next edition of the Llangwm Herald. Councillors confirmed they had also circulated the notice using their local What’s App groups, but no enquiries had been received so far.

It was noted that whilst in principle Lantrisant Fawr had supported this incentive and offered to fund it, if no further interest was shown by the community the incentive should be left to its own devices to see what transpires.

### **Llansoy Postbox**

It had previously been reported by Cllr David Williams that an issue had arisen in Llansoy concerning the postbox in the garden of the Old Post Office which had been sealed overnight on advice from the Police. The Councillor felt that the post box should be moved to another location for the benefit of the local community. The clerk contacted Royal Mail to action the request and further updates are awaited.

A letter had also been received from another Llansoy resident conveying her sadness at the demise of the postbox, stating the postbox was really the last amenity the village had. She added villagers would very much like to keep it even if this meant it being moved. The clerk

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

acknowledged receipt of her letter and advised a request had gone forward to Royal Mail for a relocation.

Cllr Williams explained there had since been a further incident involving a piece of Highways land and that damage had been caused to a planter. The local Policeman was involved and had issued a penalty notice to the person concerned. The Officer had suggested to Cllr David Williams that perhaps the planter could be replaced as a goodwill gesture by the community Council, but the request was declined by members.

#### **4.Highways issues:**

Update on Matters reported:

##### **Reported sink hole at Llanllowell Bridge**

County Cllr Bromfield reported the problem to Monmouthshire Highways and Structural Engineer Steve Baldwin visited the site and found the problem to be erosion. The Engineer rated the issue Amber and confirmed the problem would be added to the programme of works. However, the department is currently dealing with issues rated Red and therefore no time scale or date for completion was given.

Cllr Glyn Williams commented he felt very aggrieved that jobs requiring urgent attention were just added to the list. He said Highways have a duty of care to repair these dangerous areas and action is needed urgently to deal with all outstanding problems.

##### **Cleaning of gullies at Gwerneney**

County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she had reported concerns over rubbish being left at the site and the issue of traffic management to Carl Touhig at Monmouthshire CC for further investigation.

##### **Potholes**

Llansoy to Nant Y Gethly

Cllr David Williams reported that major works had taken place to rectify the situation, including scraping the tarmac clear of grit and debris and the filling of all large potholes.

Llangwm

The clerk confirmed that works on the heavily potholed bridge and road surface at the bridge behind Llan Y Nant Cottage had also been completed satisfactorily.

##### **Llangwm Visit by the Go Safe Van**

County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had requested that the Go Safe van visit Llangwm but was advised they were currently waiting for road works to be completed on the B4235 adjacent to Llan Y Nant Road before they were able to park in the area.

##### **Llangwm Installation of Speed Signs**

County Cllr Buckler confirmed a socket had been installed by Monmouthshire CC on one of the lamp posts in the village in readiness for the installation of their donated flashing 30mph sign. She said that she would query the possible second location which she thought had already been agreed.

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County Cllr Buckler reiterated the signs would be a good option and allow Councillors to monitor their effectiveness, with a view to upgrading if necessary. However, she confirmed the cost of new flashing signs can cost on average between £3000-£6000.

### **Bus Services in Monmouthshire – Route 63 and 65**

Following last month's report on the cutting of vital bus services, the County Councillors raised the issue with Monmouthshire CC. A lengthy reply was received explaining the reasoning behind these changes and stating the need to retender the whole service was due to bus companies now only running commercially viable routes.

County Cllr Buckler said despite these services being deemed commercially unviable, Monmouthshire CC had a duty to the public. The buses are considered a public service and a basic part of the infrastructure. The cutting of these routes was not advertised sufficiently and the lack of consultation has implications both legally and financially. This change has had a profound effect on people's lives, resulting in many families needing to buy additional vehicles to travel to their place of work or study.

The Councillor suggested a strong letter be written by the Community Council and directed to Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Planning and Development. A meeting should also be arranged with Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate and the Environment. Cllr Watkins agreed he would take action on this.

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

None

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

Cllr Trigg confirmed that he had contacted Green Grafter and obtained costs for grass cutting in Llangwm for the coming season. A quote of £160 was provided to include the cutting of grass at the Parish Hall both front and back, the Village car park and the area around the bus shelter. Councillors agreed they were happy to proceed with this quote and requested the clerk to instruct the Green Grafter to proceed at his earliest convenience.

### **5. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:**

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

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

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

Following last month's report highlighting Monmouthshire County Councils move away from sourcing all foods locally, a media statement had recently been received explaining how the Council now plans to proceed. The report stated contracts had recently been opened for re-tendering, allowing all potential providers a chance to take part. The Council now also intends to host 'meet the buyer' events before the final tender document is written.

County Cllr Buckler said it was very pleasing that Monmouthshire CC had taken public feeling into account and extremely important this was considered and acted upon.

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County Cllr Buckler also informed members that a full Council meeting was due to be held where full disclosure on the standards of Councillors was to be discussed. It had become apparent that complaints were being raised by people and dismissed as not being worthy of investigation.

These poor standards and how they are to be dealt with is for major discussion and will very much bring to the fore that standards are not where they should be.

## **7. Finance:**

Councillors were advised by the clerk that requests had now been received from local churches regarding possible donations towards Churchyard maintenance. It had been agreed at the setting of the Council's 2024/25 budget that the payment for this coming year would be £200 in line with previous years' payments.

The clerk informed Councillors she had begun the required basic Audit for 2023/24 following instruction from Audit Wales. On completion John Turner would carry out the internal audit on the Councils behalf. The audited accounts will be presented at the June Council meeting for verification by Councillors and signed by the chairman, before being submitted to Audit Wales.

- a) The Bank Statement: For the period 1st March 2024 – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Expenditure and Income for the period ending the 28th of March 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- c) A Statement of Reconciliation: For the period 1st March 2024- 28th March 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED:

Clerks basic Salary for April 2024 (plus additional 10 hours worked in March)  
Total- £744

Clerks Expenses and Sundries from Monday 1st April – Friday 26th April 2024.  
Total - £102.46

One Voice Wales Annual Membership renewal fee  
Total - £154

Llangwm Parish Hall Annual donation - running costs for the Defibrillator and Broadband provision.  
Total £100

Beverley & Williams Accountants Ltd:

Calculation of payroll from Jan – March 2024  
Handling of RTI submissions 2023/24, issuing p60 and year end stationery  
Total £89.39

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

LFCC Employers HMRC Tax & N.I. due for Jan - Mar 2024  
Total £22.45

Donation to Llangwm Baptist Chapel for Churchyard Maintenance  
Total £200

Donation to Pen Y Cae Mawr Methodist Chapel for Churchyard maintenance  
Total £200

Donation to Llantrisant and Llanllowell Churches for Churchyard maintenance  
Total £400

Donation to St Davids Llangeview, St Michaels's Gwernesney, St Jerome's and St John's of  
Llangwm for Churchyard maintenance  
Total £800

Llangwm Parish Hall – Hire costs for March Council meeting.  
£45 plus 29 units of electricity @ 57p per unit £16.53  
Total £61.53

**Total £2,873.83**

## **8. Correspondence**

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

Notice received from One Voice Wales - A Pre-Election period Timetable of Actions. NOTED

Renewal Notice for Membership of one Voice Wales – AGREED AND NOTED

Appeal from Llangollen Music Eisteddfod a request for donation towards the event -NOTED

Appeal from the Kids Cancer Charity Swansea - NOTED

## **9. Planning:**

Advisory received: Number DM/2024/00311

Graig Olway Farm Usk Road NP15 1NB

Excavation and reprofiling of land to establish a wetland area to intercept drainage from roofed farm buildings and clean yards.

NOTED

Updates and Enforcement Issues:

Application received: Number DM/2024/00160 St Llywels Church Usk Road Llanllowell NP15 1LJ.  
Pending consideration

Application Number: DM/2023/01345 Plot of Land to North of Coed Y Prior Farm White Hall to The Cwm Llantrisant. Siting of 5 Yurts for self-catering accommodation.  
Pending consideration

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Coed Y Prior Farm

Correspondence received from County Cllr Bromfield requested clarification that the structure photographed by Guy Delamere of Monmouthshire CC had been the building referred to at a previous Council meeting. This could not be confirmed by those Councillors present and would be considered again at the next meeting.

## Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm -

County Cllr Buckler agreed she would again raise with Enforcement the original permissions granted in 2015 which stated the holiday accommodation could only be used from March through to October and not as now quoted 28 days in a calendar year.

## Wern Panna Llangwm

Gates erected at the site are considered a breach of planning consent and Highways have lodged objections.

## Allt Y Bela Llangwm

County Cllr Bromfield advised concerns received over a hard landscaping depot erected at the site were still being investigated by planning enforcement.

## **10. Ward Reports: None**

## **11. HMPS**

No date had yet been set for a future meeting.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Cllr Trigg raised the issue of lack of transport in Monmouthshire and highlighted the problems experienced when planned train journeys are constantly cancelled at the very last minute, often without alternative travel options being offered. County Cllr Buckler agreed it was a very poor situation and said she would prepare a motion regarding the whole transport system to put forward to the Welsh Council.

Cllr Watkins said there should be a broader strategy of access to opportunity via transport and said the Rurality grant provided by the UK Government should be recognised and applied to the whole issue.

Cllr Jolliffe spoke about a fund-raising initiative taking place in Llantrisant to help raise funds for the daughter of a local farmer who had been selected to represent Wales and participate in the Equestrian events in France. He explained to do this they needed to raise £15,000 and he asked if it might be possible for the Community Council to help in some way.

Cllr Watkins agreed that local youth should be supported and said this should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. He suggested that when the setting of next year's budget takes place, members might consider the setting up of a fund to support such causes.

The clerk requested permission to purchase a paper shredder for the safe disposal of council paperwork and asked if further training could be provided by Isobelle Brown in relation to updating the Community Council website. AGREED

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Clerk advised the AGM and Ordinary Council meeting would be held together in May and it was agreed the AGM should start at the earlier time of 7PM with the Ordinary meeting following on after.

**13. Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday **21st** May 2024 at **7pm**, to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall.

**Date of future Meetings for 2024:**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm to be held at The Greyhound Inn Llantrisant

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_