

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 17th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. David Williams (Chairman), Cllr Glyn Williams, Cllr. Malcom Hatfield, Cllr. Steve Jolliffe, Cllr. James Hawkins, Cllr. Bob Trigg, County Cllr Rachel Buckler, Mrs. Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner (Vice Chairman) – Work commitments. Cllr. John Watkins –Annual leave
Cty Cllr Fay Bromfield- Work Commitments.

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th July 2024:

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

3. In remembrance of Ted Royds, Clerk to Llangwm Community Council

In August the sad news was received of the passing of Ted Royds. Ted was a former Clerk of Llangwm Community Council. Cllr David Williams said he had been Clerk to the Council for many years and always had a knack for deciphering directives from above into something everyone could understand. He played a big part in life in Llangwm and always had village interests at heart. Ted will be fondly remembered.

It was agreed the Community Council along with the Village Hall and History group would come together and fund a memorial plaque for the Village Bench where Ted was often seen to be sat taking in the view.

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

Visit by Christian Schmidt – Passenger Planning &Transport Mgr, Monmouthshire C.C.

Following the visit by Christian Schmidt last month, the new Bus timetable had been received for Route 63. The timetable which took effect from the start of September was shared with members of LFCC and Shirenewton Community Council. A copy was also placed in the Llangwm Bus Shelter and shared on social media.

Councillors commented that the Route 63 Service appeared to be running to schedule, if not always on time.

Cllr Trigg highlighted the issue of the children using local bus services to travel to school. He said many are left standing for the whole journey. He added this was clearly unsatisfactory and unsafe. Cty Cllr Buckler asked that she be made aware of any such instances as this practice needed to

Signed _____

Date _____

be stopped. She advised Tony Kear of MCC was coordinating these occurrences and hoping to collate which routes were too full and causing children the need to stand in this way.

Llangwm Parish Hall Funding Meeting

Confirmation has now been received that both a representative of the Village Hall Committee and Jo Webb of Gavo (Gwent Association of Voluntary Associations) will be joining Councillors at the next Council Meeting on October 15th.

Defibrillator updates

Gwernesney's replacement defibrillator has now been received from the manufacturers Zoll and Cllr Gardiner is currently looking at ways of fixing the unit to the Bus shelter. A claim was started some time ago with the Insurers to replace the telephone kiosk, however it has become apparent this is no longer an option.

Councillors raised the point that the old Telephone Kiosk had formed part of the Council's assets and as such they felt compensation should still be received for this loss. The clerk agreed to look into this point with the Insurers and report back.

Llansoy local issues

A visit took place in August by the Area Engineer from MCC to inspect a piece of Highways land alongside the Old Post Office in Llansoy. Local people had raised complaints over a White painted, flower filled tyre that had been placed there. Following inspection, it was confirmed the tyre was situated on Highways land and as such a notice could be sent to the owner to have it removed.

Cllr David Williams went on to speak with residents to ask for their opinions regarding the matter. The majority had requested the tyre be removed from the site and with this in mind, MCC were instructed to issue a 28-day Notice of removal to the owner.

The Llantrisant Equestrian Team in France

Updates and photographs have now been received from Evie Andrews and her team of riders. The team came fourth overall in the competition, which had been an incredible achievement. The team reported it had been a hugely rewarding and valuable experience. They thanked everyone for the support received and said without this their participation would not have been possible.

5.Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Speed watch Gwernesney and Llangwm

Following the installation of speed monitoring strips laid by Monmouthshire C.C. in Gwernesney and Llangwm, the collected data demonstrated road users were not travelling much over 30mph-35mph. But following a subsequent meeting with Gareth Freeman of Highways, it had been agreed the data was supportive of reducing the speed limit in Gwernesney from the current 40mph to 30mph.

Cty Cllr's were also hopeful of increased road markings being introduced in both villages, which would give the appearance of narrowing of the road and would help in slowing traffic.

Cllr James Hawkins agreed the main road through Gwernesney should carry a 30mph speed limit and questioned whether physical chicanes should be put in place as opposed to road markings. Cty Cllr Buckler said she felt this wouldn't be possible currently, however if a lower speed limit was introduced there may be a better chance of this.

Signed _____

Date _____

It was highlighted that the road towards the Gliding club continues to be dangerous, with Motorists travelling at speed past the Usk Show ground and onwards to the Old Raglan Road.

Councillors questioned whether the same plan of action could be extended to this particular area and asked that Cty Cllr Bromfield raise the issue again for further consideration.

Installation of Flashing Road signs for Llangwm

Cty Cllr Buckler reported a response was still awaited on the possible installation date for the positioning of the 30 mph Flashing Speed signs in Llangwm.

Appearance of Police Vehicle only sign in Llangwm Lay by

A 'Police Only' sign had been installed in the last couple of months at the site of the layby in Llangwm. This area was generally used by large vehicles assisting them to turn into the very sharp bend of Llan Y Nant Road opposite. No notice had been received of this change and Cty Cllr Buckler said she would investigate further, adding it was most likely installed there to enable the Go Safe Van to park whilst carrying out Speed testing.

Letter of complaint from residents of Gwern Ddu Lane, Llantrisant

Cllr Glyn Williams raised an issue at July's meeting regarding a letter received from a group of residents and users of Gwern Ddu Lane, Llantrisant. They had written following recent resurfacing work carried out near the Almshouses at Coed Cwnwr. The surplus tarmac at the site had apparently been dumped close by to existing potholes in a section of Gwern Ddu Lane and which residents complained was barely passable to normal vehicles.

Residents said the lane had been neglected for two years and several of the holes were deep enough to cause expensive damage. They felt the repairs needed had been given a low priority and asked if the MCC would commit to carrying out these repairs in the very near future.

The Clerk had written to Monmouthshire C.C. Highways dept. including a copy of the residents' letter and had received a reply from the Area Engineer. He explained the factors associated with the incident explaining why the materials had been deposited in the area. He confirmed it had not been possible to transport and utilise such a small amount of materials and it would not have been viable to do so.

The response did however state arrangements would be made for the route in question to be cleaned and the pothole works carried out as soon as resources were available.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Malcolm Hatfield highlighted an issue in Llangwm concerning the lane turning right off the Old Chepstow Road, carrying on up to Trevella. He said this very small lane has been in constant use by articulated lorries taking away the many logs that had been felled in the fields there. This left the verges chewed up and had resulted in the lane becoming badly damaged.

Cty Cllr Buckler said she was aware of the problems in that area and had been involved on an earlier occasion and so would address these issues with MCC. NOTED.

New issues raised by others:

Notice received from MCC regarding Traffic Regulation, Speed Limits and Parking Consolidation order 2019. This was circulated via email to Councillors. NOTED.

Signed _____

Date _____

Correspondence was received from Mike Collier who had written to update Councillors on the condition of the path between Yew Tree Cottage and the Mill House Llangwm. The issue had been raised in previous meetings but unfortunately the problem continues and has worsened. Mr Collier had also raised the issue with MCC and although they had visited to inspect the location and confirmed the path required resurfacing, no timescale has been given for when the work would be carried out. Cty Cllr Buckler will report the issue and the clerk agreed to contact Head of Neighbourhood Services to obtain a possible timeline.

6.Voneus Broadband

Over the last year the villages of Llangwm and Gwernesney have suffered loss of their Broadband connection for prolonged periods of time. This came to a head in recent months when Llangwm was without connectivity for almost a full weekend. The rural communities in the area depend on this Broadband connection to go about their daily lives and the problem is compounded by sparse and sporadic mobile connectivity.

The Clerk wrote on behalf of LFCC to Catherine Fookes (MP for Monmouthshire), Peter Fox Member of the Senedd and Christopher Traggio CEO of Voneus Broadband, to voice the Councils concerns over this ongoing issue.

This was replicated by many of the residents in Llangwm who also provided interviews to Television/ Radio and the local press to ensure the plight of villagers was raised.

Peter Fox went on to raise the issue with Voneus himself and has since received a reply from the company. This detailed the intended work required to address the current technical challenges and issues which would bring about the required improvements. He has promised to keep Councillors updated going forward.

Additionally, a Teams meeting has been set up with Voneus at the start of October to be attended by the Cty Councillors and a member of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council. Along with Cabinet member Cllr Paul Griffiths, and Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Development of Monmouthshire County Council.

7. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

Cllr Trigg raised concerns over the lack of Police follow up following an incident at a local farm in Llangwm. The incident had been reported to the Rural Crime team but following an initial visit it was felt there had been very little contact or support shown to the residents involved. Cllr Trigg felt a visit from the local Community Officers would be of benefit to discuss these local issues.

The clerk had spoken with Elis Park the Community Support Officer based in Chepstow and he advised he had taken over from Andrew Evans, who had now retired from the force following poor health. Elis confirmed he would continue to send updates in the same way and that he would be happy to come along to a Council meeting. Additionally, the Community Support Officer for Usk, Christopher Watkins confirmed he would also like to attend a future meeting.

It was suggested if both Officers were available for the November meeting, Councillors would welcome their visit. The Clerk will follow up on this.

Signed _____

Date _____

8. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

A communication was received from Usk Town Council detailing proposals put forward by Monmouthshire County Council to begin charging for car parking in and around Usk.

The Town Council had requested that as many local people as possible make their views known by completing the survey using the link which had been posted on their website.

Residents hoped the Community Council would look further at the details of this proposal due to the far reaching and detrimental impact this would have not only to the residents of Usk, but to the surrounding rural areas who need to drive to Usk to shop and use the facilities there.

Cty Cllr Buckler said both herself and County Cllr Bromfield would be vociferous over these proposals and would go to Press surrounding the issue. She added County Cllr Tony Kear was involved with collating the survey responses and they would be sure to stay involved with the issue.

Cty Cllr Buckler spoke about Monmouthshire County Council's - Replacement Local Development Plan which she advised was now in the final draft. This final copy details the sites for new housing and will be brought to the Peoples Council at the start of October. Cty Cllr Buckler confirmed the public will be allowed to have their say and advised Councillors they must make their views known and voice their opinions concerning this very important issue.

9.Grants and Donations Policy

A new policy was introduced in view of Councillors' wishes to offer support to residents in the Llantrisant Fawr Community Council area. The new policy will provide an opportunity for local communities to apply for funding to help with events and projects that benefit the area. The new Policy can be found on the Llantrisant Fawr Community Website and Application forms can be obtained from the clerk. The Policy was AGREED and ADOPTED by members of the Council.

10. Annual review of Clerks Contract

Councillors received copies of the contract and considered any amendments or changes that were required. It was AGREED the contract remain unchanged although updates would be required following the announcement of any settlement of the National Pay Awards.

11. Finance:

a) Annual renewal of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Indemnity Policy 2024-25

A quote was received from Zurich Municipal Insurance providing cover for the coming year. However, the quote was for a Council Precept of up to £20,000. The clerk advised members that Precept for the next year was likely to exceed this amount and obtained a new quote for a higher banding of Precept, for an amount of £20,000-£30,000. The premium for this cover would increase to £396.

Councillors AGREED to accept this quote and proceed with the higher level of precept cover.

b) Audit Wales – Llangwm Community Council

During August multiple Invoices were received for work carried out by Deryk Evans of Audit Wales on behalf of the previous Llangwm Community Council. However, on further investigation it was realised the Invoice received and settled in July, was in fact related to the years 2016/2017 and the subsequent Invoices received were for the years 2017-2021.

The clerk has been in correspondence with Audit Wales Finance Office and Deryk Evans to clarify these issues and has advised no further payments would be made until the problem had been resolved by their office.

Signed _____

Date _____

The Audit Office replied stating they were currently investigating the issue and hoped to have an answer very soon. NOTED

- c) The Bank Statement: For the period 29th June 2024 – 29th August 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of August 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- e) The Bank Reconciliation: For the period 29th June 2024- 29th August 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- f) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED:

Clerks Net Salary for September (including an additional 5 hours worked in July)

Total - £557.45

Clerks Expenses and Sundries for August

Total - £36

Clerks Expenses and Sundries for September

Total - £30

HMRC-

Llantrisant Fawr Employers Payslip for July 2024-Sept 2024

Total £344.80

Beverley & Williams Accountants

Calculation of Pay Roll for July 2024-Sept 2024

Total £36

Green Grafter Grounds maintenance for the months of July and August 2024

Total - £320

Llangwm Parish Hall - Hire for July - Council Meeting –

£45 plus 1 Unit electricity @ 57p per unit = 0.57p.

Total - £45.57

Zurich Municipal

Renewal of LFCC Indemnity Annual Insurance Oct 2024-October 2025

Total £396

Total Expenditure to pay: £1,765.82

12. Correspondence

A list of Meeting notices was received from Monmouthshire C.C. throughout the month and advised to Councillors. NOTED

Signed _____

Date _____

Further correspondence was received from Isobelle Brown regarding the company taking over following her retirement at the end of October. '97 Host' currently hosts the LFCC website on Isobelle's behalf and have confirmed they are happy to carry on.

Isobelle said there would be a seamless transfer of web development and maintenance services and the company had worked in partnership with her for the last 10 years providing a UK based hosting platform and offered excellent technical support from their offices in Bridgend, South Wales.

The Community Council has already paid £360 for Annual Website Hosting from March 2024 - Feb 2025 (including the domain name renewal) and so will not be billed for hosting services now until the end of February 2025 when it has been advised by Isobelle that the cost would remain the same.

'97 Host' advised their support team would be available for help Monday to Friday during standard business hours and could assist with a range of services including web hosting queries, site content updates, technical and email issues. The Company themselves will provide further information to the Council in October.

Councillors AGREED it would be preferential to allow the company to take over the running of the Council Website as they already hosted and would be well placed to deal with any queries or updates that were required. The clerk will confirm this decision to Isobelle to allow her to make the necessary arrangements.

One Voice Wales had provided several guides for Community and Town Council throughout the month:

- An Introduction to the 6 Month rule for Members attendance at Council meetings detailing the procedure for approving absence. Notice 5.1 stated every absence should be approved by Council and the reason minuted. Councillors agreed reasons should be recorded when applicable and reasonable to do so. NOTED
- Information was provided in relation to the most necessary and required Policies and suggested when they should be reviewed. NOTED
- An up-to-date Code of Conduct for Councillors and Officers was received and forwarded by email. NOTED
- Details of a new Funding Wales platform was received from Meirion Howells providing a link for interested parties to discover further information regarding the opportunity. Forwarded to Councillors. NOTED
- Correspondence was received from Severn Wye Energy Advocacy to promote their Charity and stated they are committed to helping those in Fuel Poverty. Forwarded to Councillors. NOTED.
- An Invitation was received from Local Nature at MCC to attend an event aiming to bring together Nature recovery and sustainable food practitioners. Forwarded to Councillors. NOTED
- One Voice Wales advised of a Capital Grant Funding Programme. This offers eligible groups with a Smart Energy project the funding to power their communities with renewable energy. Forwarded to Councillors. NOTED

Signed _____

Date _____

- A Media Release was received from Monmouthshire County Council advising they had been included in the UK's largest independent study of real-world mobile connectivity. Forwarded to Councillors. NOTED
- A communication was received from Monmouthshire County Council announcing details of a Residents Survey on life in Monmouthshire. The clerk highlighted this opportunity on the Llangwm Facebook page and forwarded the information to Councillors to enable them to share with their own Communities. NOTED.

13. Planning:

Application received: Number DM/2024/00996

Proposed extension to existing hobby workshop for Vintage Buses. Extension Area 66 sq mtrs. Bittern Bungalow, Parsonage Lane, Gwernesney Monmouthshire NP15 1HF

NOTED

Updates and Enforcement Issues:

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm:

Information regarding the original permissions granted in 2015, stated the holiday accommodation should only be used from March through to October and not as now quoted 28 days in a calendar year.

Cty Cllr Buckler had previously advised Planning Dept of this saying the initial rules were being flouted. However, she added it was unlikely MCC would act further on this but that she had not yet received a definitive reply.

Wern Panna Llangwm:

Cty Cllr Buckler said the Barrier which had replaced the original Gates was unsafe at the site and that a gate was required and set further back. She said the Barrier was categorically not part of the Planning Permission and is now under a second enforcement.

14. Ward Reports: None

15. HMPS: No further updates

16. Any Other Business: None

17. Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 15th October at 7.00pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
The meeting will be attended by - Jo webb of GAVO

Date of future Meetings for 2024:

Tuesday 19th November at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall
There will be no meeting in December unless it is deemed necessary.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:00 pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____