

# **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 Parish Hall, Llangwm, on Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 7.00pm.**

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

The meeting was also attended by Jo Webb, Community Spaces outreach officer from Gavo (Gwent Association of Voluntary organisations) and Peter Gough Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

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

Cllr. Steve Joliffe –Annual leave

### **2. Visit by Jo Webb of Gavo**

Jo Webb had been invited to talk about her role with Gavo and began by setting out the work of the organisation itself and explained funding was provided by the Welsh Government. She said her position as a Community Spaces Outreach Officer for Monmouthshire meant she was able to provide help for rural areas.

Her role with Gavo involves supporting Charitable and Community organisations by helping to source funding and assisting them in completing their applications. She provides help too for a range of needs including governance and Community engagement exercises.

One example of Gavo's work was providing funding for the installation of Broadband at the Village Hall in Itton. Such grants can help communities to introduce Dementia Coffee mornings and Internet cafes, encouraging the Community to get together and support one another. Funding from the Capital Grant Fund is available until December and Jo informed Councillors a 'Meet the Funder surgery' was being held in Usk on the 12<sup>th</sup> November although appointments were required.

Cllr David Williams thanked Jo for coming along to the meeting and sharing valuable information and advice on how Gavo can support local Community organisations.

Jo circulated business cards before leaving and encouraged members to make contact should further help or support be required.

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr David Williams then invited Peter Gough to speak about his role as Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

Peter spoke about his position as Chair of the Village Hall Committee and the importance of the Hall to the local Community. He emphasised it was the last remaining facility the village had and was the central hub of the Community. He highlighted the financial difficulties encountered following Covid, saying the hall had sustained loss of income during this period. Revenue previously generated from rental charges has never fully recovered and it had become increasingly difficult to fund the costs associated with maintaining the Hall.

The Committee had sought additional help with funding from Gavo which enabled them to re-equip the kitchen area. Committee members themselves work hard to raise funds by promoting events throughout the year and the Village Hall now has a presence on the Llangwm Facebook page.

Income from these events has helped to cover the Insurance on the hall and general maintenance. Even so ever-increasing costs continue to be a challenge.

Cllr Watkins stressed it was very important the Hall should remain sustainable and Cllr Glyn Williams said it was the Community Councils responsibility to support the Community with this vital facility. Councillors agreed help should be given wherever possible and Peter Gough agreed to keep Councillors updated with the ongoing issues the Hall continues to face.

### **3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17th September 2024:**

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

### **4. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17th September 2024**

#### **In remembrance of Ted Royds**

Last month Councillors agreed to share the cost of funding a memorial plaque for Ted Royds, which would be placed on the newly renovated bench situated outside the village hall. The proposed wording for the plaque was read out and members were pleased with the outcome in Ted's memory.

#### **The Gwernesney Defibrillator**

The insurance claim following the crash is ongoing and last month Councillors raised the point that the former telephone box had formed part of the Council's assets and despite the fact they were not replacing the item on a like for like basis, they felt financial compensation should still be received.

The clerk advised Councillors she had contacted Zurich to investigate this and was advised as the Council were not seeking to replace the Telephone box it was deemed the asset was no longer held. Therefore, financial compensation would not be an option.

Councillors discussed this outcome and agreed in hindsight there may still be the opportunity of using an alternative location in the village. Cllr Hawkins agreed to obtain quotes for a replacement and the clerk confirmed she would contact the insurers to discuss this further.

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Local issues Llansoy**

Following the 28 Day Notice which was served for the removal of the Tyre planter on Highways land in Llansoy, it was confirmed a follow up site visit would be made. If the removal of the planter had not been carried out as instructed, then Highways officers would proceed to carry out the removal themselves.

## **Voneus Broadband**

County Cllr Bromfield advised she had attended a recent Video Teams meeting between Voneus Broadband, Cath Fallon (Head of Rural Development at MCC) and Cllr Paul Griffiths, Cabinet member for Economic Growth & Development.

Voneus had explained that since acquiring the network from Broadway they had experienced issues all over the County. They advised a specialist task force had now been set up to tackle the network problems and bring about the required improvements. This ongoing work was expected to take around 4 months in total.

County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she had raised the issue of compensation for customers affected by these issues and suggested to Voneus that letters were sent out in the post to all those who had been affected by the loss of their service.

It was agreed regular meetings would be held going forward, in order to keep up to date with progress and to ensure all issues were resolved.

County Councillors advised members that currently they felt the best and most viable alternative to Voneus, would be Starlink. However, installation meant an expensive upfront fee and a higher monthly cost.

It was advised that Openzone's rural roll out programme was also being investigated to establish if local Communities could be included.

In addition, correspondence was received from a company called 'Castra Solutions' they offered an alternative connectivity solution to deal with the problems currently being experienced in the area. Cllr Hatfield investigated this further with the Company and subsequent correspondence and information was passed to MCC for further investigation.

## **5.Highways issues:**

Update on Matters reported:

### **Speed watch - Gwernesney and Llangwm**

Following last month's update advising speed data collected in Gwernesney had been supportive of reducing the speed limit to 30mph, Cllr Hatfield had suggested extending this to include the Old Raglan Road towards the Gliding Club. County Cllr Bromfield had raised this with Gareth Freeman of Highways and it was agreed this could be considered. Further updates would follow from County Cllr Bromfield who pointed out as always it was a long process.

The speed data collected in Llangwm had been very similar to that of Llangybi and last month County Cllr Bromfield had confirmed this had resulted in a decision to install 'narrowing road markings' which have been proven to slow traffic speed. She was hopeful that a similar installation would also be introduced into the village of Llangwm.

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### **Installation of Flashing Road signs for Llangwm**

County Cllr Buckler reported that MCC had confirmed they intended to proceed with the installation of Flashing Speed signs for Llangwm but added she was currently awaiting updates on installation dates.

### **Poor conditions on the road to Trevela, Llangwm**

County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had previously reported back to MCC on the extremely poor condition of the road up to Trevela and added she would chase again for further updates.

### **Llan Y Nant Road Llangwm**

Cllr Trigg and Cllr Watkins raised ongoing concerns regarding the amount of heavy traffic that continued to pass through Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm. This small lane is used daily by heavily articulated lorries driving through to reach properties and fields up towards the Almshouses and onwards to Llantrisant and Usk.

The increased volume of heavy traffic continues to cause damage to the narrow country lanes through the village, breaking up road surfaces and destroying verges. The weight and size of these lorries often shakes the foundations of the houses alongside the bridges and Councillors are concerned they may eventually weaken and collapse. They pointed out there was currently no weight restriction in place.

County Cllr Buckler confirmed she would raise these concerns with Highways at MCC with a view to a weight limit being recommended.

### **Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm**

Last month a report was received on the poor condition of the footpath between Yew Cottage and the Mill House in Llangwm. Although a road sweeper had attended the site, further inspection had shown resurfacing was required. No timescale had been given for this work and so the clerk contacted the Council to establish a start date.

A reply was received stating the job had been added to the footway resurfacing programme, however a highway structure adjacent to the Mill House first required the removal of vegetation. This had already been programmed within the current vegetation clearance contract but would take time. County Cllr Buckler agreed to investigate further on our behalf.

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

Cllr Glyn Williams reported a collapsed Ditch on the R113 road between Arch Farm and Tump Farm. A car had toppled into the ditch on its side and required pulling out. He added this remains a dangerous site and requires urgent attention. The Clerk will report the issue to Highways for action.

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

Correspondence from Llangwm resident Michael Collier queried the results of the recent Traffic speed survey. He understood the data concluded that traffic speed in Llangwm wasn't too much of an issue and the majority of vehicles complied with the 30mph speed limit.

Mr Collier felt strongly that a significant proportion of vehicles passing Ivy Cottage, Yew Tree Cottage and Rycroft, frequently exceeded this limit and commented that following the recent extension of the 40mph transition zone this may even have increased. He felt setting the data

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counters close to the bridge adjacent to the Mill House, in the narrowest part of the road had skewed the results somewhat.

Cllr Trigg had raised the same issue with County Cllr Buckler and she agreed to refer back to Highways to request the Traffic Speed survey be repeated in a better location.

Further correspondence from Llansoy resident, Michael Whistance highlighted an incorrectly painted 30mph road speed sign on the main road through the village. The clerk reported this to Highways and was advised the village had recently undergone a further traffic regulation order to alter the location of speed signs. This meant the painting of the road signs had not yet been completed but would be carried out in due course. They confirmed speed limit gateway signs were not enforceable and only supported the metal road signs.

Mr Whistance also requested if it would be possible to install speed bumps or similar precautions to further slow traffic in the area now that the speed limit had been lowered.

County Cllr Buckler agreed she would raise this matter with MCC and inform them that additional speed measures were still required.

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

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

Following last month's request from members the clerk had approached the Rural Police Officers to ask if they were available to join the November Council meeting. Unfortunately, neither Officer was available on that date. The clerk advised an alternative meeting would be arranged in the New Year.

An invite received from One Voice Wales offered the option of joining the online Area Meeting. It advised the Gwent Police Chief Superintendent and Head of Territorial Policing Carl Williams, would be the guest speaker. NOTED

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

County Cllr's confirmed that the Usk Car Parking proposals were still under consultation but that no data had yet been released. Although it was suggested most of those completing the survey objected to the proposals.

The County Cllr's advised the 'Replacement Local Development Plan' had been released by MCC and the proposed sites were now available to view online. They confirmed a meeting was being held in the coming week when the plans would be discussed further. County Cllr Buckler again urged Councillors to make their views known and voice their opinions concerning this very important issue.

## **8. Finance:**

### **a) Audit Wales – Llangwm Community Council**

The clerk confirmed that three out of the Five Invoices received for work carried out by Deryk Evans were notified as sent in error and belonged to another Llangwm Council located in a different part of Wales.

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A Credit Note has now been received for the first of these Invoices which was mistakenly settled by the Council in July and the refund for this will follow shortly.

The Council is still awaiting an Invoice for the years 2019/20 and Audit Wales has requested we bear with them whilst this is investigated.

- b) The Bank Statement: For the period 30th August 2024 – 27th September 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- c) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 27th of September 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- d) The Bank Reconciliation: For the period 30th August 2024- 27th September 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- e) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerks Net Salary for October (including an additional 15 hours worked in September)

**Total - £669.15**

Clerks Expenses and Sundries for October

**Total - £47.79**

Green Grafter Grounds maintenance for September 2024

**Total - £160**

Usk and District Young Farmers Club

Donation towards the 6<sup>th</sup> June D Day Beacon Celebrations at Great House Farm, Llansoy

**Total £300**

**Total Expenditure to pay: £1,176.94**

## 9. Correspondence

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

Correspondence was received from 97 Websites Ltd, the Company set to take over the running of the LFCC Website following Isobelle Browns retirement at the end of the month. The cost for hosting and maintaining the Council's website cost £30 to be paid monthly by DD from March 2025.

The clerk replied requesting if it would be possible to pay this amount annually, explaining the Councils Financial Regulations require all payments be made by cheque and authorised by two signatories. A reply is awaited.

Cllr Hawkins noted this might continue to be an issue in the future, with fewer companies accepting payment by cheque. He offered to investigate alternative banking opportunities that might be available to the Community Council going forward.

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Correspondence was received from MCC regarding the rollout of new Recycling and Waste bags. It is envisaged all residents will have received their bags by Christmas time. Notices are also to be sent in the post advising of this and setting out the change in collection dates.

A Media statement was received from MCC concerning the proposed changes to Home to School transport. The People Scrutiny Committee had referred this back to cabinet for them to look again at the effectiveness of the procedure by which this year's consultation had been undertaken.

County Cllr Buckler confirmed the Cabinet had decided they were perfectly happy with the current policy.

## **10. Planning:**

No Planning applications have been received this month.

## **Updates and Enforcement Issues:**

### **Coed Y Prior Farm**

The appearance of a chalet along the edge of the woods opposite Brook Cottage was still under investigation and County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she has a meeting arranged with MCC to look into this further.

### **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. County Cllr Buckler currently had no updates to share but again confirmed it was unlikely MCC would act further on this.

### **Wern Panna Llangwm:**

Last month it was advised the replacement barriers installed at the entrance to the field did not form part of planning permission and that a second enforcement was now in place. Subsequently reports were received from two Councillors concerning separate occasions when they had been driving past the entrance and found the barriers swinging open into the road. This was an incredibly dangerous situation and could easily cause a fatality. The incidents had been reported to the rural Police Officers and County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had once again flagged this to Enforcement. She added she was completely appalled the situation had remained the same and found it to be negligent.

## **11. Ward Reports:** None received

## **12. HMPS:** No updates received

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **13. Any Other Business:**

The dates for next year's meetings were agreed. But following discussion over Cllr Glyn Williams' request for meetings to be held in Llantrisant every other month, it was decided the issue should be raised for further discussion at November's meeting. Cllr Williams asked that his request be Minuted.

### **Date of future Meetings for 2025:**

Tuesday 21st January at 7.30 pm  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

No meetings would be held in August or December 2025 unless deemed necessary.

### **14. Date of next Meeting:**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

### **Date of future Meetings for 2024:**

There will be no meeting held in December unless deemed necessary.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

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Date \_\_\_\_\_



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Date \_\_\_\_\_