

# **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 19th November 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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

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

Cllr. Malcom Hatfield – Transport Issue.  
County Cllr Fay Bromfield – Work commitment.

County Cllr Bromfield advised that due to current work pressures she would unfortunately be unable to attend every meeting going forward. But confirmed she was available at all times to address any issues requiring her attention.

### **2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th October 2024:**

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

### **3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th October 2024**

#### **Gwernesney defibrillator**

Following last month's decision by Councillors to reinstate a refurbished telephone kiosk to house the replacement defibrillator. The clerk had spoken with the insurer, they requested that two quotes be provided for consideration. One quote has already been obtained by Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Gardiner will provide a second. Councillors hoped the claim could now be settled swiftly to enable the defibrillator to be made available for use.

#### **Local issues Llansoy**

Cllr David Williams was able to confirm following the involvement of Monmouthshire C.C. the Flower filled Tyre planter had now been removed from Highways land in Llansoy.

#### **Llangwm Parish Hall**

Following the talk given by Peter Gough last month, which highlighted the difficulties of funding the running costs of the hall. A request was put forward for a possible donation towards the cost of felling the large Ash tree growing within the grounds.

The tree is suffering Ash Dieback and action is required to remove it urgently. The Hall Committee had obtained three estimates and settled on a quote for £1200, this included cutting the tree down, polling and removing all debris. The Chairman had asked if the Community Council could help with a donation of £200 towards the cost.

Councillors agreed they would be happy to accommodate this request and instructed the clerk to write to Peter Gough to advise him of their decision.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Voneus Broadband**

Regular updates have been received from the office of Cath Fallon at Monmouthshire C.C. and Peter Fox (MS). The information highlights the work currently being undertaken to upgrade and repair the Network in the coming months.

Monmouthshire C.C. have investigated Castra Solutions, who offered an alternative solution for connectivity in Llangwm, however the Council remain unconvinced whether this would be the most suitable or sustainable solution for the area.

Cllr Watkins also spoke with the Company who explained the plan was for a mobile Network based solution using a privately owned Mobile Mast. A guide cost would be around three times the current Voneus monthly charge and in addition there would be an expensive Subscription set up cost.

Starlink is still felt to be the most viable option, but again is far more costly than using Voneus Broadband.

The clerk provided County Cllr Bromfield with Postcodes for Llangwm, to assist Cath Fallon (Head of Rural Development at MCC) to investigate whether these areas could be added to the Openreach Rural Programme. County Cllr Buckler confirmed she would continue to monitor the outcome.

The issue of Mobile Connectivity had also been raised by several residents who are extremely concerned over what happens once telephone landlines have been removed. With no mobile coverage and poor Broadband connectivity in Llangwm and surrounding areas it is of great concern. County Cllr Buckler advised she would hold a discussion with Cath Fallon to establish what is being done to address these issues.

## **Llantrisant Fawr Council Meetings 2025**

Last month saw the setting of dates for the 2025 Council meetings, although further discussion was required on where the meetings should be held. Last year it was agreed that as Llangwm had a Parish Hall most of the meetings should be held there, however three of the meetings during the year should be held at The Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant. This would enable Councillors from the Llantrisant area to have a presence in their own wards and provide residents with the opportunity to come along to meetings more easily.

Cllr Trigg proposed this arrangement should continue and Cllr Watkins seconded this. A majority agreed with this decision, but suggested the decision could be periodically revisited to ensure Councillors were still in agreement.

Cllr Glyn Williams said that he felt there should be more of an equal split between where meetings were held but that he would accept the majority decision. NOTED

## **Llantrisant Fawr community Council Website**

Following the retirement of Isobelle Brown as Administrator to the Council's website, hosting is now administered solely by '97 Websites Ltd' who are based in Bridgend Wales. To use their service, it was necessary to provide Direct Debit instructions as opposed to paying by cheque.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

It will be necessary therefore, to update the Council's current Financial Regulations. A resolution will be required to propose a change to the way in which payments can be made by the Council.

The clerk will prepare a revised draft of financial regulations to present to Councillors for consideration at the next meeting.

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

Update on Matters reported:

##### **Speed watch:**

##### **Gwernesney**

Recent traffic data collected in Gwernesney resulted in a proposal by Monmouthshire Highways to support the reduction of the current speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. It is hoped this could be extended to include the Old Raglan Road towards the Gliding Club and further updates will follow.

##### **Llansoy**

Following requests from residents for the installation of further Speed measures in the village, a meeting was organised with Gareth Freeman of Monmouthshire C.C. County Cllr Rachel Buckler and Cllr David Williams also attended and plans were put forward to install Rumble strips and additional road signs. County Cllr Buckler reported that Gareth Freeman was very eager to sort out problems and encourage motorists to respect the area as a community and she was very hopeful that positive change would be brought about.

##### **Llangwm**

County Cllr Buckler confirmed the flashing speed signs would soon be installed in Llangwm and suggested other measures could be introduced which would help with the severity of traffic speed through the village.

She reported that concerns over the previous data collected from the speed counters had been reported to Highways and it had been agreed monitoring could be redone, siting the counters in more relevant positions.

County Cllr Buckler suggested a meeting could also be organised with Gareth Freeman for the residents of Llangwm. The opportunity could be taken to voice concerns over ongoing speed issues in the village and measures discussed that might be implemented to improve the situation.

Once a date has been agreed, the clerk will advertise the meeting on social media and the Village Notice boards.

##### **Road conditions to Trevella, Llangwm**

County Cllr Buckler had previously reported the extremely poor conditions on the road up to Trevella but added that she was unfortunately still waiting to hear what plans Monmouthshire C.C. Highways were to carry out.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Concerns had been raised over the amount of heavy traffic using Llan Y Nant Road, this caused excessive damage to the road, breaking up surfaces and destroying verges. Councillors said the stone bridges were being placed under additional strain and along with heavy rain this could cause them to collapse. County Cllr Buckler said she had requested a survey to be carried out to establish the risks and to determine what improvements could be put in place.

### **Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm**

It had been agreed by Highways that resurfacing was required on the footpath between Yew Cottage and the Mill House, Llangwm. No timescale had been given and County Cllr Buckler has approached the Deputy Chief Executive to push the matter and establish a firm start date.

### **Collapsed ditch on the R113 road**

The collapsed Ditch on the R113 road between Arch Farm and Tump Farm was reported to Highways and is currently under review. Cllr Glyn Williams stressed he was very concerned that urgent issues continue to be left unheeded and requested his concern be NOTED.

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

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

Cllr Gardiner recently reported an issue of loose and missing kerb stones in Gwernesney this had resulted in several dangerous holes appearing in the road. The issue was reported to Highways and has since been rectified.

Cllr Gardiner highlighted a problem with the Give Way sign at the Junction of 1 Chepstow Road, Gwernesney. Explaining, the sign had become hidden in the hedge of the property located on the corner of the road and was no longer visible. It was agreed Cllr Gardiner would speak with the residents himself to ask if they were able to rectify this.

Cllr Hawkins highlighted an issue at the bottom of Llanllowell Lane where the tarmac had disintegrated and caused the road to fall away. It was agreed this should be reported urgently using what 3 words to report the exact location. Cllr Watkins advised he would also write to Carl Touhig with a photograph of the area to help pinpoint the exact position.

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

None

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

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors.

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

County Cllr Buckler confirmed decisions were still to be announced regarding the 'Replacement Local Development Plan'. She added residents from Monmouth and Abergavenny were gathering to object to the plans and confirmed the Consultation was open until the middle of December. She urged everyone to engage in this very important issue.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Finance:

- a) The Bank Statement: For the period 28th September 2024 – 29th October 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of October 2024 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- c) The Bank Reconciliation: For the period 28th September 2024- 29th October 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerks Net Salary for November including an additional 5 hours overtime worked in October and salary payments backdated to April 2024, following the Local Government Pay Agreement for 2024.

**Total £782.87**

Clerks Net Salary for December (due to there being no meeting held in December)

**Total £524.93**

Clerks Expenses and Sundries for November

**Total £36.80**

Green Grafter Grounds maintenance for October 2024

**Total £160**

Beverley & Williams Acct's Ltd

Charge for calculation of Payroll for October -December 2024

**Total £36**

HMRC Employers pay slip for Tax & NIC due Oct 2024- Dec 2024

**Total £426.40**

Llangwm Parish Hall - Hire for October - Council Meeting - £45 plus  
24 Units electricity @ 57p per unit £13.68

**Total £58.68**

DAC Beachcroft (re disbursements for Police Report Fees Crime Commissioner Gwent)  
Vat element related to Zurich Municipal Recovery

**Total £8.76**

**Total Expenditure to pay: £2,034.44**

### e) Budget and Precept Request 2025/26

Councillors considered a draft Budget for 2025/26 to decide the amount of Precept required for next year's expenditure. Discussion took place around the current years' budget and those areas which had been more costly than expected.

Increased charges were incurred due to Fees charged by Audit Wales for work carried out on behalf of Llangwm Community Council for the years 2019/20, 2021/21 and 2021/22.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Additional requests for donations included a local Community group struggling with rising costs and a Horse-riding Team struggling to raise funds to enable them to represent Wales in competition in France.

The clerk's salary was higher than anticipated due to additional hours of work being necessary and reflected the last years delayed pay agreement which resulted in overdue backpay.

It had been agreed earlier in the year that a higher reserve should be set aside going forward which would allow the Council to help fund and encourage local community projects.

After further consideration it was AGREED the council set the 2025/26 Budget as follows:

• Payroll Clerk	£9800
• Expenses Clerk	£580
• Accountant Payroll Services	£350
• Insurance	£420
• Donations	£4000
• Subscriptions	£450
• Hall Hire	£600
• Audit Fees	£700
• Elections	£0
• Training	£500
• ICO Data Protection Fee	£50
• Grass Cutting	£1500
• Website Maintenance	£600
• Misc Community Engagement	£2000
• Asset Maintenance	£1000
• Annual donation for Electricity Llangwm Parish Hall	£150
• Biodiversity project	£250

**TOTAL £ 22,950**

It was **AGREED** the 2025-2026 precept request to Monmouthshire County Council should be set at £22,950.

#### **f) Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Clerk advised Councillors she had written to John Turner asking if he would carry out the 2024/25 Internal Audit on behalf of the Community Council. He had agreed and confirmed the fee for this work would be £200. Councillors **AGREED** he should be invited to undertake the Audit. The clerk will send a letter of appointment.

### **8. Correspondence**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Correspondence was received from MCC regarding the need to further extend the Temporary Traffic Prohibition Order on current Footpath closures. The order is due to expire 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 having already been extended once. The Council's views and comments were welcomed. – Noted

Invitation was sent by Monmouthshire CC to all Town and Community Councils explaining stakeholder engagement events were being held throughout the consultation period for the Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan. Virtual events were being held and those who wished to attend were required to email confirmation of their attendance. The invitation was circulated to members. – Noted

Notifications from One Voice Wales:

Correspondence was received offering the opportunity for a Digital Maturity Assessment which would allow Councils to consider how well they work digitally and consider any further good practices they might adopt. – Noted

Director of Finance, Welsh Government wrote to advise the new appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2025-26 would be £11.10. – Noted

A revised set of Model Financial Regulations for Community and Town Councils was received. These replace the 2019 model financial regulations and can be used to assist Councils in developing their own regulations. – Noted

A Finance and Government Toolkit for Community and Town Councils was received to be reviewed by the Clerk and Chair to help ensure adherence. – Noted

A request was received from Wales Air Ambulance who are embarking on upgrades to improve their current aircraft. Members were asked if they would consider supporting the appeal. – Noted

A request was received from URDD who are launching the 2025 appeal to provide disadvantaged children with the opportunity to enjoy a first holiday away from home. Members were asked if they would consider supporting the appeal. – Noted

A letter from the Insurance company Go Compare, highlighted the plight of those homes affected by flooding. A request suggested the Council might consider adding the company's website link to the LFCC Website – Noted and Declined

## **9. Planning:**

Application received: Number DM/2023/01337  
Change of use to 2 existing traditional barns together with associated works.  
Perthcretig Farm. Nantygelli Farm to Perthcretig Farm. Llangwm NP15 1EX  
NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2024/01263 and DM/2024/01260  
Listed Building consent Heritage. Proposed Single story extensions and alterations to existing dwelling. The Rectory Parsonage Lane Gwernesney NP15 1HF  
NOTED

Application received: Number DM/2024/01368. FAST TRACK HOUSEHOLDER

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Retention and completion of an area of garden and decking.  
Ty Braken Village Road Llantrisant NP15 1LG  
NOTED

A letter was received from Mr John Spencer of Llantrisant advising Councillors of his intention to submit a Planning Application for additional self-contained off road car parking at the rear of his property, with access from the R110 Highway.

NOTED – Councillors agreed they had no reason to object.

### **Updates and Enforcement Issues:**

Application number DM/2023/00795 – Ty'r Berllan Llangwm  
Cllr Watkins advised that concerns had been raised with him regarding ongoing problems experienced by a neighbouring property since the building work had taken place. Cty Cllr Buckler said she would investigate the matter and Cllr Watkins agreed to forward her the details.  
Cllr Watkins to action.

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm  
Information regarding the original permissions granted in 2015, stated that the holiday accommodation should only be used from March through to October and not as now quoted 28 days in a calendar year. Councillors said they were not happy to leave this issue as it currently affects neighbouring properties and rental is not being operated under the original terms. The clerk will refer to County Cllr Buckler for a progress update.

Wern Panna Llangwm  
Councillors previously reported the dangerous situation of the barriers installed at the entrance to the field at Wern Panna. The barriers have been found swinging open into the road and could cause a serious accident. These barriers do not form part of the original planning permission and have also been reported to Planning and flagged to Enforcement by County Cllr Buckler.

Councillors requested a letter be sent to Planning/Enforcement to advise them that as no action had been taken regarding the situation, the Community Council would have no option but to hold them responsible for any serious accidents that should occur as a result of their failure to act. The clerk to action.

**10. Ward Reports:** None received

**11. HMPS:** No updates

**12. Any Other Business:**

None

**13. Date of next Meeting:**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Tuesday 21st January at 7.30 pm to be held at The Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant

**Date of future Meetings for 2025:**

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

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

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm to be held at the Greyhound Inn Llantrisant

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm to be held at to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm t be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm to be held at the Greyhound Inn Llantrisant

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

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

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

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:45 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_