

# **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 21st January 2025 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. Malcolm Hatfield, County Cllr. Rachel Buckler, Mrs Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

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

Cllr. Steve Jolliffe – Family commitment.

County Cllr. Fay Bromfield – Family commitment.

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

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

### **3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19th November 2024**

#### **Gwernesney defibrillator**

Following last month's meeting, quotes for a replacement Kiosk were passed on to the Insurers for consideration. Confirmation has now been received that a settlement figure has been agreed and once authorised the funds will be paid directly to the LFCC bank account.

#### **Llangwm Parish Hall**

Peter Gough confirmed the work of felling the AshTree at the Village Hall has now been completed and the Council has received a Donation request form along with a copy of the Invoice. A donation of £200 was previously agreed towards the cost of the work and a cheque for this amount has now been raised.

#### **Voneus Broadband**

Voneus continues to carry out upgrade work on the network and recently Cath Fallon of MCC, the County Councillors and Cllr Watkins attended a meeting with the company. A further problem was highlighted involving unsafe connections in some areas. These continue to cause problems but the company is working hard to rectify the issue.

Cllr Watkins said Voneus were showing good intent and doing their best to rectify problems but in reality everything needed upgrading.

Cty Cllr Buckler added that Cath Fallon is still hoping to encourage Openreach to extend their Rural rollout programme to include our local community Post Codes. But ultimately, pressure is required to ensure Mobile providers install a Mast everyone can connect to.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

A local company Countryside Connections has also shown interest in providing broadband to the village and offers a menu of solutions, including Fibre to network or Radio receiver. The company is currently trying to identify a strong enough Fibre signal which has a clear enough view to enable them to bounce the signal back to Llangwm.

### **Mobile Connectivity Survey by Monmouthshire County Council**

A media release was received from the Council highlighting the results of the survey undertaken by the Refuse collection lorries in the County. The results supported residents' views that Mobile coverage in the area was extremely poor and would only be improved by the installation of a Mobile mast in the area. A link to a Mobile coverage checker was provided which would enable businesses and residents alike to determine where they would be able to find the best coverage locally.

### **Lantrisant Fawr Council Meetings 2025**

Last month saw the setting of dates for the 2025 Council meetings. These dates have now been posted on the Community Council Website and advised to the Secretary of Llangwm Parish Hall.

## **4.Highways issues:**

### **Update on Matters reported:**

The issues relating to traffic speed and possible calming measures for both Llangwm and Gwernesney are currently under discussion with Gareth Freeman of Monmouthshire C.C. Highways department. Cty Cllr Buckler confirmed a meeting was being planned for March which would allow Gareth to join villagers to discuss the current speed issues in the village and the possibility of additional road safety measures 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 at Trevella, Llangwm**

Cty Cllr Buckler confirmed that although she has on several occasions reported the extremely poor state of the road leading to Trevella. No responses have yet been received from Monmouthshire C.C. but she will continue to chase for updates on the situation.

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

Concerns have been raised by Councillors over the amount of heavy traffic using Llan Y Nant Road, not only putting a strain on the bridges in the village but causing damage to the road surface and destroying verges. Cty Cllr Buckler agreed to visit the area herself, in order to gain a better understanding to take the issues back to Monmouthshire C.C.

### **Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm**

Cty Cllr Buckler said she continues to chase the outstanding work required on the footpath between Yew Cottage and the Mill House and advised many outstanding projects are on hold at this time of year whilst departments await funding from their new financial budget.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cllr Glyn Williams advised the collapsed Ditch on the R113 road between Arch Farm and Tump Farm is still in need of urgent repair, despite the issue being reported it is still under review with Highways. Cllr Williams said he was appalled that the matter wasn't being dealt with more urgently. He went on to say there are other bridges in the area in need of attention, including the bridge in Llanllowell, which had been knocked and the Coping stones fallen off. Cty Cllr Buckler agreed and said she would raise these issues herself with Highways.

### **Give Way Sign Gwernesney**

Cllr Gardiner last month highlighted the problem with the 'Give Way' sign that had become hidden in the hedge of the garden of the property at the Junction with Chepstow Road, Gwernesney. Cllr Gardiner has since spoken with the house owner who agreed he would trim the hedge back to ensure the sign is made visible to motorists.

### **Disintegration of tarmac Llanllowell Lane**

The issue was reported to Highways who have since visited the site. They reported whilst there was no evidence that the carriageway was failing, there was a section of hedge that had been damaged. Highways confirmed they have installed additional verge markers to keep traffic away from the edge of the carriageway.

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

Cllr Hawkins reported that the Chevron warning signs had come down on the very sharp bend between Llanllowell and Usk. Cllr Watkins supplied the What 3 Words location and the clerk will report the issue to Highways.

Cllr David Williams reported that on the 60.2 from Llansoy to Nant Y Gethi, the whole length of the road was once again made up of Potholes requiring urgent attention. The clerk will report the issue to Highways.

Cllr Watkins raised the issue of gravel which had been washed down the hill onto the main road located halfway between Wern Panna and Coal Chips Farm. He said this is a particular concern for cyclists and motorists and could easily cause an accident. Cty Cllr Buckler agreed to investigate the matter further.

Cllr Hawkins highlighted that following Storm Bert in November, the fields around Llanllowell were badly affected by flooding and the land there badly impacted. Many residents in the area are concerned about this outcome and wanted to establish whether anything could be done. Cty Cllr Buckler suggested the matter should be raised with National Resource Wales to make them aware and to ask for advice.

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

A blocked drain on Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm had been causing localised flooding at property entrances. The issue was reported to Highways and has now been dealt with alongside cleaning of the additional drains in the immediate vicinity.

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

Reports were received and forwarded to Councillors. It was agreed that a representative from the Rural Crime team should be invited to come along to a future Council meeting. The clerk will approach the team to organise a convenient date.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

Replacement Local Development Plan - Cty Cllr Buckler confirmed the consultation had closed in December but said the plans had not yet come back for consideration.

MCC draft budget for 2025-26 - has now been released. Cty Cllr Buckler commented that once again, Monmouthshire was the lowest funded council in Wales, although the Council stated there were to be no redundancies, non-essential services were a particular concern.

## 7. Finance:

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

Clerks Net Salary for January (including an additional 12 hours worked during November)  
**Total £665.17**

Clerks Expenses and Sundries for December 2024  
**Total £30.00**

Clerks Expenses and Sundries for January 2025  
**Total £38.00**

97 Host - Cost of LFCC Website Domain renewal for 1 year  
**Total £18.75**

Llangwm Parish Hall - Hire for November 2024 - Council Meeting - £45 plus  
39 Units electricity 57p per unit £13.68  
**Total £67.23**

Donation to Llangwm Parish Hall towards the cost of Tree Felling  
**Total £200.00**

Mrs Sylvia Fowles – Domain renewal and website administration for Llangwm.org.uk  
**Total £35.36**

The IT Medic – Troubleshooting Council Laptop - external hard drive, investigating  
synchronizing of Cloud Documents  
**Total £72.00**

**Total Expenditure to pay: £1,126.51**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

e) **Precept Request 2025/26**

The Council's budget requirement for the new financial year was agreed last month and the Precept application for 2025/26 has now been submitted to Monmouthshire County Council as required.

f) **Receipt of Auditors reports 2022/23, 2023/24**

The Audit reports have now been received and completion notices published as required. Observations and recommendations made by the Audit Officer were discussed and NOTED. Invoices are awaited for the above reports and also for those Audits undertaken by Audit Wales on behalf of Llangwm Community Council.

**8. Review of Financial Regulations**

In view of the recently revised Model Financial Regulations produced by One Voice Wales and the need for the Council to introduce payment by Direct Debit. It was agreed the existing Financial Regulations should be reviewed and updated to reflect these changes.

Resolution: Councillors reviewed the current Policy and considered the necessary changes. A motion to accept the new Financial Regulations was proposed by Cllr Hatfield and Seconded by Cllr Watkins. All agreed

**9. Review of Community Engagement Policy**

A review was undertaken and consideration given to those objectives set previously. It was agreed the policy should be simplified to demonstrate that engagement was key to all work undertaken by the Council and that a two-way process in which communities play a role was key to success. Members are keen to ensure residents should be kept informed about local issues and that concerns are heard and acted upon.

Resolution: Councillors reviewed the current Policy and considered the necessary changes. A motion to accept the updated policy was proposed by Cllr Watkins and Seconded by Cllr Hawkins. All agreed

**10. Correspondence**

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

Correspondence was received from Bob Evans of HoMMA Property Committee (Monmouthshire Ministry Area) who advised that St John's Llangwm had finally been put on the market at a guide price of £50,000. All bids to be returned by 20<sup>th</sup> February. NOTED.

Correspondence was received from James Williams, Chief Officer Law & Governance of MCC. Encouraging Councillors to take up the training on the Code of Conduct as it has been some time since this has been undertaken. The training is organised by OVW and can be taken either in person or online. NOTED.

Councillors agreed it would be best to complete the training online and the clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Notification was received from Highways and Flood Management which provided a list of notable high tides forecast for the Tintern area in 2025. Advice was also provided to enable residents to sign up to receive Flood warnings via National Resource Wales. NOTED and posted on the local facebook page.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notifications from One Voice Wales:

Information was received to inform Councillors that the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru had published its revised proposals report in relation to the review of Senedd Constituencies in Wales. NOTED.

Details were received on the Law Commission Consultation on Burial and Cremation Law. An independent law body established under the Law Commissions Act 1965. A project was being undertaken on reforms to burial and cremation considering whether the church in Wales should have a power to transfer responsibility for maintaining closed churchyards to local councils. A link was provided for information and circulated to Councillors.

It was agreed that Cllr Hawkins would write to put forward the views on this proposal on behalf of the Council.

A survey was received in relation to the OVW Area meetings. Participation has been poor and they are trying to identify actions that can be undertaken to improve attendance. The clerk will complete the survey on the Councils behalf.

## **11. Planning:**

Application received: Number DM/2025/00015

Proposed construction of domestic garage and garden store with home office/studio. Formation of gated vehicular access.

The Rectory, Parsonage Lane Gwernesney. Monmouthshire. NP15 1HF

NOTED – Councillors agreed they had no reason to object.

## **Updates and Enforcement Issues:**

Planning permission Ref DM/2023/00795 – Ty'r Berllan Llangwm

Cty Cllr Buckler advised the issues that had arisen following the completion of the building works are still unresolved and no decision has been reached as yet.

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm

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. This has been reported to MCC on several occasions, but they continue to state as far as they are concerned nothing has been breached. Cty Cllr Buckler reported she had been unable to locate the original application but will flag this and continue investigations.

Wern Panna Llangwm

Reports have been received regarding the safety of the barriers installed at the entrance to the field at Wern Panna and this was currently under investigation by Planning Enforcement. Cty Cllr Buckler advised a meeting with planning is due shortly to discuss the issue and until then no further information was available.

The owner of Wern Panna, Mr Steve Hole joined the meeting to discuss the issue with Councillors. He advised the Barriers he had installed at the site were now secured with welded chains which would stop them opening out into the road.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

He confirmed he would be happy to put the gates back into position, but added he would still need a physical barrier in place to prevent people from parking at the entrance and coming onto his property, which raised concerns for the safety of his family.

Cty Cllr Buckler advised that locally there were safety concerns over the farm vehicles needing to stop in the road to turn off into the field and Mr Hole suggested to mitigate this, the family were happy to open the gates beforehand so that the farm vehicles could instead drive straight through the entrance.

Cty Cllr Buckler said decisions were made because of safety concerns and that she was unable to comment further as the Legal team had still to meet. But she hoped they would be able to come to a practical and safe way forward to suit everyone.

Mr Hole thanked Councillors and Cty Cllr Buckler advised they would speak again following the scheduled meeting.

Councillors raised concerns over whether they were receiving all Planning Applications relevant to their community areas adding they wished for the Council to be proactive in the planning process. The clerk confirmed that all applications received from MCC Planning are forwarded for consideration and that the Planning department had previously suggested if there were concerns, that all applications could be further viewed on the Monmouthshire C.C. Website. Cty Cllr Buckler said she would raise this issue with planning.

**12. Ward Reports:** None received

**13. HMPS:** No updates

**14. Any Other Business:**

Cllr Trigg raised the issue of the lack of gritting in the village, especially during the recent spell of icy weather when those areas most at risk had not been treated at all. Cty Cllr Buckler to raise the matter with the Highways department.

**15. Date of next Meeting:**

Tuesday 18th February at 7.30 pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

**Date of future Meetings for 2025:**

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 10:10 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_