

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at Llangwm Parish Hall, on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

County Cllr Rachel Buckler – Prior Commitment
Cllr Malcolm Hatfield – Absent due to illness

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th April 2025

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

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th April 2025

Gwernesney defibrillator

Cllr Gardiner confirmed that following last month's meeting he had been able to source a suitable sign which would help to highlight the location of the defibrillator. He also reported that although the defib was ready for use he had been unable to register it on the Circuit. Cllr Watkins confirmed he would contact the relevant personnel to ensure the issue was resolved.

Mobile and Broadband connectivity in Llangwm

Cath Fallon, (Head of Rural Development) recently highlighted a project which would involve Llangwm taking part in a Mobile and Broadband Pilot scheme.

However, a subsequent online meeting confirmed that the installation would only benefit the Parish Hall and was not, as first suggested a Signal Booster for the benefit of residents living in the surrounding areas. This type of installation was not required at the Hall which already had a working Broadband connection supporting wifi calls.

Cllr Watkins said the Venux maps already showed there was no Network signal in the village and therefore a Mobile Mast was the only way forward. He added Cath Fallon has been encouraged to go back to the Mobile Networks to ask for a meeting to be set up. The County Cllr's along with Cath Fallon are set to speak with Adam Butcher of the Welsh Government shortly to further the cause for Mobile reception in Llangwm and the surrounding areas and to establish what solutions are on offer to improve the situation.

Further updates are also awaited from Catherine Fookes (MP) and Laura Jones (MS) who have also been supporting the Council to help find a solution.

Signed _____

Date _____

Voneus Broadband

Cllr Hawkins requested it should be Minuted that connectivity with Voneus Broadband was much improved since the recent upgrades and residents were now able to connect without experiencing too much problem.

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

The ongoing deterioration of the building was raised last month. County Cllr Buckler confirmed this was being investigated by several Council departments and updates were awaited. County Cllr Bromfield said she would speak with the Planning department to establish if they could provide support in any way or attend the Council meeting to put forward possible solutions.

4. Review of Policies:

A) Data Policy - Reviewed and **ADOPTED**

B) General Privacy Policy – Reviewed and **ADOPTED**

5. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Gwernesney and Llangwm traffic/road safety measures

The proposed speed changes in Gwernesney that were put forward by Gareth Freeman of MCC are expected to take place around September time. The change will go forward to public consultation in June and Officers believe the speed will be lowered providing all legal requirements are met.

County Cllr Bromfield confirmed the road markings and other promised works are expected to be completed before then and work is currently underway in relation to this. Updates are expected to follow shortly.

Llangwm – Several points had been raised by residents at the meeting with Gareth Freeman and County Cllr Buckler has since provided updates.

Lack of attendance by the Police Go Safe Van – both County Cllr's raised this concern and were advised that focus had been required on other areas in Monmouthshire. Although it was intended these visits would resume and be implemented into the Teams forward plan.

Flashing speed sign in the village - County Cllr Buckler again raised the issue of the sign facing in the wrong direction and is currently awaiting an update.

Formal quote for the purchase of an additional Solar powered Speed sign for Llangwm – County Cllr Buckler has again raised the request with Gareth Freeman.

Signed_____

Date_____

Llansoy Traffic Speed

County Cllr Buckler had reported that she had asked for clarification on whether the Go Safe Vans were able to issue Speed Tickets in the Village and was awaiting a reply. Cllr David Williams said speed monitoring was again underway in the village and that monitoring strips had been laid. County Cllr Bromfield confirmed this was taking place throughout the County.

Bridges on Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm

Following the visit by MCC Project Engineer Ross Price, a service request was put forward to Highways for the installation of a small section of fencing on the downstream side of Dyffryn Brook Bridge. The resident living alongside the bridge requested that any replacement should consist of post and rail, which would allow flood waters to flow back into the brook without collecting debris. County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had passed this feedback to the department.

The Highways Team had several weeks ago replaced the damaged drainage outfall pipe leading from Chapel Road into Cllr Watkin's Garden. The standard of the workmanship had been poor and Cllr Watkins has since written to Carl Touhig and Ross Price of MCC to voice his concern. A reply is still awaited and County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she would chase this with the officers concerned.

Weight restriction on the Llangwm Bridges

Heavy lorries using the bridges continue to cause damage along the narrow stretch of road, causing deep potholes and churning up the grass laybys. County Cllr Buckler has raised these concerns with the department concerned and is awaiting an update to confirm if a weight restriction might be considered.

Trevella- Road resurfacing

The road has been reported to MCC as needing urgent resurfacing, but despite County Cllr's Buckler's requests for action, no work has yet been scheduled.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

Work on the footpath is still outstanding but at the meeting held with Gareth Freeman, it was suggested there may be a possibility of the work being carried out when the installation of road markings took place. County Cllr Buckler confirmed she had written for confirmation on this.

Collapsed ditch R113 Arch Farm to Trump Farm, Llantrisant

The reported issue is still outstanding and updates currently advise the request is under review. County Cllr Bromfield confirmed Safety Cones had been put in place but no timescale given for the work to begin and so she had requested a meeting with the Officer concerned.

Replacement Give Way Sign at the junction of 1 Chepstow Road Gwernesney

A replacement sign was requested some time ago but Highway updates show the request as passed to the Traffic Team.

Erosion of the Bridge on Route 63.3

Cllr David Williams reported erosion of the Bridge between Nant Y March Farm and Oakfield Farm. The issue was logged with Highways and recent updates show the problem has been passed to the Service Area.

Signed_____

Date_____

Incorrectly facing road signs Gwernesney

Cllr Trigg reported that the 40 mph speed signs on the road between Gwernesney and Wern Panna had been turned around and were facing the wrong direction. The issue was logged with Highways and recent updates state the issue is under review.

Flooding at Llangeview

County Cllr Bromfield reported that a site meeting was being held with Land drainage in the next week and she would update members following the meeting.

Poor Road surface around the Olway Pub, Usk

Cllr Trigg previously reported the extremely poor condition of the road around the Olway Pub and County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she has requested an assessment of the road to be carried out.

Footpath and Bridge closure Llantrisant

Cllr Jolliffe previously advised that a footpath and bridge in the area had been closed without notice. County Cllr Bromfield has now been able to locate the relevant officer and has contacted Ruth Rourke from the Countryside Department to ask if she is able to arrange a site visit with Cllr Jolliffe to investigate the issue further.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Gardiner reported a further issue in Gwernesney on the road leading to the garages at the village notice board. A similar problem with the road paving had occurred previously and been resolved. The clerk will raise a service issue to Highways.

Cllr Watkins highlighted a highways issue in the area of the Toll House, Llangwm and will provide further details to the clerk once he has established the 'what3words' co-ordinates.

County Cllr Bromfield explained she had been dealing with a problem relating to a blocked drain outside of Llantrisant Church. She advised machinery would be required to fix the problem and said it was yet another ongoing Service request which was awaiting action. The Councillor requested this to be Minuted.

New issues raised by others:

No new issues raised

6. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Reports were received by Councillors.

At last month's meeting it was agreed that the clerk should contact PC Dan Counsell to take up his offer of providing 'We Don't Buy Crime' signs for the village. The signs have now been delivered and Councillors will fix them to the Bus Shelter walls in Llangwm and Llantrisant.

PC Counsell has also suggested holding a Crime Road Show event later in the year where residents could attend to learn about the Smart Water scheme.

The Council had previously offered to fund the purchase of Smart Water for residents, but interest had been poor. Councillors agreed they would be happy to try to promote the scheme again and the Clerk will arrange a suitable date for September for the Crime Team to attend. Notices advertising the event would be circulated asking residents to come along and learn more about the initiative, with the option of taking away a free Smart Water product.

Signed _____

Date _____

7. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

County Cllr Bromfield spoke about the intention of the Pegasus Group (on behalf of Bluestone Farm 1 LT) to develop a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array covering 300 Acres on land at Court Farm, Ponthir Monmouthshire. This proposal spans across three local authority areas – Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Newport. The Cllr advised she had set up a petition with an accompanying document explaining the venture and asked that the Council shared her proposal on social media for residents to see.

8. Finance:

- a) The Bank Statement: For the period 29th March 2025 – 29th April 2025 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of April 2025 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- c) The Bank Reconciliation: For the period 29th March 2025- 29th April 2025 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) **Expenditure:** The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for May (including an additional 16 hours worked in April)
Total £704.25

Clerks working from home Allowance and stationary sundries
Total £30

97 Host – LFCC Monthly Website Hosting
Paid by Direct Debit Monthly
Total £30

Green Grafter Grounds maintenance Llangwm
Total £172

The Information Commissioner (data protection fee)
Total £52

Audit Wales Invoice 012786 – Llantrisant Fawr 2020/21 - £200
Audit Wales Invoice 013010 – Llantrisant Fawr 2022/23 - £1123
Audit Wales Invoice 013163 – Llantrisant Fawr 2023/24 - £200
Total £1,523

Llangwm Parish Hall Annual donation - towards electricity costs for the Defibrillator and Broadband provision.
Total £200

Donation to Llangwm Baptist Chapel towards Churchyard Maintenance
Total £250

Donation to Pen Y Cae Mawr Methodist Chapel towards Churchyard maintenance
Total £250

Signed_____

Date_____

Donation to both Llantrisant and Llanllowell Churches towards Churchyard maintenance

Total £500

Donation to St Davids Llangview, St Michaels's Gwernesney, St Jerome's and St John's of Llangwm towards Churchyard maintenance.

Total £1,000

Donation to Lottie May Williams – Support with training costs for competing in International Skiing competitions on behalf of Wales and her hometown of Llantrisant.

Total £500

Total Expenditure to pay: £5,211.25

The clerk reminded Councillors there were still two outstanding Invoices on hold for the old Llangwm Community Council. This had been agreed with Audit Wales due to invoices being received that were meant for another Llangwm Community Council in a different part of Wales.

An invoice is still expected for work carried out by Deryk Evans of Audit Wales for the years 2019/20 but to date Audit Wales Finance team have been unable to locate its whereabouts.

After some discussion members Agreed rather than wait for this missing invoice, the Council should go ahead and pay what was outstanding and any additional Invoice would be settled when it arrived. The clerk will prepare a cheque for presentation at the June meeting.

Additionally, there may still be an Invoice due for the old Llantrisant Fawr Council for the years 2021/22, but to date nothing has been received.

Annual Audit 2024-25

The clerk advised the Internal Audit had now been completed by John Turner and his report circulated to members. The Accounting and Governance Statements will be presented at the June meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer will certify the return and present it for approval by the Council. The return along with all additional information must be submitted to Audit Wales by the 30th June 2025. The Audit Notice, as required will be displayed on the Council Website and Notice board prior to the 16th June 2025.

9. Correspondence

Details of Monmouthshire County Council Meetings were received throughout the month and advised to Councillors. NOTED

Correspondence was received from Kathryn Clarke, Chair of the Roger Edwards Almshouses Charity advising a potential new Trustee for Llangwm, Bec Hughes had been nominated, but Trustees were required to be appointed by the Community Council.

Councillors agreed this nomination should be confirmed and the clerk will write to Kathryn to advise of their decision.

Signed_____

Date_____

Another nomination was requested for a Trustee from Gwernesney but Cllr Gardiner said he was unable to put forward a name at that point, but would make further enquiries in the village to establish if someone would like to take up the position.

A media statement was received from Monmouthshire C.C announcing the award of £8.2m for Transport funding which would enable the delivery of a variety of projects across the County.

Notice of a Public Scrutiny Meeting was received for a meeting being held on the 12th May to discuss the closure of the M48 bridge to vehicles over 7.5 Ton in weight. Cllr Hatfield joined the online meeting and informed members discussion had mainly centred around establishing solutions to determine the best course of action going forward.

10. Planning:

No Planning applications were received this month.

Cllr Hawkins along with the clerk attended a planning training session at The Rhadyr. The session provided an overview of Planning law and processes, but was felt to be more relevant to larger Town and Community Councils. Despite this the session provided a useful insight into the workings of the department.

Planning updates and Enforcement Issues:

Wern Panna Llangwm

Planning enforcement is currently looking at safety aspects in relation to the current gates that have been installed which also involves the Highways department. Further updates are awaited.

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm

The case has been re-opened due to queries over the original permissions which were granted in 2015. These stated the holiday accommodation could be used from March through to October and not as now stated 28 days in a calendar year. Further updates are awaited.

11. Ward Reports: None received

12. HMPS - No updates have been received.

13. Any Other Business:

Cllr Jolliffe updated members on the continuing success of Evie Andrews from Llantrisant, who last year received a donation to help towards her goal of attending Equestrian events representing Wales both at home and abroad. Evie continues to compete worldwide and has since won several prestigious awards.

14. Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 17th June at 7.30pm to be held at to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Date of future Meetings for 2025:

Tuesday 15th July at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 16th September at 7.30pm to be held at the Greyhound Inn Llantrisant

Tuesday 21st October at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 18th 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 9.20 pm.

Signed_____

Date_____

Signed_____

Date_____