

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 21st October 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner (Chairman), Cllr. James Hawkins (Vice Chairman), Cllr David Williams, Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr Glyn Williams, Mrs Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. John Watkins – Annual Leave

Cllr. Steve Jolliffe – Annual Leave

Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield – Illness

County Councillor Rachel Buckler – Prior appointment

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th September 2025

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

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th September 2025

Community Council Defibrillators

Gwernesney

Cllr Gardiner confirmed he had still been unable to register the new defibrillator onto the Circuit. The clerk will speak with Christopher Joyce of the Welsh Ambulance Service to request that he complete the registration on behalf of the Community Council.

Mobile connectivity for Llangwm

An online meeting took place this month between Catherine Fookes MP and Cllr John Watkins. The complete lack of Mobile signal in Llangwm was discussed at length with the outcome being that Catherine would lobby the Mobile Phone Companies to either provide a new mast or restore a disused one in the area. The Council will be kept informed of updates.

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

Steps were taken last month to seek action by Momouthshire C.C. regarding the poor state of the Bridge Inn. The Clerk wrote to Lewis Powell-Jones, (MCC Health and Safety) who visited the property and photographed the site. He confirmed that under Section 29 of the Local Government Act 1982, he would be able to ensure any necessary works were undertaken. But despite requesting an update, no further information has been forthcoming.

Contact was also made with Gerard Edwards of Building Control who on receipt of photographs also agreed to visit the site. He advised that whilst the building was in a very poor state, it was not a danger to the public. Although he confirmed that at the front of the building there was an open access to a large Culvert highlighting the potential for a child to fall in.

Subsequently he contacted the owner who agreed to check his deeds to establish if the culvert was on his land and if so advised he would erect a barrier. He added he would soon visit to review the land and property with a view to developing the site.

Signed_____

Date_____

Building Control also confirmed they would liaise with Highways regarding the Culvert and contact Planning to suggest they serve a section 215 Notice which would require the owner to clean up the land and deal with the poor state of the building. Failure to comply can lead to prosecution in the Magistrates' Court and a maximum fine of £1,000.

Councillors' agreed the Notice should be served and requested it should be MINUTED. County Cllr Buckler has already approached Monmouthshire C.C. to enquire whether the owner was currently paying rates on the property but had been informed this information could not be made available to the Council.

One Voice Wales and SLCC Joint Event

The attendance of the clerk to the joint online event which focuses on key topic areas relevant to the future of Town and Community Councils in Wales, has now been confirmed and an invoice has been received.

4. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported: Road Safety Improvements:

Gwernesney

As confirmed by Gareth Freeman of Highways, the proposed speed changes for the area along with the associated sign changes are scheduled for installation in late November. The wider programme of road safety improvements will follow but is dependent on Manufacturing lead times and contractor availability.

Llangwm

The planned changes to the road markings in the village are due to take place around the same time as those in Gwernesney. The proposed signing changes will be included in the Council's Minor works programme to be delivered as part of a larger scheme.

A formal quote for the purchase of an additional Solar powered Speed sign is still awaited. Once this has been received, Councillors will also consider the possibility of purchasing convex road Mirrors to be situated at several dangerous road entrances along the B4235 in Llangwm and also at the junction with the old Raglan road in Gwernesney.

Replacement of Drainage Pipe - Chapel Road, Llangwm

A written response is still awaited from Carl Touhig MCC, in relation to the poor workmanship employed when replacing the damaged drainage pipe in Chapel Road. An update is awaited from County Cllr Buckler.

Dyffryn Brook Bridge, Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm

An inspection carried out by Ross Price (Monmouthshire C.C.) earlier in the year resulted in a Service issue being raised to request replacement of a small section of fencing on the downstream side of the bridge which had broken away leaving a dangerous gap.

This work is still outstanding and County Cllr Buckler agreed she would raise the issue and provide an update.

Signed_____

Date_____

Weight restriction for the Llangwm Bridges

A possible weight restriction on the bridges had previously been discussed owing to the continued increase of large, heavy lorries using the road. The use of this narrow road to transport heavy loads has caused excessive damage to the road surface along with disruption and discomfort for those living nearby.

County Cllr Buckler previously visited the site with Ross Price (MCC) to establish what more could be done, but Mr Price had been dismissive of the situation. However, the problem and concerns remain and warrant further investigation.

County Cllr Buckler will again raise the issue and also contact Gareth Freeman (Highways) to determine whether signage could be put up to deter heavy vehicles from using the road. Updates awaited.

Resurfacing of Trevella, Llangwm

Correspondence was received from Cllr Hatfield confirming several of the potholes in the road had now been dealt with, but another at the start of the road were still awaiting attention.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

The work on the footpath between Yew Cottage and the Mill House remains outstanding and no time scale has been given for the start of this work. Gareth Freeman (Highways) had agreed to contact the Assets' team to establish timings as he felt this could impact on the improved road changes he had proposed. Updates awaited.

Erosion of the Bridge on Route 63.3

The issue was reported to Highways some time ago.
Current highways service status – Passed to Service area.

Incorrectly facing road signs Gwernesney

The issue was reported to Highways some time ago.
Current highways service status - Under review.

Chevron Sharp bend road sign down, B4235 down to Llangwm

The sign was detached from the pole but has now been removed from site.
Current highways service status – Passed to Service area.

Llanllowell Lane - Extensive Potholes across the Highway

Cllr Hawkins reported that some of the reported potholes have now been tackled but there are still more that require attention.
Current highways service status – Under review.

Resurfacing of School Road, Llantrisant

Cllr Bromfield had reported the road required resurfacing, but confirmation was awaited to establish if the road was an adopted highway before work could be undertaken. County Cllr Bromfield to update.

Arch Bridge on the R113

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Date _____

At the previous meeting Cllr Glyn Williams raised concerns over the outstanding repair work that was required to ensure the safety of Arch Bridge.

It was suggested a meeting be arranged at the site between County Cllr Bromfield, Cllr Williams and a representative from Monmouthshire C.C. highways, to enable a discussion on what action could be taken and when. Update awaited from County Cllr Bromfield.

Toll House Llangwm, dangerous road surface

Monmouthshire Highways sent confirmation that action has now been taken.
Current highways service status – Actioned and Closed.

Blocked Drains on side road leading to garages at 10 Chepstow Road

Drains still awaiting attention.
Current highways service status – With Supervisor.

Speed Bumps for Llansoy

Cllr David Williams reported that despite Speed measures implemented in Llansoy, motorists were still speeding through the village. It is now considered Speed bumps will be the only deterrent to deal with the issue. County Cllr Buckler has been advised and updates are awaited.

Northend Cottage, Llangwm

The owners of North End Cottage previously reported a Gabian Basket previously installed by Monmouthshire C.C. had fallen over onto its' side in the Brook following repeated high floods. The owners are concerned erosion of the bank will now take place at speed and undermine the main road and bridge. County Cllr Buckler agreed to investigate the matter with Monmouthshire C.C, updates are awaited.

Police Speed Watch, Llangwm

An issue was raised by a local resident regarding Speeding charges being served to motorists by the Go Safe team stationed at the top of the hill on the B4235 leading out of Llangwm. The 40mph sign positioned at the approach to the bend was understood to be advisory and not enforceable. Clarification is being sought to establish the position.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors:

Nothing to report

New issues raised by others:

Double Pothole on either side of Gullie top, located at Chapel Road Llangwm
Reported and current highways service status – Passed to Area Supervisor.

Replacement Poles and Village Name sign required on the hill leading into Llangwm on the B4235.

Current highways service status – Under review.

Replacement Road sign Sharp bend / 40MPH requested for the approach to the bend at the top of the hill on the B4235 at Ty Fry leading out of Llangwm. The sign has disintegrated badly and is no longer clearly visible.

Additionally, the sign has been queried with Highways to establish whether it should be an advisory or an instruction sign in Red.

Current highways service status – Awaited

Signed_____

Date_____

Pothole reported at the entrance of the road to Trevella, Llangwm
Current highways service status – Awaited

5. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

The monthly report was sent electronically to Councillors.

Smartwater Roadshow held in Llangwm Parish Hall

The roadshow last month was well attended and Officers from Gwent Police spoke about the product and how it is used in the fight against crime. A total of 36 packs were registered to Community residents on the night and a further 44 have been registered since.

There are 20 packs remaining for Community Council residents locally who would like to join the scheme, requests can be made via the clerk on llantrisantfawr@gmail.com

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

The County Councillors have informed and updated members throughout the month on issues relevant to their local Communities.

7. Biodiversity in the community

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 plays a significant role in requiring Town and Community Councils to consider the future of their communities in many ways including biodiversity conservation. The Council policy was reviewed earlier this year and it was agreed monitoring should take place periodically.

Councillors agreed it was a difficult area in which to be proactive as the Council did not own any land. However, the responsibility of the grass cutting around the Parish Hall did allow for the conservation of wildflowers. Cllr Hawkins suggested it might be possible for the Council to install a community beehive in Llangwm in the Spring and said villagers might be interested in harvesting the hive. It was agreed this should be considered again in early part of next year.

8. Finance:

- a) Bank Statements: For the period 30th August 2025 – 29th September 2025 were received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of September 2025 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- c) The Bank Reconciliation: For the period 30th August 2025 - 29th September 2025 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) **Expenditure:** The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for October (including an additional 14 hours worked in September and the Annual Salary award backdated to April 1st, 2025)

Total £813.88

Clerks Home Working Allowance - October

Total £24

Community Council Stationery costs

Total £16.60

Signed_____

Date_____

97 Host.co.uk – LFCC Monthly Website Hosting (Paid by Direct Debit 1st Monthly, October)
Total £30

Green Grafter Grounds Maintenance- Llangwm (October)
Total £172

Llangwm Parish Hall rental hire costs September
Total £45.57

SLCC & OVW Joint Virtual Conference for Clerk November 2025
Total £78

Total Expenditure to pay £1,180.05

e) Audit Wales Report 2024/25

Councillor's received the completed Audit report. The completion notice has now been published on the Community Council Website and Noticeboard as required. Observations and recommendations made by the Audit Officer were as follows:

- The Council is required to create and publish a plan for councillor and staff training. Which must be approved by full council and include details on the training, participant numbers, timeframe and cost. The Council's plan did not fully include the information required.
- The Council does not record or seek to recover VAT on payments.
- The Council provided a positive response to assertion 10 of the Annual Governance statement and the response required was incorrect. The Council does not meet the conditions required to exercise the General Power of Competence.

The issues were NOTED and Councillors' reiterated it had previously been agreed it would not be a cost-effective exercise to recover VAT on payments.

Additionally, it was NOTED the Clerk had put forward a negative response to Assertion 10 and provided a supporting document detailing the reasons why the Council did not meet the conditions to exercise the General Power of Competence.

Training needs are currently met on an as needed basis due to the size of the Community Council and its current obligations.

8. Correspondence

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

Communication received from Monmouthshire County Council detailed a new fund provided by Welsh Government to enable communities across Wales to celebrate St David's Day next year. A webpage has been set up for the fund with guidance and an application form. NOTED

A document received from Welsh Government advised of an update concerning actions to support the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector. Forwarded electronically to members. NOTED

9. Ward Reports: None received

10. HMPS - No updates have been received.

Signed _____

Date _____

11. Planning:

Applications received:

DM/2025/00767 – Planning permission – Two Storey Rear Extension

The Reddings, Court Robin Lane, Llangwm NP15 1ET

Application update – Proposed design has been amended to preserve the character of the existing dwelling. A double gable extension is now proposed on the rear elevation.

Councillors made no objections to the amended proposal and a response to this effect would be submitted to MCC Planning.

DM2025/10127 – Land at Field Farm Llansoy Usk.

Section 106 Relaxation of Section 106 obligations in relation to planning permission M/3324.

Councillors raised no objections in relation to this request. A response to this effect will be submitted to MCC Planning.

DM2025/01000 – The Site of the former Llansoy Village Hall, Llansoy. Monmouthshire.

Planning permission was sought for an Accessible holiday let catering for those with disabilities.

Councillors last month agreed there was no reason to object to this application and their response was submitted to MCC Planning.

The owner Leigh Branfield had subsequently contacted the clerk for an update on the Members decision and it was advised no objections had been raised. Mr Branfield asked if the Council had any advice they could offer in relation to his application. The clerk had advised that as in all planning applications the Council were unable to influence the application in any way, but assured Mr Branfield the Council had not put forward any objections.

Planning updates and Enforcement Issues:

Mill Meadow Cottage and Stables Llangwm

Recent planning permission put forward by the new owners is still under consideration by Monmouthshire CC.

Prior to this application, a case had been reopened by planners to investigate Councillor's concerns regarding an existing breach of the Planning permissions of 2015.

The case is now on hold due to the ongoing application however further issues have since been brought to the Councillors' attention from residents living in the immediate area. Updates are awaited and no report has yet been received from MCC Planning.

Wern Panna Llangwm

Planning enforcement considered the safety aspects of the current gates and agreed Highways should be involved in any outcome. Subsequently, gates have now been installed at the site due to sheep being installed in the field. The gates still do not meet with the original planning permission. Updates are awaited.

12. Any Other Business:

The clerk advised she had recently been approached by residents living in the areas of Llangeview and Pen Y Cae Mawr who queried whether their villages should officially appear on the Community Council Website and headed paperwork.

Councillors' agreed to investigate to confirm if these areas should be officially represented by the Council and would report their findings in due course.

Signed _____

Date _____

Cllr Gwyn Gardiner informed members that in recent months Welsh Water had constantly dug up and repatched the main road through Gwernesney. He said residents were very unhappy because their lives were frequently disrupted and inconvenienced by ongoing works. It appears the Water Company is using the Pumping station in Gwernesney to feed more water into Usk. The village had been told the existing pipe would be replaced but this has not been the case and workmen are continually digging up and patching the road, often working at night. Cllr Gwyn Williams asked if the clerk could write to Welsh Water to raise the matter. Clerk to action.

13. Date of next Meeting:

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

Cllr David Williams confirmed he would not be available for next month's Council meeting and gave his apologies.

Dates for future Meetings 2026:

Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm to be held at The Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant

Tuesday 17th February at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 17th March at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

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

Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

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

Tuesday 15th September at 7.30pm to be held at The Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant

Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

Tuesday 17th November at 7.30pm to be held at Llangwm Parish Hall

No meeting will be held in August or December 2026 unless deemed necessary.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed_____

Date_____

Signed_____

Date_____