

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 17th February 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield – Sickness leave
Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner – Work commitment
Cllr. John Watkins – Holiday leave
County Cllr Bromfield – Work commitment

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20th January 2026

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

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20th January 2026

Mobile connectivity in Llangwm

Catherine Fookes last month advised she had met with the Digital Economy Minister and presented the findings of her mobile signal survey. She has also highlighted the ongoing challenges with the mobile and broadband connectivity locally and further updates are awaited.

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

Last month Guy Delamere of Planning at MCC advised he would be meeting with the owner in the coming months to discuss the current state of the property and future plans for the building and further updates are awaited.

Roger Edwards Almshouses

There has been no further response in relation to the Community Council's agreement to relinquish their responsibility to the Trust which would allow the Trustees to sustain themselves going forward.

4. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Road Safety Improvements

Gwernesney

Cllr Gardiner last month said that despite recent road improvements in the village drivers were still paying little attention to the new road markings. Concerns were also raised over motorist's unwillingness to give way to oncoming traffic on the main road and Councillor's had suggested a physical barrier might be installed. The clerk contacted Gareth Freeman of Highways to enquire whether this might be a possibility. His reply confirmed this would not be considered as it would not only restrict access to larger vehicles but increase the risk of vehicle strikes.

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He advised that speed monitoring was planned to assess the impact of the recent changes on drivers' behaviour and the location would then be reviewed to see what might be introduced to reinforce the need for drivers to give way.

Llangwm

The proposed changes to the road markings and signs in the village were due to be included in the Council's Minor works programme as part of a larger scheme, however these improvements are outstanding. The issue has been raised with Highways and an update is awaited.

A quote for a Solar powered Speed sign has now been received and including the supply and install of the unit and post the cost would be around £5,000. Councillors agreed it was more than had been expected but felt it might be worth approaching Highways to establish if there was an opportunity for funding if the Council were able to share the cost. The clerk will approach Gareth Freeman to investigate the possibility.

The purchase of convex mirrors to be installed at specific points along the B4235 will now be considered at a later date.

Replacement of Drainage Pipe - Chapel Road, Llangwm

A response is still awaited in relation to the complaint raised by Cllr Watkins, following the poor workmanship employed in the replacement of a drainage pipe in Chapel Road. County Cllr Buckler suggested the clerk contact Debra Hill Howell at MCC to move the issue forward.

Dyffryn Brook Bridge, Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm

Correspondence received from Mark Quarrington of MCC confirmed that he had visited the site with a contractor to price for the installation of a fence between the bridge and the adjacent driveway. He said the fencing works were a safety issue and so he was hopeful that funding for the work would be agreed.

Weight restriction for Llangwm Bridges on Llan Y Nant Road

A possible weight restriction was previously discussed in view of the ongoing issues with heavy lorries transporting their loads along the narrow road several times a day. This has resulted in excessive damage to the road surface and raised concerns for those living alongside the second bridge.

County Cllr Buckler visited the site last year with Ross Price, Project Engineer (MCC) to establish what action might be taken but concerns were dismissed. The problem persists and Councillors agree the situation warrants further investigation. County Cllr Buckler hopes to raise the issue with Gareth Freeman when they next meet.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

Since last month's meeting the work of clearing the footpath between Yew Cottage and the Mill House was completed by MCC Highways. The work has made a big improvement in the condition of the footpath and is now being safely used by residents. Several areas of the path would still benefit from resurfacing and this has been raised with Highways. However, this may not be considered necessary currently due to other higher priority routes requiring similar work.

Erosion of the Bridge - Route 63.3 Llangwm

Work on the Bridge is still outstanding. Current service status confirms – Passed to Service area. The clerk will contact Highways to highlight the length of time the issue has been outstanding.

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Resurfacing of School Road, Llantrisant

Last month Nathan Freeman of Highways confirmed the operations team had no plans to resurface this road. Councillor's reiterated the road was in a very poor condition and needed urgent attention. The clerk reported back to Highways and subsequently a visit was made to the site. It has been agreed the road requires attention and this will hopefully take place in March when the road will be cleaned and made safe.

Bridges of Llantrisant and Llanllowell

Cllr Glyn Williams and Cllr Steve Jolliffe met on site with Mark Quarrington of MCC and he had agreed that both bridges were in poor condition. He confirmed that Highways would be required to look at the overall safety to determine what renovations/improvements were required but added as always there is the issue of funding and priorities.

Correspondence received since has confirmed a meeting took place to discuss the funding and procurement of the works needed and progress is being made with obtaining costs. The expected timescale for this is 4 to 6 weeks but may increase due to other workload and this work is dependent on funding being made available.

Cllr Glyn Williams expressed his grave concern and dissatisfaction with this explanation. He highlighted the serious health and safety concerns the bridge presented and Councillors suggested that he might cut back the briers that overhung the bridge as this would open the view of the bridge so that the danger could be seen more clearly.

Cllr Williams agreed he would cut back the briers which would also highlight the missing rails. The clerk will contact Mark Quarrington to further clarify the safety issues of the bridge and stress need for urgent action.

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

Drains still awaiting attention. Current highways service status – With Supervisor. The issue has been brought to the attention of County Cllr Bromfield.

Replacement Road sign requested- Sharp bend/40MPH - Ty Fry, Llangwm

Correspondence from Traffic and Road safety advised a replacement sign had now been ordered and confirmed the triangle warning sign with advisory speed limit was not enforceable. The Go Safe Police Team confirmed that any speeding offence undergoes various checks before being enforced.

Potholes Trevella, Llangwm

A completion notice was received from Highways to advise the potholes had now been dealt with and Cllr Hatfield confirmed this was also the case.

Speed Bumps Llansoy

Last month Cllr David Williams reported that speed bumps might now be the only deterrent to help slow traffic through the village. County Cllr Buckler confirmed this would not be an option, but added she would speak with Gareth Freeman MCC to establish if there might be an alternative.

Correspondence received from Llansoy resident Michael Whistance also raised concerns over vehicle speeds despite the traffic calming measures which had been installed. He considered speed bumps to be a proven solution, highlighting their success in Raglan.

The clerk wrote to Gareth Freeman in view of this and his reply explained that as part of the national 20mph programme, Welsh Government set out that the rollout was a signs and lines initiative only. Meaning that the introduction of new vertical traffic calming measures such as

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speed bumps, cushions or tables could not be part of the scheme, and local authorities have not been installing these features in any new 20mph areas anywhere in the county.

He added vertical traffic calming features can also create level of nuisance for nearby residents when larger vehicles, agricultural machinery or HGVs travel over speed bumps or similar features, they can generate significant noise and vibration in rural villages with properties located close to the carriageway.

Gareth said he absolutely recognised the concerns being raised and would continue to review the situation and consider what alternative, proportionate measures may be suitable within current guidance.

Northend Cottage, Llangwm

Following contact with Mark Quarrington of MCC, a visit has now been made to the site with a contractor to inspect the overturned Gabian baskets. A quote is awaited however, the work is not guaranteed as it may require specific funding to be sought.

Cefn Buchan farm – blocked gully

Steppes Farm – blocked gully

Cwrt Robbin Lane and Belmont Farm - blocked gully

The above Service issues have now been completed.

Main Road Llangwm, adjacent to Bridge Inn Car Park

Substantial dip reported on the road alongside the Bridge Inn Car park, Llangwm
Current highways service status – work in progress. An inspector visited the site and reported a gully at the field entrance further along the road is blocked causing water to pond on the carriageway. Once this has been addressed then the issues on the carriageway can be dealt with.

Fallen sign on Nant Y Gelli Crossroads

The Three-way sign at Nant Y Gelli crossroads - Route 80/81 has fallen and is leaning onto the hedge. Current Service Status – Under review

Road sweeping and Drain clearing Pen Y Cae Mawr

Current Service Status - Completed.

Drain clearing Llangwm

The issue was reported to Highways along with a request from Llangwm resident Peter Evans. Many drains in the Llangwm area have since been cleared.
Current Service Status - Completed.

Gritting issues Llangwm

Concerns were raised last month regarding roads in Llangwm not being treated during bad weather. The road downhill from Trevine Farm to Llangwm Village Hall was highlighted. The clerk reported the issue to MCC Highways.
Current service status - Under review.

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New Highways issues raised by Councillors

Drain blocked between Arch Farm and Ysguborwen Farm

Cllr Glyn Williams reported the concrete catchment drain was blocked and that rain was pooling in the area. The site is located on the right-hand side of the road 200 yards above Arch farm gate entrance and just below Ysguborwen Farm. NP15 1LU – What 3 Words: #magazine/tonic/tonal Clerk to report.

Potholes Church Road Llansoy to Nant Y Gelli crossroads

Cllr David Williams reported a series of Potholes which require filling on the north side of Hill view. NP15 1LH – What 3 Words: #Scrap/Woven/Educate to #Cleansed/Stumble/Cyber Clerk to report.

Potholes Dyffryn Lane, Llangwm

Cllr Trigg reported 15 potholes and 30 metres of the edge of the carriageway had disappeared due to continual use of the road by heavy lorries. NP15 1HJ Clerk to report.

New issues raised by others:

Traffic sign request for Wern Ddu Road, Llantrisant

Cllr Jolliffe reported that a local resident had approached him with a request for a Traffic Emerging sign, to be installed in the area of Wern Ddu Road and the Hand Llantrisant. It is a dangerous spot and on exiting the lane it is very difficult to see what is coming around the bend. Clerk to request from MCC.

Nant Y Gelli Noticeboard

A report has been received advising that the Notice Board at Nany Y Gelli has become detached from its base and is resting in the hedgerow. Councillors suggested that a quote be obtained to fix the issue. Clerk to action.

Broken lightbulb on the B4235 opposite Llangwm Bus Shelter

The issue was reported to the clerk by a local resident. A service issue was raised with Highways and the service issue was completed within 2 days

Closure of B4235 Chepstow Road/Llangeview – Bridge Inspections

Residents reported that the road had been closed ahead of the time stated which had caused much inconvenience. The clerk advised the Highways department who confirmed after speaking with the contractors that they had acknowledged the error and apologised for any inconvenience. Instructions have been reinforced with the site team to ensure no further closures are implemented before the agreed 21:00 start time for the remainder of the works.

5. Finance:

- a) Bank Statements: For the period 30th December 2025 – 29th January 2026 were received and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of January 2026 was received, AGREED and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- c) The Bank Reconciliation: For the period 30th December 2025 - 29th January 2026 was received and signed by the Vice Chairman.

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d) **Expenditure:** The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for February (includes an additional 13 hours worked in January)

Total £688.98

Clerks Home Working Allowance - February

Total £24

Llantrisant Fawr C.C. - Stationery costs

8 First Class Postage Stamps

Total £13.60

97 Host.co.uk – LFCC Monthly Website Hosting (Paid by Direct Debit 1st Monthly, February)

Total £30

97 Host.co.uk – LFCC Annual Website Domain Renewal (Paid by Direct Debit 1st Monthly, February)

Total £18.75

Mrs J Bennett – Annual donation for Llangwm Best Kept Village

Total £100

The IT Medic – for Llantrisant Fawr C.C. - Annual Licenses for Anti-Virus and Remote Support Software

Total £93.60

Total Expenditure to pay £968.93

e) **Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972**

Councillors last month requested the total number of residents listed on the Electoral Register. The number was checked and confirmed as 685 in total.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2026-27 will be £11.60 per elector.

6. Review of Website Compliance

Councillors reviewed the current requirements and agreed to regularly monitor the website to maintain compliance and ensure it remained accessible to all users.

7. Review of Biodiversity Plan – Environmental Wales Act 2016

The Community council has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 to seek, maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of eco systems.

The Council is a small authority with no land holdings or responsibility for land. The majority of local government services impacting biodiversity are provided by Monmouthshire County Council rather than at Community Council level.

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In line with the requirements of the Environment Act 2016 the Community Council endeavors to include the consideration of biodiversity and eco systems in the setting of its' policies, plans and projects.

The Community Council has agreed to the following plan to support and enhance Biodiversity:

- A) To take biodiversity into account when considering planning applications.
- B) To support hedge/tree planting by replacing felled trees in appropriate areas.
- C) To further support the Llangwm Village Scheme by providing plants to encourage much-needed sources of food for pollinators.
- D) To encourage and provide possible funding for community groups to become involved with local projects by identifying pockets of land which might be enhanced.
- E) To encourage Community members to litter pick their hedgerows.
- F) Leaving standing and fallen dead wood where safe to do so, as habitat for invertebrates.
- G) The Community Council will consider reducing the number of grass cuts throughout the year if felt appropriate, and request that the contractor leave uncut any areas of natural wildflowers.

Councillor's reviewed the plan and agreed as the Council has no land holdings or responsibility for land, they would uphold their duty by supporting and enhancing Biodiversity in ways open to them, by promoting initiatives and offering grants to organisations within its communities.

8. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

County Cllr Buckler confirmed that Monmouthshire C.C. are discussing the budget and it is expected there will be almost 6% increase on Council Tax which she felt was completely unreasonable in the current climate. She considered that rather than tackling the climate and the environment the Council should concentrate on core services. Monmouthshire County Council budget meeting is to take place on 4th March 2026.

9. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

No report received this month

Smartwater Roadshow - update

Following on from the success of last year's Smart water initiative, enquiries were made to Gwent Police regarding the possible installation of 'Neighbourhood We Don't Buy Crime' Signs in our local villages. Lisa Muir of Gwent Police looked into this on our behalf and has confirmed this should not be a problem and will keep us updated.

Farmwatch

Last month, Councillor Hawkins discussed the Farmwatch service offered by the police and questioned whether it was still available. The clerk contacted Gwent Police who advised this has now been renamed Rural Watch which uses the new messaging service.

Officers can distribute information regarding upcoming events, as well as details on incidents and crime trends relevant to residents. This two-way messaging service is available to all Gwent residents, who may register through the provided link or directly with any of the local PCSOs during police surgeries or other events.

Users have the option to select preferences, ensuring they only receive messages pertaining to their chosen location and interests. For further information please visit the [Home Page - Gwent Neighbourhood Matters](#)

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Date _____

Gwent Police Smart Water Packs – Update

There are still 18 Smartwater packs remaining for Community Council residents who would like to join the scheme, requests can be made via the clerk on llantrisantfawr@gmail.com

10. Ward Reports: None received

11. HMPS - No updates received.

12. Correspondence

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

An invitation was received by Planning Aid Wales to join a Teams meeting on Wednesday 11th march, to discuss Flooding issues facing our communities and the planning system in Wales. NOTED

Correspondence from Gareth Evans of Usk Agricultural, thanked Councillors for their response last month, which advised they lacked authority to assist with his outstanding fencing issue. He confirmed that he had instead decided to erect a fence half a meter back from his initial plan to ensure it was within his own boundary. NOTED

13. Planning:

Applications received:

Application number - DM/2026/00123

Planning permission – Proposed new steel frame storage building in support of small holding and associated works.

Ty'r Berllan Llangwm to Nant Y Gelli Farm Llangwm NP15 1HB

Councillors considered the application and commented they felt the building was of a disproportionate size to the property and location. Councillors requested these comments be brought to the attention of the Planning department. Clerk to action.

Planning updates and Enforcement Issues:

Application Number - DM/2025/01415

Planning permission for installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array with total generating area of 90M. Positioned in a straight linear formation along the edge of the field track at the entrance to the holding and intended to provide power for agricultural operations on the land. Orchard Farm, land lying south of Glan Yr Afon Cottage. Usk Road Llanllowell NP15 1LJ

Councillors previously considered the application and agreed they could not support this on several levels. A response received from the Applicant stated the array was intended to provide power for agricultural operations on the land, including lighting, equipment and farm welfare facilities.

Councillors discussed this in more detail and agreed that if the panels were reserved for providing power to the agricultural building on the site, then there were few grounds to object to the development other than those objections raised by NRW and Highways.

Clerk advised the decision to Planning.

Application Number: DM/2024/00519 – (02/05/2024)

Planning Permission – Extension of existing track to enable feeding of animals in winter and summer months. Coed Cwnr Farm Alltybella Road, Coed Cwnwr Llangeview. NP15 1NE

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Cllr Watkins last month raised the issue of the ongoing impact caused by the lorries delivering stone for the ongoing farm project and stated that at the time of the application objections were raised over the route to be used by the HGV Lorries.

The original application suggested that the stone was to be used to build an access road to replace an existing track, but closer inspection shows this has been consolidated into a large plateau area behind existing barns. The use of the stone in this way clearly has implications relating to drainage and stability overtime of a structure constructed from several thousand tons of loose stone.

County Cllr Buckler confirmed that she would report back to Planning Enforcement to establish why the road hadn't been installed following the application and to highlight the concerns of residents regarding the continued use of the road by lorries with a combined weight of around 17 tonnes. County Cllr Buckler confirmed an update was still awaited.

14. Any Other Business:

The clerk informed Councillors she had recently written to the 'Green Grafter' Grass cutting services in relation to the coming year's grass cutting requirements in Llangwm.

A quote was received and this year's cost increased to £180 up by £8 on last year's figure.

Councillors agreed this was acceptable and in line with current costs and in view of the small area requiring to be cut it would prove difficult to obtain another provider willing to carry out this work.

Cllr Jolliffe advised that due to the passing of Ivor Rogers, the church in Llantrisant had lost its grass cutter. Councillors suggested that contact was made with Sandy Blair who normally arranges for grass cutting of the combined churches. Cllr Jolliffe confirmed he would contact him.

15. Date of next Meeting:

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

Cllr Jolliffe advised that he would not be able to attend the next meeting as he was away on vacation.

Dates for future Meetings 2026:

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 9.20 pm.

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Date _____