

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 March 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield – Sickness leave
Cllr. Glyn Williams – Prior commitment
Cllr. Steve Jolliffe – Holiday leave
Cllr. James Hawkins – Travel issues
County Cllr Buckler – Prior commitment

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17th February 2026

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

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17th February 2026

Mobile connectivity in Llangwm

Catherine Fookes this month advised she had met with Voneus to share the concerns of some residents in her area. She suggested it might be helpful for Voneus to host an information day in one of Monmouthshire's Communities and asked if Llangwm residents might benefit. Councillors considered the idea but agreed Voneus service had greatly improved in recent months and most broadband issues now appeared to relate to connectivity issues experienced in individual home settings. The biggest concern currently is the lack of Mobile signal and Catherine continues to lobby both Government and the Mobile operators to install either a new Mast or reinstate an existing one.

Cllr Gardiner advised that in the last couple of weeks BT Openreach had been working in Gwernesney and had displayed a road works sign in the middle of the road Chevrons. The sign had been hit by a resident and so was moved to a safer location, however this was moved back again to the original site the following day by the Openreach team.

Cllr Gardiner said it appeared they were pulling wires through from the ground and he wondered if they were working to install Broadband in the area. County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she would investigate this.

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

Following last month's meeting the clerk needed to report a further break in at the back of the property. Photographs were sent to MCC Environmental Health and Guy Delamere of Planning, but to date the damage has still not been repaired.

Updates were requested to establish if the planned site meeting had taken place with the owner or whether a Section 215 Notice would be served. A reply is still awaited.

Signed _____

Date _____

Last month MCC visited the property and confirmed the open culvert at the front of the building was a safety concern. A wire Fence has now been installed at the front of the property.

4. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Road Safety Improvements

Gwernesney

Following last month's meeting, the clerk spoke with Gareth Freeman of Highways and it was confirmed speed monitoring was planned to assess the impact of the recent changes on drivers' behaviour. The location would then be reviewed to establish what might be introduced to reinforce the need for drivers to give way to oncoming traffic on the main road. The monitoring has now taken place and the results are awaited.

Llangwm

The proposed changes to the road markings and signs in the village have been put on hold due to the end of the financial year, however, Gareth Freeman hopes this will proceed once the department's budget has been refreshed in April.

Last month Councillors agreed the quote received for the cost of a Solar powered Speed had been more than expected and requested that the clerk contact Highways to ask if there was an opportunity for shared funding. Gareth Freeman said there was unfortunately no external funding opportunities available for this type of installation. Electronic speed signs are not covered by road safety grants and costs can only be met through MCC Traffic and Road Safety budget.

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 has been outstanding for some considerable time in relation to the complaint raised by Cllr Watkins, regarding poor workmanship employed in the replacement of a drainage pipe in Chapel Road, Llangwm. County Cllr Bromfield agreed this was not acceptable and confirmed she would write to Ross Price at MCC in order to resolve the issue.

Dyffryn Brook Bridge, Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm

Since the visit by MCC to the site last month, wire fencing has now been installed.

The clerk was informed that during installation, the adjacent property owner had approached the contractors to request the wire fencing did not make contact with the ground to allow for any debris and leaves from flooding to flow freely into the brook below.

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 using the road, this had resulted in excessive damage to the road surface and raised concerns for those living in the vicinity. Following further discussion Councillors felt it would not be practical to proceed with this restriction and agreed the issue should not be pursued further.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

Since last month's meeting the footpath has been cleared but there are still some areas which require resurfacing. The Clerk raised the issue with Highways and was advised it is unlikely this would be undertaken before the new Highways budget had been received.

The clerk will continue to follow up on this outstanding resurfacing work in the new financial year.

Signed _____

Date _____

Erosion of the Bridge - Route 63.3 Llangwm

The work on the Bridge is still outstanding. The clerk contacted Highways to request an update and a reply was received from Mark Quarrington. He was able to confirm a site visit would be taking place to assess the condition of the bridge but that a date had not yet been confirmed.

Resurfacing of Nant Y Banw Lane, Llantrisant

The road has now been cleaned and the potholes filled by Highways. County Cllr Bromfield has subsequently written to MCC expressing her concerns over the use of tarmac to fill what was considered subsidence and road edge failure on the lane. She pointed out that the small road was regularly used by all types of transport, servicing the demands of the 5 houses situated there. Heavier vehicles often visit the area compounding the situation and creating further instability. She added given the access implications and ground instability the issue required urgent intervention. No updates have been received to date, but the situation will continue to be monitored.

Bridges of Llantrisant and Llanllowell

Arch Bridge

Further discussions took place at last month's meeting following the site visit with Mark Quarrington of MCC. Cllr Glyn Williams shared his grave concerns and dissatisfaction regarding the lack of progress with the urgent work needed on Arch Bridge.

Subsequently temporary fencing and cones have been installed at the site. County Cllr Bromfield also wrote expressing her concerns over the bridge and highlighted the evident structural and ground instability adjacent to the carriageway. She stressed the area was prone to flooding, further increasing the risk of erosion and structural weakening, elevating the risk to motorists, pedestrians and nearby properties.

She stressed the matter required urgent prioritisation and asked for a detailed response outlining the next steps and firm timescales.

Quotes have been requested for the work but if these prove too expensive then it will be necessary to obtain Capital Funding from MCC, however the work on the Bridge will ultimately be carried out. It was highlighted that although Bridges in the area were being inspected the maintenance was not being carried out.

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

The drains are still awaiting attention and the Current highways service status shows – with Supervisor.

Cllr Gardiner reiterated the Tree roots would require machinery to remove them from the drains and added sooner or later the end 5 houses in the row would be likely to flood. County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she would also raise a Service issue with Highways.

Replacement Road sign - Ty Fry, Llangwm

A completion notice has now been received from Traffic and Road safety stating the new sign had now been fitted.

Speed Bumps Llansoy

Last month Gareth Freeman of MCC Highways explained that Welsh Government, as part of the National 20mph speed programme, had rolled out a signs and lines initiative which meant speed bumps could no longer be installed.

Gareth confirmed he understood the concerns raised over the issue of speed in the village and said he would continue to review the situation and consider what alternative; proportionate

Signed _____

Date _____

measures might be applied within the current guidance. County Cllr Buckler to update Councillors going forward.

Northend Cottage, Llangwm

Last month a contractor visited the site with Mark Quarrington of MCC to inspect the overturned Gabian basket in the brook and agreed a quote could be obtained for the necessary work. The clerk was advised this did not guarantee the work as it may require specific funding to be sought. County Cllr Bromfield agreed it was likely that Capital Funding would be required to enable the work to proceed.

Main Road issue adjacent to Bridge Inn Car Park, Llangwm

Substantial dip reported on the road alongside the Bridge Inn Car park, Llangwm.

Current highways service status – work in progress.

The blocked gully at the field entrance further along the Main Road had been attributed to the condition of the road adjacent to the Bridge Inn. This has now been addressed but the roadside is still in need of attention. The clerk will contact Highways to request an update.

Fallen sign on Nant Y Gelli Crossroads

Current Service Status - Completed.

Gritting issues Llangwm

Concerns were raised last month over roads in Llangwm being left untreated during bad weather. Particularly the road downhill from Trevine Farm to Llangwm Village Hall. The issue was raised with Highways who confirmed that currently precautionary salting was only used on agreed priority routes and secondary salting would only be carried out on other routes in periods of extended severe winter weather.

Drain blocked between Arch Farm and Ysguborwen Farm

Concrete catchment drain reported as blocked with rainwater pooling in the area.

Current Service status: Under review

County Cllr Bromfield advised she had reported a long list of outstanding work to Sueanne Sandford of Highways and that major upgrades were required on many issues.

Potholes Church Road Llansoy to Nant Y Gelli crossroads

A series of Potholes on the north side of Hill View have been reported.

Current Service status: Under review

Cllr David Williams confirmed that the majority of these have now been completed.

Potholes Dyffryn Lane, Llangwm

15 potholes and 30 Metres of carriageway eroded and in need of urgent repair.

Current Service status: Under review

Correspondence received from Llangwm resident Peter Gough also reported on the very poor state of Dyffryn Lane. He provided photographs of the appalling condition of the road and commented he felt a contributing factor to this were lorries accessing the Welsh Water reservoir halfway up the hill. These lorries have not only caused significant erosion to the edge of the road but are likely to have caused the collapse of the old stone surface drain situated there.

The clerk wrote again to Highways highlighting the issues raised in Peter's correspondence and requested the issue be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

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Date _____

Traffic sign request Wern Ddu Road, Llantrisant

Sign requested to advise oncoming traffic of vehicles emerging from side road.

Clerk reported issue to Highways – A response stated that a site visit would be made to the location in the new financial year and if a sign was required this would be added to a list of minor signing requests which are addressed on a priority basis.

Nant Y Gelli Noticeboard

The noticeboard has become detached from its base and is resting on the hedgerow. The Clerk has spoken with a local resident to ask if they might consider providing a quote for the work and a response is awaited.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors

Correspondence was received from Meirion Howells in relation to a report from the resident of Blossom Lodge, on the Usk to Llanllowell Road. An issue occurred involving a lorry crashing into the brick gate bollard at the entrance to their property.

The resident requested the Highways safety team assess the current 60mph national speed limit on that section of the road. It was agreed the road was regularly used by walkers and cyclists and so it was suggested an assessment be carried out extending along the full route to Usk.

Meirion considered that as Llantrisant Fawr was the adjoining Community Council, comments on this proposal would be welcome.

County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she had responded and advised that speed monitoring strips had been requested to be installed on the route from Usk to Llanllowell and suggested a team's meeting should take place once the results were available.

New issues raised by others:

None

5. Finance:

- a) Bank Statements: For the period 30th January 2026 – 27th February 2026 were received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 27th of February 2026 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- c) Bank Reconciliation: for the period 30th January 2026 - 27th February 2026 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for March (includes an additional 16 hours worked in February)

Total £724.96

Clerks Home Working Allowance – March

Total £24

Llantrisant Fawr C.C. - Stationery costs

Lever Arch File, Plastic Stationery wallets, File dividers

Total £15.94

Signed _____

Date _____

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

Llangwm Parish Hall Rental
£45 plus 30 Units of Electricity at 57p per unit = £17.10
Total £62.10

Total Expenditure to pay £857

- e) The Statement of Fixed Assets for the year ending 31/03/2026 was reviewed by the Council and ADOPTED.
Noted - The Llantrisant Fawr Community Laptop was replaced in September 2025 due to the introduction of Windows 11.
- f) Independent Remuneration Payments – Councillors received notification of the allowances they were entitled to receive for the work carried out on behalf of the Community Council. Councillors declined to receive this remuneration, stating they wished to carry out the role voluntarily.

The clerk requested Councillors to complete and sign an opt out form for the year ended 31st March 2026.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:

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

7. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

No report received this month

Smartwater Village Signs

Gwent Police were approached to establish whether it would be possible for warning signs to be installed in the village advising the neighbourhood was protected by Smartwater. This has now been agreed and Gwent Police are currently seeking guidance from MCC to establish where they can be installed. Officers plan to visit the village to discuss suitable locations which will then be submitted for approval.

Smartwater Packs

The offer of a Smartwater pack has recently been posted on the Llangwm Village Facebook page, however there have been no enquiries to date. The remaining 18 packs are available free of charge to Community Council residents who want to join the scheme. Requests can be made via the clerk at: llantrisantfawr@gmail.com

8. Ward Reports: None received

9. HMPS - No updates received.

10. Correspondence

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

Signed _____

Date _____

11. Planning:

Applications received:

Application number - DM/2026/00123

Amended Planning application - 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

This proposal showed a reduction to the length of the building with an additional short track to be added consisting of gravel access strips with grass verge between.

The amended application was received by Council on the 9th March. Councillors were invited to inspect the changes and to report any further observations to the Authority within days.

Councillors reviewed the changes online and further commented there appeared to be no change to the size or location of the building and considered the proposal remained a large building for a very small holding. The clerk submitted these observations to Planning.

Subsequently it emerged that the shed dimensions had been changed in one part of the revised drawing to 12metres (rather than the original 14metres) but not on the siting plan, which had been the Councillors original concern.

Correspondence was received from the property owner who wrote to advise of his disappointment with the Councillors observations. Further details were given in relation to the size of the Barn, which primarily was to ensure equipment and tractors could be moved in and out without restriction.

Councillor's further considered the amended application and due to the subsequent decrease in the size of the building agreed there were no further comments/observations to be made, and they offered no further objections to the application. The clerk to write to advise Planning and Mr Gerrish of their decision.

Application number - DM/2026/00147

Develop Self-Contained, off-road parking to the rear of Parc View, Village Road, Llantrisant, Usk Monmouthshire. NP15 1LG

Councillors agreed there were no observations to raise to this application. The clerk to advise Planning.

Planning updates and Enforcement Issues:

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

Cllr Watkins had previously raised the issue of the impact caused by heavy lorries continually delivering stone for the ongoing farm project.

The application had suggested the stone was to be used to build an access road replacing an existing track, but closer inspection showed it has been consolidated into a large plateau area behind the existing barns. A structure made in this way using several thousand tons of loose stone will overtime have implications relating to drainage and stability.

At the time of the application objections had been raised to Planning over the route to be used by the HGV Lorries.

Signed _____

Date _____

County Cllr Buckler last month confirmed she would establish why the road hadn't been installed and highlight the concerns of residents regarding the continued use of the road by lorries with a combined weight of around 17 tonnes. Updates are awaited.

12. Any Other Business:

Cllr Trigg raised the issue of the changes being considered for Monmouthshire Bus services. He added more information is needed to provide an insight into what is being proposed. It was agreed the issue should be raised with County Cllr Buckler.

13. Date of next Meeting:

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

Dates for future Meetings 2026:

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.

Signed _____

Date _____