

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 16th June 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. James Hawkins (Chairman), Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner, Cllr. Bob Trigg, Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield, Cllr. Glyn Williams, Cllr David Williams, County Cllr. Rachel Buckler, Mrs Jayne Stoodley (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Steve Jolliffe – Work commitments

Cllr. John Watkins – Work commitments

County Cllr. Fay Bromfield - Work commitments

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th May 2026

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

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 12th May 2026

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

4. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 12th May 2026

Mobile connectivity in Llangwm

Councillors previously requested a meeting with the major Mobile Network providers via the office of Catherine Fookes. It was hoped that the installation of a Mobile Mast in the area could be discussed. A response has now been received but unfortunately the invitation has been politely declined. A comment from VodafoneThree said that whilst they understand the challenges residents are facing, they cannot support an in-person visit at this time.

Assurance has been given by the office of Catherine Fookes that they will continue to campaign on our behalf and remain committed to finding a solution for areas with poor or no mobile phone signal.

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

Updates are awaited from Guy Delamere of MCC Planning to confirm if the developer has been in contact regarding the proposed regeneration plans. Last month it was suggested that enforcement action might be taken if no developments were forthcoming soon.

The Post Office, Usk

At last month's meeting the issue of infrequent opening hours at the Usk Post Office was raised. County Cllr Bromfield suggested she would try to obtain further information on how the Llangybi Post Office weekly service is run and investigate if it might be an option Llangwm could consider.

Signed _____

Date _____

5. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Road Safety Improvements

Gwernesney

Following speed monitoring carried out in the village recently, Highways reported the results had been encouraging. However, the speed of traffic on the approach road from Usk was still high as it entered the junction marked with hatching.

Highways advised they would be installing flexible, passively safe, lane marker posts within these hatched areas, to encourage vehicles to approach the junction at lower entry speeds.

Concerns were raised with Gareth Freeman over the difficulties this might present to the rural community, and he has agreed to a meeting on site to ensure the posts are positioned in a way that helps to manage vehicle speeds and still accommodate agricultural movements.

The clerk will contact Gareth Freeman to put forward a range of possible dates for an onsite meeting to take place in June/July.

Previous consideration was given to the possibility of measures being introduced to ensure motorists give way to oncoming traffic on the main road through the village

However, it is now regarded by Highways that any installation of physical barriers would introduce a number of constraints and potential issues, including impacts on vehicular access to properties and fields, loss of on-street parking provision, and the likely need to remove the existing double white centre line system.

Councillors feel this requires further discussion and agreed the issue should be raised with Gareth Freeman at the planned onsite meeting.

Llangwm

The proposed changes to the road markings and signs in the village are currently on hold. Highways advise they will be working to implement the revised road marking measures within this financial year. Updates are awaited.

Solar Powered Speed Signs

MCC Highways have confirmed that the Community Council is able to purchase and arrange installation of solar-powered speed signs themselves. However, if the sign is to be installed within the public highway, all information relating to the installation would need to be submitted to and approved by MCC to ensure compliance with highways requirements.

An online company is currently being sought to provide a quote and confirm they are able to provide the technical data required by MCC.

In addition, the possible purchase of convex mirrors is currently on hold and will be considered at a later date.

Llansoy

The issue of ongoing speed in the village is still a big concern to residents and was highlighted recently to Highways. The department states they recognise residents' concerns but added the most effective long-term solution would involve a more comprehensive reengineering of the street environment, such as narrower carriageways, enhanced highway features, improved pedestrian facilities, and stronger frontage definition.

Signed_____

Date_____

Unfortunately, works of this scale are costly and cannot be delivered through the Traffic and Road Safety budget. Highways have confirmed that Llansoy will be kept under review for any future low-cost traffic-calming opportunities.

Replacement of Drainage Pipe - Chapel Road, Llangwm

A response is still awaited in relation to the complaint raised by Cllr Watkins regarding the poor workmanship employed in the replacement of a drainage pipe in Chapel Road, Llangwm. Cllr Watkins said the work carried out had been unsatisfactory and the job was left unfinished.

County Cllr Bromfield confirmed she would continue to follow up on the matter and advised the issue has been passed to Sueanne Sandford, Highway Asset Street Works Team Manager, MCC.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

The resurfacing of the footpath has been logged with the Assets team for some considerable time and despite the clearing of the weeds and brambles, the resurfacing of the path has not taken place. The tarmac continues to lift, and the surface breaks up as the weeds reappear. The clerk has written to Sueanne Sandford to highlight this issue

Erosion of the Bridge - Route 63.3 Llangwm

An inspection of the bridge was due to be carried out by Mark Quarrington in April. The Clerk has again written to Mark Quarrington MCC for updates, but a reply is still awaited.

Resurfacing of Nant Y Banw Lane, Llantrisant

County Cllr Bromfield wrote to Highways expressing her concern over the use of tarmac to fill what was considered subsidence and the road edge failure on the lane. Metal plates are being used to keep the road in place. County Cllr Bromfield continues to monitor the situation.

Bridges of Llantrisant and Llanllowell

Arch Bridge

Temporary fencing and cones are installed at the site whilst additional quotes are obtained. Mark Quarrington has advised that once a decision has been made the Council will be updated.

Llanllowell Bridge

Last month it was reported that fencing had been erected in a neighbour's garden alongside the bridge, giving the impression of a far wider road. It was considered this raised safety concerns for motorists in the area and that Chevron warning signs should be installed at the site. Mark Quarrington has been updated with this information but to date a response is awaited.

Blocked Drains - Gwernesney

The drains were first reported as blocked by Trees in September 2025 but following recent correspondence with Highways, they confirm the land at the back of the houses is not adopted highway and not maintainable at public expense. They advise it is possible that Highways ops may have undertaken some maintenance work in the area over the years, but that things can be done in error which may well have been the case.

County Cllr Bromfield has written to Nathan Freeman of Highways to enquire if the trees were found to be on land owned by MCC, could work be done to alleviate the issue and whether it was possible for the Council to apply for the road be adopted? A response is awaited.

Northend House, Llangwm

Due to the high cost of replacing the damaged gabion basket at Northend House, Mark Quarrington of MCC has advised he is required to obtain a further two quotations before a decision can be reached, he added the Council would be informed once a decision had been made.

Signed_____

Date_____

Drain blocked between Arch Farm and Ysguborwen Farm

The concrete catchment drain was reported several months ago as being blocked and causing standing rainwater to pool in the area. During periods of heavy rain this presents a real danger to life and Councillors are keen that the issue should be made a priority. The issue has been investigated by Mark Quarrington, MCC and further quotes are being obtained. The clerk will further update the service request to reflect Councillors concerns.

Potholes Dyffryn Lane, Llangwm

Despite the problems with potholes and the gully in the area having been fixed at the end of March, a further report was received identifying an area of carriageway that had lifted 20mtrs from the Pont y Caith side of Camp Farm. This issue was passed to Highways who wrote informing us a safety inspection would take place and that Highway operations would continue to make safe until such time that funds were available to resurface. Advice recently received stated the road had been swept. Cllr Trigg commented that the area would be monitored and likely need further attention later in the year.

Traffic sign request Wern Ddu Road, Llantrisant

A road sign has been requested to advise oncoming traffic of vehicles emerging from the side road in the area. Advice was received stating a site visit would take place to determine if the sign was required. The request is still under review and subsequent contact has been made to establish if a decision has yet been reached.

Coed Y Ferm and Nant Y Gelli crossroads

Notification has now been received that the large Pothole on the road between Coed-Y-Ferm and Nant-Y-Gelli Crossroads has been filled and made safe.

Llanllowell Road to Usk - Speed Monitoring

A report received from Usk Town Council advised that the residents of Blossom Lodge, Llanllowell Road, had suffered a lorry crashing into the brick bollard gate at the entrance to their property. This resulted in a request between Councils for speed monitoring strips to be installed by MCC Highways on the road from Llanllowell into Usk. County Cllr Bromfield advised a team's meeting would be held once the results were available and the issue would be monitored.

Llantrisant Noticeboard

Last month Cllr Hawkins put forward a request for refurbishment of the Noticeboard situated alongside the church in Llantrisant. The clerk has since spoken with the local builder who undertook the work at Nant Y Gelli and he has agreed to visit the site as soon as he is able with a view to carrying out similar works.

Overgrown Verges Interchange / Lodge Cefn Tila Usk Interchange / Usk

A report was sent to Highways regarding overgrown grass on the verges at the Usk Interchange and the poor line of sight on the left-hand side of the road between the Usk Interchange and the Lodge at Cefn Tila. The clerk received a call from David Lucas of MCC Green Infrastructure, confirming he had visited the sites in question and reported both issues to Jon Wassal in the Grounds dept for assessment. He also highlighted that trees in the area were starting to encroach onto the highways in places and confirmed he would assess these issues for potential felling along with other minor work from September.

Subsequently it is reported the verges in these areas have been cut back by MCC.

Signed_____

Date_____

New Highways issues raised by Councillors

None to report

New issues raised by others:

None to report

6. Finance:

- a) Bank Statements: For the period 30th April 2026 – 29th May 2026 were received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of May 2026 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
- c) Bank Reconciliation: for the period 30th April 2026 - 29th May 2026 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- d) **Annual Donation requests 2026/27**
Annual Donation request forms were received ahead of the meeting and Agreed by Council. A request for funding towards Churchyard maintenance was also received this year from St Tysol in Llansoy. However, no request has yet been received from Pen Y Cae Mawr Methodist Chapel.

The current year's budget set in November 2025, confirmed individual payments for Churchyard Maintenance 2026/27 would remain unchanged at £250.

- e) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for June (includes an additional 16 hours worked in May)

Total £715.56

Clerks Home Working Allowance – June

Total £24

LFCC Stationery costs – reimbursement to clerk

3 packs of 1st Class stamps

Total £21.60

Beverley & Williams Accountants Calculation of Payroll services April – June 2026

Total £36

HMRC – Employers payslip for Clerks N.I. and Tax due April – June 2026

Total £531.80

The IT Medic Limited – remote visit 10/6/26 – Microsoft Outlook issues and Harddrive back up issues.

Total £180

Society of Local clerks' Annual membership renewal

Total - £158

Signed_____

Date_____

Llangwm Baptist Chapel – Annual Donation for Churchyard Maintenance
Total - £250.00

St Tysoi Church, Llansoy – Annual Donation for Churchyard Maintenance
Total - £250.00

St David's Llangview and St Michael's All Angels Gwernesney,
St Jeromes and St John's of Llangwm

Annual Donation of £250 per church towards Churchyard maintenance.
Total £1,000.00

Llantrisant and Llanllowell Churches
Annual Donation of £250 per church towards Churchyard maintenance.
Total £500.00

Llangwm Parish Hall – Annual donation for contribution to electricity charges for the upkeep of
Llangwm Village Defibrillator
Total £200.00

Llangwm Parish Hall- Hire Rental plus electricity charge -1 unit at 57p
Total £45.57

Green Grafter Limited – Llangwm Village, Lawn cutting for April and May
Total £360

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

Total Expenditure to pay £4,302.53

f) Internal Auditor's report 2025/26

The Internal Auditors Report 2025/26 was received: Members noted the Auditors' comments, and the report was ADOPTED.

The Auditor noted that the Council does not record or seek to recover VAT on payments.

Councillors confirmed that the new Llantrisant Fawr Community Council was not registered for VAT and agreed the cost of processing claims would outweigh any VAT refunds received.

The issues were NOTED and Councillors' reiterated they felt recovering VAT on payments would not be a cost-effective exercise.

g) Annual Audit Return and Accounting Statements

The Annual Audit Return and Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2026 were **Approved** by Council and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

The Audit Return and Accounting Statement along with all additional documentation required by Audit Wales will be returned by the deadline submission of the 7th of August 2026.

Signed _____

Date _____

The clerk advised that the Notice of Audit would be posted on the LFCC Website and a copy would also be displayed on the Community Noticeboard.

The Invoice for the 2024/25 Audit has still not been issued by Audit Wales.

7. Llantrisant Fawr Community Council Annual Report 2025/26

The Report was presented to and received by the Council. Councillors noted the content and requested additional information to be added in relation to the number of Council Wards, the Community Council defibrillators and the donations provided by the Council.

8. Monmouthshire County Council Report

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

A media release was received during the month from MCC Council. Leader Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby highlighted that the Council priorities are shaped by what matters most to the community and that the Council remains focused on delivery, supporting people, strengthening communities and protecting essential services.

County Cllr Buckler advised that the Welsh Government is to look again at the RLDP scheme due to the initial notification not having been advertised on the MCC Website. County Cllr Buckler said that she had been due to take part in discussions on the scheme, but this has now been delayed until September/October.

9. Ward Reports: None received

10. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Contact was recently made with Christopher Watkins of Gwent Police regarding the lack of reports being sent to the Council. Apologies were made and a copy of the May Crime report was received. Councillors commented that they felt the content of the reports continued to be scant and uninformative.

'We Don't Buy Crime' Village Signs Llangwm

The promised installation of the signs by Gwent Police is still awaited. The team concerned has apologised for the delay, which is unfortunately due to staffing issues. It is hoped by the end of June the installation will take place.

Smartwater Packs

There are 18 packs of Smart water remaining and these are available free of charge to Community Council residents who would like to join the scheme. Please contact the clerk at: llantrisantfawr@gmail.com

11. HMPS - No updates received.

12. Correspondence

Notices and Agendas for the upcoming Monmouthshire County Council Meetings were received throughout the month and Councillors advised: NOTED

Correspondence received from Peter Gough, Chairman of Llangwm Village Hall Committee, enquired whether the Community Council would be able to pay for additional strimming to be carried out at the site of the Flower boxes located at each end of the village.

Signed _____

Date _____

The clerk requested a quote for this additional work but a reply from Steve Beale confirmed he would be unable to trim around the sign on the Usk side of the village as he considered it too dangerous to walk along the main road. But he was happy to trim the tall grass on the Chepstow side of the village at an additional cost of £10. Councillors agreed they were happy to pay this extra cost.

The clerk will inform Peter Gough of the outcome and instruct Steve Beale to proceed when he is next in Llangwm.

13. Planning:

No Planning Applications received this month.

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 Cwnwr Farm Alltybella Road, Coed Cwnwr Llangview. 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 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.

County Cllr Buckler raised the issue with Enforcement to establish why the road hadn't yet been installed and to highlight the concerns of residents. However, she confirmed no updates have so far been received but added she would raise the issue again with Belinda Hopkins, Senior Enforcement Officer.

Alleged Unauthorised Works – Case number E26/126

Land adjacent to Ty Wilson Barn and Almshouses, Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm. Usk NP15 1LT. A Planning issue was reported in April concerning a Barn structure that had been installed in the grounds of a field, on the corner of Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm just above the Almshouses at Llangview.

Councillors are not aware of a planning application having been received. Enforcement is to investigate the matter further. Updates are awaited.

14. Any Other Business:

Cllr Trigg raised concerns over the sale of a local house in Llangwm. The property located on Dyffryn Lane has apparently been sold to Monmouthshire CC, to be used as a hostel for under privileged young men. He informed Councillors there had been no consultation with local residents and stated the purchase would raise many issues for all concerned.

County Cllr Buckler confirmed there was indeed a lack of consultation with these types of house purchases and said she would try to obtain further details.

15. Date of next Meeting:

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

Signed_____

Date_____

Dates for future Meetings 2026:

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_____