

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 July 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Gwynfor Gardiner – Annual leave
Cllr. Glyn Williams – Sickness leave
Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield – Prior commitment

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th June 2026

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

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th June 2026

Mobile connectivity in Llangwm

The lack of a Mobile Network mast in Llangwm and the surrounding area remains a cause for concern. The major Mobile Network providers declined to attend a meeting to discuss the issue, however, assurances have been given by the office of Catherine Fookes that they are committed to campaigning on our behalf to find the best solution.

Cllr Watkins said village black spots continue to cause problems, which present a real danger to life, particularly in the event of an accident when trying to contact the Emergency Services.

Internet and Broadband

Cllr Trigg advised he has recently been made aware of an opportunity for residents struggling with their Broadband connection. Welsh Government offers a grant to assist with the purchase of the equipment and installation, required to join Starlink, a Satellite Internet Connection service. For further information, please visit: <https://applybroadbandinstallationfunding.service.gov.wales/>

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

The latest request for an update from Guy Delamere of MCC Planning confirmed that a report had been prepared recommending a Section 215 notice be served at the site. The owner had been informed and stated he intended to carry out the required work himself, adding he would also be submitting a fresh Planning application. Further updates are awaited.

The Post Office, Usk

In recent months the issue of infrequent opening hours at the Usk Post Office has been highlighted. County Cllr Bromfield is to investigate the way in which Llangybi Post Office weekly service is run to establish if Llangwm might be able to offer a similar service.

Councillor's added the service continues to be hit and miss, with many residents finding that post is not arriving when it should and the Post Office is often not open as advertised.

Signed_____

Date_____

Dyffryn Lane Llangwm – Property sale

No further information has been received on this possible purchase by Monmouthshire C.C – Updates are awaited.

4. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Road Safety Improvements

Gwernesney

A meeting was held earlier this month with Gareth Freeman of MCC Highways to discuss the installation of fully flexible marker posts to be installed at the hatched area of the approach road from Usk for north-eastbound traffic.

It was confirmed 3 fixed cones would be set into the road at this junction, leaving enough room for larger vehicles to manoeuvre and if hit the cones proceed to reset themselves. Gareth Freeman guaranteed Councillors the cones would improve road safety.

Village gateways were also discussed as a possible safety measure and Councillors were advised if they were to fund and install them, there would be no objections to this. Councillors had felt there may even be the possibility of M.C.C. carrying out the installation.

Councillors considered this to be a good option for both Gwernesney and Llantrisant and requested the clerk to investigate further.

Llangwm

The proposed changes to the road markings and signs in the village are currently on hold pending the refresh of MCC Highways' departmental budget, but it is hoped this will be implemented within this financial year.

Correspondence received recently from a Llangwm resident living in close proximity to the main road raised concerns over the lack of any progress in relation to the promised road measures which would help to alleviate the speed of the traffic travelling through the village.

The clerk wrote again to Highways highlighting the ongoing issues presented by speeding cars and Motorbikes who race through the village, especially during the weekend period.

Increased noise levels are being experienced by motorbikes often flaunting the speed limit and residents are finding it increasingly difficult to cross the main road safely due to vehicles overtaking one another at dangerous locations.

The Go Safe team rarely visit the village and Councillors' considered this would be a useful deterrent. The clerk will contact the department to request if more frequent visits could be made.

Solar Powered Speed Signs

MCC Highways last month agreed the Community Council were able to purchase and install solar-powered speed signs for themselves, providing all information relating to the installation was submitted and approved by MCC to ensure compliance with highways requirements.

A list of potential companies and product information has been forwarded to Councillors for them to evaluate the requirements and will then be discussed at the September Council meeting.

The possibility of purchasing convex road mirrors is currently on hold and will be considered later.

Signed_____

Date_____

Llansoy

Highways have recognised residents' concerns over the issue of speeding in the village, but state Llansoy has previously benefitted from low-cost interventions. The department has confirmed it is currently unable to commit further investment, but state Llansoy will be kept under review for 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.

The work carried out was unsatisfactory and the job left unfinished. County Cllr Bromfield has highlighted the issue to Sueanne Sandford, Highway Asset Street Works Team Manager, MCC. Updates are awaited.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

The resurfacing of the footpath has been logged with the Assets team for many months. Despite previous clearing of weeds and brambles, the resurfacing of the path is outstanding. The tarmac continues to disintegrate, and the weeds have reappeared, making the path unsightly and difficult to use. The clerk has again raised the issue with Sueanne Sandford of the Assets Team.

Erosion of the Bridge - Route 63.3 Llangwm

An inspection of the bridge was due to be carried out by Mark Quarrington in April. An update has been requested following this visit and a response is 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

Screening erected in a neighbour's garden, alongside the bridge now gives the impression of a much wider road. It has been suggested to Highways that Chevrons be installed at the site to improve safety. Cllr Hawkins advised that in recent weeks, both sides of the Bridge has been hit by vehicles. The clerk will update Mark Quarrington in relation to this latest incident.

Blocked Drains - Gwernesney

The drains at the back of the houses on the main road through Gwernesney, were reported to Monmouthshire C.C. as requiring clearing due to flooding issues. A response from the Council confirmed the area was not adopted highway and therefore not maintainable at public expense. They state that Highways may have undertaken some maintenance work in the area over the years, but that things can often be carried out in error.

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. An update is awaited.

Signed _____

Date _____

Northend House, Llangwm

Due to the high quote received for the replacement of the damaged gabion basket at Northend House, Mark Quarrington advised two further quotes were required prior to a decision being taken. The Council will be updated once a decision had been made.

Drain blocked between Arch Farm and Ysguborwen Farm - Llantrisant

The concrete catchment drain was reported to be blocked several months ago as it was causing standing rainwater to pool in the area. A site visit from Mark Quarrington of MCC confirmed the work needed would incur high repair costs, and therefore three quotes were needed before work could take place.

A recent request for updates confirmed Highways experienced high volumes of similar maintenance issues and that an update would follow as soon as possible.

Traffic sign request Wern Ddu Road, Llantrisant

A road sign for 'traffic emerging' was put forward to Highways earlier in the year. However, a recent update stated the sign request is in a batch awaiting a contractor quote.

Llanllowell Road to Usk - Speed Monitoring

A report received from Usk Town Council advised the residents of Blossom Lodge on 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 results were available. The issue continues to be monitored.

Llantrisant Noticeboard

A request for refurbishment of the Noticeboard situated alongside the church in Llantrisant has been put forward to a local builder who has agreed to visit the site as soon as his current workload allows.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors

None to report

New issues raised by others:

Residents at The Meadows Llangwm, wrote requesting support in putting forward a complaint to Monmouthshire C.C, in relation to overgrown Bracken and Vegetation growing out of control in the hedgerow along Dyffryn Lane and particularly around Dyffryn Cottage. Motorists are experiencing scratched paintwork on the sides of their vehicles and drivers' line of sight is impeded in the narrow lanes when reversing for oncoming traffic.

The clerk raised the issue with the Green Infrastructure team at Monmouthshire C.C. A response advised the work was being carried out by local contractors, who are currently behind schedule in Llangwm.

5. Finance:

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

Signed_____

Date_____

d) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for July (including an additional 20 hours worked in the month of June)
Total £763.60

Clerks Net Salary for August (paid in advance due to no meeting in August)
Total £522.80

Clerks Home Working Allowance – July
Total £24

Clerks Home Working Allowance – August (paid in advance due to no meeting in August)
Total £24

LFCC Stationery costs – reimbursement to clerk
1 pack of Plastic Sleeve pockets
Total £3.25

Llangwm Parish Hall- June meeting Rental plus electricity charge -1 unit at 57p
Total £46.14

Green Grafter Limited – Llangwm Village Grass cutting - June
Total £190

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

Total Expenditure to pay £1,603.79

e) Churchyard maintenance donations

It was recently discovered that two donation cheques sent by post to Sandy Blair had not been received. The address was checked and correct but the cheques are lost in the post. The clerk advised the Bank, and the cheques have been cancelled. Two replacements were raised and Cllr Jolliffe agreed to deliver them by hand.

A letter of thanks was received from the members of Llangwm Baptist Chapel for the donation of £250 towards Churchyard maintenance.

A Donation request form has now been sent in the post to Sandra Hanbury, Church Steward of Pen y Cae Mawr Methodist Chapel.

f) Audit Wales Audit

The clerk reported the Full Triennial Audit was nearing completion and confirmed the documentation and accounts would be returned to Audit Wales following the end of the public viewing period on the 31st July, to reach the Audit Wales Cardiff offices by the 7Th August deadline.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report: None received

7. Ward Reports: None received

Signed_____

Date_____

8. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Report received and sent to Councillors' electronically.

'We Don't Buy Crime' Warning Signs - Llangwm

The promised installation of the signs by Gwent Police is still awaited. The team were approached and confirmed they were hoping to visit the village towards the end of July to establish the placement of the signs and to enable them to gain permission from MCC.

Smartwater Packs

There are 17 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

9. HMPS - No updates received.

10. Correspondence

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

Correspondence received from Welsh Water enquired whether the Council would like to host a community led event, to share information about the Welsh Water saving initiatives and the metering programme. The programme aims to detect leaks more quickly and improve accuracy of water usage. Councillors confirmed this was not a requirement at this time.

Correspondence was received from Cllr Hatfield regarding a recent email sent by Deryk Evans, of Audit Wales. His correspondence related to the 2025/26 Audit submissions which had been received so far and stated many of the submissions were incomplete and were not of an acceptable standard.

Cllr Hatfield considered the tone and attitude of the email to be arrogant and felt the use of Capitals for emphasis was uncalled for and particularly disliked the suggestion that if Councils didn't comply with his demands, the Audit would simply cost them more.

He added the department were woefully ignorant of the reality for Councils and a different, more open explanation of what was required would be more beneficial.

11. 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 last month raised the issue of the application, which had caused impact to surrounding areas, with lorries delivering stone for the farm project for months on end.

He pointed out the original application related to an access road being built to replace an existing track, but closer inspection showed the piles of delivered stone having been levelled and smoothed into a large plateau behind the existing barn.

County Cllr Buckler previously advised she would raise the issue with Belinda Hopkins, Senior Enforcement Officer of Monmouthshire C.C. Updates are awaited.

Signed _____

Date _____

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 Llangeview.

Correspondence received from Planning Enforcement advises an application/pre application is expected from the owners shortly and updates will follow.

12. Any Other Business:

The Council has been approached by several residents in Llangwm concerned by shooting heard in the field behind their properties. These occurrences, although not frequent, are disturbing and raise concerns about the local wildlife, the distress being caused to pets and the worry of a possible stray shot. Councillors' felt the local Police Team should be made aware of the situation.

Cllr Hawkins announced details of a small fete for the villages of Llangeview and Llangwm to celebrate 200 years of the Roger Edwards Almshouses Trust. The fete takes place on Sunday 2nd August between 2-6 pm. Picnics are encouraged and residents can enjoy Tug of War, Welly Wanging, games and cakes.

The Village Hall are keen to hold another Community Event in the Autumn to raise funds for the Hall and are considering a Bingo evening with supper. Councillors noted that this type of event is normally funded by ticket sales. However, the Hall Committee were welcome to put forward a donation request application.

Cllr Trigg raised the issue of the overgrown hedges around the perimeter of the Village Hall and suggested work should be carried out to trim them back at the start of September. Councillors agreed and asked for a quote to be obtained from the Green Grafter. Clerk to action.

13. Date of next Meeting:

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

Dates for future Meetings 2026:

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 meetings will be held in August or December 2026 unless deemed necessary.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed_____

Date_____