

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Incorporating the wards of Llantrisant, Llanllowell, Gwernesney, Llangwm and Llansoy

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held at the Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. John Watkins – Annual leave
Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield – Illness

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21st July 2026

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

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21st July 2026

Mobile connectivity

No further updates have been received in relation to the possible installation of a mobile mast for the local area. However, assurances are given by the office of Catherine Fookes that campaigning continues to establish the best solution.

Broadband

Welsh Government is currently offering a grant to assist towards the purchase of equipment and installation for residents struggling with Broadband connectivity and wishing to join Starlink, the Satellite Internet Connection service. For further information, please visit:

<https://applybroadbandinstallationfunding.service.gov.wales/>

The Bridge Inn, Llangwm

An update from Guy Delamere of MCC Planning confirmed authority had now been given for the Section 215 Notice to be served on the owner of the Bridge Inn. However, the owner advised shortly afterwards that he would himself be carrying out a clean-up operation of the property and grounds in the next week.

The clerk reported a further incident that had taken place at the property in the last few days. The boarding on the back window had been ripped away, leaving an opening large enough to gain entry. This was reported to Environmental Health/Public Protection.

Cllr Trigg added that the Trees and Hedges at the back of the property and those bordering the lane towards Pentre Farm, were very overgrown and in need of urgent attention. The clerk will further report the issue to Environmental Health/Public Protection.

Signed _____

Date _____

Local Post Office Service

The issue of infrequent opening hours at the Usk Post Office led Councillors to question the possibility of holding a weekly Post Office Service at Llangwm Parish hall. A similar service is currently offered in Llangybi. The clerk approached Llangybi Community Council to ask if they were able to provide any information to help the Council to explore the opportunity further. A response is awaited.

Dyffryn Lane Llangwm – Property sale

Concerns were raised last month over a property to be purchased by Monmouthshire C.C. for use as a hostel. Cllr Trigg has now confirmed that MCC are no longer proceeding with this purchase.

Hobby shooting in Llangwm

Several Llangwm residents last month raised concerns over shooting in the fields behind their properties. The issue was raised with the Rural Crime team who have responded by confirming that it is lawful for a person to discharge a firearm on their property for recreational, sporting, pest control or other lawful hunting purposes. An offence would arise if any projectile discharged from the firearm travelled beyond the boundary of the land on which the shooter had lawful authority to shoot.

Llangeview Fete

A Community Fete took place in August, hosted by Cllr Hawkins to celebrate 200 years of the Roger Edwards Almshouses Trust. The event was well attended, and everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon filled with games, music and lots of homemade cake.

Llangwm Parish Hall Hedges

Last month Cllr Trigg requested the cutting back of the overgrown hedges around the perimeter of the Parish Hall. Contact was made with the 'Green Grafter' who confirmed he would visit the site to provide a quote, but due to his current commitments, it was unlikely the work would be carried out before the end of September.

4. Highways issues:

Update on Matters reported:

Road Safety Improvements

Gwernesney

The installation of flexible Marker posts on the hatched area in the village took place at the end of July. The aim was to lower traffic speeds travelling along the approach road from Usk for north-eastbound traffic.

Residents reported a definite improvement to the overall speed of traffic through the village and felt safety had improved for those living in the immediate area.

Unfortunately, in the last few weeks one of the Posts was removed from the site by an unknown party. The incident was reported to MCC Highways and the Rural Police team.

Highways confirmed the unauthorised removal of highway structure is unlawful, but it would not be a sensible use of public monies to immediately replace the post, if the likelihood was that it would be removed again. The department confirmed further monitoring would be undertaken to assess how the current arrangement was performing. If results show vehicle speeds averaging around 30 mph, it could be that the layout would be left as it stands currently. The situation will continue to be monitored, and the findings reviewed once the speed data has been collected.

Signed _____

Date _____

Llangwm

Proposed changes to road markings and signs in the village previously agreed with Highways, had this year been placed on hold due to restrictions on budget. Recent correspondence sent to the department expressed the deep concern of residents in relation to ongoing safety issues in the village.

Contact was also made with the Gwent Police 'Go Safe' Team requesting that they visit the village particularly at weekends, to monitor speeding vehicles and motorbikes using the B4235 main road through the Village.

The response advised they had assessed the location for enforcement, but due to the short distance between the 40mph Gateway Sign with the Enforcement Van parked in the Police Vehicle Bay, 'Go Safe' were unable to help at the location.

However, it was suggested that if signage for the Gateway Speed Signs were set further back, they would reassess to see if it was suitable to enforce.

Subsequently, lining and signs plans, were received from MCC Traffic and Road Safety. The plans were reviewed by Councillors' and feedback submitted to the department. The issues raised by the Police 'Go safe' Team were also brought to the department's attention.

Gwent Police 'Go Safe' Team have since confirmed if there was a possibility of moving the current signs further back towards the Usk direction, the enforcement distance would increase, and they would adopt the area as a bike enforcement site during Operation Apex next Season.

Speed Signs Llangwm

Following agreement from MCC Highways that the Council could purchase and install their own solar-powered speed signs, the clerk had approached several companies to obtain quotes.

Councillors received the information and costs for a selection of potential Models, both Solar and Mains powered, with costs ranging from £5 - £7,000. The Model options and their benefits and disadvantages were discussed at length. But the general feeling was that installing a further Speed indication display in Llangwm would not be cost effective. The sign was unable to be installed where it was needed, due to the lack of space on the roadside and the current drainage restrictions. A vote was taken and a majority were against the installation of the sign.

Councillors reiterated they were keen to make a difference to the lives of residents and felt that funding for improvements could perhaps be better utilised by installing Village Gateways in those areas where sufficient space was available.

Village Gateways

Last month the use of Village Gateways was discussed, these are considered a good road safety option and supported by Gareth Freeman of MCC Highways, who had previously suggested that Highways may be able to assist with the installation.

The clerk approached two reputable suppliers and then presented a selection of models and costs for Councillors consideration. It was agreed Gwernesney would be a suitable location for an installation as a gate could be fixed on the side of the road after the Usk Showground. Councillors Hawkins and Gardiner agreed to meet at the site to investigate the amount of space available to be utilised.

Convex Road Mirrors

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

Signed _____

Date _____

Llansoy

MCC 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 to the complaint raised by Cllr Watkins regarding the poor workmanship employed in the replacement of a drainage pipe in Chapel Road, Llangwm, is still outstanding.

The work carried out was considered unsatisfactory and the job unfinished. County Cllr Bromfield highlighted the issue to Sueanne Sandford, the Highways Asset Street Works Team Manager and updates are awaited.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm

The resurfacing of the footpath is currently logged as a Service Issue with the Highways Asset Team. To date only the work in relation to the clearing of weeds and the overgrown hedgerow has been tackled. Due to the footpath resurfacing being left, the weeds have now grown back, and the path has further disintegrated.

An update on the likely timescale of the work was requested this week, and a reply stated the footpath had been identified for resurfacing works, but unfortunately these works were not planned for 26/27. Updates will follow should there be any change in the programme.

Erosion of the Bridge on Route 63.3, Llangwm

In February of this year an inspection of the bridge was due to be carried out to identify what renovations were required. Despite numerous attempts to establish the outcome of the visit, a response is outstanding.

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. An update is awaited from County Cllr Bromfield.

Arch Bridge, Llantrisant

Repairs and maintenance are long overdue despite the onsite meeting earlier this year between Councillors and Highways. Temporary fencing and cones are installed at the site, but no further work has been undertaken. Councillors were advised some months ago that several quotes were being obtained due to the high costs of the work. No further updates have been received.

Llanllowell Bridge

The bridge is in poor condition and requires renovation and maintenance. A site meeting was held between Councillors and Highways in January of this year, but no work has yet taken place.

Subsequently, Highways were advised that fencing installed by a neighbour on the bridge side, had created the illusion of a wider road, adding to safety concerns. This has never been acknowledged, despite requests that Chevron signs might be considered to ensure motorists safety.

Blocked Drains - Gwernesney

The blocked drains located at the back of the houses on the main road through Gwernesney, were reported to Monmouthshire C.C. in September 2025. Trees continue to grow inside the drains and cause flooding. MCC Highways confirmed the area was not adopted and therefore not maintainable at public expense. The area has been maintained by Highways for some considerable time. The Service Issue raised by the clerk has since been closed by Highways.

Signed _____

Date _____

County Cllr Bromfield previously raised the issue with MCC Highways and wrote to Nathan Freeman asking that if the trees were found to be on land owned by MCC, would the work be carried out to alleviate the issue. Also, if it was possible for the Council to apply for the road to become adopted, if indeed it wasn't already. County Cllr Bromfield to update Councillors.

Overtaken Gabian Basket - Northend House, Llangwm

MCC Highways confirmed some time ago that due to the high costs involved and the Council procurement process, a minimum of 3 quotations were required. These were in the process of being obtained but to date no further updates have been received.

Drain blocked between Arch Farm and Ysguborwen Farm - Llantrisant

The concrete catchment drain was reported as blocked and overflowing several months ago. But a request for updates this week confirmed that the Culvert was to be replaced. The road will be closed the week starting 5th October to allow the work to take place.

Traffic sign request Wern Ddu Road, Llantrisant

A road sign request for a 'traffic emerging' sign was put forward to Highways earlier this year. A recent update confirmed the sign was in a batch of 'signing and lining' work waiting for a contractor quote.

Llanllowell Road to Usk - Speed Monitoring

A report received from Usk Town Council advised that 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 on the road from Llanllowell into Usk. This is now in progress and once results have been made available County Cllr Bromfield will share the outcome.

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.

Hedge cutting Dyffryn Lane, Llangwm

Last month overgrown bracken and vegetation in the area had been reported to the Green Infrastructure team at MCC. This work has now been completed and the service issue closed.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors

Following last month's meeting Cllr Hawkins reported the fly tipping of a sofa on the Flood route at Llangview. This was reported and the item removed shortly afterwards.

Cllr Gardiner reported 2 large cracks in the Tarmac across the road between the entrance to the Usk showground and Cefn tilla Court. The clerk will report to Highways.

New issues raised by others:

None

5. Finance:

- a) Bank Statements: For the period 30th June 2026 – 28th August 2026 were received and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Financial Accounts: Statements of Income and Expenditure covering the periods to: 29th of July 2026 and 28th August 2026, were received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

Signed_____

Date_____

c) Bank Reconciliations: for the period 30th June 2026 - 29th July 2026 and for the period 30th July – 28th August 2026 were received and signed by the Chairman.

d) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

August

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

Total £30

September

Clerk's Net Salary for September (including an additional 3.5 hours worked in the month of July)

Total £564.91

Clerks Home Working Allowance – September

Total £24

LFCC Stationery costs – reimbursement to clerk

Post Office tracked parcel to Audit Wales, Cardiff Office dated 30/7/2026

Total £7.30

Llangwm Parish Hall hire- July meeting Rental plus electricity charge -1 unit at 57p

Total £45.57

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

Total £30

Zurich Insurance Company Ltd – Annual Community Council renewal premium

Total £396

Audit Wales 2024-2025 Audit fee

Total £219.68

Donation to Pen Y Cae Mawr Methodist Chapel – Churchyard maintenance 2026-27

Total £250

Beverley & Williams Accountants – Charge for Clerks payroll July – Sept 2026

Total £36

HMRC – Employees Tax and N.I. July – September 2026

Total £460.40

Total Expenditure to pay £2,033.86

e) Annual renewal of Zurich Municipal Insurance Company Parish Policy 2026-27

A quote was received from Zurich Municipal for Insurance cover for the coming year. The renewal quote along with the Cover provided was discussed by Councillors. The quote was based on the Community Council falling into a Precept range of £20,000 - £30,000. Councillor's agreed the policy provided suitable cover for current needs and AGREED to accept the renewal terms and cost.

Signed_____

Date_____

f) Annual review of clerk's salary

In August the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. Councils were encouraged to implement the pay award as soon as possible. The increase in the hourly rate to be implemented from the 1st April 2026. Councillors' were advised the agreement had uplifted the clerk's annual salary by 3.3% meaning the hourly rate would rise from £15.06 per hour to £15.56. Beverley & Williams Accountants will be advised of this change, and the increase will take effect from October and be backdated to 1st April 2026. Councillors' AGREED and requested the change to be Minuted.

g) Audit Wales updates

Correspondence was received from Audit Wales Accounts stating that the Invoice for work carried out on the previous year's accounts 2024/25, was unpaid and 30 days overdue.

The clerk advised the invoice had not been received and requested a copy was sent, a cheque has now been raised in payment.

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report: No report received

7. Ward Reports: None received

8. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:

Reports received for both July and August were sent to Councillors' electronically.

The Council was also notified that a new Police Community Support Officer had been allocated to them, and Megan Greaves had written introducing herself.

However, on the August report it was apparent that not all the Community Council area was included. The clerk requested clarification and was advised that Llantrisant and Gwernesney were reflected under the main ward of Llangybi, but the Councils other wards were not listed as the police system did not mirror image the council systems.

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

An update from Gwent Police Rural Crime team confirmed they had now been granted permission to install the village signs. Unfortunately, on arrival, the signs were of poor quality and needed to be returned for replacement. Once this has been rectified the installation will go ahead as planned.

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

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager, at MCC wrote advising local elections would be taking place in May 2027. All Council seats would be vacated by current Councillors' and nominations would open for new candidates to come forward.

Signed _____

Date _____

County Council will administer these elections, but there are several issues and procedures attached to the election process that the clerk will need to be aware of. In view of this, online sessions will be held in December, and separate sessions will likely take place in the new year for Councillors' seeking re-election along with any new candidates.

Details relating to the possible costs of the elections to Councils were also provided, these were only approximate, as the last Elections took place 5 years ago. It is expected the amounts could increase substantially. NOTED

Notification received from One Voice Wales provided details of a joint online event to be held in November hosted by SLCC and OVW. This event will focus on future priorities for the Council Sector, including addressing the democratic health deficit, employment law update, code of conduct issues, artificial intelligence and the cost-of-living crisis.

Councillors' agreed the event would be beneficial for the clerk and Council, and so if possible, she should attend. The clerk confirmed her attendance and Councillors' agreed the cost of £75+VAT would be paid from the Training Budget.

Advice was received from several charities previously supported by the old Llantrisant Fawr Council, stating that the company holding their databases had suffered a cyber-attack. This had resulted in a security breach with some personal information from their supporters being accessed. NOTED

Correspondence from OVW updated Councils on the Community Boundary reviews being undertaken across Wales. Representation has been put forward by OVW highlighting the failings of the existing community boundary review process. It was considered reviews were not being held on the basis of a clear purpose on the role of Community and Town Councils, and rather than creating clarity and uniformity, the outcome was resulting in a confusing picture for the sector. NOTED

11. Planning

Application Number: DM/2026/01032 – 01/09/2026

Fast Track Full Planning Permission

Detached stone barn in the curtilage of farmhouse.

Convert barn into 2-bedroom self-contained dwelling without increased floor space.

Pen Y Wrylod Farm, Old Road, Pen Y Cae Mawr, Monmouthshire. NP15 1LX

Councillors agreed they were not against the application but had made the following observations:

Several properties in the area draw water from Springs and boreholes, was there a risk of contaminating those sources from the foul and grey water discharge from such a development.

The application states no work is required to the existing farm track access, but if this is to be used as a permanent dwelling, is the access going to be feasible in the winter months.

Clerk to advise Planning.

Signed_____

Date_____

Application Number: DM/2026/00938 – 14/08/2026

Householder erection of oak framed Sun/Garden room

The Rectory, Usk Road, Llanllowell Monmouthshire NP15 1LJ

Councillors agreed they were not against the application but had the following concerns:

It was thought that Bridge cottage below the Rectory currently suffered badly with flooding. Councillors' were concerned over the possibility of further water affecting the Cottage.

The plans state that the hardstanding area is not being increased, but it is unclear whether the development would involve any change to the runoff of roof water.

A request was put forward to planning that these concerns should be addressed.

Clerk advised Planning on 20/8/2026

Application Number: DM/2026/00692 – 22/07/2026

Conversion of existing and redundant stone-built barn to residential dwelling.

Court Y Gollen, Cwrt-Y-Gollen Road, Gwernesney. Monmouthshire.

Councillors considered this application which had arrived during the summer recess. There were no objections raised.

Clerk advised Planning on 4th August 2026

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

The original application related to an access road being built to replace an existing track. However, in recent months it has become apparent that the piles of stone delivered to the farm have instead been levelled into a large plateau behind an existing barn.

County Cllr Buckler had previously agreed to raise the issue with Belinda Hopkins, Senior Enforcement Officer of Monmouthshire C.C.

Councillors requested the clerk write to County Cllr Buckler requesting an update on the case.

Alleged Unauthorised Works – Case number E26/126

Land adjacent to Ty Wilson Barn and Almshouses, Llan Y Nant Road, Llangwm. Usk NP15 1LT. An issue was reported to Councillors in April of this year in relation to a Barn structure which had been installed in the grounds of a field above the Almshouses, in Llangwm.

Planning Enforcement were advised and recent correspondence from the department states that an application/pre application is expected from the owners.

12. Any Other Business:

The Bin outside of the Village Hall has recently been overflowing with rubbish. The clerk emptied the bin as far as possible but was unable to remove the lid. Cllr Trigg has agreed to look at the bin, with a view to fixing the issue.

Monmouthshire C.C. Waste agreed to collect the rubbish bag from the Bus shelter when the team next pass through the village.

Signed _____

Date _____

Several residents living in lower Llangwm have in the last 6 months been advised by Welsh Water that there is a substantial leak under one of their gardens. They were instructed by the Company to contact their own insurers to investigate and locate the problem.

The work was undertaken by the Insurers as requested, but no leaks were located on any of the properties concerned. In view of the upset and stress this has caused residents, contact was made with Catherine Fookes, MP, who has since written to the Chief Executive of Welsh Water requesting the issue be resolved as a matter of urgency by the company themselves. Updates are awaited.

Cllr Jolliffe suggested that as part of the Councils Community Engagement policy, it would be beneficial for Councillors to engage with residents asking what they would like to see the Community Council carry out on their behalf. The clerk will prepare a draft notice that can be circulated using social media and local What's App groups.

Cllr Trigg requested an update on the status of the Poll carried out in relation to the regeneration plans put forward for Usk Town Centre. The clerk will request the latest information from the County Councillors.

13. Date of next Meeting:

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

Dates for future Meetings 2026:

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

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

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Signed_____

Date_____