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 20th October 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies for Absence:
Cllr. Malcolm Hatfield – Illness

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th September 2026
Agreed as a correct record by all present and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th September 2026

Mobile and Broadband connectivity
The office of Catherine Fookes MP advised that a meeting had been scheduled to take place with a Mobile Network Operator. It is the intention that Llangwm and the surrounding areas will be added to the agenda. Although the Operators have previously stated they were unable to visit Llangwm, Catherine will continue to make the case for the village.

Additionally, Catherine has contacted Voneus following a recent incident in Llangwm, when some residents were without Broadband for almost a week. A response is awaited from their CEO.

Cllr Watkins has also written to the Company, but they have declined to join the Community Council at a meeting. Cllr Watkins raised the issue of compensation for residents who experience long periods without a Broadband connection and asked why it was that Voneus aren't signed up to OFCOM, he was advised the company isn't large enough to comply.

Welsh Government is currently offering a grant to assist with 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
Contractors have recently attended the site to replace the boarding on the window at the back of the property and to clear the grounds. However, the request for the trimming back of the trees and hedges bordering the lane towards Pentre Farm did not take place. There are no updates currently in relation to a possible planning application.

Local Post Office Service for Llangwm
The possibility of a weekly Post Office service for Llangwm Parish Hall has recently been explored. Although, feedback suggests several of the existing Outreach services have recently been closed due to lack of support. The Clerk has written to the relevant Post Office department to make enquires and is awaiting a response.

Signed_____ Date_____

Llangwm Parish Hall Hedges
The Green Grafter was approached last month for a quote in relation to the cutting back of the hedges around the perimeter of the Parish Hall. The clerk has sent a gentle reminder and received an apology for the delay with a promise that the work will be carried out shortly.

Welsh Water Incident - Llangwm
Welsh Water has during the last year been trying to establish the whereabouts of a substantial water leak in the village. The company insists the leak is located in the gardens of several residents. Their Insurers have investigated the problem, but to date no leaks have been established. In view of the amount of stress and upset caused by Welsh Water during this process, the office of Catherine Fookes MP became involved, and a letter was subsequently sent to the CEO of Welsh Water requesting that the issue be resolved as a matter of urgency.

A response since received from the company states the water pipe concerned does not appear in the records of water mains transferred to the former Welsh Water Authority and subsequently to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. The Company advised that as the matter was ongoing, it would not be appropriate to reach a conclusion about the precise location of the leak or responsibility for the final repair until all relevant information has been considered.

Residents have been advised that the next step would be to raise a formal complaint. Councillors suggested that as they have a long history in the village they would be happy to speak with Welsh Water to share information.

Community Engagement
Cllr Jolliffe last month suggested a notice should be sent out to residents using local Social Media channels to establish what improvements or ideas they would like to see the Community Council carry out on their behalf. Response was limited, but the issues raised have been noted.

<u>Llantrisant</u>
Leak in the Bus Shelter roof - Cllr Jolliffe confirmed he would investigate the issue.
<u>Llangwm</u>
Cutting back of Hedges surrounding the Village Car Park – in hand
Upkeep and organisation of the Village Flower beds – clerk to speak with residents
Speeding issues in Llangwm – reported to MCC Highways and Gwent Police
The derelict Bridge Inn Pub – Plans awaited from owner
Grass cutting and Road sweeping- reported to MCC

Usk Town Centre Regeneration Plans
Cllr Trigg last month requested an update on the proposed plans for Usk Town. The clerk contacted Cllr Meirion Howells, who advised a meeting had been held between the consultants and the MCC Regeneration Team and the alterations that came about from the recent public consultation have been agreed. He was able to confirm that the clock in the square will be moved, but stays central to the square, with more pavement area outside the Nag's Head and 2 of the pinch points on Bridge Street removed.

It is hoped that an official press release will be available in 4-6 weeks' time when the consultants provide the final design.

Councillors requested that County Cllr Buckler obtain a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held between MCC and the Consultants. They agreed it was important to follow the alterations put forward after the Public Consultation, to evaluate what this meant for outlying villages and to consider the implications for the community as a whole.

Signed_____ Date_____

4. Highways issues:
Update on Matters reported:

Road Safety Improvements
Gwernesney
Following the unlawful removal of one of the newly installed marker posts in Gwernesney, MCC Highways have undertaken further speed monitoring. The results are not yet available but should results show vehicle speeds averaging around 30 mph, it is probable the layout will remain unchanged with just two marker posts remaining in place.

Village Gateways
Following recent discussions on the use of Village gateways as a good road safety option, Councillors agreed they would meet to investigate a possible installation site at the roadside just after the Usk Showground.

Llangwm
Last month Councillor's feedback on the 'Lining and Signs' plans for the village was returned to MCC Traffic and Road Safety along with additional information provided by the clerk following her contact with the Gwent Police Go Safe Team.

The Go safe Team had suggested that if the current speed signs on the main road were able to be moved back towards Usk, the enforcement distance would be increased, allowing the Go Safe Team to adopt the area as a bike enforcement site for Operation Apex next Season.

MCC Traffic and Road Safety have now confirmed they would be able to move the Speed signs, once the enforceable area has been agreed with the Gwent Police team. The plans for Llangwm would then need to be redrawn in readiness for consultation at the start of next year.

Subsequently a road incident took place in the area just after the old Bridge Inn. A car travelling towards Usk at high speed overtook another vehicle, swerved in front of it and mounted the verge. Skidding on mud the car ending up on the verge on the opposite side of the road facing towards Chepstow. In doing so it hit the 30mph speed sign, which penetrated the body of the car to a depth of around 2 feet, no one was hurt on this occasion.

The incident was reported to both the Gwent Police Go Safe team and MCC Traffic and Road Safety.

Convex Road Mirrors
Councillors agreed that using this type of Mirror could help improve road safety in areas where there was poor visibility of oncoming traffic. The clerk will look at what options are available and establish costs.

Footpath resurfacing, Llangwm
The resurfacing of the footpath is logged as a Service Issue with Highways,
and has been identified for resurfacing works however, these works are not programmed for the current year 2026/27. We will be kept updated and advised if there is any change in the programme.

Erosion of the Bridge on Route 63.3, Llangwm
Earlier this year an inspection of the bridge was to have taken place to establish what renovations were required. Despite numerous attempts to obtain updates no information has been forthcoming.

Signed_____ Date_____

Arch Bridge, Llantrisant
Repairs and maintenance are long overdue despite the onsite meeting earlier this year between Councillors and MCC Highways. Orange plastic fencing and cones were installed at the site, but this has now disintegrated and needs replacing. Cllr Glyn Williams advised there was nothing in place to stop someone falling over the side of the bridge on the Farm side. The bridge has deteriorated significantly since the Council first requested work to be carried out.

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

Subsequently, Highways have been 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 not been acknowledged, despite requests that Chevron signs might be considered to ensure motorists safety.

County Cllr Buckler has agreed to investigate the status of all three bridges and report back.

Resurfacing of Nant Y Banw Lane, Llantrisant
County Cllr Bromfield previously expressed concern to MCC Highways over the use of tarmac to fill what is considered subsidence and road edge failure on the lane. Metal plates are currently being used to keep the road in place. Updates awaited from County Cllr Bromfield.

Blocked Drains - Gwernesney
The drains located behind No 10 Chepstow Road, Gwernesney were reported to Monmouthshire C.C. in September 2025. Trees are growing out of the drains which causes them to block in periods of heavy rain and cause flooding. Highways confirmed the area was not an adopted road and therefore could not be maintained at public expense. The area has been maintained by them for some considerable time.The Service Issue raised by the clerk has since been closed by Highways.

County Cllr Bromfield also raised the issue with Nathan Freeman of Highways asking if the trees were found to be on land owned by MCC, could work then be carried out to alleviate the issue. Or if the road is not currently adopted, can the Council apply for it to become so.
Updates are awaited.

Northend House, Llangwm - Overturned Gabian Basket
MCC Highways visited the site earlier in the year to establish what work was needed and to obtain a quote. Updates are still awaited.

Drain blocked between Arch Farm and Ysguborwen Farm - Llantrisant
The Culvert was replaced by MCC Highways during the first week of October.

Traffic sign request Wern Ddu Road, Llantrisant
The road traffic sign has now been ordered, and Highways confirm they will obtain an installation date from the contractor as soon as possible.

Llanllowell Road to Usk - Speed Monitoring
Following a report received by Usk Town Council advising a lorry had crashed into the brick bollards forming part of the driveway at ‘Blossom Lodge’ Llanllowell Road. A request was put forward for speed monitoring strips on the main road from Llanllowell to Usk. The speed monitoring has now concluded, and the results are awaited.

Signed_____ Date_____

Cracks across the road towards Cefn Tila Court
Two large cracks were reported last month at the bridge crossing the brook on the road towards the entrance to the Usk showground and Cefn tilla Court. The issue was reported to Highways, and the current service status states Under Review.

Llantrisant Noticeboard
The clerk has issued a gentle reminder for the refurbishment of the Noticeboard situated alongside the church in Llantrisant. The local builder has confirmed he intends to visit the site when his workload permits.

New Highways issues raised by Councillors
Councillors reported sightings of Deer in the road on the B4235 between Coalchips Meadow Farm and Church Farm, Gwernesney. The Deer are coming off the hills and jumping hedges and gates landing on the main road. With the possibility of a collision at that point between the animals and vehicles it was suggested Warning signs be requested for the area. Clerk to action.

Cllr Trigg reported the dip on the left-hand side of the main road just before the old Bridge Inn, Llangwm continues to deteriorate and required further investigation. Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr Trigg raised concerns over the issue reported earlier in the year regarding overgrown hedges and verges which block motorists' line of sight on the stretch of road between the Usk interchange and The Lodge. Clerk to report to Highways.

New issues raised by others:
Poor road surface requiring attention at Millbrook, Llangwm. Clerk to action following completion of the Welsh water enquiries currently taking place.

Grass Cutting Llangwm:
MCC confirmed that a 1-meter-wide swath to its entire network of verges is now cut on x1 occasion per year, this between July and end August, with a second safety cut only applied to A and B roads during September/October. This safety cut is only applied to scheduled sight lines, junctions, lay-bys, junctions of private driveways.

Where there is no grass verge present, there is a 1-meter-high vertical cut to the adjacent private hedge that abuts the road. Outside of the above dates the Council will only respond to enquiries that relate to visibility issues.

Road Sweeping Llangwm:
MCC have confirmed roads are swept four times a year with additional cleaning taking place on request in areas that have experienced flooding.

5. Finance:

a) Bank Statement: For the period 29th August 2026 – 29th September 2026 was received and signed by the Chairman.

b) Financial Accounts: A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ending the 29th of September 2026 was received, AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

c) Bank Reconciliation: for the period 29th August 2026 - 29th September 2026 was received and signed by the Chairman.

Signed_____ Date_____

d) Expenditure: The following expenses were APPROVED

Clerk's Net Salary for October (including an additional 10 hours worked in September) and reflecting the increased Payscale award - backdated to April 1st 2026 as agreed by the NALC
Total £768.49

Clerks Home Working Allowance – October
Total £24

LFCC Stationery costs – reimbursement to clerk
8 First Class Stamps
Total £14.40

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

SLCC Enterprises – Attendance cost for the Joint Virtual conference for clerks 18/11/2026
Total £90

Total Expenditure to pay £926.89

6. Monmouthshire County Council Report:
County Cllr Buckler updated Councillors during the meeting of issues relevant to their local Communities.

7. Ward Reports: Nothing to report

8. Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Police updates:
No report received

'We Don't Buy Crime' Warning Signs - Llangwm
Gwent Police last month advised that replacement signs were on order due to the originals being of poor quality. Once the replacements have been received then 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: llantrisantfawr@gmail.com

9. 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 to confirm an online session is being held for clerks on December 7th from 2-3pm. Several issues and procedures attached to the election process next year will be discussed in this session. The clerk will attend.

A Media release from Monmouthshire C.C advised improvements are being made to the processes for pothole repair. The budget for highways maintenance has been increased, and new equipment is to be purchased, including a Bobcat Skid Steer. This will help highways teams carry out more permanent repairs and reduce the need for repeat visits. A more durable repair material will also be used during colder and wetter weather to help repairs last longer. Noted

Signed_____ Date_____

10. Planning

Application Number: DM/2026/01001 – 28/09/2026
Relocation of Barn together with changes and provision of Access Lane/Track to Stables.
(Planning permission of Barn approved under DM/2022/00235)
Land adjacent to Maerdy Farm, Llangeview. Usk. NP15 1EY

Councillors considered the application and agreed the proposed access site appeared to be set in an odd location particularly as the lane floods regularly and is adjacent to the driveway into the travellers site. Observations reported to MCC 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 Cwnwr Farm Alltybella Road, Coed Cwnwr Llangeview. 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.

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.

Councillors requested an update from MCC Planning in relation to the retrospective planning application which is outstanding.

11. Any Other Business:

Cllr Trigg raised the issue of the Deposit Return Scheme which has been put forward by Welsh Government, a small amount will be added to the price of drinks in eligible containers and then returned to receive the deposit. County Cllr Buckler advised she didn't have enough information to share at this point but said she would look at the proposals in more detail and report back.

12. Date of next Meeting:

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

Cllr Hawkins gave his apologies and confirmed he would not be available for next month's Council meeting. Cllr Jolliffe agreed to chair the meeting in his absence.

No meeting will be held in December 2026 unless necessary.

Date of future meetings for 2027:

Dates for next year to be agreed at the November meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed_____ Date_____