



Llangybi Fawr Community Council Meeting Minutes

Monday^{5th} August 2024

Llangybi Village Hall at 7pm

COED Y PAEN Cllr Graham Rogers 07775 644527
LLANDEGVETH Chair Lorna Savidge 07809292564
LLANHENNOCK Cllr Neil Statham 07792371624
TREDUNNOCK TBC
CLERK Kate Burdge 07450229019

LLANGYBI Cllr Peter Marshall 07415892161
 Cllr Andy Hunt 07976 721650
 Cllr Caroline Watts 07779503052
LLANGATTOCK N.C. Vice Ieuan Williams 07790285572

Present: Chair Savidge, Cllr Williams, Cllr Watts, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Statham, Clerk Burdge

Apologies: Cllr Hunt, Cllr Marshall, C.Cllr Bromfield,

Declarations of interest: None

Members of the public present: Neil Gosling, Andrea Smith, Irene Cameron, Sue and Richard Tulp, Gareth and Linda Williams, Kate Gwatkin, Sophie Lewis,

Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by Cllr Rogers; Seconded by Cllr Watts

Local Matters Arising:

179/196:Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisation (GAVO): Chair Savidge introduced GAVO representative Jo Webb, her new role is Community Spaces Outreach Officer for rural Monmouthshire is a voluntary organisation that aim to provide assistance with funding new community projects. Jo explained that Gwent Association Voluntary Organisation (GAVO) had recently created this role and aim to help Community Councils with local projects from playground refurbishments to energy saving schemes for village halls. Chair Savidge asked what projects GAVO were currently involved with in the local area? Jo Webb explained their early involvement with an exciting upcoming youth project in Usk for a BMX pump track being developed. GAVO provide a free service so if the Community Council required any assistance Jo would be happy to assist from recruitment, insurance liabilities, community engagement and funding applications. Jo Webb gave out correspondence cards to the public and clerk so further correspondence could continue.

180/196: MCC Dog Waste Bags: Prior to the meeting Cllr Hunt announced to the clerk that there was a minimal number of dog waste bags remaining to be distributed to the ward. Therefore, Cllr Hunt requested a new order to be placed with MCC. Chair Savidge asked the cost for box of dog waste bags. Clerk to find out cost of order and let Cllrs know so a decision can be made.

181/: 196: Planning: None

Prior to the meeting, Clerk had received many concerns from Llangybi residents concerning the proposed idea of the Tiny Forest in Llangybi Park. Chair Savidge explained the item of the Llangybi Tiny Forest Project was only as a point of Update and Any Other Information, therefore would not be discussed at the meeting by the Cllrs. Chair Savidge invited members of the public to give personal statements in association to the Tiny Forest Project so these could be later reviewed at a dedicated proposed meeting on Monday 19th August where more Cllrs linked to the project would be in attendance and where a more robust discussion could be had and detailed answers could be ascertained.

182/196: Llangybi Tiny Forest Project: Neil Gosling firstly mentioned he was pleased with the number of neighbours that had attended the CC meeting. Next, he proposed all plans for the implementation of a Tiny Forest Project to stop immediately before a formal public consultation takes place. Chair Savidge explained the CC had no window of opportunity to consult on any level prior to submitting an application due to the short timescale to apply for the National Lottery funding. Also whilst the funding application was successful, there was no commitment from the CC to accept the funding from the National Lottery. The main concerns raised by Neil were as follows:

- The thoughts of the neighbouring residents have not and must be considered in consideration to the impacts on the most directly affected.
- The Miyawaki planting method would see mature trees grow up to 30-40m tall inhibiting light on the neighbouring properties, the 1959 legislation act was emphasised.
- Environmental, Geological and Drainage surveys needed to be carried out to assess the areas suitability prior to any start of the project.

- Consideration needed to be taken in terms of the ongoing basic maintenance with the control of weeds, mowing and hedge heights. It was suggested the Council already struggled to manage with the current demands of the ward.
- The abundance of springs within the field boundary causes surface water run off into the neighbouring estates of Kennett Grange therefore even during moderate rainfall, it was suggested no number of additional trees would prevent this issue.
- The band of shale presumed to run north westerly through the field would result in shallow rooted trees, this could possibly lead to growth of unstable trees forming a future hazard and risk to the public and local residents. Whom would be accountable for these potential damages?
- An Environmental Impact Assessment was advised to protect destruction of established habitats within the proposed area due to the presence of protected species including slowworms and newts.

On a separate note, Neil Gosling also raised issues relating to the MCC park area and poor drainage leading to the local residents being subject to the “Kennett Grange stream”. Clerk to raise these concerns with Fay Bromfield so feedback could be ascertained.

Next Irene Cameron wished to express her disappointment to the CC and requested that no commitment to continue without community approval and that any decision should not be made prior a public consultation taking place. In addition, Kate Gwatkin proposed all Cllrs to attend site visit to Neil Gosling’s garden in order to understand the repercussions of the introduction Tiny Forest Project to Llangybi Park.

Chair Savidge recommended a site visit takes place. Clerk displayed a poster signifying a dedicated meeting to discuss the Tiny Forest Project had been arranged for Monday 19th August at 6pm in Llangybi Village Hall. Clerk to share on social media pages and put in noticeboards. Clerk to invite the Landscape Consultant and MCC Biodiversity Officer to proposed meeting.

Correspondence:

183/196: GeViews: Prior to the meeting Clerk had distributed an email from Kieran Wells (GeViews representative) promoting new planters, noticeboards and benches and street furniture that were environmentally friendly and low cost effective. Cllrs agreed the noticeboards in the ward had been replaced during the last few years and at the present time saw no need to invest in the new displays.

Policy updates and Reports: None

184/196: Police Reports: The police report had not yet been received for July. Clerk to circulate to all Cllrs once received.

185/196: Biodiversity Policy: This policy was previously circulated prior to the meeting with no amendments.

This policy was approved by all at the meeting and will be placed on the website.

Updates & Any Other Information:

186/196: Neighbourhood Watch: Chair Savidge recapped the discussion from the previous meeting in particular the Neighbourhood Watch scheme already setup in Usk by Meirion Howells. Chair Savidge shared there were over 450 members on the Usk Neighbourhood Watch Social Media (Facebook) page. Clerk explained that a local representative would be connected to the ward if Cllrs decided to go ahead with the scheme. Chair Savidge asked for requirements of Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be certified and how the scheme operates. Clerk to clarify details. Also Chair Savidge questioned the advantages of the stickers and if these were influential in preventing thefts. Cllr Statham mentioned that Llanhennock CC had previously been involved with this scheme but over time had lost momentum and now not promoted locally. Cllrs communicated that social media pages were already particularly informative to locals of any suspicious activity.

187/196: Independent Remuneration for Councillor Allowances: Clerk had circulated a formal declaration to all councillors. Clerk asked if all Cllrs could send a written statement to state they work from home in order to receive the Councillor allowance in September. Clerk had received some replies to confirm Cllrs eligibility to accept the Allowance. Furthermore, the IRPW had supplied a spreadsheet of statement of payments associated with Councillor Allowances. This would be completed and submitted at the same time as Cllrs received allowances.

188/196: Llangybi Playground Project: Chair Savidge delivered this update had been covered previously during the meeting and that further correspondence from C.Cllr Bromfield and the local residents was needed. Clerk to speak to C.Cllr Bromfield in regards to the concerns raised in Llangybi Park.

189/196: Llangybi Speed Monitoring: The speed monitoring strips had been seen in the village of Llangybi in the previous weeks as you enter and exit the village. Clerk had circulated the results of the monitoring strips prior. The data revealed the average speed travelling through Llangybi village was in excess of 40mph, more than double the current speed limit. C.Cllr Bromfield had indicated in an email further signage was to be placed in Llangybi and road markers to help reduce the speed of traffic travelling through the village. Cllrs discussed the need for further speed reduction measures to be introduced but understood this data collection was extremely valuable to proceed with any further traffic calming measures.

190/196: Llanhennock Cheshire Homes: Cllrs had requested prior to the meeting an update regarding the status of the enforcement case against Llanhennock Cheshire Homes (point 141, June 2024). Cllrs confirmed the advert for the 34 rooms

available had been taken down in the previous week. However, Cllr Statham declared that there has been further activity from some basic ground maintenance in the grounds as well as potentially tenant occupancy in the building. Clerk to report to MCC.

191/196: Vat Return: Clerk stated that the Vat 126 Reclaim form for the CC had been completed and sent to HMRC for a total of 1054.11.

192/196: Lime Kilns, Llanhennock: Prior to the meeting, Clerk had received concerns regarding the overgrown vegetation at the lime kilns, Llanhennock. Clerk had reported these to C.Cllr Bromfield whom had forwarded to the relevant department as these are listed buildings so may require specific MCC officers to deal with the situation. Clerk to add to action log.

Chair Savidge invited Cllrs to highlight any further concerns so that these could be reported promptly to MCC.

193/196: Ragwort in Llangybi Fawr Ward: Cllr Williams highlighted the expansive presence of ragwort growing this year in the ward and if there was anything that could be done to help relieve the volume that has appeared. Cllr Williams explained it is a poisonous plant to livestock as well as humans and care should be taken when pulling the weed up as this is the known method to eradicate ragwort. Chair Savidge agreed there was a great presence in Llandegfedd. Clerk to ask MCC if there are plans to tackle this overwhelming weed invasion.

Finances:

194/196: HSBC Mandates: Clerk revealed disappointing news that the bank mandates previously completed (point 153, June 2024) had been rejected. Therefore, Clerk asked for mandates for Change of address and HSBC Deposit Card to be recompleted and will be sent back to HSBC as soon as possible in order to start receiving CC bank statements. Cllrs signed and Clerk will take back to HSBC at earliest convenience.

195/196: Raise cheques: the following cheques were raised:

- a) Clerk Burdge Salary for May £404.32 (proposed by Cllr Rogers Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- b) Website Manager Salary for May £48.00 (proposed by Cllr Rogers , Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- c) Morgan Davies for Llangybi Junction £60.00 Clearance (proposed by Cllr Rogers, Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- d) dog waste collection for July £172.80 ((proposed by Cllr Rogers; seconded by Cllr Watts).

196/196: Bank Reconciliation: Cllr Rogers agreed and signed with the accounts prepared in advance of meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of Next Meeting : Monday 2nd September 2024 in Llanhennock Village Hall at 7pm.

All members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. If remote access is required, notify clerk in advance to arrange this.

If any members of the public require to see these minutes in Welsh please contact the clerk: k.burdge@llangybi.org