



## Llangybi Fawr Community Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Llanhenock 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 Rogers, Cllr Statham, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Marshall, C.Cllr Bromfield, Clerk Burdge  
**Apologies:** Cllr Watts,  
**Declarations of interest:** None  
**Members of the public present:** Neil Gosling, Andrea Smith, Sophie Lewis,  
**Minutes of the last meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Rogers; Seconded by Cllr Watts

**Local Matters Arising:** None

### **Planning:**

**197/224: DM/2021/01972 Llandowlais Farm, Llangybi:** No objections raised

**198/224: DM/2024/01019 Glen Usk House, Llanhenock:** Cllrs discussed the principal issue that this building was a Grade 2\* listed building. Cllrs noted this was a significantly sized addition to an already substantial building in particular the Orangery extension. Prior to the meeting, Cllrs had contacted MCC for the full Design and Access Statement as the documents displayed on the portal only included the title and last pages. Therefore, a full assessment was not possible. Within this enquiry, the heritage officer raised similar concerns to the Community Council in regards to the scale and design of this extension in relation to the setting. Consequently, in consideration of the listed building status it was unlikely this extension would be considered favourably by Councillors in the short term until some changes were made. Clerk to send response to MCC Planning.

### **Correspondence:**

**199/224: Defibrillator Replacement Pads for Llanhenock:** Prior to the meeting Cllr Statham had reported the defibrillator pads in Llanhenock were due to expire in November therefore replacements sets would need to be ordered. Cllrs discussed the importance of the defibrillator pads and that this was an essential duty of the council to maintain the equipment and necessary accessories. It was questioned how many sets were needed to be available at any one time. Clerk disclosed the 3 quotes obtained for the replacement of the defibrillator pads; Jack's Appeal (£71 per set) Defib Store (£56 + VAT per set) Well Medical (£80.28 including delivery). Cllrs agreed it was best to have 2 sets at all times to ensure safety of residents. Cllr Statham acknowledged Jack's Appeal had initially fitted the IPAD AED defibrillator in Llanhenock and this was a registered charity. It was decided to order 2 defibrillator replacement pads from Jack's Appeal; Cllr Statham proposed, and Cllr Hunt seconded.

**200/224: Severn Wye Advocacy:** Clerk had circulated an email received from Severn Wye Energy Advocacy who offered free advice and support to individuals at risk of fuel poverty. Cllrs were divided as to the intentions of this group and the process of the project considered unclear. Clerk to request poster to share on noticeboards and website to provide support to those experiencing fuel poverty.

### **Policy updates and Reports: None**

**210/224: Police Reports:** The police report had not yet been received for August. Clerk to circulate to all Cllrs once received. Chair Savidge emphasised the ongoing theft concerns continuing in the ward and asked if there was any feedback since the distribution of the Smart water packs. Cllr Hunt queried if there was signage available to the ward. Clerk explained in order to receive the Smart Water signage over 75% of the ward would need to sign up to Smart water. Cllr Hunt has offered to speak to Smart Water/Gwent Police to see if signs could be put up in the ward. Chair Savidge mentioned a handful of Smart Water pens were still available from the Clerk if any residents would like to purchase. Cllr Rogers had a further £10 to add to the Smart Water deposit. Clerk to deposit when possible, but revealed HSBC Mandates were still not finalised.

**211/224: Community Plan Policy:** This policy was previously circulated prior to the meeting with Cllr Rogers questioning how many telephone boxes still resided within the ward. It was agreed to amend the policy to 4 telephone boxes that need to be maintained. This policy was approved by all at the meeting and will be placed on the website.

**212/224: 5 year Community Led Plan:** Following this matter, C.Cllr Bromfield was invited to talk about projects in other wards to create a 5 year Community Plan which could inform a version for LFCC. Cllr Rogers had found original copies of Llangybi and

Coed y Paen Community Plans designed with the support of MCC back in 2014. Clerk to scan and circulate to all Cllrs. C.Cllr Bromfield highlighted the benefits that a community plan can offer, including providing a clear indication for the local council of what residents would like to see happen within the ward. One Voice Wales offer training courses on how to Create a Community Plan for £40 per member. Clerk to investigate if a community council session could be organised.

### **Updates & Any Other Information:**

**213/224: Llangybi Tiny Forest Project:** Prior to the meeting, Llangybi Fawr CC had released a public statement to announce the decision had been made to decline the funding for a Tiny Forest in Llangybi Park, following from the meeting arranged on the 19<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the project proposal. C.Cllr Bromfield confirmed MCC are happy to include the LFCC area of the park with their biodiversity plans with possible recommendations of a community orchard with a wildflower boundary. During this meeting, the reports of sensitive species were highlighted including slowworms; and MCC Biodiversity Officers will now undertake a site visit to carry out an ecological walkover; not an Environmental Impact Assessment. Cllrs had questioned if cutting of the grass was acceptable with these species present. C.Cllr Bromfield confirmed slowworms hibernate during the months from October to March so grass cutting would not be a concern. In addition, C.Cllr Bromfield stated a public consultation would be carried out for Llangybi Park including all the biodiversity enhancements. These plans were due to be completed as soon as possible and be available to the public quickly. The consultation period may not be the full 6 weeks due to time restrictions on the funding available. C.Cllr Bromfield to disclose Biodiversity plans as soon as available.

**214/224: Independent Remuneration for Councillor Allowances:** Prior to the meeting, Clerk had submitted the IRPW template with the statement of payments to all Cllrs for confirmation before the issue of councillor allowances. This was all agreed and would be placed on noticeboards, published on the website and Clerk will send a copy will send to the IRPW on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**215/224: Llangybi Playground Project:** Cllr Hunt had raised concerns in consideration to Llangybi Park prior to the meeting. These included:

- Rust on the climbing frame installed by MCC
- The top two items were placed at the top of a steep bank under trees which was considered not ideal
- The new disability swing was not quite what they were expecting and the accessibility needed improvement
- Ground surfaces were not suitable especially for younger children
- The two LFCC pieces of equipment had not been relocated to main MCC park
- Goal posts were yet to be installed
- The basketball area had an outer boundary that had been dug up but no drainage had been fitted to prevent runoff.

Clerk had taken photographs of the rusted sections of the equipment and would circulate to C.Cllr Bromfield so these could be resolved with MCC. In consideration to the two items placed at the top of the steep bank, these were installed in collaboration with biodiversity plans but C.Cllr Bromfield recommended plans to revisit the pathways to ensure safe access would be investigated. These items were placed at the top of the hill as MCC had kept in mind the final 2 pieces of LFCC equipment would be moved up to the main area also once Biodiversity had confirmed its final proposals. C.Cllr Bromfield detailed the ground surfacing used in the park was of the highest quality offered by MCC totalling £4000. MCC were yet to install the goal posts as a definitive clarification of the intended location had not yet been provided by LFCC. Cllr Hunt proposed the goal posts to be installed north of the allotments. Cllrs questioned whether to ask the Parent Group responsible for raising the funds to help enhance the playground for suggestions on where the football goals were to be placed. Cllr Hunt stated the football goals have been produced using galvanised steel for longer durability so would need to be painted in situ at a later date with the possible purchase of netting for the goals if desired by residents. On a separate note, Neil Gosling had previously raised issues relating to the MCC park area and poor drainage leading to the local residents being subject to the "Kennett Grange stream" and water entering residents' properties. C.Cllr Bromfield explained the investigation into the land drainage and surface water run-off in the park had not yet been concluded therefore no drainage was to be added to the basketball area until this was determined. C.Cllr Bromfield to feedback to MCC Drainage. Finally, C.Cllr Bromfield declared the Llangybi Playground Park enhancements was just a great starting point and further enhancements could be installed in the future. The breakdown of the MCC development at Llangybi Park currently totalled £17,513.40. The feedback received at the meeting confirmed lots more children were already using the park and were enjoying the equipment installed. LFCC queried if the remaining funds could be used to purchase further equipment in the park. C.Cllr Bromfield mentioned now is the time to act as the LFCC are entitled to the use the deposit of funds allocated within the precept budget. Clerk to research Kompan brochure to see other pieces of equipment and their affordability. C.Cllr Bromfield welcomed the positive feedback and would update LFCC regarding the drainage investigation and when the football goals would be installed.

**216/224:MCC Dog Waste Bags:** Clerk had placed order for a box of dog waste bags from MCC after Cllrs had decided to go ahead prior to the meeting. Clerk announced they were to be collected and would distribute in the coming days. Cllr Hunt agreed to purchase further bag dispensers from IKEA including two for Llandegfedd village.

**217/224:Ragwort in Llangybi Fawr Ward:** During the previous meeting 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. Clerk had contacted MCC Biodiversity and the response was extremely disappointing as the view seemed that this species supported 120 species of wildlife. Cllrs were dissatisfied with this judgement due to the toxic traits of the invasive species. If ragwort is picked without the necessary protection it can cause serious health problems as well as the associated dangers to livestock. Cllrs questioned the misguidance provided by MCC Biodiversity as the ragwort in the ward has been allowed to proliferate uncontrollably to enrich wildlife. All Cllrs agreed this invasive species needed to be controlled and addressed to landowners on their responsibility as land managers to stop the spread of seeds. C.Cllr Bromfield to speak to Head of Neighbour Services for advice.

**218/224:Biodiversity in Llanhennock Church:**

Prior to the meeting Cllr Statham register interest in enhancing the biodiversity at the local church in Llanhennock. Chair Savidge described St Tegfedd Church in Llandegfedd had received an Eco Bronze award based on the biodiversity work that currently is being done at the church. The award was granted as a result of a questionnaire explaining all the current activities that the church did including owl, bird and bat boxes. Cllr Statham suggested the churches work together in the ward to try and enhance the biodiversity statistics across all the local churches. C.Cllr Bromfield proposed to speak with MCC Biodiversity to see if there is any funding available. Clerk to contact Church in Wales Fund to investigate if there are any funding opportunities.

**219/224:Llanhennock Cheshire Homes:** Cllr Statham enquired to C.Cllr Bromfield if there had been any further progress with the enforcement case in regards to the advert offering 34 rooms for let in Llanhennock Cheshire Homes. C.Cllr Bromfield confirmed the advert had been taken down but MCC were awaiting further advice from Trading Standards. C.Cllr Bromfield to update on progress.

**220/224:Llangybi Speed Monitoring:** C.Cllr Bromfield shared updates as a result from the speed monitoring strips that had been placed in the village in the previous months. Clerk had circulated the intended road marking signage to be placed in Llangybi to display that the road was narrowing to users. The traffic monitoring strips revealed the mean speed was 40mph and the median was 47mph along the stretch of road from Llanbadoc to Llangybi. C.Cllr Bromfield shared there was no current date for installation of the signage but would inform in due course. In addition, C.Cllr Bromfield has been exploring the possibility of removing the 60mph and the 30mph road speeds along the R106 from Llanbadoc to Llangybi, this would mean the maximum speed along this stretch of road would be 40mph dropping to 20mph as you enter Llangybi. This is to help all road users with visual awareness of concealed entrances; and to slow traffic speeds to hopefully create a safer cycling route. It was asked if LFCC would support this proposal? Cllr Hunt questions the 20mph speed limit with its consistency across Monmouthshire? Cllrs also discussed if it was environmentally friendly to change speeds frequently. Cllr Statham raised concerns that the 20mph speed limit was never introduced in Llanhennock even after residents requested the change in speed to MCC. C.Cllr Bromfield to investigate. Cllr Hunt questioned if the speed limit changes would actually make a difference to prevent the dangerous drivers whom exceed the limits substantially (termed boy racers). Cllr Statham argued the new added 30mph limit at Llanbadoc has created a safer crossing route for those who take part in the Geological Trail which commences in Llanbadoc Church Car Park. Plus, Cllrs asked how much these speed changes would cost to MCC and if this was a practical expenditure in the MCC highway budget? Cllr Rogers suggested removing the 40mph speed limit to try combat the level of consistency on the stretch of road but all Cllrs agreed this would require public consultation to provide valuable feedback on this proposal. With this in mind, speed monitoring speed strips would be repeated to gather relevant data after the road signage has been installed; Cllrs questioned if the excessive speeds still remained problematic what would the next traffic calming measures be? C.Cllr Bromfield acknowledged if speed data remained unfavourable a zebra crossing or a permanent speed camera would need to be installed in Llangybi but this would need Gwent Police participation. Furthermore, Cllrs examined if the exploration into speed changes should be extended to Caerleon to try create consistency along the whole stretch of road. Cllr Hunt asked if speed monitoring strips could be placed further up Parc Road, the road is distinguished as 60mph along the country lane even though there are plenty of blind bends and concealed entrances. Cllr Hunt described some near misses where traffic is travelling too fast to slow down and the need to dive into hedges in order to avoid a traffic accident.

**221/224: Amendments to Agenda Layout:** Cllr Rogers suggested the agenda template to be amended so that the local matters section was placed at the end of every agenda to allow Cllrs to report local concerns or issues. Cllr Rogers asked for update regarding the road sign that had been knocked over providing road junction signage to Coed y Paen. Clerk to chase MCC.

**Finances:**

**222/224: Budget Review:** Clerk had prepared a Budget Review Document to state the actual spending of the Council from July 2024-September 2024 to hopefully provide an insight into what precept might be required in the later months. Clerk to circulate to all Cllrs.

**223/224: Raise cheques:** the following cheques were raised:

- a) Clerk Burdge Salary for May £390.72 (proposed by Cllr Marshall Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- b) Website Manager Salary for May £48.00 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)

- c) Audit Wales Office £200.00 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- d) Chair Savidge £708.00 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- e) Vice Chair Ieuan Williams £208 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- f) Cllr Graham Rogers £208 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- g) Cllr Caroline Watts £208 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- h) Cllr Andy Hunt £208 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- i) Cllr Neil Statham £208 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- j) Cllr Dr Peter Marshall £208 (proposed by Cllr Hunt, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- k) Dog waste collection for July £216.00 (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)
- l) Morgan Davies for Llanybi Junction £30.00 Croes Llywarch Junction (proposed by Cllr Marshall, Seconded by Cllr Rogers)

**224/224: Bank Reconciliation:** Cllr Rogers agreed and signed with the accounts prepared in advance of meeting.

**Meeting closed at 8.45pm**

**Date of Next Meeting :** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Llanybi 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@llanybi.org](mailto:k.burdge@llanybi.org)*