



Llangybi Fawr Community Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 7th October 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 Rogers, Cllr Watts, Cllr Statham, Clerk Burdge
Apologies: Cllr Williams, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Hunt, C.Cllr Bromfield,
Declarations of interest: None
Members of the public present: Neil Gosling, Andrea Smith, Elizabeth Studley, Ian Studley
Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by Cllr Rogers; Seconded by Cllr Statham

In the Community Councils' Standing Orders it was agreed with the number of Councillors present at the meeting they were still quorate and the meeting could continue.

Chair invited the members of the public to express if there were any matters in particular they were interested to hear the discussion during the meeting. Llangybi Fawr Community Councillors agreed to reorder the layout of the meeting in order for the specific matters of interest to the public to be discussed prior to the rest of the meeting.

225/243: Llanhennock Cheshire Homes: Cllr Statham asked for Llanhennock Cheshire Homes to be added to next month's agenda and an update requested from C.Cllr Bromfield.

226/243: MCC Parking Charges: Neil Gosling voiced concerns in regards to Monmouthshire County Council's intention to add parking charges into the local car parks of Usk following on from the MCC parking review circulated within the local social media pages. Residents of Llangybi Fawr use the car parks to access Usk Community shops and these additional charges will potentially have a detrimental impact on its local businesses. It was felt the residents of the outer lying villages will be penalised as many older, vulnerable residents travel to Usk to do local shopping, visit GP, pick up prescriptions, local opticians etc as unable to go further for their needs. It was expressed there is little consideration to the surrounding villages with no free short parking time (usually 20 minutes) in order for residents to collect shopping or pick up prescriptions. Neil Gosling requested the Community Council to make representation on behalf of Llangybi Fawr Ward to MCC to report the concerns expressed by the public. The Usk Town Councillors revealed a 93% against response rate with approximately 1500 residents responding to the MCC Parking Survey. Elizabeth Studley mentioned visitors who explore Usk tend to provide positive feedback on their experience and these proposed charges will push parking into more of the residential areas, and could consequently lead to parking congestion on the surrounding roads. Clerk to report concerns to MCC and C.Cllr Bromfield.

Updates & Any Other Information:

227/243: R106 Speed Reduction from Usk to Llangybi: During the previous meeting C.Cllr Bromfield proposed 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. The National Speed Limit would be reduced to create safer exit from roadside dwellings. The proposed consultation would allow residents to provide feedback on the number of speed limit changes and if a reduction was necessary. Neil Gosling highlighted the inappropriate speeds motorists currently drive, suggesting the average speed through the village was 42mph rather than the 20mph limit allowed. It was questioned how would these new driving limits be reinforced? Chair Savidge advised the public consultation would provide opportunity to residents to voice their opinions. Ian Studley mentioned in Llanfawr village after the 20mph was imposed by Welsh Government; motorists now tend to disregard the speed limit and will travel at speeds of up to 50mph. Whereas prior to the speed reduction motorists seemed to be more careful to abide to the speed limits enforced. Therefore, it was highlighted the speed reduction changes can lead to an adverse effect to local areas. Clerk to find out when the public consultation will be launched.

228/243: Biodiversity Design Plans for Llangybi Park: Chair Savidge explained there were different elements to the Llangybi Playground Project including the biodiversity plans, the drainage concerns and the playground equipment. Neil Gosling emphasised the Kennett Grange stream had reappeared during the recent heavy rainfall experienced in the previous days and had video evidence he would submit to C.Cllr Bromfield. Firstly, Elizabeth Studley wished to raise concerns in consideration to

the proposed biodiversity plans for Llangybi Park. The biodiversity meeting in July 2024 which displayed the draft biodiversity plans had prompted some concerns especially to neighbouring properties and allotment holders. Chair Savidge explained the biodiversity plans had been delayed due to the addition of the Llangybi Fawr Community Council area. It was queried whether the biodiversity plans proposed and the funding granted needed to be spent this financial year? Clerk to find out from MCC Biodiversity. In particular, the concerns mentioned are as follows:

- Additional fruit trees would grab the light from the allotment essential to produce growth.
- Presently, the holly hedge at the park had not been cut in the last 2 years so the fear of more hedgerows proposed would not be maintained.
- The bramble undergrowth along the boundary of the park had been cleared in the previous months, however the roots still remained and were likely to regrow.
- The trees proposed would shed more leaves to the park leading to the playground surfaces being slippery and these have only just been restored.
- The proposed boggy area to address drainage concerns raised fears to unsupervised children if an accident was to occur.

Furthermore, the public present named worries for children who use the park facilities. It was acknowledged many children aged 6 and above use the park without parental supervision. That in mind, the reflection needs to be brought to the boggy area proposed; namely children can drown in an inch of water. Clerk to report feedback to C.Cllr Bromfield.

The members of the public wanted to highlight they would recommend sensitive biodiversity improvements perhaps a wildflower/ poppy strip along the boundary but would like the concerns raised to be reviewed appropriately. The public present discussed the 30million budget gap and that cuts in the budget would be inevitable. Therefore, it was questioned if MCC would have the revenue to maintain these new biodiversity proposals. The public encouraged the installation of owl and bat boxes, which needed little maintenance and not need to be addressed regularly. It was recommended to foster the great biodiversity already present within Llangybi Park. During the previous meeting, it was noted that the public consultation may need to be cut short in order to meet the planting season, so the public present questioned how the engagement of the community would be fully consulted to those who are digitally excluded? Llangybi Matters was suggested as a useful source as this is delivered to every doorstep within Llangybi so should be utilised to explain to residents how to voice their opinion to MCC biodiversity proposal.

Clerk explained MCC had stated the plans are to be released shortly and would circulate as soon as available. There was clarity needed from C.Cllr Bromfield when the consultation would be launched and how will residents communicate their views if digitally excluded? It was highlighted the Christmas Card competition organised by the Village Hall had displayed posters locally on park benches etc and this idea may help raise awareness.

229/243: Llangybi Playground Project: Prior to the meeting, Clerk had received a request of the design plan for the positioning of the newly installed playground equipment. Unfortunately, MCC were unable to provide this plan to local residents. The positioning of the newly installed roundabouts has been questioned on its suitability being placed between two large trees. The public complained the newly refurbished surfaces were already covered in debris from the trees causing the surface to start deteriorating. Hence, the placement of these two pieces of equipment didn't seem logical. The community engagement was highlighted as a key issue. Clerk to feedback to MCC. The proposed placement of the football goals to the north of the allotments was also quizzed in consideration to what protective measures would be put in place for the allotments? The basketball facility was suffering from the significant drainage issue in the park and parents were often seen clearing the mud and debris to try maintain the court for future use. Neil Gosling asked whether the land specified for the football goals would be levelled prior to the goal installations and questioned if they would be used by children? Chair Savidge explained Llangybi Fawr Community Council had paid for the manufacture of the football goals and would be placed in the most suitable area of the park. Overall, the lack of communication between the Community Council, MCC and the stakeholders was interrogated and the public stated a design plan should have been consulted prior to the equipment installation. Cllr Watts emphasised these were genuine concerns from those with insider knowledge. Cllr Watts explained originally there was a small group of volunteers associated with Llangybi Park who have now recently disbanded. Cllr Watts formally handed over a cheque for £1997.37 from the Llangybi Volunteer Group raised through their fundraising efforts. Clerk to bank cheque. Cllrs agreed the remaining funds could be rolled over to the next financial year to purchase further equipment in the park.

230/243: Drainage concerns in Llangybi: Cllr Watts acknowledged a letter from a local resident had been received by the Community Council prior to the meeting to raise awareness of local drainage issues including the Kennett Grange Stream and the springs located in Llangybi Park; blocked drains between Twyn Pitch and Penarth House Gate; and the possibility of repositioning the drain located opposite Parc Road, Llangybi. Clerk had reported these issues prior to the meeting to MCC and the blocked drains had already been resolved.

Local Matters Arising:

231/243: Christmas Tree celebration: Prior to the meeting Clerk had been approached in regards to a Christmas celebration proposal. The proposal suggested asked if a Christmas tree could be purchased and placed outside the Village Hall and decorated by the local children /residents to create a community Christmas celebration. Chair Savidge emphasised in Llandegfedd a tree had been organised for the last 3 consecutive years by the Llandegfedd Village Committee and decorated by local residents. It was said to be an extremely popular event even with the disposal of the tree being a celebration. Chair Savidge elects this idea would need to be offered to the other local villages within the ward. Cllr Rogers could ask the Church Warden if they are able to donate any trees to the cause. Cllr Statham declares Llanhennock Village Hall is decorated internally by local residents in the lead up to Christmas. The average cost of an 8ft Christmas tree was estimated at approximately £70, therefore a minimum of 3 other trees would need to be included costing upwards of £210. Chair Savidge announces this matter needs to be opened to the other Cllrs to invite their views. Clerk to email all Cllrs.

232/243: Creating a Community Plan for Llangybi Fawr Ward: During the previous meeting the positive attributes were highlighted in creating a community plan for the ward. It was acknowledged that a community plan could provide a clear instruction for the future of Llangybi Fawr with the hopes it would help to resolve important matters reported by residents within the ward. Clerk had preliminary booked the training module with One Voice Wales for the 13th November 2024. Chair Savidge suggested she could also attend the 22nd October 2024 training module in order to gain further insight on how to template a questionnaire and start the process of developing a Community Plan for Llangybi Fawr. Cllrs unanimously agreed both Clerk and Chair Savidge to attend the training modules. Clerk to book and confirm training dates. On a separate note, Clerk had inquired in regards to the free training modules offered by OVW to the Councillors. OVW had stated two councillors had attended the Code of Conduct courses dated 11th and 24th September 2024. However, Clerk checked with all Cllrs present and all agreed this was a mistake as no Cllrs had booked or attended these training modules. Clerk to clarify with OVW.

233/243: Biodiversity enhancements in all local churches: Chair Savidge explained the Community Council were restricted in terms of donating funds to Churches in Wales after Cllr Rogers attended an OVW training module (Advanced Local Finance). A suggestion was made that it might be feasible to create a separate entity that covered all the local churches and would be able to apply for grants and receive donations. Cllr Rogers explained the restrictions to donations only applies to Church matters or Ecclesiastical matters. Hence, Llangybi Fawr CC could donate if specifically labelled for biodiversity proposals. Prior to the meeting, Clerk had circulated an email from the local church warden for Tredunnoch highlighting the requirements needed to move upwards to the Silver Eco Church Award; including a community composting area. Chair Savidge suggested Tredunnoch Church to cost up how much it would need to achieve the requirements stated to pursue the Silver Award to inform a decision by the Community Council on proceeding with any donation. Cllr Watts asked what is the Community Council's role within the local Churches of the ward; is it to support them financially, provide guidance with grant applications etc? Cllrs agreed any help or guidance they can provide would be a valuable asset to the local churches; henceforth improving the local area we all live and would provide a feeling of community spirit. Chair Savidge explained the churchyard is a valuable green area in Llandegfedd where children could get involved with biodiversity so hoped any enhancements would be a great benefit to the community. Cllrs highlighted as long as the funds donated do not have any benefit to the Church itself; for example, bat boxes would only benefit the local wildlife then it was acceptable to provide funds. Clerk delivered the news that MCC were in no position to help the local churches with any biodiversity enhancements at the present time, so would need to be revisited in the next financial year. Cllr Statham asked about funding in the current budget to provide the biodiversity enhancements. Chair Savidge suggested we consider inclusion within the next annual budget and precept for Llangybi Fawr CC. Cllr Watts asked if Llangybi Church had expressed any interest in biodiversity enhancements as felt this should be a cohesive effort across all the Churches in the ward. Cllr Watt to speak to Llangybi Church Warden.

Policy updates and Reports:

234/243: Action Log: Prior to the meeting Clerk had blocked out all the outstanding matters within the Action Log that were yet to be resolved within Llangybi Ward. Cllr Savidge was delighted the broken trees within Sor Brook had been removed and the footbridge had been repaired in the previous weeks. Thus, Chair Savidge invited Cllrs to review the Action Log circulated and highlight any outstanding issues or report new issues so that Clerk can report accordingly. Firstly, Chair Savidge reported the Give way signs on the crossroads of Llandegfedd were yet to be installed with only the poles in place at present. In addition, the potholes formerly resolved had now unfortunately returned and asked these to be reported. Clerk to ascertain exact location and report issues to MCC.

235/243: Police Reports: The police report had been received for September and been circulated prior to the meeting. Chair Savidge announced that Cllr Hunt had been successful in his efforts to obtain the Smart water signage for Llangybi Ward from Gwent Police. However, clerk revealed full permissions would need to be ascertained from MCC Planning before they are allowed to be displayed locally. Clerk to email MCC Planning and ask what permissions were necessary.

236/243: Planning:

DM/2024/01163 Bryn Cwrt, Llandegfedd: No objections

DM/2024/01122 Llandowlais Farm Agri Track: No objections

DM/2024/01176 Trees Parc Road, Coed y Paen: Cllrs agreed this was a substantial development proposal with its increased footprint. The 50% increase limit was questioned to have been breached as a comment for consideration but Cllrs acknowledged this was a Monmouthshire Planning Department issue to clarify. The dominant appearance of the property proposed was recognised by the Cllrs and concerns were raised if these would hinder the views for the neighbouring properties. Cllrs raised concerns with the proposed balcony and whether this would overlook any adjacent properties and impinge their neighbours' views?

DM/2024/01187 High Winds, Tredunnoch: No objections

237/243: Correspondence: None_

Finances:

238/243:Vat Return Payment 2024: Clerk stated that the Vat refund submitted had been successful and £1054.11 payment had been received.

239/243:Precept Payment 2024: The final instalment from MCC had been received totalling £8333.00.

240/243:HSBC Mandates: Clerk had visited the local banking branch to discuss the ongoing issues relating to the Community Council Bank account. The bank representative provided a newly published HSBC Mandate which all councillors would need to sign individually and then be returned to HSBC with the appropriate minutes of the meeting whereby the mandate was signed. All Cllrs agreed this was a necessity and signed the mandate.

241/243: Raise cheques: the following cheques were raised:

- a) Clerk Burdge Salary for May £390.72 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- b) Website Manager Salary for May £48.00 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- c) Merlin Environmental Services for Dog waste collection for October £172.80 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- d) R Morgan & Sons Football goals £240.00 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- e) Llanybi Village Hall and Post Office rental payments £452.00 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- f) HMRC PAYE £36.00 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- g) Beverly & Williams Accountants £72.00 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- h) Jacks Appeal ABUHB defibrillator pads £142.50 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)
- i) Monmouthshire County Council Dog waste bags £53.70 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts)

242/243: Bank Reconciliation: Cllr Rogers agreed with the accounts prepared in advance of meeting, these would be signed at the following meeting.

243/243: December 2024 Meeting: Cllrs agreed the meeting in December was necessary in order to agree and submit the precept budget for 2024/2025 before the deadline. The meeting would be dedicated to this matter. Clerk to book the appropriate village hall.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of Next Meeting : Monday 4th November 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@llanybi.org