



## Llangybi Fawr Community Council

### Meeting Minutes

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

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 Hunt, Cllr Statham, C. Cllr Bromfield Clerk Burdge  
**Apologies:** Cllr Williams, Cllr Marshall  
**Declarations of interest:** None  
**Members of the public present:** Neil Gosling, Peter Dale, Rosemary Broben,  
**Minutes of the last meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Watts; Seconded by Cllr Hunt

Chair Savidge welcomed Rosemary Broben to discuss Llangybi Village Hall and its future plans.

320/344: Llangybi Village Hall: Firstly, Rosemary announced the Village Hall is a charitable organisation and would ideally like to apply for grants to improve the facilities to include raised beds; a community garden and outdoor shed storage. C.Cllr Bromfield agrees the Village Hall is an asset to the community and agrees to coordinate with MCC Biodiversity in alignment with the work currently being carried out at Llangybi Park. In addition, C. Cllr Bromfield agrees to setup a meeting with MCC Community Officer Ash Morgan to help explore funding opportunities for the Village Hall possibly to include provision of internet access. Rosemary states the redecorating of the Village Hall is in progress and highlights there is lots of work being carried out behind the scenes. Cllr Hunt mentions to apply for any grants, you would need the deeds to the property. Rosemary confirms this is organised. Rosemary mentions the purchase of new comfy chairs are expected to arrive at the Village Hall. Chair Savidge requests what will happen to the existing seats; Llandegfedd Village Committee have previously hired the tables and chairs for public events and may be interested in spare furniture. Plus, Chair Savidge references the previously agreed proposal for CC purchasing an event tent; but due to a lack of storage facility this has been delayed. The purchase on a storage shed may help resolve this issue and be a community asset for all residents. Cllr Statham references the refurbishment at Llanhennock Village Hall was funded by the National Lottery so may provide other funding opportunities for the Village Hall. Also, Cllr Statham suggests Jo Webb (GAVO) may have some suggestions as well as the organisation EGIN. Cllr Hunt recommends "Big Night Out", an event funded by the Welsh Assembly whereby a community organisation can apply to host an event up to £1000. Cllr Hunt had attended an event hosted at Llanbedr Village Hall that had utilized this grant. Cllr Hunt cited the Village Hall would be responsible for £300 of the cost. However, could charge for the event to cover this initial expenditure. Cllr Hunt was unsure of the additional criteria, but Rosemary gratefully received the potential prospect and proposed the idea to host an afternoon tea in honour of VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To conclude, Rosemary thanked the CC and Cllrs were hopeful that a funding opportunity may be accessible to the Village Hall.

Chair Savidge welcomed members of the public to mention any other issues they wished to discuss prior to the rest of the agenda.

321/344: Openreach- Tredunnoch Exchange: Peter Dale requested an update on the Tredunnoch Exchange project whereby Openreach were installing full fast fibre into the ward. Clerk states the correspondence from Openreach Manager indicates the build has been completed for 236 properties and these should be able to place an order in Early February. However, 147 properties are not yet ready for completion to commission the network to full fibre. These properties were hoped to be completed by early summer. Peter Dale expresses frustration that there are 2 properties that have been excluded from the installation of full fibre; yet share the same postcode with other properties that are included within the Tredunnoch Exchange full fibre project. Peter announces he is awaiting a response from the engineer as to the reasons for exclusion. Clerk to find out why these properties have been excluded from Openreach and report to Mr Dale.

### Planning:

C.Cllr Bromfield left the meeting whilst the planning applications received by Llangybi Fawr CC were discussed.

322/344: **DM/2024/01020** Listed Building Consent Heritage, Glen Usk House, Llanhennock: Cllrs reiterated the primary issue that this building was a Grade 2\* listed building. The extensive modern development proposed was not in keeping with the heritage status of the building. Cllrs inferred this appeared a commercial development and a change of use may be appropriate for the application. Councillors remained agreed this was a significantly sized addition to an already substantial building. Llangybi Fawr Community Council object to this planning application.

323/344: **DM/2024/01595** Waterloo Cottage, Llansoar: No objections were raised

324/344: **DM/2024/01590** Llanddewi Court Farm House, Llandegveth: No objections were raised.

### Correspondence:

325/344: 20's Plenty for Us CIC: Prior to the meeting the CC had received an email from this non-profit organisation with a toolkit to challenge the local highway authority (MCC) who may set some of the roads back to the 30mph. C. Cllr Bromfield states MCC have published a list of changes and would check if any roads were implicated in Llangybi Fawr ward. Cllr Statham mentions Llanhennock still remains 30mph and had received mixed responses from residents if a change was needed in the village. C.Cllr Bromfield suggests an informal consultation in Llanhennock for the speed limit reduction. C.Cllr Bromfield to inquire if any roads in Llangybi Fawr are proposed to change and inform the CC.

326/344: Sue Prescott Monmouthshire Citizens Advice Donation Request: During the January 2025 (Point 298) a donation request was received from Monmouthshire Citizens Advice. Cllrs had requested to revisit this at the February 2025 meeting. Cllrs all agreed this was a beneficial service to the community and the organisation circulated an annual donation request, but this had not been previously supported by the CC due to direct applicability to the area. Cllrs unanimously agreed no donation to be given.

327/344: Stop the Bleed- Anthony Rimmer: Prior to the meeting a local resident had offered training to members of the community to control blood loss to help save lives. Dr Anthony Rimmer is a registered Stop the Bleed instructor and is eligible to run a session for up to 10 participants, who would be issued a certificate endorsed by the ACS to all attendees following their training attendance. CC had requested what support would be required from the CC. Dr Anthony advised the support needed would be the hire of the Village Hall and help to publicise the sessions. CC agreed to pay for the hire of the Village Hall assuring there is enough interest from residents to attend these training sessions. Cllr Statham proposed; Cllr Hunt seconded. Clerk to inform Dr Anthony Rimmer. Cllrs suggested a first session in Llangybi VH and then further sessions depending on demand.

328/344: Vision ICT-Les Taylor: Following on from the January 2025 meeting and Les Taylor's website demonstration (Point 296) it was agreed CC would decide whether to change providers to Vision ICT following Les' proposal to upgrade the website. Chair Savidge decided to not partake in discussion due to a declaration of interest. Cllr Hunt resisted changing to Vision ICT as the charges were more substantial with the estimated cost to be that of at least £650 for the first year; plus £35 per email address and £240 for annual website hosting thereafter. Cllr Hunt recognises that One Voice Wales had suggested the recommendation to change the website domain name to gov.uk but stipulates this is not compulsory. Cllr Hunt does not see the overwhelming need to change website provider with the immense costs associated with Vision ICT and suggests continuing with the current arrangement. Cllrs were happy to continue with the current arrangement; Cllr Statham proposed; Cllr Hunt seconded. Cllr Hunt questioned if the current provider could change the domain name to gov.uk and continue with the website setup. Clerk to inform Les and request if the change to the domain name is possible under Krystal Hosting (current provider).

### Policy updates:

All reports were previously circulated prior to the meeting.

329/344: Financial Regulations 2025: Cllr Rogers was in the process of reviewing this document and hoped this to be ready for the next CC meeting.

330/344: Community Engagement Strategy; Social Media Policy 2025; Welsh Language scheme 2025; Code of Conduct Policy 2025: Cllr Rogers requested amendments to the Community Engagement Strategy to state publish documents could be translated in Welsh if requested by a member of the community. In addition, the Code of Conduct template by One Voice Wales needed to be attached to the Code of Conduct policy before being placed on the website. Clerk to make amendments and then the policies to be placed on the website.

### Reports:

331/344: Police reports for January: The police report for January had not yet been received. Clerk to circulate once received.

### Updates & Any Other Information:

332/344: Creating a Community Place Plan Meeting with MCC: Prior to the meeting, Clerk, C. Cllr Bromfield and Cllr Williams have attended a Teams meeting with MCC Community Officer Ash Morgan. C. Cllr Bromfield emphasised it was a positive meeting, highlighting the positive features of creating a Community Place Plan. The Place plan could provide benefit to align plans and projects with MCC with Llangybi Fawr CC and its residents. C. Cllr Bromfield referenced to the potential active travel routes from Llangybi to Usk. However, these plans have been added to MCC's long term plans that average around 15 years. A Community Place Plan would add weight to local development proposals and recognise what residents would like to action within the ward giving more traction with County Council. Chair Savidge agrees the Community Place Plan provides clear objectives for the Llangybi Fawr CC. Clerk displays a list of potential questions provided from MCC Officer Ash Morgan. Clerk informs that the initial step for Creating a Community Place Plan would be to create a questionnaire and distribute to residents to obtain feedback on the potential areas of improvement within the ward. Neil Gosling suggests previous questionnaires from

MCC tend to lead to a predictable answer and would like more open questions to be included. Chair Savidge recognises this is a lengthy process and would like to manage the expectations of residents with this Place Plan proposal. Clerk to create a draft questionnaire and arrange follow up meeting with MCC Officer Ash Morgan.

333/344: Replacement of Dog Waste Bins: Cllr Hunt reiterates the vast expenditure of dog waste collection that the CC is contracted to with Merlin ES. During the previous meeting (Point 309, January 2025) Cllr Hunt suggested the replacement of the current dog waste bins to be replaced with those of dual purpose and be collected by MCC in the hopes to reduce the vast expenditure on the CC budget. Cllr Hunt had been on a walk around with Clerk and provided suggestions on which bins should be replaced and the justification for each change proposed. Cllr Hunt shared a series of plans indicating the proposed changes. The plans included to change some of the existing litter bins to dual purpose (with the removal of a no dog waste sticker and replace with that of dual purpose). Then this would mean some of the existing single purpose dog waste bins (collected by Merlin) could be removed to save funds for the CC. Cllr Statham asks is there a break clause in the contract with Merlin ES and the implications if the CC decide to reduce the number of single purpose dog bins collected by the contractor. Clerk states it is a 12-month contract and presents the newly updated contract recently received from Merlin ES due to be signed before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 with the price set to increase to £7.35 per bin. Clerk to request the cost implications if the CC decide to reduce to 2 single dog waste bins collected by Merlin ES. Cllr Hunt proposes to purchase one extra dual purpose to be placed on Parc Road. Cllr Hunt suggests offering the other single purpose bins to Sue Parkinson for other CC to make use of if MCC accept the proposals suggested. Chair Savidge indicates all the bins in Cwmbran and Llandegfedd are dual purpose, and this may best serve the community going forward. Cllr Rogers mentions there is only litter bin in Coed y Paen not collected by MCC Grounds Maintenance but is organised by a local resident. Cllr Statham stipulates a similar situation in Llanhennock. C. Cllr Bromfield suggests the CC to purchase a litter bin for Llanhennock and Coed y Paen. Clerk to inform Sue of the proposed changes to the dog waste collection in CC and investigate costs for the purchase of bins in Llanhennock and Coed y Paen.

334/344: Llanybi Park Biodiversity Design Plans: Clerk announces the Llanybi Park Biodiversity Consultation is now closed and MCC Biodiversity have been collating the responses received from residents. MCC Biodiversity Officer affirms the hedging proposed around Llanybi allotments has been removed due to several requests from allotment shareholders. Otherwise, the responses received have been positive so far and the planting deadline is confirmed to be completed before the end of March 2025.

335/344: Smart Water Signage: Following on the advice from MCC Gareth Freeman, Cllr Hunt and Clerk had established potential locations for the Smart Water Signage and had installed 3 signs in Llanybi Village. Cllr Hunt asked the CC to confirm the ownership of the bus shelter in Llanybi; as this had been documented as a potential location for the smart water signage. Cllr Rogers confirms this is a CC asset. Cllr Hunt to install the smart water sign at the bus shelter adjacent to the White Hart Inn, Llanybi. Cllr Statham agrees to install the sign outside Llanhennock Village Hall and Chair Savidge will assemble in Llandegfedd Village.

336/344: Llanybi Park Play Surfaces: On a separate note, C. Cllr Bromfield reports an incident of a resident falling on the basketball court surface within Llanybi Park. Clerk references 2 of the play surfaces are yet to be replaced including the basketball court and the slide. C. Cllr Bromfield has requested the safety reports and instruction from MCC when these surfaces will be upgraded. In addition, Clerk complains the new matting installed at the park appears to have weed/grass growing already. C. Cllr Bromfield to inform Clerk when MCC will do a site visit and restore the play surfaces.

337/344: Llanybi Village Hall Defibrillator: Prior to the meeting, Cllr Marshall informed the CC that the Llanybi Village Hall defibrillator was again malfunctioning. Clerk had tested the batteries to ensure reliability, and these remained consistently working and could not determine the malfunction as defibrillator was now displaying green tick (representing regular function). Clerk requested NHS Executive Chris Joyce to assess the defibrillator and was awaiting a response. Clerk to chase. It was also suggested that the registered 'guardians' for the defibrillators be reviewed as those in closest proximity would be better placed to deal with issues.

338/344: Llanybi Allotments: Prior to the meeting, Llanybi Fawr CC had received a request for allotment shareholders to permit the usage of small plastic green houses on their plots. Currently the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) does not permit the tenant to erect sheds or other outbuildings. Llanybi Fawr CC unanimously agreed in principle to change the MOU to allow the usage of temporary greenhouses at the allotments. Clerk to request copy of the MOU with the revised wordings to circulate to CC.

339/344: Glen Usk House, Llanhennock: C. Cllr Bromfield reveals MCC Tree Protection Officer had attended a site visit to Glen Usk House. Bay Laurel trees had been removed; however, these were an invasive species which do not launder a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) action. In addition, C. Cllr Bromfield discloses dead wood on a Beech Tree had been removed which does have a TPO; but the MCC Officer were content with the quotes presented from tree surgeons and approved that the actions undertaken will help the tree to flourish in the future. C. Cllr Bromfield explains no enforcement action will be taken on this matter.

340/344: Llanhennock Cheshire Homes: Cllr Statham requested an update from C. Cllr Bromfield. C. Cllr Bromfield confirmed the property had been sold and was under new ownership. MCC were continuing to try and establish contact with the new owner to determine if a change of use would be necessary. C. Cllr Bromfield to chase and report to Llanybi Fawr CC.

### **Local Matters Arising:**

341/344: St Cybi's Church, Llanybi: Cllr Watts voices that St Cybi's Church Committee are hosting a meeting in Llanybi Village Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February at 7pm to share ideas about developing the church into more of a community space. The church

committee are proposing to improve accessibility; as well as a heating system to help conserve the interior paintings. Plus, the connection of mains water to incorporate bathroom facilities for users. Cllr Watts invited the CC to attend this meeting.  
342/344: MCC Draft Budget: C. Cllr Bromfield indicated the MCC Draft Budget for 2025/2026 had been published and residents can now provide feedback. The draft budget proposals can be found on MCC website.

### **Finances:**

343/344: Raise cheques: the following cheques were raised:

- a) Clerk Burdge Salary for January £411.20 (proposed by Cllr Watts; Seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- b) Website Manager Salary for January to include backpay and reimbursement of GoDaddy Domain Name for CC £126.15 (proposed by Cllr Watts; Seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- c) Merlin Environmental Services for Dog waste collection for February £172.80 (proposed by Cllr Watts; Seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- d) Llangybi Village Hall Rental Charges to include Post Office £640.00 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- e) Christchurch Coed y Paen donation for churchyard maintenance £400 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- f) St John's Church- C.M. Fund donation for churchyard maintenance £400 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- g) Rector and Churchwardens of Llanddewi Fach Llandegfeth for churchyard maintenance £800 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- h) Llangibby Church Fund donation for churchyard maintenance £400 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- i) The Rector and Churchwardens of Tredunnoch Church donation for churchyard maintenance £400 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)
- j) Jason Griffiths for the fence removal in Llangybi park £200 (proposed by Cllr Watts; seconded by Cllr Hunt)

344/344: Bank Reconciliation: Cllr Rogers agreed and signed the accounts prepared in advance of meeting.

### **Meeting closed at 9pm**

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 in Llanhennock Village Hall at 7pm.

345/344: Notice of Vacancy: Cllr Hunt declares ongoing work commitments and significant other voluntary roles within the wider Gwent area will start on the 1st of April 2025 so will be standing down as a community councillor for Llangybi Fawr from the end of March 2025. All Cllrs affirm Cllr Hunt was a real advocate for residents and will be greatly missed on the CC but wishes him all the best in his new upcoming roles. Clerk to speak to MCC Democratic Services to find out next steps in the Election Vacancy process.

*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](mailto:k.burdge@llangybi.org)*