

Vale of Grwyney Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned fro Grwyney

The next meeting of this Council will be held via video conferencing (Zoom) on
Monday 21st February 2022 at 7:30pm

AGENDA

1. To receive **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest** Members are asked to declare any interest in items under consideration
3. **Planning:**
 - 3.1 **Applications:** to resolve responses to consultations received from BBNPA:
 - (i) **22/20711/FUL:** Erection of rear extension comprising utility room, wc and stairway and creation of first floor bedroom/workroom above existing kitchen/dining room. **Cae Ffynnon, Llanbedr NP8 1SY**
 - (ii) **22/20723/FUL:** front of property already has a lean-to porch so proposed works is to fill the 2 sides of the porch in, etc. **14 St Peter's Close, Llanbedr NP8 1SQ**
 - 3.2 **Decisions:** the following applications have been permitted:
 - (i) 21/20224/LBC & 21/20223/FUL - Tyrywen, Forest Coal Pit
 - (ii) 20/19189/FUL Gobpwllau, Llangenny NP8 1HL
 - (iii) 21/20653/TPO: Pendarren House OEC, Llangenny NP8 1HE
4. **County Council Report** to receive and discuss general Powys County Council Matters
5. **Minutes:** to receive and approve minutes of the 17th January 2022 meeting.
6. **Clerk's Report:** information from the minutes
7. **Himalayan Balsam:** to consider funding request.
8. **Safety Review Campaign:** to consider request to support Crickhowell Town Council in leading a campaign to persuade Welsh Government to urgently review the safety of the A40 between Crickhowell Square and Llanbedr Road in the light of proposed development of the former Conservative Club site.
9. **Speeding in Glangrwyney:** to receive up-date
10. **Retrospective Planning:** to receive up-date
11. **Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021:** to consider response.
12. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** to receive up-date on plans to commemorate
13. **Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda**
14. **Finance:**
 - 14.1 To receive/approve items for payment: Staff (Salary; Office Exp £25 Travel Exp £6.30), HMRC (Tax), G James (Zoom) £14.39; Strimming Llanbedr Nature Garden £80
 - 14.2 To receive and approve Finance Report.
 - 14.3 To receive the external audit (Annual Return) and arrange internal audit
 - 14.4 To conduct annual Risk Assessment
15. To receive **Highways** issues
16. To receive **Reports on Meetings Attended**
17. To receive and discuss items of **Correspondence** as itemised in Appendix A
18. To receive and discuss **Miscellaneous/Late Correspondence** as itemised in Appendix B

Signed:



Clerk to the Council

Dated 15th February 2022

Maria James, Clerk, Pleasant View, Fforest Coal Pit - 01873 890777 - valeofgrwyneycc@gmail.com

Members of the Public can attend virtually by using the link published on our web site:

www.valeofgrwyney.org or contact the Clerk for details

**AWDURDOD PARC CENEDLAETHOL BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG
BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Vale Of Grwyney Community Council
C/o Maria James
Pleasant View,
Fforest Coal Pit,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire
NP7 7LH

From: Plas y Ffynnon
Cambrian Way
Brecon
Powys, LD3 7HP
Tel: (01874) 624437
Email: planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk
App Ref: 22/20711/FUL
Officer: Heather McDowell
Date: 31 January 2022

Dear Sirs,

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedures) (Wales) Order 2012

Proposal: "Erection of a rear extension comprising of a utility room, w/c and stairway and the creation of a first floor bedroom/workroom above the existing kitchen/dining room."

Address: Cae Ffynnon, Llanbedr, Crickhowell Powys NP8 1SY

Grid Reference: E:323496 N:221769

The above application was received in this office on 14 January 2022. The full application can be viewed through our Authority's website www.beacons-npa.gov.uk

Please forward any comments you may have on the proposal within 21 days of the date of this letter. You can submit your comments via our web site at <https://planningonline.beacons-npa.gov.uk/online-applications> or by email at planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk or by post. If a response is not received within this period it will be assumed that you have no comments.

The majority of planning applications submitted to the Authority will be considered under 'Officer Delegated Powers' (Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972). This enables the Authority to make a decision without referring an application to the Planning and Rights of Way (PAROW) Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Heather McDowell
Planning Officer (DM)

*Yr ydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Bydd unrhyw ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg yn cael ei ateb yn y Gymraeg a ni fydd unrhyw gyswllt trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi yn y mater sy'n cael ei drin.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in the matter being dealt with.*

**AWDURDOD PARC CENEDLAETHOL BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG
BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Vale Of Grwyney Community Council
C/o Maria James
Pleasant View,
Fforest Coal Pit,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire
NP7 7LH

From: Plas y Ffynnon
Cambrian Way
Brecon
Powys, LD3 7HP
Tel: (01874) 624437
Email: planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk
App Ref: 22/20723/FUL
Officer: Heather McDowell
Date: 9 February 2022

Dear Sirs,

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedures) (Wales) Order 2012

Proposal: "The front of the property already has a lean to porch, so proposed works is to fill the 2 sides of the porch in, the front being the the door and side wall installed."

Address: 14 St Peters Close, Llanbedr, Crickhowell NP8 1SQ

Grid Reference: E:323885 N:220239

The above application was received in this office on 21 January 2022 The full application can be viewed through our Authority's website www.beacons-npa.gov.uk

Please forward any comments you may have on the proposal within 21 days of the date of this letter. You can submit your comments via our web site at <https://planningonline.beacons-npa.gov.uk/online-applications> or by email at planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk or by post. If a response is not received within this period it will be assumed that you have no comments.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in the matter being dealt with.*

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 17th January 2022 at 7:30pm. This meeting was held remotely via video conferencing.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Caroline Fairclough
Cllr Jeff Greenidge
Cllr David Sharman
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Paul Morris
Cllr Phill Bowker
Cllr Elaine Lusted
Cllr Dean Christy

In attendance: County Cllr John Morris and Maria James (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence: None received. **Absent:** Cllr D Christy

2. Declarations of Interest: None declared.

3. Planning:

3.1 Applications: to resolve responses to consultations received from BBNPA:

(i) **21/20606/FUL:** Rear extension & associated alterations. Ty Bach, Grwyne Fawr NP7 7LY

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

(ii) **21/20678/FUL:** installation of sewage treatment plant. Tyrywen, Forest Coal Pit NP7 7LP

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

(iii) **21/20653/TPO:** Prune/fell various trees. Pendarren House OEC, Llangenny NP8 1HE

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

3.2 Decisions: no decisions received.

4. County Council Report: County Councillor Morris reported:

- Powys County Council has been awarded a 9.6% increase in its settlement from Welsh Government, which equates to £18 million. The Cabinet is seeking a 3.9% council tax rise which they state is necessary due to the cost of social services.
- Glangrwyney "Halfpenny" Bridge. Whilst the bridge remains closed the metalwork is being fabricated off site and repairs should be completed towards the end of

Signed:.....
Chairman

February/beginning of March. Powys County Council is working with Monmouthshire Council to get the bridge and road completed at the same time.

Cllr Bowker informed members work has started on the road, but there is no signage to warn the bridge is closed to pedestrians. Cty Cllr Morris will investigate.

- Flooding – highways are currently clearing drains and are due to clear those in Llangenny, where it flooded previously, and Glangrwyney.

Cllr J Morris reported a blocked drain on Great Oak Road. Cty Cllr Morris said PCC is considering diverting the stream at the top of Great Oak Road (by the substation) to take water down Pregge Lane. He encouraged members to report drains needing clearing.

Members emphasised the need for drains to be cleared regularly believing it was not being done quickly enough.

An overgrown hedge in Grwyne Fechan was reported to cause problems for passing traffic. The clerk was asked to identify its location (ie map reference/photograph).

Cllr P Morris questioned what is happening with health care for Powys residents? There is a suggestion the factures side of Accident & Emergency will move from Merthyr to Mountain Ash (an extra 40 minute drive for Powys residents). Cty Cllr Morris will make enquiries. He suggested the council raise this with the local health board. This was agreed.

Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting at 19:55

5. **Minutes:** minutes of the 20th December 2022 meeting [Pages 1395 -1398] were approved as a true record (Proposed Cllr Sharman; Seconded Cllr P Morris).

6. **Clerk's Report: information from the minutes:**

Military Training in Grwyne Fawr: A response to the council's complaint is due to be received from HQ 160th (Welsh) Brigade. If this is not received within the next couple of weeks the Clerk will make further enquires.

Five Councils Meeting: a draft agenda has been issued for the 27th January 2022 however the meeting may be postponed due to Covid. Crickhowell TC will confirm following their January meeting.

7. **Himalayan Balsam: to receive up-date/consider funding request.**

The additional information requested was received just prior to the meeting - too late for members to make an informed decision on whether to support the application. It was agreed to defer discussion to the February meeting.

RESOLVED to: defer discussion to the February meeting.

Signed:.....
Chairman

8. Llanbedr Nature Garden/Hedge to Allotments: to discuss future maintenance

Wales & West Housing Association is arranging for its contractor to drop some woodchip off in Llanbedr when next working in the area so the council can renew the path.

Cllr J Morris will speak to the contractor regarding the allotment hedge.

9. Speeding in Glangrwyney: to receive up-date

Members noted James Evans MS's response to the council's request for help in combating speeding in Glangrwyney. His offer to attend a meeting was welcomed. It was suggested meeting in Glangrwyney so the problem can be witnessed first-hand.

ACTION: a meeting to be organised with James Evans MS.

10. Retrospective Planning: to receive up-date

Cwmdu Community Council has confirmed it supports sending a letter to Julie James MS (as previously agreed).

ACTION: Clerk to send letter to Julie James MS.

11. Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: to consider response.

It was agreed to defer discussion.

RESOLVED to: defer to the February meeting.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: to discuss how to commemorate

Members discussed ways of commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Suggestions included lighting beacons and planting trees, possibly 70 to commemorate each year of her reign, with plaques to record significant events. Trees to be planted in either spinneys, or in a trail from Glangrwyney Hall to Partrishow Church. Cllrs P Morris and Lusted volunteered to identify suitable planting locations and research funding avenues.

ACTION: Cllrs P Morris and E Lusted will make enquiries and report back

13. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- Retrospective planning
- Himilyan balsam

14. Finance:

14.1 The following items were approved for payment: (Proposed; Cllr Sharman;

Signed:.....
Chairman

Seconded Cllr Fairclough) and duly agreed.

Staff (Salary	Expenses £25/Travel £6.30)	-	£
HMRC		-	£
G M James (reimbursement – Zoom)		-	£ 14.39
Glangrwyney Village Hall (Donation)		-	£1,000.00
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (Llanbedr Water Trough)		-	£ 13.33

Payment for strimming Llanbedr Nature Garden was deferred until an invoice is received.

14.2 Finance Report:

The finance report was received and noted. It was agreed to transfer £500 from the elections budget to donations to cover the existing deficit.

14.3 Precept for 2022/2023:

It was agreed to increase the clerk's salary (as detailed in the budget report) with the suggestion the clerk records her hours to determine whether they should be increased. (Proposed Cllr Fairclough; Seconded Cllr Sharman). Unanimously agreed.

The budget report was noted. Following consideration of the current year's receipts/expenditure and projected figures for the forthcoming year it was agreed to set the precept at £10,000 (Proposed Cllr Sharman; seconded by Cllr P Morris) and unanimously agreed.

15. Highways:

Vincent Playdon has been appointed Highways Supervisor for South Powys and therefore the contact for the Vale of Grwyney. Grit bins need filling/replacing in Llangenny, Partrishow and The Bont Lane.

16. Reports on Meetings Attended:

None received.

17. Correspondence as itemised in Appendix A was received and noted.

18. Correspondence as itemised in Appendix B was received and noted. It was agreed to

Item 18: request to support Llangattock Green Valleys' application to participate in the Home Energy Audits for Powys Communities project. Due to the tight time scale members were asked to look at this and inform the clerk if they would like to support the application.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:30 pm

Signed:.....
Chairman

Email from Llangenny Conservation Group:

Thanks for your email and apologies it has taken until now to respond. Hopefully I'm just in time for tonight's meeting.

Just last week I was asked by Bev Lewis, Invasive Species team at BBNP if the Llangenny Volunteer group would like funding to support the group in setting up. So I've supplied her with our wish list and she's hoping to get that signed off promptly as the training element is obviously time sensitive and urgent. I have attached this list (see BBNPFundingBid) and if for any reason Bev is not able to fund us then I would like to ask the Community Council if they would be able to step in and support us. This is a list of tools and training for Himalayan balsam and Cherry laurel control work. I am currently seeking a storage space in Llangenny to enable us to store these safely and centrally.

I'm anticipating the group's inaugural meeting will be early - mid March. At that meeting we will discuss how we want to operate and agree a Terms of Reference, so I can't give you that info currently, but I will certainly keep you updated. Risk assessments and a Welfare assessment will be produced for each work party as they will need to be tailored to the type of work being undertaken and location, but I could provide generic ones if required sooner.

I am yet to arrange PLI for the group and thought that'd best be discussed at the inaugural meeting. The Community Council who I know covers PLI for volunteer groups active in their area is Trellech United Community Council (TUCC) and their clerk is Ann Davidson (trellechunited@gmail.com). If you're not able to provide PLI cover in the same way as TUCC then I can look into Keep Wales Tidy (or similar schemes) or the Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau, but obviously support from the VoGCC for this would be a real boost for the new group.

If we're successful with the funding from BBNP, in the next week or two, I will be inviting willing and committed volunteers to put their names forward to obtain First Aid Outdoor training. We should then have up to 5 qualified first aiders in the village which will mean the group won't be constrained by a lack of first aid cover (as I've seen with other groups in the past).

Thanks for the Llangattock Community Woodlands contact Maria. I have phoned Barry and had a good chat with him about the Charity's work and I'm going to have a cuppa with the group next Tuesday to see where we might be able to dovetail. Barry is keen not to stretch his group's area too wide, so I'm confident we won't be stepping on any toes.

I've attached my Himalayan balsam presentation (as a PDF because it's so large), and I'm happy to provide further information about the species and control, if useful.

Many thanks

Llangenny Conservation Voluneers**Per item**

Training in First Aid Outdoor X 4 volunteers (with Borderlands)	£140.00
First aid kits X2 (Lifesystem Mountain)	£39.99
Hand sanitiser (bulk)	£12.00
NPTC PA1 and PA6A Pesticide qualification^ (X2 committed volunteers only)	£539.00
Slashers* X8	£38.95
Sharpening tools" X2	£14.95
Bowsaws** X8	£12.95
Replacement blades X3	£6.95
Loppers*** X8	£42.95
Volunteers at Work signs - BBNP to provide?	£10.00
Tough gloves X10	£12.00
Branded high vis vests X20	£4.50
PLI insurance (or all register individually via the Cric Vol Bureau)	£0.00
^^ Biosecurity kit (hoofpick, brush, spray, bucket)	£20.00
	<hr/>
	£894.24

References

^ <https://www.weedfree.co.uk/pesticide-training-courses.html>

* <https://www.treemarker.co.uk/product/richard-carter-irish-slasher>

" <https://www.treemarker.co.uk/product/corona-sharpening-tool-ac8300>

** <https://www.treemarker.co.uk/product/spear-jackson-predator-bow-saw>

*** <https://www.treemarker.co.uk/product/razorsharp-pro-hd-bypass-loppers>

^^ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data

Dear Clerk

Please find attached link to the consultation The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils statutory guidance | GOV.WALES](#)

This consultation is seeking views on draft statutory guidance for community and town council.

This is a written, electronic consultation. Please respond by:

- Completing the consultation response form; or
- Emailing or posting your response to the contact details below.

The consultation closes on 17 March 2022

From:
The Local Government and Partnerships
Division
Welsh Government
LGPartnerships@gov.wales

MONTH 11 - FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM	ANNUAL BUDGET	SPENT	REMAINING	TRANSFERS	CURRENT BUDGET
SALARIES (Salary/Expenses/HMRC)					
OFFICE EXPENSES (Post/Stationery/Photocopying)	600.00	168.08	431.92		431.92
HALL HIRE/ZOOM FEE	400.00	158.29	241.71		241.71
MEMBERS ALLOWANCE	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
WEB SITE	700.00	36.00	664.00		664.00
AUDIT	800.00	140.29	659.71		659.71
INSURANCE	300.00	257.85	42.15		42.15
CARE OF BENCHES.NOTICE BOARDS	50.00	0.00	50.00		50.00
WATER RATES	100.00	28.85	71.15		71.15
SUBSCRIPTIONS	260.00	95.00	165.00		165.00
DONATIONS	1,500.00	1,806.00	194.00	+500	194.00
TRAVELLING EXPENSES	150.00	69.30	80.70		80.70
TRAINING/CONFERENCE	500.00	0.00	500.00		500.00
COMMUNITY PROJECTS	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
ELECTION EXPENSES	1,000.00	0.00	500.00	-500	500.00
ICO (DATA PROTECTION	40.00	40.00	0.00		0.00
NATURE GARDEN	500.00	80.00	420.00		420.00
CONTINGENCIES	1,000.00	0.00	0.00		1,000.00
TOTAL	£14,700.00	£6,363.03	£8,336.97		£8,336.97

EARMARKED RESERVES (Reserve A/C)				
LLANGENNY WATER FOUNTAIN	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
PROJECTOR SCREEN - LLANBEDR HALL	350.00	0.00	350.00	350.00

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS 2021/22

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE NO	AMOUNT	POWERS & DUTIES
Staff	Salary			Local Government Act 1972 s112
	Office Exp £25	001638		Local Government Act 1972 s111
	Travelling Exp £6.30			Local Government Act 1972 s111
HMRC	Tax	001639		Local Government Act 1972 s112
G M James (Reimbursement)	Zoom	001640	14.39	Local Government Act 1972 s111
AWAITING INVOICE	Strimming Nature Garden	001641	80.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9&10
TOTAL			£417.36	

VIREMENTS:	
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INCOME - 2021/22	JAN/FEB	TOTAL
PRECEPT £8,000 (PAYABLE IN 3 INSTALMENTS)	0.00	8,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00
BANK INTEREST (BUSINESS A/C)	0.00	0.45
VAT REFUND	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£0.00	£8,000.45

BALANCE ON BANK STATEMENT	DATE	TOTAL
Current Account	04/02/2022	£7,597.93
Business Reserve Account	31/12/2021	£5,953.82

£13,551.75

Signed:
Chairman

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body: Vale of Grwyney Community Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2020 (£) RESTATED	31 March 2021 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	8901	9456	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	7000	8000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	279	66	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	3800	3500	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	2924	3662	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	9456	10360	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	9456	10360	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	9456	10360	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	7002	7077	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2020-21 was £8.32 per elector.

In 2020-21, the Council made payments totalling £699 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

2.

3.


* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO

I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

RFO signature: 


Name: Maria James

Date: 17th May 2021

Approval by the Council/Board/Committee

I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:

Minute ref: P.1370 Item 13.4

Chair of meeting signature: 

Name: John Morris

Date: Accounts were approved on the 17th May 2021 however due to the COVID 19 pandemic this meeting was held remotely and the chairman was unable to sign on this date. 20/5/21

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of:

Vale of Grwyney Community Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion - Unqualified

On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's/Committee's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council/Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

I draw the body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the body.

- We note that the Council holds a high level of reserves when compared with its annual precept. It is clear from the information presented to audit that approximately £5,000 of the year end balance is earmarked for specific projects and this is reflected in its budget for 2021-22. We recommend that, when setting its budget, the Council is clear that it has also considered its unearmarked balances when setting the budget for future years to ensure that the amounts held as a general reserve are appropriate.



Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 04/02/2022

* Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Vale of Grwyney Community Council

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
14. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

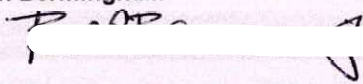
** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated 10 MAY 2021.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: **Bronwen Bermingham**

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: 

Date: **21st MAY 2021**

VALE OF GRWYNEY RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

The main purpose of Risk Assessment is to ensure that the Council achieve their budgetary & strategic objectives thereby providing assurance to the public and meet requirements of the Account Regulations. Members must also take all necessary steps:

1. To minimise any risk facing the Council
2. Identify risk areas
3. Evaluate consequences and adopt measures to avoid, reduce or control the risk.

Topic	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Classification	Measures to be taken to Reduce/Minimise/Control Risk
Precept	Not Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council may not receive the precept • Council seen as ineffective 	Low	Full Budget process in place. Clerk/RFO to prepare budget annually in December. Full Council to determine precept annually in December/January
	Not paid by County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint from the community 	Low	Clerk/RFO to notify County Council by date specified in January
	Adequacy of Precept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputation damaged 	Medium	Clerk/RFO to monitor and report to Council Paid directly to bank account by BACS Clerk/RFO to prepare and circulate monthly Finance Reports Receipts and Expenditure monitored.
Reserves – General	Adequacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective • Disruption of services • Bankruptcy 	Medium	Consider at Budget Setting. It is generally suggested reserves should cover approximately six months expenditure.
Reserves – Earmarked	Adequacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective 	Medium	Consider in March meeting prior to year end to ensure sufficient funds are earmarked.
Legal Powers	Illegal Payment or Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censure by audit • Loss of reputation • Council being seen as ineffective 	Medium	Statutory powers to undertake work recorded. Ensure compliance with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
Salaries	Wrong Salary Paid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective 	Low	Clerk's salary is presented to Council for approval on monthly basis. Members to scrutinise details of expenses claim – receipts provided.
	Wrong deductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially detrimental to staff 	Low	Use of payroll software. Annual return completed electronically.
VAT	Not claimed within time limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of revenue 	Low	Analysis sheet provided to HM Revenue & Customs. Reclaimed on annual basis or sooner if amount claimed exceeds £100.

Donations/Financial Assistance	Power to pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censure by audit/inspection • Loss of reputation • Council being seen as ineffective 	Low	Compliance with section 137 and other legislation. Powers and Duties under which payments can be made are listed on the monthly Finance Reports.
Members	Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of reputation • Council being seen as ineffective • Censure by audit/inspection 	Medium	The agenda requests Members to declare interests in agenda items at the beginning of every meeting. Register of Members Interests published on web site.
Assets	Loss/Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective 	Medium	Insure against all risks. Review annually.
	Risk or damage to third party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censure by audit/inspection 	Medium	Review adequacy of Public Liability insurance.
	Maintenance		Low	Maintenance free plastic benches/noticeboards.
Staff	Fraud by Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of reputation • Disruption to service 	Low	Fidelity Guarantee Insurance along with checks by Members –bank statements normally signed by non-signatory members at monthly meetings however Covid restrictions prevent this - bank statement currently signed by the chairman when signing cheques
	Loss of Clerk through ill health/long term sickness		Medium	The Clerks to the Five Councils to be approached to provide cover and/or SLCC asked to facilitate a locum Clerk
Document Security	Appropriateness of existing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of important records 	Medium	External hard drive purchased – scheduled regular back-up undertaken Deposit historical records with County archives – ongoing
Computer	Danger of damage/theft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of documents/Cost of replacement equipment 	Medium	Laptop, projector and external hard drive included in insurance cover
Financial Records	Inadequate records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective • Censure by audit/inspection 	Low	RFO/Clerk to check regularly. Independent internal auditor appointed.
	Loss of Financial Records through fire, etc		Medium	Financial records are stored electronically but printed and backed -up on regular basis. Suggest investigate cost of up-loading documents to the cloud
Minutes	Accurate and Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective • Censure by audit/inspection 	Low	Reviewed and signed at following meeting.
	Loss of original Minutes		Low	Copy stored off site in library/web site

Members Interests, Gifts and Hospitality	Conflict of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective • Censure by audit/inspection 	Medium	Register of Interests held by Council and published on web site – up-dated as required. Register of Remuneration Received by Councillors held and published on web site. Declaration of Office signed by all members and copies held by Council.
Complaints	Complaint from member of public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective • Loss of reputation 	Low	Members must comply with the requirements of the Standing Orders; Code of Conduct and all other policies & procedures including complaints procedure. Staff must comply with the requirements of the Employee code of conduct and all other policies & procedures including complaints procedure. Public welcome to meetings. General council policies to be reviewed and adopted.
General Data Protection Regulations	Compliance with GDPR requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council being seen as ineffective • Financial penalties if regulations breached 	Medium	Council registered as data controller – privacy policies adopted and reviewed on annual basis.
Nature Garden	Breach of maintenance responsibilities Health and safety. Monitoring of environmental hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint from the community • Council being seen as ineffective • Breach of licence agreement 	Medium	Maintenance schedule to be considered on a regular basis and works undertaken as required. Area inspected on monthly basis.
Chain of Office	Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of chain 	Medium	Responsibility for security of the chain of office lies with the Clerk.
Hybrid meetings	Adequate equipment/technology Wi-fi facilities for hybrid meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting unlawfully • Council being seen as ineffective • Loss of reputation • Complaint from the community 	High	Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires community councils to make and publish arrangements for convening meetings which allows, but not requires, participants to be in multiple locations. The minimum requirement is that members are able to hear and be heard by others. To return to physical meetings the council must be able to offer the option to attend remotely, ie via video/telephone conferencing. The council cannot return to face to face meetings until suitable technology and venue with wifi facilities are secured.

Other points: All new activities are risk assessed.

Adopted by Members of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council during their meeting of the 2022

Signed: **Date:**

Cllr. John Morris, Chairman, Vale of Grwyney Community Council

February 2022

APPENDIX A

List of Correspondence

Via Email:

1. **One Voice Wales (OVW):** Bulletin (c)
2. **Llangattock Green Valleys:** Home Energy Audits (c)
3. **OVW:** Violence against women Welsh Government Consultation (c)
4. **PCC:** Future Powys County Council/Town & Community Council meetings (c)
5. **Major Lewis:** Cambrian Patrol (c)
6. **Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA):** Weekly planning register (14.01.12; 28.01.22; 04.02.22; 11.02.22; (c)
7. **OVW:** Invitation to series of shared learning events by the Community Resourcefulness Partnership, 24-31 January 2022 (c)
8. **Powys Community Health Council (Powys CHC):** Additional Date for Citizens Voice Body Information Session (c)
9. **OVW:** Training - January, February & March 2022 (c)
10. **BBNPA:** permitted - Tyrywen, Forest Coal Pit - 21/20224/LBC & 21/20223/FUL (c)
11. **BBNPA:** permitted – Gobpwllau, Llangenny NP8 1HL (c)
12. **PCC:** Testing update from PTHB's Programme Director (COVID Vaccination and TTP) (c)
13. **OVW:** Phishing emails - Gift Cards... (c)
14. **Powys CHC:** Agenda/Notice of Radnorshire & Brecknock LC Meeting 27/01/22 (c)
15. **Glangrwyney Village Hall:** minutes (c)
16. **Crickhowell TC:** Agenda for Five Councils meeting Thursday 27 January 1830 hours (c)
17. **BBNPA:** Agenda for Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Friday, 28th January, 2022, 10.00 am (c)
18. **PAVO:** Locality Initiative fund (c)
19. **Calon Hearts:** funding for Defibrillator (c)
20. **OVW:** Pugh Computers Your experts in modern workplace solutions (c)
21. **SilverCloud:** mental health service poster/leaflet (c)
22. **OVW:** Clive Easton - OVW Montgomery area Council Broadband connectivity (c)
23. **OVW:** Raising awareness / promotion videos – Community and Town Councillors (c)
24. **OVW:** Brecon Area Committee 7.00pm Wednesday 9th February
25. **OVW:** the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2nd June 2022 (c)
26. **PAVO:** Training // Hyfforddiant - February // Chwefror (c)
27. **PAVO:** Training Needs of the Voluntary Sector in Powys (c)
28. **Clarke Telecom:** Shared Rural Network Pre-Application Telecommunications Installation: 1063 Land At Partishow Hill, Llanbedr (c)
29. **Cty Cllr Morris:** letter from Welsh Gov re small schools (c)
30. **OVW:** Public Service Board meeting (c)
31. **OVW:** Audit Wales Fee Scheme 2022-23 (c)
32. **PCC:** Riverine SACs and Phosphorous Update Feb 2022 for Community/Town Councils (c)
33. **OVW:** Welsh Government Apprenticeship Scheme 2022 opening soon (c)
34. **OVW:** The Welsh Government is developing a Community Food Strategy (c)
35. **PCC:** request from The Leader to provide details of Jubilee events (c)
36. **UK Defence Training Estate:** Operation Longreach will take place 28/02/22 – 04/03/22 (c)
37. **Royal British Legion Industries:** Planting a Tree for the Jubilee (c)
38. **OVW:** Tree planting and Orchards- Nature Forum (c)
39. **Powys CHC:** Mental Health Consultation (c)
40. **Audit Wales:** Annual Return (c)

41. **BBNPA:** Agenda for National Park Authority, Friday, 11th February, 2022, 10.00 am (C)
42. **Powys CHC:** Powys CHC Newsletter - Issue 7 - January 2022 (c)
43. **Crickhowell TC:** Model resolution wording for Safety Review Campaign (c)
44. **Cty Cllr Morris:** registration for 2022 garden waste recycling collection service is open (c)
45. **OVW:** Powys LDP – Feb 22 (c)
46. **BBNPA:** Agenda for National Park Authority, Friday, 11th February, 2022, 10.00 am (c)
47. **PCC:** Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School (c)
48. **OVW:** Report on Section 47 Multi Location Meetings (c)
49. **BBNPA:** Planning Application Consultation Letter 22/20723/FUL (c)
50. **BBNPA:** Agenda for Planning, Access and Rights of Way Committee, Tuesday, 15th February, 2022, 10.00 am (c)
51. **OVW:** Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 - Pre Consultation (c)
52. **OVW:** Training - January, February & March 2022 (c)
53. **OVW:** Welsh Government's Consultation on measuring the inclusion of migrants in Wales (c)
54. **BBNPA:** 21/20653/TPO - Pendarren House OEC, Llangenny, NP8 1HE (c)
55. **OVW/Nature Resources Wales:** Nature and Us – national conversation about Wales' natural environment (c)
56. **PCC:** election meeting/nomination papers (c)
57. **Dolau School:** Fill the Playground - Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau) School - protest against school closures (c)
58. **OVW:** Opportunities and Events (c)
59. **Dyfed Powys Police& Crime Commissioner:** Anti-Social Behaviour Conference Invitation (c)
60. **Dolau School** - closure protest Mk2 - stand with us! (c)
61. **OVW:** Welsh Government Apprenticeship Scheme 2022 opening soon (c)

Via Post

(c) Circulated