

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 20th May 2024 at 7:30pm in Llangenny School Hall and via video conferencing.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Dean Christy
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Elaine Lusted

Attended Remotely: Cllr David Sharman
Cllr Phill Bowker (joined after Item 1)
Cllr Jeff Greenidge (joined after Item 1)

In attendance: Cllr Masfield and the Clerk

There being no members of the public present the meeting moved to the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting

1. Election of Chair 2024/25: Cllr Morris presided.

Cllr Morris proposed Cllr Lusted is elected Chair for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Alford and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED to: appoint Cllr Lusted as Chair for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Lusted signed her declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

2. Election of Vice Chair 2023/24: Cllr Lusted presided.

Cllr Lusted proposed Cllr Morris is elected Vice Chair for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Alford and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED to: appoint Cllr Morris as Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

3. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Roger Bridgwater and Cllr Roger Llewelyn (Cllr Llewelyn's apologies were sent, but received after the meeting)

4. Minutes of the 15th April 2024 meeting [Pages 1521-1525] were approved as a true record [Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Sharman] and unanimously agreed

5. Outgoing Chairman's Report:

Cllr Morris recalled his year in office started by welcoming new county councillors for the ward. He extended his thanks to Cllr Elaine Lusted, the Clerk, Cllr Colin Alford for getting the plaques sorted, as well as all his fellow councillors who supported him during the year. The main job last year was finishing off planting the trees for the Jubilee Walk, which started in Glangrwyney with a tree planted by children from Llanbedr School. During the year Cllr Morris attended One Voice Wales meetings, laid the wreath at the cenotaph and

Signed:.....
Chair

attended a Place Plan meeting in Crickhowell which is important as it will affect the Vale of Grwyney. He suggested the council look into setting up its own Place Plan. He also attended the opening of the water fountain in Llangenny and acknowledged the work undertaken by the Clerk in securing funding towards its restoration. His year in office ended with a wet winter leaving many landslips and a lot of potholes to deal with.

Cllr Lusted thanked Cllr Morris.

6. Election Representatives on Outside Bodies:

One Voice Wales (OVW) Representative: *(Currently Cllr John Morris)*

Cllr Morris was proposed by Cllr Greenidge; seconded by Cllr Sharman.
Agreed Cllr Morris continue as OVW representative.

Glangrwyney Village Hall Representative: *(Currently Cllr Jeff Greenidge)*

Cllr Greenidge was proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Sharman.
Agreed Cllr Greenidge continue as Glangrwyney Village Hall representative.

Llanbedr Allotment Society: *(Currently Cllr John Morris)*

Cllr Sharman proposed Cllr Morris continue as the Council's representative; seconded by Cllr Lusted. Agreed Cllr Morris continue as Llanbedr Allotments representative.

- 7. Annual Accounts:** The Clerk referred to the statement itemising receipts and payments made for the year ending 31st March 2024 (previously circulated) and requested Council's approval that this fairly represents the financial position of the authority as at this date. Cllr Christy proposed the accounts are approved. This was seconded by Cllr Alford and duly agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:42pm

Signed:.....
Chair

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 20th May 2024 at 7:43pm in Llangenny School Hall and remotely via the video conferencing platform Zoom.

Present: Cllr Elaine Lusted (Chair)
Cllr John Morris
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Dean Christy

Attended Remotely: Cllr David Sharman
Cllr Jeff Greenidge
Cllr Phillip Bowker

In attendance: County Cllr Chloe Masefield and the Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Roger Bridgwater and Cllr Roger Llewelyn (Cllr Llewelyn's apologies were sent but received after the meeting)

2. Declarations of Interest: none declared

3. Planning Matters:

3.1 Applications: to consider and resolve responses to BBNPA:

- (i) **24/22837/FUL:** "Installation of one 10kw air source heat pump to the east side of the property" **Blaen Y Cwm, Asst Keepers House, Forest Coal Pit NP7 7LY**

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

- (ii) **24/22788/FUL:** "Proposed single storey rear link between cottage and Utility Room/Garage to create home office and larger kitchen/Dining." **Ty Isaf, Forest Coal Pit NP7 7LY**

RESOLVED to: submit a response of no objection

3.2 Decisions/Other: the following decisions were noted to have been **PERMITTED:**

- (i) **23/22344/FUL:** "Application for the conversion of a barn to a residential use as a holiday let (C6). The conversion involves the demolition and relocation of modern agricultural sheds. **Ysgubor Newydd, Llanbedr Road, Crickhowell NP8 1SP**

- (ii) **24/22755/FUL:** "Replacement of existing single storey elements with two storey extension to create larger master bedroom and kitchen living area." **Lynbrook , Llanbedr, Crickhowell NP8 1SR**

- (iii) **24/22715/FUL:** "To change existing Bradstone roof tiles to Marly slate grey roof tiles" (Full Application) at **Sunny Grove , Glangrwyney, Crickhowell, NP8 1ET**

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Chair

4. County Council Report to receive and discuss general Powys County Council Matters:

Cllr Masefield's report was received. Matters discussed included:

- Sign for school bus pick-up point in Llangenny - the officer has offered to attend a meeting with the bus driver in Llangenny to discuss what can be done to improve safety. One parent has suggested the solar powered school sign in Llanbedr is relocated to Llangenny. Cllr Masefield will organise a meeting.
- Potholes – Powys may state roads were not designed for current conditions, but these are the conditions we now have - we need to change the way we deal with them. Contractors when tarmacking roads used to put a camber on them so water would run-off. Tar and chippings were also applied every few years to prolong the road's life.
- Landslip by The Chapel, Grwynefechan – complaints have been received from people concerned this road will be closed permanently with a rumour circulating that NRW will not let Powys repair the road due to its proximity to the river – this rumour needs to be squashed. The road by The Chapel needs to be repaired, particularly as The Bont Lane is impassable in icy conditions making life difficult for residents who have businesses to run and livestock to feed. Cllr Masefield will arrange a meeting with the highways officer.
- Llangenny Bridge – there is no specific sign for width restriction. Officers are going to see if they can find a solution within the regulations governing sign design.
- Glangrwyney Bridge Meeting – a suggested date for the site meeting is 10th June 2024. Cllr Masefield will check the officer's availability and confirm. The pedestrian footpath will not be reinstated.
- 20mph speed limit signs in Llangenny has been painted over.
- Collaborative Working – does Powys work with other local authorities concerning road repairs or potholes? Cllr Masefield stated the Marches Partnership encourages Monmouthshire, Powys, Shropshire and Herefordshire to work together however this did not work well when Powys allowed roadworks in Crickhowell at the same time Monmouthshire closed the Gilwern Road. It should be noted Powys does come out quite well on the road situation - other local authorities are not doing so well.
- 20mph Limit – the introduction of the 20mph limit has made the situation with traffic in Glangrwyney worse. Drivers knowing the 20mph signs are being changed are now ignoring them, resulting in dangerous overtaking and cars/motorbikes accelerating as they leave the village causing both noise and air pollution. Cllr Masefield stated that whilst Welsh Government appear to be back-tracking on the 20mph speed limits, the reassurances are this will be community lead. Changes will be up to local authority having regard to residents' preferences. The 20mph will be kept where appropriate. It was suggested Go Safe speedwatch is asked to monitor speeds at days/times when speeding is worse.

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Chair

- The Bont Lane – needs to be coated with tar and chippings to prolong its life.
- Forestry lorries – pothole present before forestry lorries
- Slip at Forest Coal Pit – notice of the road closure was insufficient and caused problems. Residents require more notice.

5. Highways: to receive and discuss highway issues

A recent accident at the top of Millbrook Lane closed the road to Llangenny for a couple of hours. Signs warning there is a concealed entrance are needed on both sides of Millbrook Lane. Cllr Masfield will add this to the list.

6. Clerk's Report: information from the minutes/up-date

Item 12 - site meeting with NRW is ongoing.

Item 16 – no interest has been received from the Five Councils – suggested VoG proceed.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Walk: to receive up-date

Co-ordinates have now been obtained for the tree in Llangenny and Cllr Alford has attached the tree plaques. The Clerk went to Crickhowell Archive Centre to get information on events in the Vale but the office was closed. She will try again. Map needs to be drawn of the route and leaflets designed.

ACTION: Clerk to visit Crickhowell Archive Centre. Map/Route to be designed.

8. Five Councils Meeting: to agree agenda items

Powys' CEO, Emma Palmer, has been invited to speak at the next Five Councils Meeting. No further agenda items were suggested.

ACTION: Cllr Morris and Christy to attend Five Councils meeting.

9. Llanbedr Nature Garden: to discuss and agree maintenance

A new post for the entrance gate has been obtained and will be installed shortly. It was agreed to trim the majority of the nature garden now leaving some areas longer for wildlife and let the grass go back into the ground to improve vegetation.

ACTION: Cllrs Morris and Alford will attend to strimming/gate post

10. Noticeboard in Llanbedr: to consider whether to renew/relocate

The notice in the hall's noticeboard inviting residents' input on replacing/relocating the damaged noticeboard by the old school has received no response. One member suggested relocating the board to the centre of the village by the church, other suggestions included leaving it where it is or moving it to the opposite side of the entrance to St Peter's

Signed:.....

Chair

Close. It was agreed to find out how much a new noticeboard will cost and whether grant funding is available. The damaged notice board will be disposed of.

Safety matting was reported to have been renewed in the playground in Llanbedr.

ACTION: Clerk will investigate cost/funding options for a new noticeboard.

11. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations: to review standing orders/financial regulations Couple of minor amendments suggested highlighted in red

In accordance with good governance the council's standing orders and financial regulations were reviewed. The minor amendments proposed in the documents circulated were agreed.

RESOLVED to: adopt the proposed amendments to the standing orders and financial regulations.

12. Allowances Policy: to receive and consider adopting

It was agreed to adopt the Allowance Policy as circulated. The Clerk reported the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has just circulated further information regarding tax implications/payment of allowances. This will be circulated.

RESOLVED: to adopt the allowance policy

13. Caravans in Glangrwyney: to receive up-date and consider how to proceed

An event was reported to have recently been held with approximately fifty caravans/ vehicles staying for two nights. Whilst planning permission was refused for the field to be used as a caravan site it is understood caravan clubs are entitled to hold one-off events in certified caravan sites (the rules relating to such events will be checked). No further usage contravening planning requirements was noted. It was agreed to monitor the position.

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

- Online banking
- Llanbedr Playground

15. Finance:

15.1 The following items were approved for payment [Proposed; Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Morris] and duly agreed:

Living with Dementia (Donation)	£	50.00
Staff (Salary)	£	
HMRC (Tax)	£	
G James (Serviced Office £25/Travel £6.30)	£	31.30
G James (Reimburse: Zoom £15.59/Postage £1.70)	£	17.29

Signed:.....
Chair

Society of Local Council Clerks (Subscription)	£ 112:00
Glangrwyney Village Hall (Hire 15/02/24)	£ 30:00
Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£ 286.41

Guidance received today from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) requires councillors to confirm eligibility for the allowance in writing before payment can be made. Payment of councillor allowances was therefore delayed until this has been organised.

15.2 It was agreed the Chair's allowance this year will be incorporated into a civic budget, and the Chair is reimbursed on production of receipts rather than the allowance paid via PAYE.

15.3 Finance Reports for the end of year, April and May were received and noted.

15.4 The Asset Register was noted.

15.5 The internal audit report was noted. Approval of the annual return was deferred until the signed annual return has been received from the auditor.

16. To receive Reports on Meetings Attended

Llangenny Water Fountain: Cllrs Morris, Lusted, Sharman and the Clerk attended.

Code of Conduct: Cllr Lusted attended OVW training reporting it was very interesting.

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

Item 15 - 20 MPH Speed Limit Glangrwyney

Clerk will inform resident there will be local consultation on speed limits

20. Miscellaneous/Late Correspondence as itemised in Appendix B was received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.25pm

Signed:.....

Chair