

Llangynidr Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 8th June 2023

Notes.

22 people attended the event at the Village Hall on Thursday evening.

Jane Dawkins, Chair, spoke about the Community Council's Year. She thanked the outgoing Chair Mark Brian and the Clerk Sue Dale. And our Councillor and new School Governor Beth Carpenter and David Williams for his service and support to the school as Governor.

The mitigation against dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs is being won – thanks to volunteers around the village who choose to clear up after them.

Unsung heroes who pick up litter when they go out walking.

The village has just over 1000 residents (1036 in 2011 and 1034 in 2021).

The Council wishes to pursue crowd-funding to pay for 2 new variable speed indicators (£6000). Powys County Council have to give their permission for the exact location and installation of the indicators, this is ongoing.

It is hoped that the Powys can be persuaded to put a 20mph limit on the whole of the school route from Forge Road onwards.

The Community Council searches for the money to rebuild the Public Conveniences.

The hedge layer did a beautiful job of the hedge on the inside of the car park and this led to improvements in the biodiversity there, such as the planters and the verge.

Talybont and Llangattock Community Council's seem to have been able to fund many projects – why is this the case and not Llangynidr Community Council? There is a list of projects the CC would like to achieve and have appointed a Grants Officer to assist.

The overgrown state of the hedges in the village was raised, particularly some hedges on Forge Road and Cwmcrawnon Road. A reminder is to go in "Contact". As these hedges are said to cause a danger to pedestrians - trimming back would be permitted even during nesting season.

Beverley Lewis – Invasive Non-Native Species Co-ordinator at Bannau Brycheiniog National Park spoke about the Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed. Leaflets describing the non-native species were circulated (these can be found at www.nonnativespecies.org).

Japanese Knotweed - It out competes our native plants interfering with riverbank structure and increasing the likelihood of flooding. It is tenacious and usually takes several years to eradicate. Common means of dealing with other weeds, such as strimming (spreads the problem), pulling or digging up will not work and it is best to refer infestations to the professionals such as Beverley and her colleagues. Late summer early autumn is the time to treat Japanese Knotweed. When the treated sap is returning to the rhizomes under ground carrying the active spray/injection with it. This plant cannot be composted, it is classed as controlled waste.

One Japanese Knotweed plant has been found on the riverbank near the footpath, it is hoped that it will be dealt with in the eradication programme. NRW and BBNPA have been notified.

Giant Hogweed - This plant has a phototoxic chemical in it's sap which burns badly. It grows on riverbanks primarily. It's seeds persist in the soil for a long time.

Himalayan Balsam – A biological control method has been developed for this prolific species. It can be controlled by pulling the plant up, the time for this is **now**, before it sets seed. One of the participants suggested the community council hold a Himalayan Balsam Bash for the riverbank.

If you have land you want to have looked at, please call Beverley Lewis at BBNPA and please notify her if any of these plants are seen, it would be helpful if you had co-ordinates to share.

Loretta Maddox outlined the phosphate testing conducted by local volunteers in support of Save the River Usk.

Each testing kit costs £150. The information is then sent to Cardiff University for analysis. More volunteers would be welcome, the process takes about an hour to complete. Please contact Save the Usk for details.

The river bridge lights on the signs approaching the crossing are not working. Unfortunately, this ambiguous situation can lead to drivers feel intimidated. Jackie Charlton said she would report this to Powys County Council, which she did by phone.

Gail Jones described Llangynidr Speed Watch its primary purpose is to reduce injuries and allow safer access to and from property. 4 trained volunteers gather the speeds of any vehicle they assess (with a radar facility) as travelling over 36mph in an hour. They are sometimes accompanied by a PCSO. A minimum of 3 trained volunteers are needed for each session. Gail called for more volunteers, the training is 2 hours long, she arranged the first training session in Llangynidr village hall and wanted to express her gratitude to the committee. Please see "Contact" for more details.

Hopefully with more 20mph limit areas coming in September speeds will come down.

It was pointed out that the sweeper lorry needed to keep the bridge drains free, will only be purchased by Powys County Council if grant money can be obtained.

Improvements are being made to the Powys County Council's [Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) so updates on progress will be provided if you supply contact details

i.e. <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/732/Report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement>

Gene Taylor, Chair of the Village Hall Committee and Community Councillor talked about the Annual General Meeting in a week or so's time and the plans the Village Hall Committee has to improve the hall and recreation ground for residents. There will be a concert "Summer Sounds" 15/7/23 in the recreation ground to raise money for these plans. The target is 3000, tickets can be bought in the village shop or online. There will be 10 or 11 bands, the School Choir, lots of different kinds of food, a bar and free entertainment for children.

Jackie Charlton, County Councillor, spoke about the work of Powys County Council on the Climate and Nature Emergency. Jackie is hosting a Climate and Nature Emergency Conference on Wednesday 14th June for the Community Councils in Wales. The authority will invest in change and sustainability – a stronger fairer greener Powys. Carbon accounts will be demonstrated.

The authority is reviewing all it's services incorporating the views of stakeholders and steering groups. For example mobility and transport, their car park review where charges have been raised in Crickhowell for example.

About 5000 council workers and engagement from many other people makes a significant force in Powys! The aim is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C by 2030 and NOT 2.7 degrees by the end of the century.

Winter service is being reviewed, it has been over 20 years since gritting salt procurement and gritting routes were last reviewed. The new 20mph limit will reduce carbon emissions. Pot holes and verges are on the Councillor's mind as well.

4000 households will be leafleted with news about the proposed development at Gilestone, Talybont.

Jane Dawkins closed the meeting by thanking the participants and inviting them to stay for light refreshments.