

CYMUNED CYNGOR **LLANGYNIDR** COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Mrs. Jane Dawkins (Chairperson), Mr. D Williams, Mr. Mark Brian, Mr. David Mantle, Mrs. Beth Carpenter, Mrs. Janine Sharpless, Mrs. Lisa Spencer-Weiss, Mr. Gene Taylor, Mr. Harry Duff and Mr. Gareth Woodcock.

In Attendance: Cllr Jackie Charlton, Mrs. Jessica Jones (Clerk) & Mrs. Sue Dale (Deputy Clerk)

1. Report from the County Councillor.

1. County Councillor Surgery – The Llangynidr surgery is bimonthly and was held in the Sardis UR Chapel in Llangynidr on the 18th January. We had the Village Conversation last month. Surgery days in Llangattock are with the Repair Café, the third Saturday of the month, if you would like to come along there. This works well and has been very successful. You can visit the Repair Café at the same time.

2. Bus and Transport – A consultation process started at the end of 2024 for the proposed new timetables. There still appears to be a gap earlier in the morning in Llangynidr. I will take any comment to the team should you feel there is a demand for an early bus to Brecon.

3. Road Signs for Forge Road – Not had a response from Highways on this and the Community Council are understandably concerned these are not in place. Will ask for this to be remedied as a matter of urgency.

4. Duffryn Crawnon Road – The new Clerk has brought to my attention the continued damage which is getting worse by the landslide on the road. A sink hole has also appeared on the side of the road as well which needs to be dealt with. Am arranging a visit from the Highways Inspector to address this and other issues below.

5. Blocked Culvert Blaen Y Marth – Having spoken to the Chair Jane Dawkins and others there is a real concern that the culverts and drains are not being cleared in Llangynidr. I will be requesting a visit from the Highways Inspector as outlined above. Some of this work will already be in the system for checking but we need to understand whether all the silted and blocked drains are on the list. After Storm Bert there is a heightened concern in the village about water run off and the fear of further flooding. There is a threat of more storms over the winter. The Highways team have been called upon to help across Powys this year more than they can remember in previous years as we have had storms and snow following close together.

6. Budget – Since meeting in November a lot of work has been undertaken on the budget and a draft balanced budget was agreed by the Cabinet earlier this month. This draft will now be scrutinised by each Scrutiny Committee. All members of the council have seen the draft and it is publicly available on the Powys website as well as being in the local press and on social media.

7. Powys Sustainable Resource Strategy – There is a 12 week engagement process for the Resource Strategy which covers all of the recycling and future focus to get to zero waste by 2030 which is a Welsh Government target. Waste is anything that has to go to Energy for Waste as it cannot be recycled. Wales is second in the world for successful recycling, Austria is first. There is a real push now to become first. Powys does play its part and is on target to hit close to 69% recycling but need to get to 70%. There are also new procedures in place to make visits to the Household Recycling Centres easier from April 2025. A new booking system is being designed so

you can plan your slot at the centre enabling everyone to have help to put items into correct recycling bins at the centre and prevent queues. It is also much better for those who have accessibility issues. DIY waste will be charged for from April 2025 as well. This will be for large items of waste such as kitchen and bathroom items associated with replacements in the home, as well as other larger items including replacement windows, flooring and cement.

8. Bridge Signs – The bridge signs have not worked for nearly 12 months. Engineers have been asked to repair the signs on several occasions but so far have failed. I am asking the Community Council to consider what we should do next. Is there any need for these signs?

Sustainable Powys Communication and updates.

Sustainable Powys is now fully embedded into the council activity and more work is being undertaken to engage with town and community councils through the spring. Please keep an eye on activity and information flow from the council to the Clerk. There was a successful meeting in Brecon in December which the Chair attended. There are more session planned during 2025.

Report from Andrew Sowerby for Community Council January 25 from the Mynydd Llangattock and Llangynidr Technical Advice Group.

Report from Andrew Sowerby for Community Council January 2025

A key theme that was not stated in the meeting but came through overall was one of "Intergenerational Well-Being", feedback that led to this conclusion is summarised as:

- Llangynidr & Llangatwg Commons branded meat products
- a 40mph speed limit on the road through the common
- A warden scheme where the graziers get paid to do some of the challenging work associate with such a role.
- Brian's key piece of feedback was the shrinking of the overall grazing area. On discussing scale with the group, a key suggestion was 'some' targeted woodland blocks in the least sensitive areas that provide the best woodland outcomes, rather than a proposal that was more extensive. He really wanted to retain the freedom of grazing on the scheme but was open to the idea of targeted woodland blocks for the landowner.
- Julian emphasised the under grazed nature of the southern common
- Rob questioned whether there would be compensation for this lost area? He thought that scattered planting near Dyffryn was too much loss of area with stock exclusion. He questioned whether woodland creation on the common would adversely affect the grazing on adjacent in-by land.
- Jonathan reminded those present of his 'payments for grazing results pilot' and that there are Yew trees on the escarpment. He was concerned about planting on priority habitat and losing grazing area. On two occasions Jonathan took the opportunity to state his view that the common was the best upland site for biodiversity in South Wales. He was keen to graze Molinia grass and reduce the fire risk. Jonathan's sense of change was something happening in 5-10 years' time based on the existing challenges. He briefed attendees on the process for re-designation of the wider common, the formal notice due in the third week in January and concluding at the earliest in July.

- Sian Mercer (Wye & Usk Foundation) asked if there had been any detailed hydrological study there was a collective awareness that water retention and availability on the common is more affected by the limestone geology and free drainage rather than the woody vegetation cover. This may need verifying.

- Jackie wanted to emphasise that the community was very much against having more conifers on the hillside. Andrew emphasised that he expected this to be the case and that he had a duty to all, in planning the current draft to illustrate the opportunity and impacts of growing some conifers in the scheme.

- The three graziers were concerned that the direction of travel in wider agriculture would mean the medium term loss of upland hill grazing and lifestyle farmers on the periphery.

- Several attendees emphasised the need to involve Sian Barnes, Powys' commons officer for her expertise to avoid designing anything that would not pass any basic legal tests. Sian could be a key representative on a Grazing Rights Advisory Group (GRAG) which would run in parallel with the TAG.

In response to the report provided by Cllr Jackie Charlton a discussion took place in relation to the reduced Bus Service timetable for the residents of Llangynidr, paying particular attention to the loss of the early morning service and the later afternoon service, making it difficult for residents to get to college, work, hospital and Dr's appointments for example. The Community Council re-iterated their concerns and would welcome any support from Cllr Jackie Charlton in restoring the bus service timetable for its residents.

2. Apologies: PCSO Lee Garrett

3. Declaration of interest in items of business listed below: None

4. Signing of the minutes; Full *Meeting 26th November 24 and Finance Committee 7th January 25.* All approved.

5. Public Participation: None

6. Finance:

a) ***Reserves, Risk Analysis and Asset register annual reviews*.** All Approved

b) ***Bank reconciliation, budget forecasts and precept figures to be discussed and considered for approval.***

Based on the expenditure and income from 1st April to December 2024 and anticipated from 1st January to 31st March 2025, it was decided to recommend an increase to the budget by £5,600 for the following areas:

Grant to the Village Hall, increase in original donations for Llangynidr Wellbeing group and The Crickhowell Voluntary Bureau (subject to further clarification from CVB), allow for additional fees for a Full audit. Agreed

The Village Hall Committee will not charge the Community Council the annual booking fee of £400 for 2025/26. All Agreed.

The VAT reclaim amount submitted up to 31st December 2024 totals £679.02

The precept was set at £30,000 based on the budget calculations to increase the following areas, Grant to the Village Hall, original donations and to allow for additional full audit fees. Approved

Proposed: Mr Mark Brian
Seconded: Mr David Williams

c) Cheques to be approved in January 25

Clean the car park (Jan) -	£40.00
Clean the public conveniences (Jan) -	£280.00
Clerk's wages and stationery allowance (Jan) -	£824.90
Car park non-domestic rates DD (Jan) -	£90.00
British Gas (elec. for the public toilets DD (Jan) -	£29.98
Grass cutting contract (approval only) -	£675.00
Clerk Pay December 24 -	£550.10
Audit office – external audit 22-23 -	£200.00
Audit office - external audit 23-24 -	£200.00
Deputy Clerk pay Jan 25 -	£538.80

All approved

Cheques approved in November 24:

Clean car park (Nov & Dec) -	£80.00
Clean the public conveniences (Nov & Dec) -	£560.00
Clerks Wages and stationery allowance (Nov) -	£567.40
Deputy Clerk wages (December) -	£673.50
New Clerk wages and Stationary allowance (Nov) -	£687.50
Car park non-domestic rates DD (Nov) -	£90.00
British Gas (elec. For public toilets Nov DD) -	£29.85
Car Park Maintenance (Nov) -	£90.00
Clerk back pay and pay rise (10 hours Nov) -	£134.70
Persondy Field Millennium hedge treatment -	£250.00

Refund for 2 white boards (S Dale) - £27.98

All approved

d) **Consideration of appeals for grants** – Adjourn to February 25 meeting to allow time to consider all application.

7. Correspondence:

- **Pentwyn Farm Paths - 09/1/2025 - circulated**
- **Community Speed Watch - 15/1/2025 – circulated**
- **Questionnaire for bus service - 13/2/25 – circulated**
- **Sockets required for the matric signs - on going with Powys Highways**
- **Community Grant Application - 14/1/2025 – Information up-date provided by Beth Carpenter.**

8. Report on the Five Councils' liaison panel hosted by Llangattock Community Council. Meeting due to be held Feb 13th – GW & JD to add an agenda item and attend regarding the concerns of the reduced Bus Service through Llangynidr – The Clerk to confirm details.

9. Persondy field license to be decided – One application received; Council agreed to the Tender as set out in the advert. Contract to be completed with the License and copy to be kept by the Clerk.

Proposed: Dave Mantle
Seconded: Janine Sharpless

10. Riverbank access request for NHS 24th and 26th March 2025 – All agreed. Clerk to check on the opening times of the café.

11. Responsibility for the banks of the Glaisfer in the village. A resident has challenged the Community Council – Confirmation received following a Land Registry search – the Land is not owned by Llangynidr Community Council. The Clerk to write to the resident.

12. Completion of works appreciation of the dropped kerbs at Gwynfa and Blaena Myarth and Cae Porth. – A note of thanks from the Chair Jane Dawkins for the completion of the works.

13. Dyffryn Crawnon road damage update – Images of the extensive road damage distributed to the Councillors and noted in Cllr Jackie Charlton's report she is

arranging a site visit with the Highways Inspector to address the concerns raised.

14. Community Garden for Llangynidr, a resident's plea for support – The Council decision remains unchanged with the same opportunities still being available. – Clerk to write to the resident.

15. To agree litter picking dates for early 2025 (15th Feb - 22nd Mar - 19th April) All agreed

16. Letter of engagement 24-25 for Internal Auditor – All agreed, Clerk to instruct.

17. Gardening and flower contract to be advertised – All agreed

18. Disturbance in the car park, complaint from a resident. This is now in the hands of the Police. Clerk to respond to the resident.

19. National Grid Proposal to remove H pole Transformer and install a ground mounted substation – Twyn Pandy. Discussed the proposal put forward by the National Grid. Council would like to engage the expertise of a Land Agent and carry out a Site Visit.

20. Any other business (for information only) – Wash Lanes update provided by LSW; the condensed lists have been reviewed and are now with Bannau Brycheiniog and part of the next steps will be a public consultation. Follow up in the February meeting.
Grateful thanks to the Llangynidr History Society for the village information board newly installed in the car park which has already generated a huge amount if interest with visitors and schoolchildren.

21. Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 25th February 2025, Community Council.

Revised Litter Pick Date: Sat 8th February 2025 – 10.45am – village car park