
Annual Report for Llangors Community Council

Financial Year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Meetings

The Community Council has held 6 Bi-monthly meetings, 1 Co-option meeting, 1 extra meeting for opening of tenders, 1 Annual General Meeting, 1 Annual Public Meeting and 6 Planning meetings during the last financial year. Working party groups have also met on an array of topics. The Community Council has always held its meetings in different public venues around the community to encourage public participation. New legislation, "The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021" requires all meetings to be multi-location or 'hybrid' meetings. This enables any person to join Community Council meetings remotely, by audio means as a minimum.

To comply with legislation, digital equipment was purchased in June with assistance of grant funding from ARWAIN Rural Development Fund, for which the Community Council was very grateful. The majority of locations where the Community Council meetings are held have broadband installed, which assists the Council in meeting the legislative requirements. Zoom software is the digital platform used for meetings.

Employees

The Council has one employee, who acts as Clerk to the Council, Proper Officer, Responsible Financial Officer, advisor, Data Protection Officer and is the main contact for the Council: -

Judith Phillips, Berllan Fach, Pennorth, Brecon, Powys. LD3 7EX.

Tel 01874 658869 Email: clerk@llangors.org.uk

After fifteen and a half years in post, Judith Phillips will be leaving the role at the end of April 2023. Currently the Community Council is in the process of advertising for a replacement Clerk.

As a corporate body, all Councillors equally share responsibility for statutory employment duties.

Membership and appointments

The County wide electoral process in May 2022, witnessed no contested elections within the two wards of the Community Council. Seven existing Community Councillors were re-elected unopposed, leaving 1 vacancy in Llanfihangel Talyllyn ward and 2 vacancies in Llangors ward. These were swiftly filled following a co-option process completed in June.

New members immediately undertook Code of Conduct training with One Voice Wales and detailed induction training with our Clerk, overseen by the Chair and another Councillor. This was concluded as a very welcome and successful approach by those involved.

Llangors Community Council has 10 members serving across two wards, with 5 seats in each ward. The area covered includes Llangors, Trefeinon, part of Cathedine, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Talyllyn, Llanywern, Pennorth and Llangasty Talyllyn. The election term of a Community Councillor is 5 years. Current members are listed below, their contact information is displayed on Council noticeboards around the community and on the website.

March 2023 has seen the resignation of Lynne Griffin as Councillor in the Llangors Ward. The Council were very grateful for her input as a Councillor. The appropriate process is now taking place in order that the vacancy is offered to residents for election or co-option. We look forward to welcoming a new member to the team soon. Current Councillors are as set out below:

It is with regret that we have received a letter from our clerk Judith Phillips, informing us that she wanted to resign from her employment with the Community Council. Jude has served as our clerk for

a period in excess of fifteen years. During her years of service she has presided over and implemented the many changes that Town and Community Councils have had to undergo. She has always completed her duties in a professional and reliable manner, providing advice to residents and councillors in both a polite and informative manner. As chair I can confirm that Llangors Community Council is up to date, in all matters "going forward" thanks to the work of our clerk.

Llangors Ward

Colin Preece
Venerable Alan Jevons
Geoff Beaven
Helen Quarrell
(Vacancy being advertised)

Llanfihangel Talyllyn Ward

Dave Jones (Chair)
Clare Owen (Vice Chair)
Mike Scruby
David Scully
Simon Bailey

As always occurs each May, at the Annual General Meeting, a Council Chair and Vice Chair are appointed (as above) for the ensuing year, alongside Council representatives to serve as a voice for the whole community on the following external organisations: -

Llangors CIW Primary School Governing Body	Cllr Scully
Llangors Lake Advisory Group Committee	Cllr Scruby
Discover Llangors & Bwlch Group	Cllr Griffin (now retired)
Siop Llangors Shop Committee	Cllr Owen
Llanfihangel Talyllyn & Llanywern Village Hall Committee as Custodial Trustees	Cllr Jones
Brecon to Hay Greenway Steering Committee	Cllr Bailey
One Voice Wales	Cllr Preece

The Planning committee consists of all Councillors and operates under the same terms as the main Council, and there are five working parties: Glebe Community Field Working Party, Llangors Playing Field Working Party, St. Paulinus Churchyard Working Party, IT Working Party and Employment Working Party. Councillors of the relevant wards have been appointed to working parties.

St. Paulinus Churchyard Burial Board has two appointed Councillors, currently Cllr Preece and Cllr Beaven and they are supported by the relevant working party. Until 1st March 2023 Tony Evans a retired Community Councillor was also a member of the Burial Board and had served in that role since 1995. He has now retired and the Council extends its sincere gratitude to Tony for the dedication he has given to such an important role, carrying it out in such a dignified manner at all times. His commitment and knowledge will be greatly missed.

In compliance with the insurance requirements and health and safety policy of the Community Council, appointed Councillors carry out regular health and safety inspections and maintenance of all assets. Gratitude is expressed for the continuing regular commitment of these Councillors for ensuring assets are available for daily use and assisting with keeping the public safe.

Glebe Community Field	Cllr Scruby
All seats, noticeboards and bus shelter in Llanfihangel Talyllyn ward	Cllr Scully
All seats, noticeboards, bus shelter and land owned in Llangors ward	Cllr Beaven
Cleaning of Llangors Bus shelter	Cllr Quarrell
St Paulinus Churchyard	Cllr Preece

Powys County Council representative

At the May 2022 election the boundary of the original Powys County Council Ward of Llangors was changed to Llangors with Bwlch. A new County Councillor Sian Cox was elected. Sian is a resident in Llangors community and was welcomed into her new role and duly guided and supported by our Clerk. Sian's work as ward representative of the County Council is key to the success of many issues raised with the Community Council by residents, so collaborative working is important and the Council looks forward to such development.

Finance Matters

The annual budget of the Council is regularly monitored by the Clerk who reminds Councillors of their responsibilities when spending public money. The budget is funded by residents of the community and collected by Powys County Council via the Council Tax process and paid to the Community Council as funds known as the precept. Councillors set the precept value to reflect the budgeted expenditure of the Council and do everything possible to keep all expenses to a minimum. Inevitably costs are increasing across all aspects of the budget with some items seeing an agreed overspend in 2022/23, hence the 2023/24 precept had to be raised.

The Annual Governance Statement of the council for the year ending 31st March 2023 is published on the Council website www.llangors.org.uk Summary of accounts is:

Opening Cash at Bank	£ 12835
Total Income received (including precept)	£ 24529
Total Expenditure (all costs)	£ 26943
Closing Cash at Bank	£ 10421

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales policy, adopted by the Council, mandates the Council to make payments to members as a contribution towards costs incurred. In this last year all Councillors opted out of receiving payment for work they do in their roles at the Council.

The Council is grateful to Cllr Owen who is appointed, as independent of the current bank signatories, to oversee the banking procedures of the Council on a quarterly basis.

In April the annual internal audit of the 2021/22 accounts and procedures of the Council were examined by the appointed internal auditor, who is independent of the Council. The conclusion was satisfactory. The Annual Governance statement and related documents submitted to Audit Wales for external audit have also been satisfactorily approved, with an unqualified audit and no issues raised.

Alan Williams the current internal auditor carries out his role free of charge, for which the Community is very grateful.

Assets & Policies

Llangors Community Council's assets consists of the following;

- St Paulinus Churchyard - Freehold
- Llangors Triangle, registered Village Green - Freehold
- Land Adjacent to River Cwy, registered as Village Green – Freehold
- Llangors Bus Shelter
- Llanfihangel Talylyn Bus Shelter and Freehold land that it's built on

- Various Lamps, Gates, Notice Boards, Seats/benches, Glebe Community Field play equipment
- Council laptop located with the Clerk
- Digital meeting equipment

St. Paulinus churchyard has seen a changeover of Burial Board members and the formation of a working party. Burial fees continue to be reviewed annually and are kept in line with the Church in Wales charges. The Council continues to have a Memorandum of Understanding and does not charge for burials of those under the age of 18. A review of the legal requirements of the Council as a burial authority and all operational aspects have been undertaken by our Clerk and appointed Councillors and a written policy established. Application forms updated for use by Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons. A resident had kindly taken photos of the churchyard with a drone in order for the plan of graves to be updated by the working party. A new wayleave agreement has been agreed with National Grid in regard to poles and cables across the site resulting in a small annual income to the Council. Some works are required to trees at the site for safety purposes.

In line with financial regulations every three years a tender process takes place for two grass cutting contracts to maintain St. Paulinus Churchyard, Llangors Triangle, land adjacent to the River Cwy and the Glebe Community Field. This process was initiated in November 2022 with tenders received and the two contracts awarded, subsequently signed and a contractor in place for all sites, for the next three years.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the Council to have a biodiversity policy. Bulbs, perennial plants and wildflowers are planted on Llangors Triangle and grass cutting contractors refrain from cutting the site until flowers have seeded usually around mid-July. The Council monitors the splay vision from the junction to ensure the long grass does not interfere with highway egress. Biodiversity issues are considered in all aspects of the Council's work, as reflected in the policy.

The Council has limited legal powers to operate as a corporate body and has several policies to comply with, which are reviewed annually. These include Standing Orders, Financial Regulations General Data Protection Regulations, Complaints, Press & Media, Email address protocol, Equality & Diversity, Freedom of Information, Social Media, Payments to Councillors, Digital meeting equipment, Welsh Language, Asset register, Financial and Management Risk assessments, Grants, Health & Safety, Glebe Community Field, Noticeboards, Insurance and Councillor Code of Conduct.

The regularly updated and annually reviewed Council website, www.llangors.org.uk is subject to several legislative requirements, such as accessibility. All agenda, minutes, notices and policies required to be on the website are online.

The Council does not currently engage on any Social Media platforms of its own. Information about public events and important notices are posted on the "Villages Around the Lake" Facebook page at the discretion of its administrators. The council is grateful for their assistance with this.

General points of discussion in the last year

The Covid-19 pandemic continues, now into its third year. Everyone is grateful to Powys Teaching Health Board who have continued with an effective vaccination roll out in the area as the virus continues to circulate. Whilst some activities were still restricted at the outset of the year, life is slowly returning to a "new" normality with residents and businesses learning to function alongside the virus.

The Annual Public Meeting of the Council returned in May. In support of the vast number of volunteers and community groups, the Council organised this as an opportunity for such groups to come together and give a brief presentation to all in attendance. With over sixty people present and at least twenty groups represented, friends were made, networking done and the event deemed a great success, and encouragement for in person events to re-commence in the pandemic. Presentations were also made to long serving Community Councillors who had retired, alongside the valued opportunity for residents to raise issues they have with the Council.

Dragonfly Hotspot. The designation of Llangors Lake as a Dragonfly Hotspot by the British Dragonfly Society, which recognises the sites value as a place to see and learn about dragonflies has been welcomed by the Council, local residents and businesses.

Invasive Species in and around Llangors Lake continues to be successfully monitored by the local group formed in March 2022. Thanks to the local working party under the leadership of NRW a watchful eye in a bid to eradicate plants such as Himalayan Balsam, is being kept.

2022 Dog Fouling Campaign. Another successful campaign commenced in April and concluded in October. Chalk spraying stenciled notices on pavements and roadsides around the villages and rural areas of the community has again proved very effective in getting the Bag it, Bin, it Take it home message across to those walking dogs in the area.

Council I.T. Following the grant funding from ARWAIN the Council laptop used by the Clerk was renewed and all software updated. The Clerk and all Councillors are provided with a council email address provided by an external provider. There have been some ongoing problems with the system and the contract for this provision has reached its three-year review. Quotes for provision of both the email system and the website have been obtained and the matter under review.

Multi location meeting enablement project. Digital equipment that had been purchased with assistance from ARWAIN, to enable multi location meetings, is now available for voluntary organisations in the community to use, subject to certain insurance conditions. A policy is now in place for this and the Council hope it will assist groups to meet more easily and maintain and encourage membership.

Glebe Community Field. The ongoing maintenance of the site and the annual safety inspection by a ROSPA approved inspector was carried out. The Council welcomed and are grateful to Brecknock Play Network who hosted a well-attended open play session in the field in May. Permission was granted to Llanfihangel & Llanywern Community Hall to hold an event to mark H.M. Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, a joyous celebration, well attended by residents.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. In September the World mourned the passing of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. The Council had plans in place code named nationally as Operation London Bridge, ready to act on behalf of the community. As Chair, a statement of proceedings was issued regarding the proceedings the Council were to take on behalf of the community during the mourning period. Flags were lowered to half mast, a book of condolence was set out for residents of the community to pay their respects, a black pop-up tribute was placed on the website and a service of prayer and reflection was held at St. Paulinus Church, Llangors on the eve of the State funeral. Planned meetings of the Council were postponed. The Clerk posted the Condolence Book with a covering letter to King Charles III who had subsequently sent an acknowledgement card in return, which can be read on the Council website. Many residents expressed appreciation for the work of the Council in carrying out these duties.

Highway issues continue to be reported to Powys County Council (PCC) and progress monitored. The condition of the roads on the common at Llangors Lake remains a concern. County Councillor Sian Cox is investigating the matter with landowners and the County Council, in order for a long-term solution to the matter.

A speed restriction request for Pennorth and Talyllyn had been assessed by PCC, concluding that in Pennorth there are not enough frontages on either road in Pennorth to warrant a reduction in the speed limit. Talyllyn has less properties with most if not all have frontages onto the CO100. However, there are no injury accidents recorded at this location and as such, when assessed and ranked against other proposed schemes within Powys it is unlikely to ever be high enough on the list to allow funds for a speed limit. Such situations remain frustrating for residents. The Council has temporarily acquired a dummy dressed like a police officer with a speed camera and has been piloting the effect of its presence in Pennorth.

Parking in Llanfihangel Talyllyn which was of concern to some residents has been dealt with and is being monitored by County Councillor Sian Cox, which the Community Council is very grateful to her for doing.

Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) The Council met with DPP neighborhood policing team in October to discuss issues that arise in the community, most notably as always, speeding vehicles. Training of new members of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team took place in October and it is anticipated that monitoring will take place in early spring at Llanfihangel Talyllyn.

Contact details for DPP officers are always on display in the Council noticeboards and residents are encouraged to engage directly with them if the need arises.

Litter continues to be collected by residents on an ad hoc voluntary basis throughout the community. The Council remain very grateful to them for their commitment to keeping the area tidy for the benefit of fellow residents and visitors.

Planning. The Council remains a statutory consultee to planning applications in the community, when placed with both Powys County Council (PCC) and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA). 2022 has seen site meetings resume, as Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. The Council has to be consulted, however whilst identified as being the level of government closest to the people, it is often disappointed when concerns are raised about planning matters and, in some cases, appear to be insufficiently considered. Better collaboration with PCC and BBNPA is always sought and County Councillor Sian Cox is aware of concerns.

Fibre Broadband. Following on from the work of Llangors Community Fibre Broadband team the majority of residents and businesses now have the opportunity to be connected to Superfast Fibre Broadband with either BT or Beacons Telecom. It's understood the work of the team has now been completed and the Community Council have thanked its members for their work on the project.

Llangors Youth & Community Centre's development of a playpark continues to be supported and a grant of £3000 towards the cost of play equipment at the site was provided in the autumn. This donation, amongst other sums raised by the Centre committee, assisted them with a successful application for National Lottery funding. The Council congratulates all involved with the project.

Llangors Church in Wales Primary School headteacher Harriet Wadsworth was welcomed into her new role at the school when attending the annual public meeting of the Council in May. A presentation about the school was given and everyone was welcomed to visit the school. The Council is grateful for the active role the school is taking in the community and how fortunate children are to have access to

such impressive educational facilities in our community. Some members of the community continue to request easier public access to the school facilities outside of school hours, particularly to enhance integration of younger members of the community, those who do not attend the school and those older than primary school age. Cllr Scully is now the appointed Council representative on the School Governing Body and will continue to represent those views of residents going forward.

Finance and Governance toolkit. Welsh Government issued a toolkit for Councils to work through and assess how well they are performing. The Clerk and Councillors met to work through the process in September and concluded that the Council was in very good shape. As a result of the process all Councillors and the Clerk have attended Health & Safety training and a policy has been introduced, some matters involving the Council as an employer are to be developed and plans for the future direction of the council were agreed including a Vision and Purpose statement which can now be read on the website.

A training plan for the next five years was drawn up by the Clerk, following a skills assessment process completed by all members, in line with new legislation. Councillors have commenced training in the required subjects with more training planned for the next financial year.

Llangors Closed public toilets. Progress with action to regenerate this redundant building was again chased by the Clerk and Powys County Council have now advertised the site for sale on the open market. It is hoped the visual aspect of the site will be improved soon.

Emergency response planning. An informative meeting with the PCC emergency response planning officer was held in January when County Cllr Sian Cox and members of Talgarth Town Council joined Council members to discuss civil contingency planning in communities in the event of unforeseen incidents. Topics covered included Environmental (Flooding), Human & Animal Health (Avian Flu), Major Incidents (Infrastructure Failure), Societal Risks (Public Disorder), Malicious Attacks (Terrorist, Cyber).

Planned actions for 2023 - 2024

The Council aims to continue to encourage youth membership, public engagement at meetings and represent the diverse views of residents on a wide variety of topics. Where possible deliver services to meet local needs and develop collaborative working with external bodies.

Based on the governance toolkit review, the forthcoming year 2023- 2024, will see the Council progress its agreed commitment to: -

- Set up a task and finish group to look into how promoting the Welsh language can be done and consider budgeting funds for that purpose in 2024-2025.
- Plan a full public consultation, potentially in various forms, (Drop-in sessions, website-based questionnaire etc.) to obtain the views of the public on all aspects of life in the community in order to inform the Council of the current needs of the public and future aspirations.
- As a corporate body employer, research all aspects of employment responsibilities and carry out annual staff appraisals, health and safety working practices and draft reports accordingly. Consider Clerk membership of a professional body such as Society of Local Council Clerks.
- Further develop Health & Safety policies.
- Ensure Councillors share the workload of the Council equally. Attend meetings and fulfil the role as community appointed representatives on outside bodies. Regularly circulating minutes of those external meetings and feedback at Council meetings, so that factual information is shared and assist with succession planning.
- Continue to follow and review the training plan.

- Councillors will engage in an array of community life and obtain feedback about services provided by the Council.
- Review whether the Council should have a business continuity plan and if so, ensure Councillors understand their role.
- Work with the St. Paulinus Church Council to develop areas of the churchyard to assist them with their Eco Church project and development of the Councils S6 Biodiversity policy.

Closing remarks

During my year as Chair I have been invited and able to attend some of the many events that took place in the villages around the lake. The first was a village party that was organised by the residents of Pennorth. The party was to celebrate H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Platinum Jubilee. Both Margaret and I spent an enjoyable afternoon with residents and friends. Later on in the weekend we were able to attend the fete in Llanfihangel Talylyn. Together with the Vice Chair I was able to meet with the head teacher and staff at Llangors School where we saw, at first hand, the hard work that takes place in educating the children. I am pleased that I have been able to spend some time with residents and as a council help resolve some of their issues.

As this report clearly demonstrates the work of your Community Council has continued throughout the year. It has been both an eventful and busy time for me and your councillors. I would like to pass on my personal thanks to the Vice Chair and Community Councillors for their assistance and importantly to our clerk who has provided me with valuable advice and support during my year.

Councillor David Jones

Chair to Llangors Community Council 2022- 2023.