

Annual Report for Llangors Community Council

Financial Year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024



Meetings

During the last financial year the Community Council has held:

- 10 Monthly and Bi-monthly meetings,
- 1 Annual General Meeting, and
- 11 Planning meetings.

Working party groups have also met on an array of topics. The Community Council has held its meetings in different public venues around the community to encourage public participation. 'Hybrid' provision has been available for meetings not just to comply with legislation but also to encourage participation.

Employees

The Council technically 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. However, after fifteen and a half years in post, Judith Phillips left the role at the end of April 2023. The Community Council recorded its deep thanks to Jude for her commitment, knowledge and enthusiasm over many years and then went through a long process of advertising for a replacement Clerk. After one very short lived appointment the Council was pleased to announce the appointment of Hannah Davies at the end of the financial year.

As a corporate body, all Councillors equally share responsibility for statutory employment duties. During the year Councillors picked up responsibilities for various aspects of life of the Council and the charring of the Council took place on a revolving basis.

Membership and appointments

The Council began the year with a vacancy in the Llangors Ward. This was filled by the appointment of Samantha Denne. Llangors Community Council thus 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 as follows:

Llangors Ward

Colin Preece
Alan Jevons
Geoff Beaven
Helen Quarrell
Samantha Denne

Llanfihangel Talyllyn Ward

Dave Jones
Clare Owen
Mike Scruby
David Scully
Simon Bailey

Councillors contact information is displayed on Council noticeboards around the community and on the website.

Councillors serve as a representative voice for the whole community on the following external organisations:

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| • Llangors CIW Primary School Governing Body | Cllr Scully |
| • Llangors Lake Advisory Group Committee | Cllr Scruby |
| • Discover Llangors & Bwlch Group | Cllr Quarrell |
| • 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 |
| • Llangors Lake Invasive Species Group | Cllr Beaven |
| • Cwmdu and District Joint Council Group | Cllr Jevons and Cllr Scully |
| • Talybont CC Joint Council Group | Cllr Jevons and Cllr Scully |
| • St. Paulinus Churchyard Burial Board | Cllr Preece and Cllr Beaven |

The Planning committee consists of all Councillors and operates under the same terms as the main Council, and there are five working parties:

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| • Glebe Community Field Working Party | Cllr Scruby, Cllr Owen, Cllr Scully, Cllr Jones |
| • St. Paulinus Churchyard Working Party | Cllr Jevons, Cllr Preece, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Quarrell |
| • IT Working Party | Cllr Preece, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Jones, Cllr Beaven |
| • Employment Working Party | Cllr Scully, Cllr Owen, Cllr Jevons, Cllr Scruby, Cllr Beaven |

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.

During a year where the Community Council was largely without the support of a Clerk designated responsibilities were allocated out amongst Councillors:

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| • Overall responsibility for Health & Safety | Chairperson |
| • Health & Safety Inspections of Assets:
Glebe Community Field | Cllr Scruby, with Cllr Scully taking
on responsibility from September to
December |
| Llangors Ward assets | Cllr Beaven |
| Llanfihangel Talyllyn Ward assets | Cllr Scully |
| Llangors bus shelter maintenance | Cllr Quarrell |
| • To sign Bank Reconciliations quarterly | Cllr Owen |
| • To attend PCC quarterly T&CC meetings | Chairperson |
| • Overall responsibility for Payroll | Chairperson |

Our County Councillor Sian Cox is a resident in the Llangors community and is a regular contributor to Community Council meetings.

Assets

- 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 Talyllyn Bus Shelter and Freehold land that it's built on
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- Various Lamps, Gates, Notice Boards, Seats/benches, Glebe Community Field play equipment
- Council laptop located with the Clerk
- Digital meeting equipment

St. Paulinus Churchyard

- 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.
- Works have been undertaken on trees and headstones 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 will need to be undertaken again in 2025.

Policies

The following policies are reviewed and updated where appropriate:

- The Council's Data Protection Regulations.
- 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
- Councillor Code of Conduct.
- The Community Council website - website, www.llangors.org.uk - is subject to several legislative requirements, such as accessibility. Agendas, minutes, notices and policies required to be on the website are online.

Finance Matters

The annual budget of the Council has been monitored by the members of the Council. This 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.

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

Opening Cash at Bank £10421
 Total Income received (including precept) £25007
 Total Expenditure (all costs) £14858
 Closing Cash at Bank £20570

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 any work they do in their roles as Councillors.

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.

Areas of Consideration

During 2023 / 2024 the Community Council have been involved with the following areas of community life:

- Community speed watch scheme, positioning of a manikin, representations about the appropriateness of the siting of 20 mph signs.
- Discussions with Cwmdu and District Community Council concerning Gilestone Farm proposals.
- Community use of Llangors Primary School facilities
- Highway issues which have continued to be reported to Powys County Council (PCC) and progress monitored. These have included highway maintenance including reporting of potholes.
- Issues at the Lake Common.
- Llanfihangel Talylyn Parking Issues.
- Adopting the work of a task and finish group that considered how to promote the Welsh language.
- Continued stencilling of pavements heightening awareness of dog fouling.
- A number of discussions with Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) to consider issues that arise in the community. These have included livestock worrying by dogs, break ins, theft and worrying distribution of propaganda material.
- Planning matters - The Council remains a statutory consultee for planning applications in the community, when placed with both Powys County Council (PCC) and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA). An application which attracted a lot of attention and discussion was the potential development of the Tan Troed site, where Councillors attended the public meetings held by the developer as part of its statutory pre application consultation . The Council then held its own public meeting to allow residents to express views as part of the Council's own consideration of the later full planning application.
- Continued support of Llangors Youth & Community Centre's development of a play park
- Development of the Community website.
- Maintenance of St. Paulinus churchyard and removal of dangerous Cypress trees.
- Hill fires on Mynydd Llangors.
- Community safety issues including cleaning of road signs.
- Maintenance and enhancement of the Glebe Field.
- Llangors Community Shop.

Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Under Section 6 of Environment (Wales) Act 2016, all public authorities in Wales, including Town and Community Councils, have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience of ecosystems. All Town and Community Councils have a responsibility to publish a report on what they have done to comply with the Section 6 Duty every 3 years. Although the next report is not due until the end of 2025, we are reporting that a biodiversity policy has been actively pursued - 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. The Council has also been investigating ways to improve biodiversity in the Glebe Community Field by changing mowing practices in some marginal areas

Looking Ahead the Council will:

- Continue to encourage public engagement at meetings and to represent the diverse views of residents (of all ages) on a wide variety of topics:
- Work collaboratively with external bodies to meet local needs and deliver services.
- 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.
- Develop employment responsibilities and carry out annual staff appraisals, health and safety working practices and draft reports accordingly.
- Ensure Councillors share the workload of the Council equally, attend meetings and fulfil the role as community appointed representatives.
- Where appointed on outside bodies ensure Councillors will regularly circulate minutes of these meetings and feedback at Council meetings, so that factual information is shared.
- Ensure Councillors engage in an array of community life and obtain feedback about services provided by the Council.

The Community Council seeks to work with all people to enable a safe, healthy and active community in which each person can feel they can contribute and are valued.