

# **Annual Report for Llangors Community Council**

**Financial Year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025**



## **Meetings**

During the last financial year the Community Council has held:

- 10 Monthly and Bi- monthly meetings,
- 1 Annual General Meeting,
- 1 Annual Public Meeting and
- 15 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.

## **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. Hannah Davies has just completed her first year in this role. The Community Council are extremely grateful for the speed, enthusiasm and competence in which Hannah has picked up this new work.

As a corporate body, all Councillors equally share responsibility for statutory employment duties, guided by the discussions of the Employment Working Group.

## Membership and appointments

The Council began the year with a full complement of councillors, 10 members serving across two wards, with 5 seats in each ward. Mike Scruby resigned from the Llanfihangel Talyllyn ward towards the start of the financial year and Samantha Evans (was Denne) resigned from the Llangors ward towards the start of 2025. The Council record their grateful thanks for the time and skills that each brought to the work and both have continued to support the work of the Council.

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

### **Llanfihangel Talyllyn Ward**

Dave Jones  
Clare Owen  
Simon Bailey  
David Scully

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:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Llangors CIW Primary School Governing Body                                     | Cllr Scully                 |
| • Llangors Lake Advisory Group Committee   | Cllr Scully                 |
| • 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 |

Whilst LCC does not operate a separate Planning Committee, any planning matters operate under the same terms as ordinary meetings and all Councillors take part. There are four working parties:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Glebe Community Field Working Party  | Cllr Owen, Cllr Scully, Cllr Jones                                  |
| • St. Paulinus Churchyard Working Party  | Cllr Jevons, Cllr Preece,<br>Cllr Beaven                            |
| • IT Working Party   | Cllr Preece, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Jones                                |
| • Employment Monitoring Group which may also be seen as the Employment Working party | Cllr Scully, Cllr Owen, Cllr Jevons,<br>Cllr Beaven, Cllr. Quarrell |

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 the year, and in conjunction with the Clerk, designated responsibilities were allocated out amongst Councillors:

• 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
- 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 continue to be 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 this coming year.

## **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 Policy
- Press & Media Policy
- Email address protocol
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Freedom of Information - Also referred to as a publication schedule
- Social Media Policy
- Payments to Councillors Policy
- Digital meeting equipment Policy
- Welsh Language Policy
- Asset Register
- Financial and Management Risk assessment
- Grants Policy
- Health & Safety Policy and Procedures
- Glebe Community Field Policy
- Noticeboards
- Insurance
- Councillor Code of Conduct.
- The Community Council website - website, [www.llangors.org.uk](http://www.llangors.org.uk) - is subject to several legislative requirements, including accessibility, agendas, minutes, notices and policies, which are required to be published on the website.

## **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 2025 is published on the Council website [www.llangors.org.uk](http://www.llangors.org.uk). The summary of accounts is:

- Opening Cash at Bank £20,570
- Total Income received (including precept) £25,308
- Total Expenditure (all costs) £22,374
- Closing Cash at Bank £23,504

The Independent Remuneration Panel mandates the Council to make payments to members as a contribution towards costs incurred. This is reflected in the Payments to Councillors Policy as adopted by the Council. 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 May the annual internal audit of the 2023/24 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 Council is very grateful.

## **Areas of Consideration**

During 2024/2025 the Community Council have been involved with the following diverse areas of community life:

- 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). Applications which attracted a lot of attention and discussion were the potential developments of the Royal Oak and the Tan Troed sites.
- Monitoring issues at Llangors CIW Primary School (based on published information).
- Development and accessibility of the website.
- Maintenance of St. Paulinus churchyard, in particular making good dangerous trees.
- Hill fires on Mynydd Llangors.
- Involvement with Llangors Lake Invasive Species Group.
- Maintenance and enhancement of the Glebe Field through the planting of wildflowers and hedging.
- Llangors Community Shop.
- Regular inspection (Health and Safety) of community assets.
- Lobbying on Highway issues.
- Discussion on speed limits.
- Increasing a presence on social media.
- Reported fox hunting on Llanywern Common.
- Grant requests, including the establishment of a new grant towards Christmas lights and equipment for villages.
- Refurbishment of the lights in the churchyard.

## **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. The next report is due at the end of 2025. In the meantime 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. Bird feeders on the triangle at Llangors were moved to the churchyard.
- The Council has also been investigating ways to improve biodiversity in the Glebe Community Field by changing mowing practices in some marginal areas. The neutral grassland on the Glebe has been well regarded in terms of the benefits for biodiversity.



**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 public consultation 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.**

