

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7:30pm. This meeting was held remotely via video conferencing.

**Present:** Cllr John Morris (Chairman)  
Cllr Caroline Fairclough  
Cllr Jeff Greenidge  
Cllr David Sharman  
Cllr Colin Alford  
Cllr Paul Morris  
Cllr Phill Bowker  
Cllr Elaine Lusted

**In attendance:** County Cllr John Morris and Maria James (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Dean Christy.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.
3. **Planning:**

**3.1 Applications:** to resolve responses to consultations received from BBNPA:

- (i) **21/20269/LBC:** Proposed conservatory replacing the existing demolished. **White Hall, Glangrwyney, NP8 1EW**

**RESOLVED to:** submit response of no objection

- (ii) **21/20270/FUL:** Replacement conservatory and garden store. **White Hall, Glangrwyney, NP8 1EW**

**RESOLVED to:** submit response of no objection

**3.2 Decisions:** no decisions received.

**4. County Council Report:** County Councillor Morris reported:

- Glangrwyney Bridge (Halfpenny Bridge): repair work has been delayed. Monmouthshire County Council hope to start work on the road by the end of October. This should take 7/8 weeks. Powys County Council’s contractors are unable to give a start date for the bridge repairs as they are struggling for resources and materials. The bridge may not be repaired until Christmas at the earliest. The road may be ready before the bridge, or vice versa.
- Llanbedr School: one of the other schools under threat of closure (Dolau) is due to go to the Scrutiny Committee next week. The Chair of Scrutiny has reported serious concerns about the process. If that process is found to be negligent the process for the other schools may also be negligent. It is unlikely Llanbedr School will go before the Cabinet this month or next as it has to go to the Scrutiny Committee first.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

- Hedges: overgrown hedges around the Bont and Sunnybank have been reported to highways. Cllr J Morris said they had not been cut and referred to an incident when these hedges would have obstructed access if the emergency services had been required. Cty Cllr Morris will report this again.
- Rave in Grwyne Fawr: the police were proactive in controlling the rave.

*Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting at 19:43*

**5. Minutes:** minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 meeting [Pages 1377-1380] were approved as a true record subject to adding Cllr Christy's name to Item 19. (Proposed Cllr Sharman; Seconded Cllr Alford).

**6. Clerk's Report: information from the minutes**

- Item 8 – the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is recommending councils are grouped by number of electorate rather than precept and the communication allowance for councils the size of the Vale of Grwyney is optional.
- Item 11 - Llanbedr Hall Association has been referred to the company which supplied noticeboards for Llangenny and Glangrwyney. The cost of a replacement board is circa £500-£1,000 dependent upon size/type required.
- Item 12 - Crickhowell Town Council is hosting the next Five Councils Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> September in the Clarence Hall. Cllrs J Morris and Sharman will attend.

**7. Llangenny Water Fountain: to receive progress report.**

Another contractor has been invited to quote for the restoration works. This should be received later this week. Enquires with the insurance company regarding the issue raised concerning drainage confirm there is no liability.

**8. Llanbedr Nature Garden: to discuss and agree maintenance requirements**

Cllr Fairclough explained the ecologist was unable to attend the meeting with Cllrs J Morris, Sharman and the Clerk. She will re-schedule.

In accordance with the maintenance schedule the council strimmed parts of the garden earlier this year, but subsequently received a complaint over the timing due to the presence of hedgehogs and nesting birds.

It was suggested the council meet with Wales & West Housing Association to discuss how best to meet the requirements of the maintenance schedule whilst protecting wildlife. It was suggested 50% of the land is left uncultivated for wildlife with the remainder made accessible for visitors to enjoy, possibly inviting the community to get involved with its development.

Cllr Sharman proposed the council meet with Wales & West Housing Association to discuss maintenance. This was seconded Cllr Lusted and duly agreed.

*Signed:.....*  
*Chairman*

**RESOLVED to:** arrange a meeting with Wales & West Housing Association.

**9. Glastir Woodland Creation Plan – Blaen Nant, Patrishow: to discuss and agree response to consultation.**

Whilst supportive of planting woodland members were unclear from the maps provided whether the proposed planting borders the Black Mountains. If the fields border the hill planting will cause difficulties for graziers gathering the hill as the hill fence/wall is reported to be in poor condition. If the land does border common land it was suggested a site meeting is requested.

It was agreed to thank the agent for giving the council opportunity to comment and ask for a larger scale map.

**RESOLVED to:** ask for a larger scale map to establish where the fields are located.

**10. Speeding in Glangrwyney: to discuss ways of preventing traffic speeding through the village**

The issue of speeding within the village has been an ongoing problem for many years. A resident involved with the Community Speed Watch scheme has asked if a speed activated sign could be purchased. It was recalled such requests have been refused in the past.

Following discussion it was agreed to write again asking if a speed activated sign could be put in Glangrwyney and invite PCSO Billy Dunne to attend the next council meeting.

**RESOLVED to:** write to the Mid & North Wales Trunk Road Agency as outlined

**11. Summer of Fun Event: to receive progress report**

The deadline for the event has been extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> September. The clerk has emailed Llanbedr School inviting it to participate.

**12. Returning to Physical/Hybrid Meetings: to discuss whether to return to physical meetings and agree purchase of equipment required to comply with Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**

Before returning to face to face meetings the council must have the technology in place to enable people to join remotely. Currently this means meeting in Glangrwyney Hall as this is the only hall with Wi-Fi access. It may also involve the purchase of equipment necessary to hold hybrid meetings (ie multi-directional microphone/speaker/web cam).

Following discussion on the pros and cons of returning to face to face meetings a vote was called in which 5 members voted to continue meeting via Zoom, 3 voted to return to physical meetings. It was therefore agreed to continue meeting via Zoom until Spring 2022. Cllr Bowker reported Glangrwyney Hall is currently looking into what equipment is required for hall users wishing to hold hybrid meetings.

**RESOLVED to:** continue meeting via Zoom until Spring 2022.

*Signed:*.....

*Chairman*

**13. Retrospective Planning: to receive up-date**

The Clerk has drafted a letter as requested although has not circulated it. This will be circulated for approval/amendment.

**14. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda**

- Donations
- Information Board for Tin Town
- Policing/Up-date
- Llanfoist Recycling Depot - can Powys residents use Llanfoist

**15. Finance:**

15.1 The following items were approved for payment (Proposed; Cllr Fairclough; Seconded Cllr Sharman) and duly agreed.

Staff (Salary £268:07/Expenses £25/Travel £6.30)	-	£299.37
HMRC (Tax)	-	£ 23.60
G M James (Zoom)	-	£ 14.39

15.2 The Finance Report was received and noted.

**16. Highways:** it was reported:

Llangenny: the road by Vicarage Pitch is bad, potholes by Druids Alter have returned, repairs to Llangenny bridge have not been finished.  
Crickhowell: a trader is operating out of lay-by in Crickhowell – raise with PCSO Dunne Patrishow; hedges to church from Five Ways are overgrown (via Gelliwelltog and Celyn Farm) and need cutting. Roads are in bad repair and need re-surfacing.  
Grwyne Fawr: whilst some potholes were filled more require repair.  
Llanbedr: Green Cottage – hedge need cutting

**17. Reports on Meetings Attended:**

Cllr J Morris attended the Co-op meeting.

**18. Correspondence** as itemised in Appendix A was received. It was agreed to:

- Item 3 - circulate link
- Item 19 - put on next agenda
- Item 23 - put on next agenda
- Item 27 - put on future agenda

**19. Correspondence** as itemised in Appendix B was received and discussed as appropriate.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:18 pm

Signed:.....  
Chairman