

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 15th November 2021 at 7:44pm. This meeting was held remotely via video conferencing.

Prior to the start of the meeting a presentation was received on the removal of Himalayan Balsam.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Caroline Fairclough
Cllr David Sharman
Cllr Paul Morris
Cllr Phill Bowker
Cllr Elaine Lusted
Cllr Dean Christy
Cllr Colin Alford

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Jeff Greenidge

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Fairclough expressed a personal interest in Item 3.1(i) (friend of applicant).

3. Planning:

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

- (i) **21/20472/FUL:** Erection of agricultural barn for storage of machinery and equipment.
Cwm Banw Fields, Llanbedr NP8 1SY

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection.

3.2 Decisions: none received.

4. County Council Report: County Councillor Morris reported:

- Llanbedr School: Powys County Council (PCC) has approved the closure of Llanbedr School despite not undertaking an education review and there being very little evidence to support the school's closure. It is highly likely this will now proceed to a judicial review.

The high school and other primary schools are concerned over the way PCC is approaching the delivery of education. There are rumours it plans to turn the high school site into an all through school of 750/800 pupils and restrict access from adjoining areas (the high school alone currently has some 1,000 pupils). Support will be required from the whole community within the next months to challenge PCC and the direction of education.

- Llanfoist Waste Centre – there is no change to the current arrangement. If people in Powys wish to use this depot they can provided they pay the commercial rate. There is no financial agreement between Monmouthshire and Powys to facilitate free access to the depot.

Signed:.....
Chairman

- Flooding – PCC is currently unblocking drains in the area. Cty Cllr Morris has taken delivery of sandbags for emergency use and intends speaking to Flood Wardens to determine where they should be distributed.

The order of the agenda was amended – Item 8 (i) was discussed next.

8. Llanbedr School: (i) to discuss Powys County Council’s Consultation Report and (ii) consider request by Dolau School to object to its closure

Cllr Lusted has met with the solicitor and barrister acting for Llanbedr School. The school has two options. It can either proceed to a judicial review or, as it is a voluntary aided faith school, get Welsh Ministers to call it in, although this could delay the process. Whilst the legal team are confident legal arguments will prove successful in a judicial review they are currently considering how best to proceed. A definitive decision will be taken in the next few days.

When the statutory notice is issued there will be a 28 day objection period. At this stage the community council can provide a statement to demonstrate how the school’s closure will affect the community. It was agreed to hold a meeting following publication of this notice.

Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting at 20:02

5. Minutes: minutes of the 18th October 2021 meeting [Pages 1385-1389] were approved as a true record (Proposed Cllr Fairclough; Seconded Cllr Sharman).

6. Clerk’s Report: information from the minutes

- Broadband – responses have been circulated although these relate to Llangenny. The Clerk will seek information regarding Glangrwyney and Grwyne Fawr/Partrishow. James Evans MS has confirmed he is looking into this.
- PCSO Billy Dunne is available to attend the December meeting.

7. Llangenny Water Fountain: to receive up-date

Welsh Water has provided an up-dated quotation. The cost for connecting to mains water has increased to £2,364.20. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Sharman regarding the grant application.

The order of the agenda had been amended – Item 8 (i) was discussed previously

8. Llanbedr School: (i) to discuss Powys County Council’s Consultation Report and (ii) consider request by Dolau School to object to its closure

Cllr Lusted reported Dolau School has been very supportive Llanbedr School with both schools sharing information over the last few months. It was agreed to submit a letter of support for rural schools. Cllr Lusted to draft.

RESOLVED to: write in support of Dolau School and object to the closure of small rural schools.

Signed:.....
Chairman

9. Llanbedr Nature Garden: to receive up-date and agree maintenance

Cllr Morris thanked Cllr Fairclough for organising the meeting with a former BBNPA warden, who agreed with the council's proposals for the ground, ie the grass should be cut now and the woodchip path renewed. It was suggested a larger hibernation space is provided for hedgehogs and wildlife. A meeting has been arranged for Thursday, 18th November with Wales & West Housing Association to discuss maintenance.

10. Speeding in Glangrwyney: to discuss ways of reducing speed

The request for electronic speed signs and a reduction in speed limit to 50mph has been passed to Welsh Government for response. Members questioned why Welsh Government is unwilling to provide a camera in Glangrwyney when other trunk roads have such signage? It was agreed to discuss this further with PCSO Dunne when he attends the December meeting.

11. Welsh Government Consultation: Local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation: to agree response as circulated

Cllr Fairclough prepared a draft response for consideration, referring members to a newspaper article which highlighted how second homes and holiday lets are pricing local people out of the housing market, and questioned why such businesses are subject to small business rate relief. Following discussion it was agreed Cllr Fairclough will prepare a final draft for approval prior to submission.

12. Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill: to consider support

Cllr Fairclough proposed the council resolve to support this bill. This was seconded by Cllr Bowker. The clerk to draft a response.

RESOLVED to: support the bill.

13. Military Training in The Vale of Grwyney: to receive and decide how to progress complaints regarding military exercises in Grwyne Fawr.

The military exercises undertaken in Grwyne Fawr have culminated in several complaints of speed and noise disturbance from residents. Following discussion it was agreed to write to the organisers of the Cambrian Challenge and Operation Longreach (Sandhurst) to request notice of future training exercises and to ask them to be considerate of residents, by reducing both speed and noise when undertaking manoeuvres in the valley.

RESOLVED to: write to the military as outlined

14. Retrospective Planning: to receive up-date

The letter as agreed has been circulated. The clerk is currently waiting to hear whether the other councils wish to add their support.

Signed:.....

Chairman

15. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda

- Police – up-date/speeding
- Himalayan Balsam – discuss support
- Llanbedr School – proposed closure

16. Finance:

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

Staff (Salary £268:27/Expenses £25/Travel £6.30)	-	£299.57
HMRC	-	£ 23.40
G M James – reimbursement – Zoom	-	£ 14.39

Donations:

Partrishow Churchyard Fund	-	£100.00
Llanbedr Churchyard Fund	-	£100.00
Llangenny Churchyard Fund	-	£100.00
Wales Air Ambulance	-	£100.00
Glangrwyney Village Hall	-	£100.00
Llanbedr Hall Association	-	£100.00
Llangenny School Hall	-	£100.00
Friends of Llangenny Playground (St Cenau's)	-	£ 72.00

16.2 The Finance Report was received and noted.

17. Highways:

- Partrishow: hedge towards Partrishow Church from Celyn has been cut. Roads towards Partrishow Church are rough – particularly dangerous in icy conditions – road serves health workers
- Llangenny: road between Millbrook Lane and Penwyrlodd Lane on left hand side is sinking - bank is giving way – needs investigating
- Green Cotttage, Llanbedr – hedges not cut

18. Reports on Meetings Attended:

- Cllr Sharman laid the wreath in Llangenny
- Cllr J Morris laid the wreath in Crickhowell
- Cllr P Morris attended the Remembrance Service.

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

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

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.10 pm

Signed:.....
Chairman