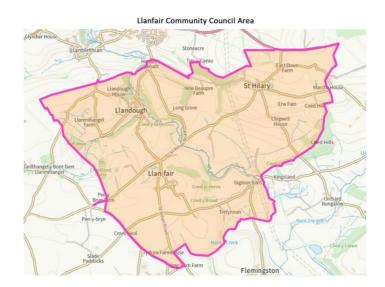
LLANFAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Llanfair Community Council serves the three villages of Llandough, St Hilary and St Mary Church including The Herberts in the rural Vale of Glamorgan. Community Council information including Minutes and Agendas of Meetings can be found on the website at: <u>www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.gov.uk</u>



Town and Community Councils Elections are held every five years with the next Election taking place on Thursday 5th May 2022.

The Community Council meets once a month, usually on the first Thursday. Prior to the Pandemic, the Community Council met at St Hilary Village Hall and Llanfair Primary School on an alternative basis. Since March 2020, the Community Council has met 'virtually' via Zoom.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires that Community Councils must make and publish arrangements for its meetings to ensure that meetings can take place in a manner which enables people who are not in the same place to meet. Under the arrangements, councils need to take reasonable steps to allow meetings to be held from multiple locations. If the arrangements are revised or replaced the new arrangements must also be published. The minimum requirement is that members are able to hear and be heard by others. Examples of this could include:

- All participants are in the same physical location;
- All participants are in the same physical location except one individual who joins from another location e.g. by video or telephone conference;
- Roughly equal number of councils are present in a physical space and joining through remote means;

• Wholly through remote means where no physical arrangements have been made. Whilst physical meetings in the same location are allowable under the 2021 Act, councils must note that the 2021 Act requires that participants (i.e. council members, members of the public and press) are able to join meetings remotely – even if physical meetings are the preferred mode. Access to join a meeting remotely can be arranged through contacting the Clerk who can provide the information required. There are eight Councillors with five representing Llanfair Ward (covering St Mary Church, Llandough and the Herberts) and three representing St Hilary Ward. The administration of the Community Council is carried out by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, the only paid officer of the Council.

Members	Community Council Ward
Cllr Steph Bonnar	Llanfair
Cllr David Hawkins	St Hilary
Cllr Julian Hitchcock	Llanfair
Cllr Mary Llewellyn	St Hilary
Cllr Heather Shaw	St Hilary
Cllr Ray Simkiss	Llanfair
Cllr Geoff Simpson	Llanfair
Cllr Jim Teague	Llanfair



The Members of the Community Council are summoned to attend meetings via the agenda which is issued by the Clerk at least three clear days before the day of the meeting. The agenda can be viewed either on the Community Council's website or on one of the Community Council's Notice Boards.

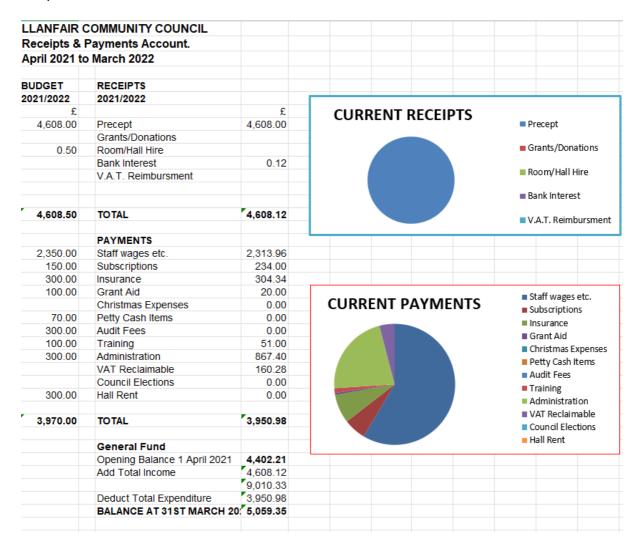
Members' Register of Attendance at Meetings of the Community Council.

Members	Apr '21	May '21	June '21	July '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22	Feb '22	Mar '22
Cllr S Bonnar											
Cllr D Hawkins								X			X
Cllr J Hitchcock			X								
Cllr M Llewellyn					X			X			
Cllr H Shaw	X			X							
Cllr R Simkiss				X						X	
Cllr G Simpson											X
Cllr J Teague			X								X

 $\sqrt{1}$ Present. X Absent.

Council Finance.

The Community Council's income is provided by a precept which is a part of the Council Tax, paid by each household and collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The precept is paid to the Community Council in three parts during the months of April, August and December. The expenses of the Community Council include the Clerk's salary; insurance, subscription to One Voice Wales and other items. The breakdown of the expenditure is represented by the pie chart below:



Annual Audits.

Town and Community Councils are audited twice a year. The first audit is an Internal Audit carried out by an independent person appointed by the Council. The Internal Auditor does a thorough check of the Council's books and accounting procedures and produces a report. Following the Internal Audit, an external audit is carried out by the Wales Audit Office who select a particular item to specifically inspect as well as other checks on the Council's procedures. The 'Annual Return' containing the Council's accounting figures and 'Annual Governance' statement with the reports from the auditors are available to view on the Council's website.

Planning Applications.

One of the objectives of the Community Council is to make observations on planning applications, details of which are provided by the Planning Department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Planning applications which the Community Council has considered in the past twelve months are listed in the following table. Comments made by the Community Council can be viewed in the Meeting Minutes:

Application No.	Location	Community Council	Vale Council Decision			
		Observation				
2021/00258/FUL	3 Church Cres, St Hilary	No objection	Approved			
2020/01376/FUL	Cildarn, St Athan Road,	No objection	Approved			
	St Mary Church					
2021/00412/FUL	Eastdown Farm Cottage,	No objection	Withdrawn			
	St Hilary					
2021/00488/FUL	Saers Court, St Mary Church	No objection	Approved			
2021/00495/RG3	Llanfair Primary School, St Mary	No objection	Approved			
	Church					
2021/00774/FUL	St Hilary Village Hall	Objection	Approved			
2021/00880/FUL	Gigman Mill Junction, St Athan	No objection	Outstanding			
	Rd to Junction Tre Aubrey via					
	Gigman Bridge, St Mary Church					
2021/01000/FUL	Huntsman Cottage, Llandough	Objection	Approved			
2021/01033/FUL	Land at Marche House,	Objection	Approved			
	Llantrithyd Road, St Hilary					
2021/01128/FUL	Eastdown Farm Cottage,	No objection	Approved			
	St Hilary					
2021/01263/FUL	Old Rectory, Llandough	No objection	Outstanding			
2021/01640/FUL	Morawelon, St Hilary	No objection	Approved			
2021/01647/FUL	Woodlands Cottage, Llandough	No objection	Outstanding			
2021/01652/FUL	Hillside, St Mary Church	No objection	Approved			
2021/01775/FUL	The Extension, Lower Beaupre	No objection	Approved			
	House, St Hilary					
2022/00006/FUL	Whips Bungalow, Llandough	No objection	Outstanding			
2021/01809/FUL	Barn (to the north of Howe Mill	Objection	Outstanding			
	Farm), St Athan Rd, St Mary					
	Church					
2022/00142/FUL	Robin Hill, St Hilary	No objection	Outstanding			

Council Business.

- A Representative of South Wales Police attends most meetings and gives an update on incidents of crime in the area since the previous meeting. This can be a very useful source of information which can be shared with residents to raise awareness of possible concerns and warnings of current crime being carried out in the local area.
- Members had discussed seeking volunteers to become trained in 'Community Speedwatch', an initiative by South Wales Police to record Motorists driving over the legal speed limit. Those motorists exceeding the speed limit are recorded and a warning letter is sent to the driver. Despite initial interest, insufficient volunteers could be recruited for training in the practice of 'Speedwatch'.
- During the year it became apparent that Council business was being carried out on the Clerk's personal computer. This is bad practice and the Community Council resolved to purchase its own laptop for the use of the Clerk whilst working on all Council business including updating the website and issuing e-mails.
- The Community Council has the power to give small grants to Community Groups carrying out work/activities within the Community Council's own area. An application form and information sheet were drawn up and can be accessed from the website or through contacting the Clerk.
- For some time, the Community Council has been concerned about the issue of 'empty properties' in the area. The matter was discussed with the Vale of Glamorgan Council at some length and it would seem that there is limited action

that can be taken. The Community Council would urge anyone aware of 'empty properties' to report any concerns to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

- For a number of years there has been serious concerns for residents in St Hilary of HGV's getting 'stuck' in the village causing damage to property and blocking the highway for many hours. The Community Council wrote to Alun Cairns MP; the five Members of the Senedd; the three Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and the Highways Department to detail the problems and asking for serious consideration to find a solution. A Meeting took place with Andrew R T Davies MS; Joel James MS; a representative of the Village Church, a resident who had suffered damage to her property and some of the Community Councillors. Mr Davies MS and Mr James MS wrote a joint letter to the Highways Department and the conclusion was that the current signage is sufficient but asked for problems and details of vehicles getting stuck to be recorded and forwarded to the Highways Department to build a record of incidents.
- Councillor Bonnar realised that Llandough did not have a defibrillator whilst St Hilary and St Mary Church both had defibs available to the Community. The Community Council resolved that every village should have one. A group of residents in Llandough successfully carried out some fund-raising exercises. The Community Council suggested that the group take advantage of an initiative by the Welsh Government to provide some funding for the provision of defibrillators and this they also did successfully. A great achievement by Llandough Residents.

Other Information.

- Representatives of the Community Council sit on a number of 'outside bodies'. One Member of the Council attends meetings of the Local Committee of One Voice Wales and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (currently Councillor Geoff Simpson); and a Representative of the Council attends Community Liaison Meetings (currently Councillor Steph Bonnar) hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- Llanfair Primary School is based within the Community Council's area and a number of Councillors, past and present, have sat as Governors on the Governing Body. *Currently Councillor Llewellyn is a Governor at the School.*

Annual Report of Llanfair Community Council completed 12th April 2022.

Website address: <u>www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.qov.uk</u> Clerk to the Council: Jackie Griffin. To contact the Clerk email <u>clerk@llanfaircommunitycouncil.qov.uk</u>