

LLANFAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Council Meeting held at
Llanfair Primary School
On Thursday, 6th February 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairperson: Steph Bonnar.
Councillors : Julian Hitchcock, Mary Llewellyn, Tim McIlveen, Ray Simkiss and Shaun Trigg.

In Attendance: Jackie Griffin, Clerk.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence.
Councillors Liz Loch and Jim Teague.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest.
None.

Item 3: Community Police Matters.
28/01/2025 (St Hilary)
Report of a Road Traffic Collision.
Outcome: Reporting person did not obtain the details or registration of the car that is alleged to have caused the Road Traffic Collision. Reporting person is going through his insurance.

Item 4: To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting held 9th January 2025.
Proposed by Councillor Bonnar, seconded by Councillor Llewellyn and **resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th January 2025 be approved. Councillor Bonnar signed the Minutes.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Minutes, which are not included in this Agenda.
5.1 Councillor Bonnar advised that she had reported a highways issue to the Vale of Glamorgan Council and had advised the Clerk. The road sign at the bottom of 'Pig Lane' is hanging off its post after being damaged by recent hedge cutting. This is close to the junction where there is also no road markings.

Item 6: Chairperson's Report.
No items to report.

Item 7: Vale of Glamorgan Councillor's Report.
Councillors expressed their concern that no Vale of Glamorgan Councillors have attended for some time.

The Clerk circulated a very informative newsletter which had been produced by the two Vale Councillors covering the St Brides Ward. The newsletter is available at the end of these minutes.

Item 8: Clerk's Report

8.1 Finances.

Bank balance was noted at **£5,601.95** (Current Account £2,673.38 and Business Reserve Account £2,928.57).

Payments made since 9th January 2025 are:

Clerk's Salary (January) - £191.40;
HMRC Tax (January) - £47.80;
Wales Air Ambulance – (donation/grant aid) - £50.

Payments due to be made are:

Clerk's Salary (February) - £191.40;
HMRC Tax (February) - £47.80;
HCI Data Ltd (disc space utilised by e-mail/website) - £24.00;
J Griffin (Reimbursement of Zoom Fees for September to December 2024) - £62.36;
J Griffin (Reimbursement of payment for The Poppy Appeal) - £20.
J Griffin (Backpay from April 2024 to January 2024 *as agreed at January meeting minutes item 10*) - £100.80.

Proposed by Councillor Bonnar, seconded by Councillor Llewellyn and **resolved** that all payments due be made.

Receipts:

None.

8.2 A 'Thank you' letter was received from Wales Air Ambulance for the grant awarded by the Community Council.

Item 9: To update on incidents of HGV issues in St Hilary Village.

No incidents to report in St Hilary but concern was expressed at the number of vehicles over 7.5 tons still travelling over the river bridge at Howe Mill.

Item 10: To discuss appointment of Internal Auditor for 2024/2025.

The Clerk advised that Mrs Helen Embling has agreed to carry out the internal audit for the Community Council again this year.

Resolved to appoint Mrs Embling as Internal Audit for the year 2024/2025.

Item 11: To remind Councillors to claim for Allowances for year 2024/2025.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the agreement to make a payment of £52 to Councillors for printing costs should they wish to claim. Councillors to e-mail the Clerk prior to the next meeting advising if they wish to do so.

Item 12: Reports of Representatives.

12.1

Councillor Bonnar gave apologies for not being able to attend the Community Liaison meeting due to a clash with another meeting. The Clerk attended and read the following report: Police Crime Figures given by Inspector Gareth Childs.

- Two sites are currently being monitored for incidents – East Camp, St Athan and Eagleswell, Bonvilston. There have been limited incidents at both sites with some low-level protests and some drone activity at St Athan but there has been no escalation.

- 6th February – a meeting to be held in St Athan with the Military, Police and public in attendance to discuss the presence of Nationals from Afghanistan at East Camp into the summer. Social media is being monitored for an escalation of issues but it is low at the moment.

Inspector Childs reported on two serious incidents:

- 24th November – in Barry, a serious assault of 12 year old girl by 13 and 15 year persons who have been taken into custody, remanded and on bail under strong conditions.

This has resulted in the Police being very present in schools carrying out supportive work with staff and students.

- 14th December – in Barry, crime of ‘GBH’ drug related/feud. Machete involved resulting in serious injuries. Offender charged in custody. Incident caught on CCTV and CID involvement.

Inspector Childs reported some positive news:

- Report of theft of cooking oil at ‘The Fox’ (pub owned by Gavin Henson in St Brides). Involvement of a car from the London area. Vehicle seen on M4 travelling to The Fox. Cooking oil being sold on-line.
- Report given to Penarth Town Council previously – of a quantity of cocaine recovered on 7th January which the offender had hidden in a drain pipe. Offender caught and pleaded guilty.
- Auto crime – 2 individuals caught, Stephen Dutton and Daniel Franklin, now in prison, following a recent spike of car crime in the Barry area. Suspected of other crimes.
- Police have been supporting farmers through a special operation to combat ‘lamping’ being carried out by the travelling community. The operation has resulted in 20 vehicles being seized and the operation will continue to run until mid-February.

Councillors asked some questions including:

- Concern over ‘egging’ of buildings in Holton Road, Barry by youngsters.
- Noisy vehicles speeding on the Northern Access Road.
- Lack of visibility of PCSO’s in the area and request for more visits.
- Request for presence of PCSO’s at Council meetings.
- Concern over vehicle parking on footway in St Nicholas at school opening/closing times. A Highway issue and suggested work with the school to discourage parents from parking inconsiderately/illegally.
- Concern raised over a couple of collisions at Sycamore Cross possibly caused by confusion over the filter on the traffic lights. Matter for the Road Traffic Unit to raise with Highways Department.
- Inspector Childs referred to recent incidents of vehicle arson. Currently a live investigation by CID, very concerning due to danger to the public and spreading to other property.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service – Martin O’Keefe, Operations Group Manager for Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan.

- 259 Fire related incidents, 8% increase over the same period last year.

- 106 non-domestic accidental fires, grass fires - decrease on previous period of 17% possibly due to very wet summer
- 36 accidents in domestic setting – 14% decrease – of which 59% mainly in kitchen via cooking – figures below UK average.
- Fires caused by lithium batteries reduced from 15 in the previous year, have been reduced to 9.
- Smoke alarms advise given to homes.
- Smoke alarms have resulted in 89% of fires being contained in one room.
- 153 Deliberate fires which have increased by 37% - cars and refuse being set light; fire service working with youths in schools and youth intervention partnerships to reduce this and fire service working with Local Authority to get flytipping waste removed quickly to reduce fire risk.
- Largest concern at the moment is vehicle arson – December there were 4 incidents – Fire Service working with Police and Community in those areas and a target hardening.
- Road Traffic Collisions – 76 in the current financial year. Working with SWP to encourage speed reduction and wearing of seat belts.
- Water rescues – upgraded response with a new faster and more powerful boat at Cardiff Bay and River Taff.
- Increase in storms and resultant flooding up by 60% in quarter 3 – monitoring for future risk.
- Medical response – trauma care increase of 25% - often assisting ambulance colleagues.
- Increase in being called out for bariatric care.
- False alarms 31% all incidents. Service changed to only attend residential homes, education premises, shelter housing and heritage site.
- Community Safety – 1056 house safety checks done in the Vale. Attended 63 schools – awareness of fire, road and water safety.
- In Cowbridge – spare land at the Fire Station, a community sensory garden being developed.
- A Councillor queried the efficiency of fire hydrants – advised that the engines carry 1700 litres of water and hydrants are checked regularly.

Resolved to appoint Councillor Hadley of Colwinston Community Council to represent Town and Community Councils on the Public Services Board for the next two years and furthermore, the position should be alternated between a Councillor from a Town Council and one from a Community Council in the Vale of Glamorgan.

12.2

Councillor Loch had attended the meeting of the Local Committee of One Voice Wales but was unable to attend this meeting. The Clerk had attended and gave the following report to Council:

At the start of the meeting there was a presentation by Colleen Cluett, Sustainable Development Advisor at the Future Generation Commissioner's Office. The slides from the presentation will be forwarded in due course. They are celebrated the 10th Anniversary off the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act on 29th April 2025.

The business of the meeting contained the following:

- Charters, devolution of services and asset transfers. The debate was very 'Cardiff based'. A local Town Council reported that they have 2 asset

transfers currently going through. They are concerned that insufficient money is being provided by BCBC (Bridgend County Borough Council) to support the transfer especially with the buildings being in a 'state'. A further Town Council reported that they are in a similar position and are being asked to take on more services including refuse collection. A Community Council reported that they have been in conversation with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to take on a sports field and pavilion but it has been very difficult. It was suggested that the matter is put forward to the NEC (National Executive Committee) for discussion.

- A representative is sought for the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Group – this is to be confirmed.
- An update from the Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board was given.
- There is a Senedd Inquiry into the Role, Governance and Accountability of Town and Community Councils. It was felt that there is a lack of understanding of the sector by the Welsh Government. There is a link to a Committee meeting regarding this which I can provide. The first part of the discussion includes the Public Services Ombudsman answering questions put by the Committee.
- Councillors Training Programme – a reminder given that there is a bursary available covering 50% of the cost if the course is presented by One Voice Wales.
- Next meeting 14th April 2025 in person.

Item 13: Correspondence and Publications which do not necessarily require discussion. i.e for noting only – *previously sent out by e-mail.*

- 13.1 OVW (One Voice Wales) – Training Dates for January to March 2025.
- 13.2 VGC (Vale of Glamorgan Council) – Business Support Newsletter 24th January 2025.
- 13.3 OVW – National Awards – Presentation 30th April 2025.
- 13.4 Cardiff & Vale University Health Board - Engagement Period regarding Primary Care Mental Health Liaison Service.
- 13.5 20's Plenty for Us CIC – Update.
- 13.6 Royal British Legion – Are you ready for VE Day 80?
- 13.7 Glamorgan Voluntary Services – 20.1.2025.
- 13.8 VGC – Reshaping – Review of Street Cleansing Service.
- 13.9 OVW – Representative at the AGM – 11th March 2025.
- 13.10 Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2025.

All items were forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting and were noted.

Item 14: Correspondence from Residents.

No items.

Item 15: Planning Applications.

15.1 Planning Application No. 2025/00008/FUL
Location: 3 Cwrt Llanfair, St Mary Church
Proposal: New single storey extension to garden elevation to provide increased family kitchen/dining area plus new canopy porch to main entrance.

No objection.

15.2 Planning Application No. 2024/01229/FUL
Location: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 Thaw Close, St Mary Church
Proposal: Installing mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

No objection.

Item 16: Place, Date and Time of Next Meeting
Thursday, 6th March 2025, 7.00pm at St Hilary Village Hall.

..... **Chairman.**

Date: 6th March 2025.

St Bride's Major Ward Newsletter 2024, Newyddion gan eich Cynghorwyr Sir



We are mid-way through our term as your county councillors here in the St Bride's Major ward. So we thought it was right that we should take the time to communicate with you all directly through this Newsletter. When we were working to get elected back in 2022, we knocked on almost every door and talked to as many of you as we could. Since then we have done our best to get things done, to make our lives better here in the westernmost part of the Vale of Glamorgan. We haven't achieved everything we set out to do and there is a lot more to be getting on with, but keeping in touch is important regardless. We hope you appreciate this communication.

Free Bus Travel | Teithio ar y Bws

There are so many good reasons to use public transport. We can all reduce the carbon costs of travelling around by using the bus instead of driving - particularly for short, local trips. We now have a new operator, First Cymru, running our 303 service, linking Ewenny, Ogmore, Ogmore-by-Sea, Southerndown, St Bride's, Wick, Monkash, Marcross and St Donat's.

This service is subsidised by the Welsh Government and by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and is considered an essential service. We were determined to keep the service when budgetary cuts were looming, so campaigned hard for it.



We requested the free travel offer during the summer holidays which was a great success and it has hopefully helped to convince more people to use the bus long-term. And after a long break since Covid, we asked for the G1 Greenlinks community transport service to be started up again, linking Ewenny and Corntown to Bridgend and Cowbridge. Hopefully this will be running three days a week in the New Year.



The cheapest way to travel on First Cymru services like ours is by using your bank card or phone to pay. And you get automatic discounts if you're a frequent traveller!

Contact Us | Cysylltwch â ni



Carys Stallard
cstallard@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
07873 496504
Facebook: St Bride's Major Labour



Jo Protheroe
jprotheroe@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
07742 917823
Facebook: St Bride's Major Labour

Regular Surgeries | Ar gael i Siarad

We want to make sure that it is easy for our residents to get in touch about any issues, big or small. But we also make ourselves available for face-to-face chats on a regular basis.

On every first Saturday of the month, we are to be found in the Church Hall in St Bride's Major from 10.30am to midday, while the pensioners have their coffee morning and the Community Library operates in the room next door. On the second and fourth Saturday mornings of every month we are at the Food Hub in Wick, from 10 til 12. And once a month, we have a joint surgery with the local Police Community Support Officer, at the Village Hall in Ogmore-by-Sea

Reduced Traffic Speeds | Arafu'r Traffig

Speeding traffic is still a problem through our villages. We all benefit from being reminded to drive more slowly where people live. With this in mind, we were delighted to support local residents in getting the speed limits reduced to 30mph through Ogmore village and in Corntown. The often busy stretch of road past Ogmore castle and the Pelican pub can now more safely be negotiated. In Corntown, the main road out of the village towards the A48 has also benefitted from a reduction in the official speed limit to 30mph, so that people can get to the football and cricket grounds without being exposed to such worryingly fast speeds. There is another dangerous spot in Ogmore which we are pleased to report is now being monitored by GoSafe, something which we asked for. The GoSafe mobile enforcement cameras will have a presence here too, which we welcome. The Community Speedwatch group - all volunteers - in Corntown and Ewenny does great work, with help from our local Police Community Support Officer, Angela Stone; we are very close to being able to establish a similar group in Ogmore-by-Sea. Let us know if you'd like to join.

The Food Hub in Wick - Fresh Food Farmacy! | Bwyd Lleol, Bwyd Da

Access to affordable and good quality food is important and we want to make sure that everyone in our ward can eat well, even if they are feeling the pinch financially. We also want to encourage the eating of locally grown vegetables when these are in season and we know that this produce is often expensive.

So we set up the Food Hub in Wick with all these aims in mind, as well as being a "Warm Space" for a cuppa and a chat. On Saturday mornings every fortnight, we offer fresh vegetables and store cupboard groceries. People from all parts of the ward are invited to come along and fill a shopping bag, in exchange for some money - whatever



they can afford. We are pleased that Atlantic College in St Donat's have been donating summer vegetables that would otherwise go to waste and we would encourage others to do the same. The Food Hub is not a food bank: it's about sharing good food and good eating. Everyone is welcome.

Improvements to the road to Llandow Recycling Centre | Gwella Hewl y Ganolfan Ail- Gylchu

The poor condition of the private road to Llandow Recycling Centre was an issue that many of you raised with us on the door-step back in 2022; we agreed with you that it was not of an acceptable standard and that its condition could even be deterring people from driving to the Recycling Centre. We were initially hoping to push for a new Recycling Centre for the Western Vale on a new site, but the lack of money and the difficulty with finding the right location have combined to make this impossible to achieve for the time being. We are pleased to report though that there have been some improvements to the road, paid for by the council, so that the journey to the Recycling Centre can now be negotiated safely, although there is still work to be done.

Litter-picking Hub | Casglu Sbwriel

There is a new litter-picking hub in the ward! With support from Keep Wales Tidy, the Three Golden Cups pub in Southerndown have agreed to host a litter-picking hub, so that anyone can borrow litter-picking equipment and go and do their bit to keep our communities and coastline rubbish-free.



Details are on the Keep Wales Tidy website:
<https://keepwalestidy.cymru/caru-cymru/litter-picking-hubs/>
What's to stop you from organising your own community litter-pick? Just ask at the pub!

Climate Conversation 2025 | Sgwrs am yr Hinsawdd

Another subject that came up many times on the doorstep – and since – is the need for action to tackle the Climate Emergency. There is always more that can be done by us as individuals, by us as communities and by the local authority. We have agreed a date to get together at the Village Hall in Ogmores-by-Sea and we would like to invite everyone to come along, with the aim of sharing what is being done by the council to reach Net Zero and also to explore what more can be done by all of us, to help slow Climate Change, to mitigate its effects and to make sure that we are as resilient as we can be.

The date for your diaries is **Sunday, January the 26th 2025**: we are determined to make this gathering informative, positive and impactful.

Bathing Water Quality | Ansawdd Dŵr y Môr

The quality of our bathing water in Ogmores-by-Sea is an issue that is close to all our hearts. It impacts on our own enjoyment of where we live, sometimes on our health too, as well as on businesses along the coast. The sampling of bathing water at the Rivermouth began in 2023 after an application was made by St Bride's Major Community Council for Bathing Water Status, and the results were not good: we achieved a "poor" rating overall, even though the bathing water quality along the coast in Southerndown was classed as "excellent".

In May of 2024, we invited Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales to a meeting with our beach users to share with us their plan for improvement, but an abnormal situation was declared at the Rivermouth so bathing water sampling was suspended until mid-June. None of this inspires confidence.



We visited the works during the Summer and are seeking updates from Natural Resources Wales on the actions they are taking to hold Welsh Water to account. Representatives from both organisations will be called to report back to the council's Environment Scrutiny committee on December the 10th – anyone can tune in on-line to watch proceedings.

Channel View, Marcross

Residents at Marcross asked us to continue pressing the council to resolve a long-standing issue with a failing cess-pit arrangement, originally built to serve the ten houses at Channel View, some 60 years ago. This work is long overdue, so we are pushing the council to come up with an affordable and environmentally responsible solution, in collaboration with the residents.

A meeting with the residents has been promised for the New Year.

New Affordable Housing | Tai Fforddiadwy Newydd

There are many homeless people in the Vale of Glamorgan, so we were very pleased when planning permission was granted for 17 new affordable homes in Wick. These houses are being built now by Wales & West Housing and we have been promised a tour of the site in the New Year. The expectation is that the building work will be finished by September 2025. We can't wait to see these new homes occupied and to welcome new residents to our ward.

Mobile Connectivity | Cysylltu ar y Ffôn Symudol

A patchy mobile phone signal makes modern life difficult and can even put lives at risk. The service in parts of the Vale of Glamorgan is sub-standard and we have been contacted by many of you who say that the poor to non-existent signal is making everyday life difficult. We want to put pressure on the mobile phone companies to address the problem. We know that there are simple and unobtrusive technological solutions which do not need big phone masts. The first step is to "map" the existing mobile phone coverage using portable devices that will provide the data to draw the "map". We are working to find a pot of money to fund this mapping exercise in our ward, which will give us the evidence we need to push for change.



**Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd
Dda i chi gyd!**

**Have a peaceful Christmas and a Happy
New Year**



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