

## Ponthir Community Council

### Minutes of Meeting

Held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr I Danaher, Cllr P Buffery, Cllr R Morgan, Cllr A Lang and Cllr P Matthews.

Also present: Clerk to the Council – Mrs C Danaher.

1. **Apologies:** – Cllr M Leighton and Cllr L Ryan-Scales. apologies accepted, proposed Cllr Lang, seconded by Cllr Morgan.
2. **Declaration of interest:** Cllr Morgan – Lamb Lane, Ponthir.
3. **To consider matters raised by members of the public:** None.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** Proposed Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Buffery. Minutes were signed and dated by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **Guests: PCSO James Llewellyn** - James updated the meeting with crime and call volume figures for the Ponthir ward. There had been a safety camera and enforcement unit in the village today. 249 vehicles were checked. 21 vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. Average speed of vehicles 29.5mph. Highest recorded speed 33mph. 5 people caught not wearing seatbelts. 1 person caught using mobile phone whilst driving. 1 ticket issued. 20 people given advice and watched a speeding/seatbelt awareness video. **Jane Mudd, Police and Crime Commissioner** - Jane outlined the Police, Crime and Justice Plan 2025- 2029. The five priorities are: - preventing crime and ASB, making our communities safer, protecting the vulnerable, putting victims first and reducing reoffending. Her focus is to engage with communities and promote neighbourhood policing. **Dave Leech TCBC** – Dave outlined the restructured teams for community engagement, being capacity builders and capacity connectors. Joel Cancellio is the capacity builder for our area. The priorities for Ponthir are to focus on older and younger residents. Clerk commented on how well the email enquiry structure is working, but residents were still having issues calling TCBC. Cllr Buffery mentioned the state of pavements, roads and drains in the area, Dave said any issues need to be directed to Cllr Gauden. Cllr Morgan asked about the Charter, which Ponthir have agreed to adopt. Dave was disappointed that he had not heard from all Community Councils with regards to this.
6. **Matters arising:**
  - a. **Bank forms and deposit account:** Clerk confirmed that the deposit account is now open and £4000 was transferred as agreed at the beginning of April. Cllr Buffery has agreed to be an additional signatory. **Action:** - Clerk to speak to Cllr Leighton and obtain bank forms for Cllr Buffery.
  - b. **Planters:** Cllr Lang has moved the planter from School Close to Lamb Lane. The Clerk asked for planters to be cleared of bulbs and ivy by 4<sup>th</sup> May. Clerk confirmed that planters would then be topped up and fed prior to the bedding plants arriving in mid-May. **Action:** - All Councillors to clear their planters by the due date.
  - c. **Biodiversity:** Clerk had circulated the draft plan, but no responses were received. Councillors present agreed to look at the draft, adding any comments, before ratification at the May meeting. Clerk confirmed again that this is a statutory requirement and must be reported to WAG. **Action:** - All Councillors to confirm any changes by email to Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> April.
  - d. **Caerleon Road drains: Ongoing Action:** - Cllr Lang to complete.
  - e. **Budget form amendments: Ongoing Action:** - Cllr Lang to complete.
  - f. **Community Event:** In Cllr Leightons absence, this will now be discussed at our May meeting. **Action:** - Cllr Leighton to update us at the next meeting.
  - g. **Training Plan:** Clerk outlined the responsibilities of Councillors to undertake training to fulfil their role. Training is now part of the annual audit, with the plan needing to be published on our website. **Action:** - All Councillors to email clerk before the next meeting with what training they wish to undertake.
7. **To consider and discuss items:**
  - a. **Police Meeting:** Clerk and Chair have met with SGT Phil Jones from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. He is very keen to forge links in the community. Residents have again asked about the possible sighting of a mirror at the top of Haford Road. The response received from the Council is

- as follows: - regarding the request for a mirror to be installed to assist with safety and visibility, we do not provide nor authorise mirrors being erected on the highway, because they have road safety disadvantages which are deemed to offset any possible benefit that the mirror may afford. To help explain the situation further, these include:- the distorted image displayed by a mirror, the difficulty road users face judging the speed of approaching traffic due to this distorted image, potential to be dazzled by oncoming drivers at night, reflecting light and interfere with vision, problems arising from the presence of condensation and frost on the surface of the mirror during certain periods, maintenance implications in terms of the regular cleaning required, target for vandals and the tendency for road users to concentrate more on the image in the mirror than on the traffic situation around them, creating an unreasonable dependence of the mirror.
- b. **Quarterly bank reconciliation:** Cllr Mathews completed.
  - c. **Ponthir School Friends Grant application:** A grant of £200 was requested to help with costs for a theatre group visiting the school. The grant was agreed with the proviso that it is advertised that we have contributed. **Action:** - Clerk to liaise with the Friends regarding payment.
  - d. **AGM:** Chair requested 100% attendance at the AGM in May. Cllrs Matthews and Buffery are on holiday, so it was decided to hold the AGM in June. **Action:** - All Councillors to attend the AGM, and prior to the May meeting, email the Clerk with their intentions for office on Council.
  - e. **Councillor Expenses:** Clerk circulated optout forms at the meeting and has emailed forms to Councillors not present. **Action:** - All Councillors to confirm by 30<sup>th</sup> April to Clerk their intention to opt out/take expenses.
8. **Finance and Accounts:** balance and all transactions noted.
  9. **Planning: MMCA/25/P/0243/TPO** Proposed work to oak tree and copper beech tree, including limb and crown reduction and dead wood removal, at The Oaks Caerleon Road, Ponthir. No comments were noted. **18/P/0614/FUL** Four proposed houses at Derllwyn House Lamb Lane – A resident has asked for the up-to-date position on this proposal. **Action:** - Clerk to email planning.
  10. **Committee Reports:**

**Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School:** No report.

**Torfaen Community Trust:** No meeting to report.

**Gwent Valleys Partnership:** Cllr Leighton to attend the next meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ponthir Village Hall:** Solar panels are working well with increased efficiency due to the recent sunny weather. The new cinema equipment has been installed, and Cllr Buffery stated that the hall needs a volunteer help with running the cinema.

**PSCC:** No report

**Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust:** No report.

**Local Council Partnership Committee:** No meeting.

**Chair's Report:** Attended the Pontypool CC annual celebration dinner at Pontypool Golf Club. I will also be standing down from the role of Village Hall trustee.

**The date of the next meeting is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in Ponthir Village Hall.**

**Meeting closed at 21:15**

**This document is available on our website.**

**A copy of this document can be made available in Welsh.**

**Please contact the Clerk on 07454 988250 or email [clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk)**