

Ponthir Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held on 9th March 2026 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr M Leighton (Chair), Cllr R Morgan, Cllr A Lang and Cllr I Danaher, Cllr P Matthews.

Also present: Clerk to the Council – Mrs C Danaher, Mrs L McMail, Cllr K Gauden and Dr S Read and H Wixcey (HDRC Torfaen.) Councillors present welcomed Mrs McMail to the meeting, as our new Clerk, and thanked Mrs Danaher for her help over the last two months.

1.Apologies – Cllr L Ryan-Scales and Cllr P Buffery. Apologies accepted by Councillors present.

2.Declaration of Interests – None.

3.To consider matters raised by members of the public – None

4.To approve the minutes of the meeting on 9th February 2026 – Proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Danaher.

5. Guests Cllr Gauden- Cllr Gauden again acknowledged the support he receives from Ponthir CC. KG drew our attention to flooding issues in parts of Hafod Road, which has affected many properties. KG and TCBC will be holding a resident's meeting this Wednesday at PVH, between 4 and 6pm, to discuss next steps.

KG was pleased to confirm that the village park has had new metal fences erected around the whole site for increased safety. Swings will also be replaced.

KG attended the solar farm action group meeting on 27th February, with Cllr Morgan of PCC. KG is now working closely with MS Peter Fox, Monmouthshire CC, TCBC and local community councils to raise concerns regarding the building of the solar farm. Drainage and traffic challenges being the two main concerns being raised. A planning application is due to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly in December.

KG is currently working with residents in Crown Rise, Upper Llanfrechfa and Gwent Police on a safer route over the A4042 trunk road.

KG will be continuing his monthly surgeries in PVH with PCSO James. The next one is on Saturday 14th March, at 11am. **Action:** - Cllr Gauden to provide all 2026 dates to the Clerk for publication.

Dr Simon Reed and Hannah Wixcey- SR confirmed that the new flood sensors promised to Ponthir were being tested in Two Locks to assess their suitability for Ponthir.

SR confirmed that his team was working with external agencies on a community flood plan for Ponthir, which Councillors agreed was a major concern for residents. There is funding available for this project, and he is working with National Resources Wales and TCBC to produce a draft plan for our consideration within the next two months. **Action:** - Clerk to invite SR to our May meeting.

6.Matters arising

Planters and benches: Actions: - Cllr Leighton to obtain a quote from AS. Clerk to approach Chris Mellon for the same. Cllr Leighton also to confirm the numbers of benches

and planters which need refurbishment by the end of this week and to confirm to all via the WhatsApp group.

Clerk update: Councillors present were pleased to confirm the appointment of Mrs McMail as Clerk from 1st April, working 15 hours a week, scale point 16 and pension, with a month's handover with Mrs Danaher. LM confirmed her intention to work most of her hours on Mondays and Tuesdays with a weekly visit to Ponthir on Wednesdays, to attend the warm hub. LM will however be flexible with these times, keeping the phone hours from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday in case of need. **Actions:** - Clerk to obtain new starter forms from TCBC. LM to provide copies of her qualifications for Council records. Chair to complete contract of employment with LM.

Christmas Lights and support clips: Clips have been purchased and placed in the garage. **Actions:** - Clerk to return non-working lights to Festive Taunton for assessment. Cllr Matthews to check all lampposts and check all lights by September, ready for Christmas 2026.

Solar Farm: (Standing item) Cllr Morgan attended the last meeting on behalf of the Council, and supported the update from Cllr Gauden, item 5 above.

Quarterly reconciliation of figures, bank account and missing items: All outstanding bank reconciliation figures have now been reviewed by Cllrs Lang and Matthews and signed accordingly. **Actions:** - Cllr Matthews to provide copy of invoice for testing lights which was lost by the previous Clerk. Clerk to print off new bank mandates for LM to become a signatory. All signatories will need to sign this form, Cllr Buffery to confirm to the Clerk his availability to complete the mandate.

Caerleon Times 26/27: Clerk was pleased to confirm that JD has agreed £300 for six articles for 26/27. **Actions:** - Cllr Leighton to complete her 25/26 Chair's report by 27th March so that it can be included in the May edition. LM to provide a pen portrait by the same date. Both articles to be returned to the Clerk.

Events 2026: (Standing item) ID confirmed that he had approached the PVH manager to discuss a Christmas Fair. PSCC hope to appoint a new manager shortly. **Action:** - Cllr Leighton to liaise with PVH and formalise arrangements.

Audit 24/25: **Action:** - LM to provide an action plan regarding the audit for our April meeting.

Barnfield Grassland: Clerk reported that TCBC had reconsidered Barnfield play area for rewilding on the grounds of safety to children using the facility.

7. To consider and discuss items

PSCC: No update available.

Mick Morris Sporting Trust: Clerk has received a letter regarding our support of this committee. **Action:** - Cllr Ryan-Scales to update and discuss her position at the April meeting.

Ponthir park: Council were very pleased to hear that after a long time lobbying TCBC, that the refurbishment should be completed this week with an impressive new metal fence.

Council reserve account: Members agreed to transfer a further £4k to reserves. **Action:** - Clerk to make transfer.

Caerleon Road Drains: Council was incredibly pleased to hear that after taking forward the concerns of residents, TCBC have reviewed the drains from Lamb Lane to Candwr Park bus stop and will be carrying out major works within the next two months. **Action:** - Clerk to email TCBC to establish if work is on both sides of the road.

Police Report: Clerk has received police reports from November to February.

Four crimes were recorded November, four in December, three in January, and two in February. James has offered his support for any events in the village.

8. Finance and Accounts: Balance and all transactions noted.

9. Planning: No items received.

10. Correspondence received: Clerk has previously circulated a letter from Llanyrafon Golf Club requesting funds. This request doesn't fall within our criteria for awarding grants.

11. Committee Reports

Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School: No report.

Torfaen Community Transport: Cllr Lang attended his first meeting on 25th February and gave a full update into how TCT are funded. They work closely with the Welsh Ambulance Service and CTC is staffed by volunteer drivers, with more volunteers needed. They asked if we could advertise for volunteer drivers on their behalf. Cllr Lang confirmed they would be applying for a grant, and all present agreed a grant of £200. Council felt this would be a good thing for us to support, as they bring residents to the PVH Lunch Club on Tuesdays.

Gwent Valleys Partnership: No meeting held.

Ponthir Village Hall: No report.

PSCC: See item 7 above.

Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust: See item 7 above.

Local Council Partnership Committee: No meeting held.

Chair's Report: Cllr Leighton and the Clerk attended Cwmbran CC awards night at the Parkway. An excellent opportunity to network and celebrate success in Cwmbran.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 13th April, Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 20:45

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

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