

Raglan Community Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2025.
This meeting was convened at the Fellowship Centre on Usk Road.
at 7:00 pm

Present

Cllr Richard Moorby
Cllr Martine Dorey

Cllr Nick Ramsay (Chair)
Cllr Lynne Eilertsen
Cllr Hazel Leacock

5693 In attendance:

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council.

5694 Agenda item 1:- Apologies for absence

Cllr Penny Jones offered her apologies due to a dairy commitment Cllr Susan Harrington offered her apologies due to a dairy commitment

5695 Agenda item 2:- Declarations of interest.

Cllr Lynne Eilertsen declared an interest in Agenda item 14, No further declarations of interest were submitted, but members will make a declaration when and identified under the relevant minute.

5696 Agenda item 3:- 15 minutes set aside for Community interaction and members of the community to ask the Chairman or the Council questions of local interest. Any questions should be relevant to the agenda and submitted to the clerk 3 working days before the meeting.

No members of the public in attendance

5697 Agenda item 4:- To receive and adopt the minutes from the Ordinary meeting, held on 26 February 2025

Proposed: by Cllr N Ramsay seconded by Cllr R Moorby that the minutes are accepted.

All those present agreed

5698 Agenda item 5:- Matters to report.

There were no matters to report from the last meeting.

5699 Agenda item 6:- To receive the notes from the meeting, relating to the former Old School in Raglan 20 March.

Proposed: by Cllr N Ramsay seconded by Cllr M Dorey that the notes are noted.

All those present agreed

5700 Agenda item 7:- Matters to report, and actions.

Some discussion took place with a range of views being expressed by those members that attended the meeting. It was explained that those officers from the different organisation that attended inspected the MUGA and adjoining field.

All those present agreed

5701 Agenda item 8:- To receive the notes from the public meeting, relating to A40 Bypass Study 21 March

Proposed: by Cllr H Leacock seconded by Cllr L Eilertsen that the notes are accepted.

All those present agreed

5702 Agenda item 9:- Matters to report, and actions

The Chair gave some feedback following the meeting. Those elected members that attended explained due to the number of residents that attended the meeting showed the feeling relating to publish study and the concerns relating to both junctions on the A40 and the pedestrian crossings.

All those present agreed

5703 Agenda item 10:- Clerks reports verbal or written.

Report to: - Raglan Community Council
Subject: - Concerns over a road bridge on the A449
Report: - by the Clerk
Date: - March 2025

This is a report to bring to elected members attention.

Concerns were reported some months ago about the overbridge on the A449 at Llandenny. It has been reported that the pedestrian barriers on the bridge have started to corrode; a number of weld joints have corroded and the joint has split and there would appear to be no structural strength to the barrier.

Therefore, if a vehicle or something similar should collide with it, this could result in the barrier collapsing and a vehicle could go through it and land on the A449 resulting in a disruption or an accident.

It has also been reported that the crash barriers that are prior the bridge structure have rotted and don't seem to have any structural density. Therefore, if a vehicle should collide with the barrier the

vehicle could go through the barrier and land down the embankment, into a water course or even onto the A449.

This report is for elected members to consider and decide what, if any, actions to take.

In conclusion:

- I. Note the report and do nothing.
- II. Report the concerns to Monmouthshire County Council Highways Safety Officer.
- III. Report the concerns to Welsh Government or their agents.
- IV. Is there any further action elected members would like the Clerk to take?

It was proposed the Clerk should contact both Monmouthshire County Council highways, SWTRA and WG about these concerns.

Report to: - Raglan Community Council
Subject: - One Voice Wales membership.
Report: - by the Clerk
Date: - March 2025

This report is following the correspondence from One Voice Wales (OVW) relating to the renewal of membership to OVW as the Community Council didn't renew its membership for 2024/25. Within the correspondence received from OVW for 2025-26-year OVW will be offering a 50% discount.

As the Clerk I understand the concerns of elected members following a number of issues the Community Council experienced relating to the boundary changes between 2020 and May 2022, where everyone saw the dissolution of Gwehelog Fawr Community Council, and everything that brought with it, following the election on the 5 May 2022.

Membership of OVW isn't just a 'talking shop' as some elected members have suggested. OVW provides a number of services, for example, member training for one. If the Community Council is involved in consultations or have a concern over something, or requests advice from a third party.

OVW is the organisation that can provide the advice. OVW are the recognised negotiators with Welsh Government and other statutory bodies on behalf of Community and Town Council sector.

Elected members may say - the Clerk continues to receive and forward information. That information is from third parties which OVW forwards to all Clerks.

Conclusion:

- I. One Voice Wales is the only formal advice agency.

- II. Are elected members wishing to remain independent outside OVW membership.
- III. Are elected members wishing to renew membership.
- IV. Elected members have until the 30 June 2025 at the latest to renew membership.

Following some discussion, it was proposed and agreed by all, the Clerk invite the EO of One Voice Wales to a meeting to discuss the membership.

Report to: - Raglan Community Council
Subject: - Planning on Land Off High Street Raglan
Report: - by the Clerk
Date: - March 2025

This report is to provide elected members with an update relating a longstanding Planning Application. Elected members will recall the Planning Application the "Land Off High Street Raglan" under **DM/2019/01286** for the Construction of three detached dwellings with associated external works and landscaping.

Some elected members will recall as Clerk I have asked the Planning Dept to confirm if SWTRA have been invited to make any observations. It's been noted SWTRA have responded on the 5 March. A copy of the response is attached.

In conclusion

It was agreed the Clerk should make a formal complaint to the CEO of Monmouthshire County Council

What action would elected members like the Clerk to follow up on relating to these objections, as the application was Validated in August 2019.

It was also agreed that a further objection is submitted following the content of the letter from WG

Adran yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Department for Economy and Infrastructure



Head of Planning
Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Eich cyf / Your ref DM/2019/01286
Ein cyf / Our ref 25/SW-7135
05 March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES)
ORDER 2012:
Land Off High Street, Raglan
Construction of three detached dwellings with associated external works and landscaping

I refer to your consultation of 18/02/2025 regarding the above planning application and advise that the Welsh Government as highway authority for the A40 trunk road directs refusal for the following reason/s:-

- 1) 1) The proposed development's proximity to an existing roundabout would result in conflicting traffic manoeuvres on the trunk road to the detriment of highway safety.
- 2) The site lacks sufficient frontage to provide adequate visibility splays for vehicles emerging from the site leading to conditions prejudicial to the safety and free flow of traffic on the trunk road.

If you have any further queries, please forward to the following Welsh Government Mailbox
Lgc_development_control-south@gov.wales.

Yours faithfully



Update to: - Raglan Community Council
Subject: - Update relating to Wales Audit.
Report: - by the Clerk
Date: - 26 March 2025

Without Prejudice and private until the Community Council receives a response from Audit Wales.

This report is an update relating a number of reports the Clerk has presented to Council expressing concern over the time it is taking for Audit Wales to return the Audit Returns, following the meeting The Chair and the Clerk had with officers from Wales Audit (WA) on the 12 June 2024.

Currently to date the Clerk on behalf of the Community Council has not received the returns. As the RFO, I must express concern over the time it is taking. On the 17 January 2025 I received on behalf of the Community Council the email below

From: Will Harrison-Watt
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 3:31 PM
To: clerk@raglancc.org.uk
Subject: RE: Raglan Community Council - 22/23 Audit

Hi Adrian,

Thank you for sending the information. I can not give you an exact date unfortunately as the work needs to be reviewed by a senior auditor.

Many thanks,

It's clear from my place of standing AW seem to look for something following the meeting they had with a local resident around June 2024.

On behalf of the Council, I have received the papers to submit the return for 2024/25 and the Council still hasn't received 21/22, 22/23, 23/24 returns. It also somewhat concerning the AW office hasn't mentioned the Gwehelog accounts that have been presented.

This report is to provide information and update elected members for the record.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should formally write to the Chair of Audit Wales

5704 Agenda item 11:- Consider any Planning Applications received before the meeting.

The Clerk explained that all the Planning applications received have been forwarded to elected members for consideration before the meeting.

- ❖ Colindale, Monmouth Road Raglan, Agreed
- ❖ Orchard Lea, High Street, Raglan, Agreed

- ❖ The Dyffryn, Dyffryn Road, Trostrey Common, Gwehelog, Agreed
- ❖ Rosedale, Castle Hill, Raglan, Agreed
- ❖ The Stable Yard, off Wainfield Lane, Gwehelog.
- ❖ Plots 5-13 & 27-30 Chepstow Road, Raglan, write to Monmouthshire County Council Planning again requesting the information. Send a further holding objection.
- ❖ Former Raglan Arms, Llanedenny, the Clerk explained that the Community Council still hadn't received any response to the concerns expressed in correspondence to the Planning Dept.

The Clerk explained that he would bring to the elected members attention, he made a complaint relating to the case officer, and the Planning Dept was not uploading information submitted by the Community Council, and not responding to correspondence that been submitted requesting further information.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write and make a formal complaint to the
CEO of Monmouthshire County Council.

5705 Agenda item 12:- Membership of One Voice Wales 2025-26

This agenda item was discussed in a report the Clerk presented above.

5706 Agenda item 13:- To consider grant funding to organisations outside the County?

This item was requested by Cllr Harrington. This item should be deferred to the next meeting.

5707 Agenda item 14:- Consider the receipt of invoices and payments made.

The Clerk provided a list of payments he had received on behalf of the Council.

Date	Payment to	Amount	Cheque
26/3/25	Clerk, reimbursement for postage stamps	167.50	2550
26/3/25	Clerk, Reimbursement for recorded delivery letter	3.35	2551
26/3/25	Hiscox Insurance for 25/26	553.21	2552
26/3/25	Gwehelog Village Hall	30.00	2553
26/3/25	Monmouthshire County Council (dog waste bins)	716.40	2554
26/3/25	Gwent Young Farmers (to be agreed)		2555
26/3/25	Merlin Waste	302.40	2556
26/3/25	Clerk, Travelling reimbursement	54.00	2557
26/3/25	Cancelled cheque	0.00	2558
26/3/25	Cancelled cheque	0.00	2559
26/3/25	Millage reimbursement, (replacement cheque 2479	27.90	2560
26/3/25	HMRC		2561
26/3/25	HMRC		2562
26/3/25	Clerk, office allowance 2024/25	520.00	2563
26/3/25	Clerks Salery with overtime and pay award 24/25		2564
26/3/25	HMRC		2565

It was proposed: by Cllr Ramsay, seconded by Cllr Leacock to note and make payment.

All those present agreed.

Several elected members presented grant applications from third parties. The Clerk explained that he had received a number of grant application on behalf of the Community council. He explained that these applications will be considered in the next financial year.

All those present noted and agreed.

5708 Agenda item 15:- Consider any correspondence received and forwarded prior to the meeting.

The correspondence that was presented to all members prior to the meeting was noted and no further action required

5709 Agenda item 16:- To consider date to convene a meeting with Trustees of RVHA Management Committee.

The Clerk gave a verbal report relating to RVHA Management Committee. He explained that the Chair and Cllr Eilertsen along with the current trustees held a meeting prior to this council meeting and it was agreed that the funds that are currently held in accounts by the RVHA will be transferred with a formal agreement to a ringfenced account in the Community Council name until new members become trustees and committee members.

All those present noted and agreed

5710 Agenda item 17:- Reports from the County Councillor

Cllr Jones, not in attendance

5711 Agenda item 18:- Reports from members on outside bodies

No reports received

5712 Agenda item 19:- To consider any reports relating to Street Cleansing in the Community

Report to: - Raglan Community Council

Subject: - Street Cleansing

Report: - by the Clerk

Date: - March 2025

This report at this stage is not for public consumption and withheld under the relevant Act, were the business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, is confidential information would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence.

This report is to provide elected members with an update to the reports that were presented in January and February 2025, relating to street cleansing in the village and surrounding communities.

Following the February meeting the Clerk attended a meeting with officers from Monmouthshire County Council's Grounds and Cleansing Dept. Following that meeting a draft Service Level Agreements (SLA) was presented, and Cllr's Ramsay and Eilertsen were nominated to consider the draft SLA. Following that process it was concluded that some minor amendments were proposed for consideration of Monmouthshire County Council's Grounds and Cleansing Dept officers before signing and tying both parties into an agreement.

Set out in the budget that was approved in January 2025 for the financial year 25/26 a budget was agreed for £24k, to provide additional support to cleanse the streets in Raglan and surrounding communities. Set out in the SLA are the estimated costs for a working week (one day a week), 7.4 hours per day for two operatives and a vehicle. This equates to £337.81 per week with a total cost annually of £17,633.68.

Elected members need to consider if the Community Council should enter into an agreement for one day a week or two days. Elected members must be mindful, the Community Councils precept for 25/26 is £37,735.00. If elected members considered entering the agreement for a two day a week agreement for 2025/26 the council would expect to draw on £35,268.00 instead of £17,633.68. That would mean the Community Council would need expect to draw on reserves of £11,268.00 in 2025/26 Financial year. This is in addition to the £24K budget already set. That would then mean the Community Council would have very little finances for other projects, with a remaining balance of £26,467 to service the running of the Council.

Consideration needs to be given to any costs that are not covered in the SLA. This would include the purchase of equipment and materials. This is a clause in the agreement, in reality, the agreement is only there to support the cleaning of the roads and footways in the community. Any remedial works would be for the Highways Authority and set out in their maintenance programme not for the Community Council. The Community Council is not a statutory authority with those responsibilities.

Conclusion:

Therefore, elected members need to consider the following;

Please note: these minutes are a summary of the above meeting, and a record of the decisions or resolutions moved. These minutes are not to be taken as a verbatim record of the meeting.

- I. Are elected members content to enter into this Service Level Agreement (Yes)
- II. To agree to enter the agreement for one or two days. (to be agreed following further discussions)
- III. What timescale would elected members wish the Community Council to enter into; Twelve months, Two years or Three years. (twelve months in the first instance)
- IV. Elected members will need to present a list of works to be scheduled. (Yes)
- V. All suggested works should be presented to the Clerk 5 working days before any council meeting so it can be agreed through an agenda item before issuing the schedule of works to Monmouthshire County Council (Yes)
- VI. The schedule of works will be presented on monthly basis (Yes)
- VII. The works in the community should be set out on a bi-weekly basis. For example (Raglan weeks 1 & 2, Llandenny week 3, Gwehelog week 4) with other areas included on an ad-hoc basis. (Yes, router to be confirmed at a later date)
- VIII. The Clerk will be the point of contact with Monmouthshire County Council's Grounds and Cleansing Dept (Yes)

It was agreed by all those present that reports relating to Street Cleansing in the Community will be a standing agenda item.

5713 Agenda item 19:- Items to be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

No items were requested for inclusion

5714 Agenda item 18:- To confirm the date of the next meeting 23 April 2025

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting closed at 20:30