

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual Report for the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Organisation of the Council

Llanvaches Community Council was created in 1974 following local government reorganisation. It is one of 735 Town and Community Council in Wales.

In order to act and carry out duties as a member of a community or town council all persons are required to make a formal declaration of acceptance of office. Following this declaration, members of community or town councils are then holders of elected office and occupy a role that is part of the Welsh local government structure.

Your Council

The Community Council is the grass roots voice of Local Government and is therefore closest to the people. It comprises 7 elected members, representing the village of Llanvaches. The present councillors were elected in May 2017 to serve a five year term of office and together they serve a population of 402 at the 2011 Census.

The Councillors for 2021/22 were Cllr Ethan Addis, Cllr Clive Bevan, Cllr Dan Boulton, Cllr Kay James, Cllr Duncan Kew and Cllr Caroline Wynn.

Elected Member Responsibilities as Individuals

A Councillor has an active interest in their local community and plays a vital role in representing the interest of the community in which they serve by improving the quality of life and local environment. Councillors must act within the law and must sign a declaration to say they agree to work within the Code of Conduct. They are able to suggest ideas, engage in constructive debate, represent constituents and respond to the needs and views of the local community.

Councillors are the voice of their local community and can work to influence other tiers of Local Government and help make collective decisions which form the policy of the Council.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk is the Council's Chief Officer employed under section 112 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972. As the Proper Officer of the council in law the Clerk is answerable to the Council as a whole. Individual members cannot give instructions to the Clerk. The Council must also appoint a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to manage its finances and at Llanvaches Community Council the Clerk and RFO is the same person. The Clerk can be contacted by email on llanvachesclerk@gmail.com.

Communication

The Community Council has a website where all agendas and minutes are published along with financial information, details of internal and external audit outcomes and council policies. The website is www.llanvachescommunitycouncil.org.uk

Meetings

Meetings of Llanvaches Community Council are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Church Hall however due to the Covid-19 pandemic they are currently held online via Zoom. All meetings are open to the public with time allocated on the agenda for public participation and access to the remote meetings are available via the agenda.

Finances

The Community Council is funded by a precept which is an additional amount added to the Council Tax from Newport City Council based on the requirements of the Council.

In November the Council calculates the money the Council needs to raise in order to provide for its services and fund any projects planned, "the budget", it then deducts any income or reserves that it expects to receive or use leaving a net amount known as "the precept".

The precept for 2021/22 was £5,448.38 costing the average Band D tax payer £22.50.

The budget for 2021/22

Clerks' Salary	2,650.00
Admin Expenses	50.00
Training	50.00
Internet Enhancements	175.00
Audit Fees	350.00
Church Hall Rent & Grant	100.00
Insurance	480.00
OVW Subs	58.00
Play Equip Inspection	65.00
Churchyard Maint Grants	400.00
Football Field Rent	60.00
Playground Equip Repair/Replace	500.00
New Equipment	500.00
Tree Maintenance	500.00
Grass/Hedge Cutting	1,400.00
Gen Maintenance	250.00
Community Events	200.00

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require town and community councils to have adequate and effective arrangements in place for an internal audit of their accounting records and their systems of internal control. This is carried out on an annual basis by an independent internal auditor.

The internal auditor is an independent and competent person appointed by the Council to carry out checks on its systems of control. The auditor carries out tests focusing on area of risk to public money, reports to the Council and signs a report on the annual return to confirm that the Council's systems of controls are in place and operating.

The Community Council is then subject to a statutory external audit by the Auditor General for Wales.

Responsibilities

The Community Councils main responsibility is for two playing fields in the Village. The football field known as Glebeland's is leased from The Representative Body of the Church in Wales on an ongoing lease and the playing field behind Wentwood Drive is leased from Newport City Council on a 999 year lease. The Council is wholly responsible for the grass and hedge cutting and the maintenance of the play equipment and Members carry out fortnightly inspections to check for faults and damage.

The Council also comments on all planning applications in the village with Newport City Council making the final decision, taking into account the Council views.