

Whitecastle Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Castellgwyn

Les Taylor
Clerk to the council
2 Firs Road
Llanvapley
Abergavenny
NP7 8SL



Les Taylor
Clerc y cyngor
2 Heol y Pinwydd
Llanfable
Y Fenni
NP7 8SL

whitecastlecommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting 26 June 2025 7.30pm at the Hogs Head, Treadam

Present : Cllr. J. Biggs, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. N. Graham, Cllr. L Hughes, Cllr. D. Astill-Parsons

In attendance : L. Taylor (Clerk),

1. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr. D. Edwards, County Cllr. I. Chandler

2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items listed below.

It was agreed to allow members to disclose interests as they arise.

3. Election of the Chair

Cllr. Lewis informed members of intention to step down as Chair of the council. He had been the Chair for the past two years and wanted to be able to give more time to other interests.

Resolution: to accept Cllr. Astill-Parsons as the Chair. Proposed by Cllr. Graham and seconded by Cllr. Biggs.

Cllr. Lewis continued as Chair for the rest of the meeting.

4. To discuss vacancies for community councillors.

At the Annual General Meeting, Cllr. Hughes formally announced her intention to resign as the ward member for Llantilio Crossenny. The Chair requested that she postpone her resignation until this meeting, as her departure would reduce the number of serving councillors to five. This delay also allowed time to advertise the vacancy and gauge public interest.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Hughes for her dedicated service to the council and her contributions to the community. He particularly commended her outstanding work in establishing a network of community defibrillators, which led to a successful partnership with Village Life. Cllr. Hughes confirmed her intention to continue working with Village Life following her resignation, which was duly accepted. A social media campaign launched to fill the six council vacancies successfully raised community awareness. As a result, two members of the public contacted the council to express their interest. The Clerk was instructed to follow up with them and begin the co-option process.

5. Open discussion about the future of Community Council.

Since its establishment in 2022, the council has faced challenges in fully representing all areas of the community. Despite considerable efforts to raise its profile, some parts of the community have shown limited interest in the council's work. The boundary changes introduced in 2022 were unpopular and have likely contributed to the lack of engagement, particularly in the former Llangattock Vibon Avel community council area.

Cllr. Biggs expressed his frustration with the increasing bureaucracy the council is required to navigate, noting that it detracts from its core mission of ensuring residents receive the services they deserve. Cllr. Lewis commented on the evolving relationship between the County Council and the community council. Members expressed their gratitude to County Councillor Chandler for his ongoing support and agreed to continue strengthening the council's relationship with the County Council.

6. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be a full council meeting at Rockfield Barns, Pwll Y Cwm, Rockfield, NP25 5SZ on Thursday 10 July 7.30pm at 7.30pm