

LLANHARRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR LARA MANCHIP

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all fellow councillors for their support over the past year.

I would also like to thank our Clerk, Gill Lewis, for all her hard work, support and guidance.

During my year in office we had successful Fireworks and Christmas events, united with the Community Centre Management Committee, Llanharry AFC and Llanharry & Bryncae Junior Football and dedicated our efforts to improve our village.

I am optimistic we can further improve our lovely village and look forward to the year ahead.



Councillor Lara Manchip, Chair to Llanharry Community Council

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Welcome to the Annual Report of Llanharry Community Council.

The report sets out to inform residents about the structure, responsibilities and activities undertaken by the Council.

As Clerk it is my responsibility to advise and support the Council, within the law, independently and objectively whilst recognising that the council as a whole is responsible for its decisions.

The report was approved by Llanharry Community Council as a meeting held on 10th April 2024

I hope you find this report an informative and helpful read.

Gill Lewis

Clerk

Llanharry Community Council

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Visit us at www.llanharrycc.org.uk

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS



Councillor Lara
Manchip

Chair

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Barry
Stephens

Vice Chair

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Emma
Coates

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Val
Davies

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Wayne
Owen

Tylagarw Ward



Councillor Dai Snook

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Lynda
Rosser

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Paula
Beach

Llanharry Ward



Councillor Julie
Dilworth

Llanharry Ward

ABOUT LLANHARRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Llanharry Community Council serves the communities of Llanharry and Tylagarw.

The Council usually meets on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) and all are welcome to observe these meetings.

Community Councils are the most local level of government and are independent of Borough councils although they maintain a close working relationship.

Councillors have an active interest in their communities and work in partnership with residents, local groups and collaborate with other councils when necessary.

Councillors help provide local services and take decisions that form the policy of the Council.

9 Councillors represent our community, providing local views on planning and listening to and advising residents.

The Council employs one member of staff, the Clerk.

The Council manages:

- Llanharry Cemetery
- Llanharry Park including the football pitch, play area and multi- use games area
- Two allotment sites (Fforest Road and Laureldene)
- War Memorial at Ty Isaf
- St Illtyds churchyard

As well as management of the above the Council is responsible for and/or provides:

- Litter bins

- Dog waste bins
- Benches
- Floral planters
- Notice boards
- Bus shelters
- Community grant funding
- Fireworks Display
- Christmas Event
- Christmas trees and lighting
- Annual Remembrance Day Service
- Making observations on planning applications in the community –
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council makes the final decision

The Chair

The Chair is elected by the members at the Council's Annual Meeting and serves for 12 months. The Chair is responsible for presiding at meetings ensuring all Councillors contribute to discussions and that effective and lawful decisions are taken with the advice of the Clerk. The Chair summarises debate and has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote under the Local Government Act 1972.

Mutual respect between the Chair and the Clerk and the Chair and the other Members is essential.

The Chair is the public face of the Council and must promote the decisions and views of the Council and not their personal view.

The Chair cannot legally make a decision/promise on behalf of the Council.

Councillors as Individuals

Councillors are individuals who are elected on to the Council through the democratic process under Section 16 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 every 5 years. A Councillor can also be returned by local by-election or co-option. Either way, before acting as a Councillor, they must sign a declaration of acceptance of office undertaking to observe the Council's Code of Conduct.

Councillors have a responsibility to attend council meetings when summoned to do so and act on behalf of the whole electorate. Councillors should prepare for meetings by studying the agenda and ensuring that they are properly informed and prepared for the issues being discussed. It is the individual Councillor's duty to declare an interest and leave the meeting if any matter being discussed could be perceived as securing any type of advantage to that Member.

Councillors contribute to the work of the Council by:

- Suggesting ideas
- Engaging in constructive debate
- Interacting with their electors
- Behaving in an ethical way
- Voting – enabling the Council to make decisions

Councillors cannot make decisions/promises individually, this has to be done by the Council as a corporate body. Councillors actively and constructively contribute to good governance and encourage community participation and residents' involvement in the work of the Council

Details on how to contact a Llanharry Community Councillor can be found on the Council's website www.llanharrycc.org.uk

Community Councillors are not paid for the work they undertake, however allowances are determined, and in some cases mandated each year by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. A mandated allowance of £152 per year is payable towards the cost of working from home and £56 for the cost of consumables, however Councillors can opt to decline receipt of this allowance if they so wish.

Councillor Name	Payments for costs incurred in working from home respect of telephone, broadband etc. (max £156 per member) & consumables (£52 per member)	Chair	Total
P Beach	£208		£208
E Coates	0		0
V Davies	£208		£208
J Dilworth	£208		£208
L Manchip	£208	£300	£508
W Owen	£208		£208
L Rosser	£208		£208
D Snook	£208		£208
B Stephens	£208		£208

All Councillor allowances, including nil returns, must be published on the Council's website and reported to the Independent Remuneration Panel by the 30th September each year.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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 role of the Clerk and RFO, although not exhaustive, includes:

- Advising the Council on legal matters
- Organising the Council's procedures
- Gathering information to help the Council make an informed decision
- Implementing the Council's decisions
- Providing administrative support
- Personnel management
- Health and safety management
- Management of the Council's finances

The Clerk can have delegated powers of the Council to act on its behalf under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 101 (Discharge of Functions).

Whilst it is good practice of the Clerk to consult on the content of the agenda with the Chair, the Clerk has the final say as Proper Officer and the legal signatory.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk.

Democracy and Decision Making

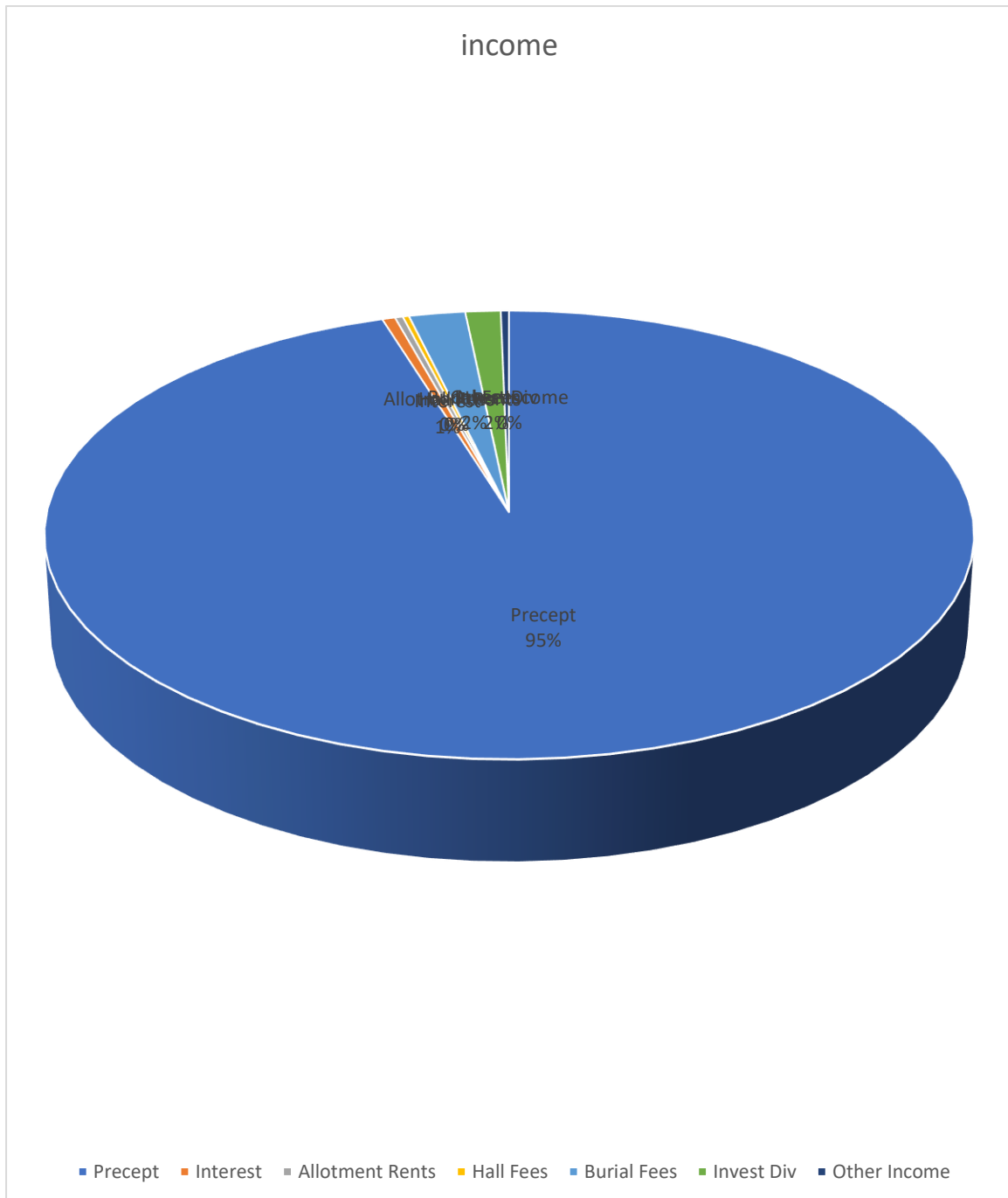
An Annual Meeting is held in May each year and this is where the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year takes place.

As a corporate body the Council sets an annual budget and receives almost all its funds from its precept. A small amount of income is collected from wayleaves, bank interest, hall and allotment rental and burial & memorial fees.

Ordinary meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Agendas, minutes, annual accounts and more can be viewed on the Community Council's website www.llanharrycc.org.uk

OUR INCOME

The precept for 2023-2024 was £112,584.

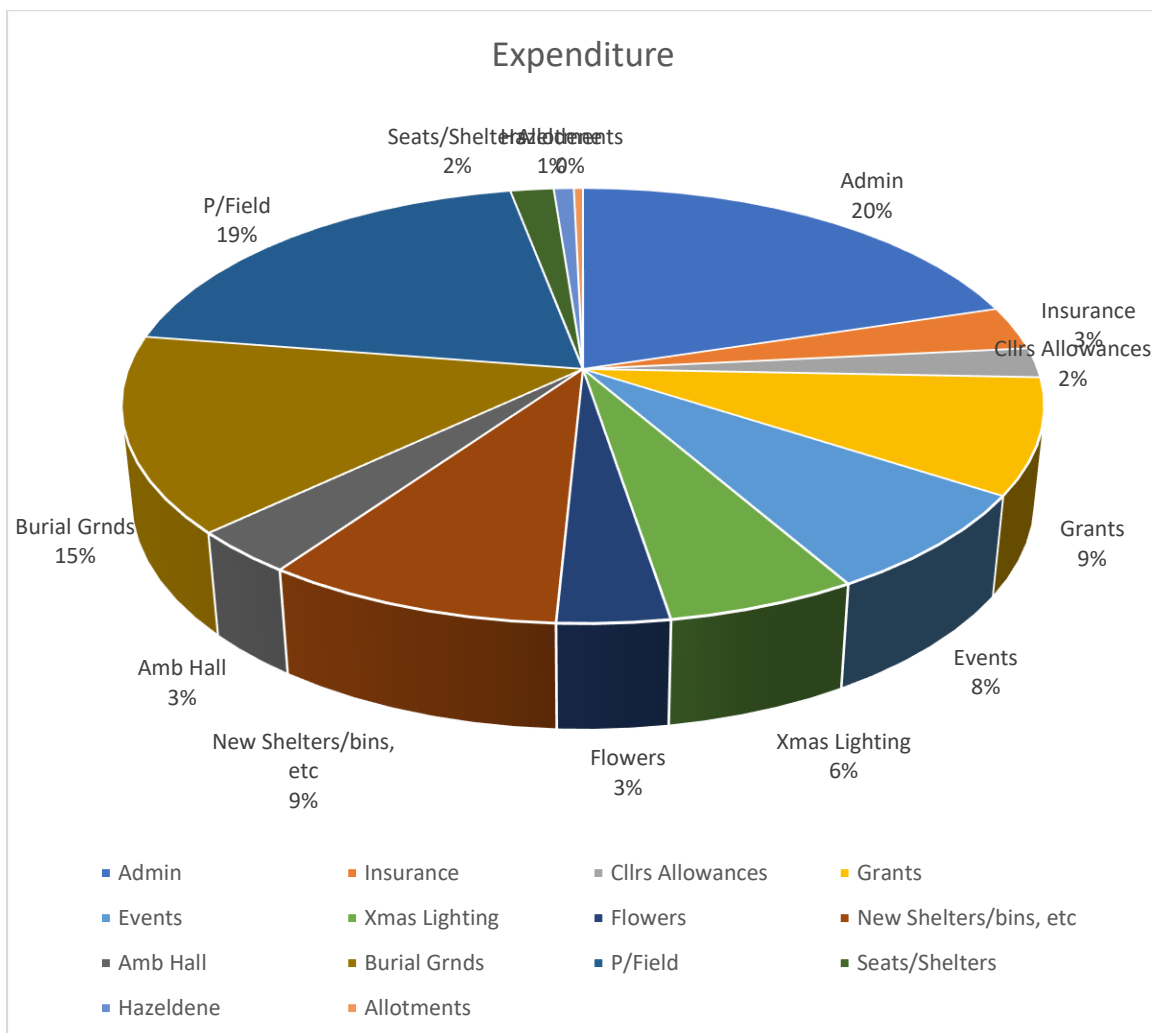


COUNCIL'S SPENDING

The Council's expenditure is controlled by a budgeting and monitoring process. In setting its budget Council aims to provide services, manage facilities and meet its priorities.

In order to effectively manage public funds Llanharry Community Council:

- Strives to obtain value for money
- Monitors and controls expenditure as per its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- Consider budget versus actual comparisons throughout the year
- Annually reviews its fees
- Provides grant funding
- Identifies future projects



The Council's accounts are audited each year in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2018.

End of year accounts and audit reports are available on the Council's website www.llanharrycc.org.uk

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