

**Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop
Freystrop Community Council**



**FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT**

2025/26

Freystrop Community Council Annual Report 2025/2026

as required under The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

GOVERNANCE

Freystrop Community Council (FCC) comprises of six Councillors – the maximum number allowed based on the population within the Community.

At the AGM in June Cllr. Ross Harries was elected as Chair. Cllr. David Thomas took the role of Vice Chair.

The FCC meetings were all held on a “face to face” basis at Freystrop Village Hall. There were 9 meetings held during the year. The May 2025 meeting was cancelled as the clerk was unable to prepare Council because of illness. A meeting in February was suspended following the resignation of the Chair, it was resumed a week later. There were 2 Extraordinary Meetings in the year, one in July 2025 and the other in February 2026. The latter was in camera.

Matters regularly discussed at meetings related to Highways/Planning responses/Community facilities/Finance and the possibility of a solar farm in the community. Members of the public were also able to attend to raise issues of concern. County Councillor Michael John attended all meetings to update the FCC on county-wide matters.

Following his breakdown earlier in the year the clerk resigned in October 2025 as recovery was being hampered by harassment from the public. Until a replacement was appointed the clerk undertook to monitor emails and provide deadline information to FCC.

In November 2025, Cllr. Dawn Harries resigned as Councillor stating the hostility of the public at meetings as the reason. Cllr. Jennifer Morris was co-opted to replace her in February 2026.

At the meeting of 9 February 2026 the Chair resigned as Councillor effective immediately. Anonymous abusive emails from the public which also referred to his family were the final straw for him.

Members of the public called for an election to fill the vacant position. Cllr. Christopher White was elected unopposed and will take his position on Council from 13 April 2026.

The former clerk volunteered to assist FCC continue to function during this period of upheaval.

A complaint to the Ombudsman was made by a resident against former Cllr. Ross Harries. At the time of writing the Ombudsman was carrying investigations and all matters are confidential.

Liaison with other Authorities and Organisations

The FCC is represented on the liaison body of Pembrokeshire Town and Community Councils which meet with PCC and third sector bodies, e.g. PAVS and PLANED. These meetings, now entitled “Better together”, are still being held online.

The Cllr. David Thomas is Vice Chair of One Voice Wales (OVW) Pembrokeshire Area Committee and is their Representative on the OVW National Executive Committee and currently sits on their Policy Committee. This Committee provides input to and receives feedback on wide-ranging issues related to Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) and Audit Wales.

Councillors and clerk also involve themselves voluntarily in the Freystrop Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee alongside other community members. Meetings of this committee are held separately to those of FCC.

FINANCE

The FCC obtains the majority of its operating funds from the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) by way of the annual precept. The application for each year's precept is based on a budgeting process prepared in the previous November and after ratification by the FCC submitted to PCC in January.

The budget for 2025/26 was for £12,297. A precept of £12,000 was requested of PCC with FCC using its reserves or underspend to fund the shortfall.

The 2025/26 budget increase related to inflationary pressures and the adding of a budget line for Community Maintenance. Included is grounds maintenance at Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park, repairs to FCC assets e.g. the bus shelters and ad-hoc items (such as the clearance of overgrowth on the pavement between Freystrop Cross and Silverstream in 2022/23).

Audits

FCC is required to submit an Annual Financial Return to Wales Audit. Prior to submission this return is audited by our Internal Auditor and approved by the FCC.

Audit Wales have completed all audits for FCC. The 2024/25 audit was classed as qualified with the signing off of accounts being done in the wrong order and some required information was missing (Audit Wales no longer check and chase for missing documents).

Banking

The FCC Bankers are HSBC Bank in Haverfordwest which holds both the current and deposit accounts. Bank charges on the current account of £5/month were discontinued by HSBC in July 2025. The 40p/cheque transaction is no longer applicable as online transactions are carried out by Cllr. Anna Simpson and the clerk. Nominal interest is received on the deposit account. Bank statements are received on a monthly basis.

Responsible managers of the account are Councillors W D Thomas, E Utting, A M Simpson and the clerk, R D Lavis.

Freystrop Community Council Accounts

- Bank Balances at 31 March 2026 were
 - Current a/c £2,723.82
 - Deposit a/c £12,885.69

MAJOR ITEMS OF NOTE

Highways

FCC continued to be concerned about speeding problems in the area particularly at Freystrop Cross, along Targate Road past the Playing Field, New Road and at Lower Freystrop. This also remains a constant complaint from residents.

A Minor Works Fund application was made to PCC to initiate the installing of physical speed deterrents on Targate Road. FCC were led to believe that a scheme would be implemented in the 2026/27 financial year.

Community Review

In October 2025 confirmation was received that the 3 Community Councils within PCC's Llangwm ward would not be merged.

Changes effective for Freystrop from May 2027 are the return of the house at Stumpy Corner to the Freystrop Community and at Upper Sandywells the caravans would be transferred from Merlins Bridge.

Planning

Following the second consultation by the developers relating to the White House Farm Solar and Storage Facility Councillors attended an open meeting with public to gauge public opinion. Plans by the developers were submitted to PEDW where they are currently undergoing a period of scrutiny.

A Joint Working Party was set up of 2 Councillors – Anna Simpson and Jennifer Morris and 2 members of the Freystrop and Friends Solar Action Group. The 2 Councillors will give feedback to FCC and deal with all queries relating to the project on behalf of FCC.

FCC are following Welsh Guidelines and cannot present a stance on any project until a full planning application is out for consultation. At that point it will consider any evidence presented to it from the applicant and any other parties.

Community

A climbing frame was installed in Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park in early 2026. This was funded by a National Lottery Grant application by FCC. The frame complements the exercise equipment part funded by the Village Hall and a grant from South Hook LNG via PAVS.

Littering in the Freystrop Community

Like so many other areas in Pembrokeshire Freystrop continues to suffer from a huge volume of litter.

The main problem areas are the road verges with litter being thrown from cars passing along our roads. The litter includes fast food packaging, bottles and cans of alcohol, disposable vapes, plastic bottles and so much more.

There are a number of villagers that have taken it upon themselves to regularly collect litter. This can be a thankless task when more is dropped almost immediately however it is also rewarding and some areas have seen a big reduction in the amount of litter being left.

The Freystrop community is lucky to have volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to remove the debris where it is safe to do so. Hopefully the more this is tackled the more the problem will reduce in the future.

PLANS FOR 2026/2027

Community Council

The precept for 2026/27 has been agreed at £12,000 – based on budget. See appendices.

The AGM will be held in June 2026.

The training programme for the Councillors and Clerk will be reviewed.

The Joint Working Party Councillors will continue to support the Freystrop and Friends Solar Action Group.

The overhead of the issues of the possible solar project at meetings have distracted from the Council being able to look at beneficial projects for the community in the coming year and nothing has been planned.

FCC will adopt a policy for managing unreasonable, persistent, abusive or vexatious complaints and behaviour. A current policy does not exist as it has never been required before.

Appendix A

CONTACT DETAILS OF CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

Dawn S Harries	Maddox Moor		Resigned November 2025
M Ross Harries	Moorland Road		Resigned February 2026
Thomas F Holder	Maddox Moor		cllr.thomas.holder@freystrop.wales
Jennifer Morris	St Clement's Park		cllr.jennifer.morris@freystrop.wales
Anna M Simpson	Moorland Road		cllr.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales
W David Thomas	New Road	01437 890297	cllr.david.thomas@freystrop.wales
Esme Utting	Freystrop Cross		cllr.esme.utting@freystrop.wales
Christopher White	Targate		cllr.christopher.white@freystrop.wales

Acting clerk

Russell D Lavis	Sivalrid Moorland Road Freystrop SA62 4LE	Temporary position until a clerk is appointed	community.clerk@freystrop.wales
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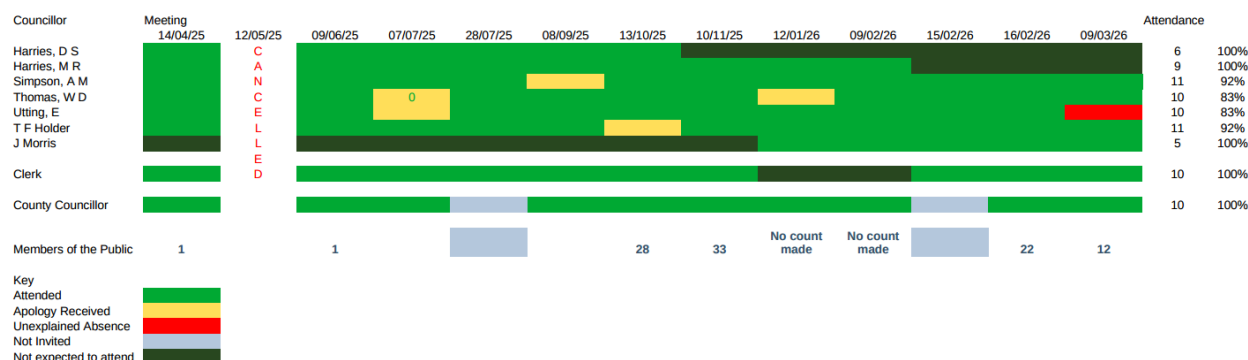
Pembrokeshire County Councillor – Llangwm Ward

Michael J John	Millbrook House, 23 Main Street Llangwm SA62 4HP	01437 890175	cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
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MEETING ATTENDANCE 2025/26

Meetings are normally held 10 times in the year. There are no meetings in August and December.

Freystrop Community Council Attendance 2025/26



Appendix B

Freystrop Community Information and Interaction

The Community Council is interested to know what you want from your Council. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know. You may contact the clerk, a Community Councillor or your County Councillor. Assistance will be given where possible to work with to achieve your aims if the outcome benefits the Community.

Freystrop Community Council posts statutory and other items of interest to the noticeboards outside Freystrop Village Hall and at Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park. Some items may also be placed on the noticeboard inside the Hall.

Statutory documents only are posted to the Freystrop Community website. Documents from other Community Councils may also be viewed there.

<https://freystrop.cymru>

The [Freystrop Community Council Facebook page](#) is accessible by all with internet access. A broad range of items from FCC and other organisations are posted.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil>



[Freystrop Village Hall](#) has its Facebook page posting items related to the Hall and its users, accessible by all with internet access.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall>

The calendar of events for Freystrop Village Hall can be viewed here:

<https://bit.ly/FreystropVillageHallCalendar>



[Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park](#) imparts pictures of activities, events happening and recreation related posts to its own Facebook page, accessible by all with internet access.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropPark/>

A private [Freystrop Community group](#) can be found on Facebook. Access is restricted to Facebook users and membership has to be approved by admins.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/freystrop/>

Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) Matters

Please note that the following matters fall to PCC and, as such, the Community Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to act directly, or to insist!

- Highways including road surfaces and potholes
- Street sweeping
- Refuse and Recycling
- Road Signs
- Verge grass cutting
- Council Housing
- Education
- Social Services
- Planning

The PCC switchboard number is 01437 764551. Emails should be directed to enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk. PCC have a MyAccount facility which can be set up and managed on their website at www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk.

Appendix C

CYNGOR CYMUNED FREYSTROP/FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL
2025/26

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD
1ST APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

	£	£	£
INCOME			
PCC	12,000.00		
Grants	14,000.00		
Interest	306.43		
Other	150.00		
		26,456.43	
EXPENDITURE			
Clerk's Salary	1,727.36		
Bank Charges	20.00		
Elections	-		
Subscriptions	160.00		
Allowances	891.00		
Insurances	241.00		
Training	-		
Audits	-		
Newsletters	-		
Donations	300.00		
Community Maintenance	1,979.17		
Other Payments	17,000.00		
		22,318.53	
SURPLUS for YEAR			4,137.90
BALANCE SHEET			
Balances on Hand	31/03/25		
Current Account	751.90		
Deposit Account	10,719.71		
Petty Cash	-		
Total Funds	31/03/25	11,471.61	
Excess of Income over Expenditure		4,137.90	
TOTAL BALANCES	31/03/25		15,609.51
Represented by:	31/03/26		
Balances on Hand	31/03/26		
Current Account	2,723.82		
Deposit Account	12,885.69		
Petty Cash	-		
TOTAL FUNDS			15,609.51
ASSETS (Less depreciation)			
As detailed on in the Asset Accounts			£ 220,577.33

Appendix D

Freystrop Community Council

Budget for 2026-2027

Item	
Clerk/RFO Salary Gross	6,000
Councillors' Annual Allowances	936
Chairman's Allowance	0
FCC Fiduciary Insurance	300
Subscriptions	175
Training Fees	150
Donations	300
External Audit Fees	500
Internal Auditor's Honorarium	50
Annual Community Newsletter	250
Future Elections Build-up	500
Bank Charges	0
Community Maintenance	3,400
<u>Total</u>	<u>12,561</u>

A precept of £12,000 was approved at the 19 January 2026 Meeting of Freystrop Community Council Minutes Item 15.v Proposed by Councillor A M Simpson, Seconded by T F Holder