

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held at
7pm on Tuesday 12th March 2019
In the Village Hall at Clyro

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr E Brown (Chairman), Cllr R Wells (Vice Chairman) Cllr P Bate, Cllr J Carter, Cllr V Price, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr D Hood, Cllr J Morgan, Cllr R Francis and Clerk to the Community Council, D Workman.

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public, Mrs Anthony, Mr Cooper, Mr Lally-Cooper and Mr Morgan

APOLOGIES: County Councillor J Gibson-Watt and PCSO's Scott and Swales

MINUTES: The Minutes for the February meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

RESPONSIBLE PERSON for the duration of this meeting for fire regulations: Chairman Brown who pointed out all fire exits and advised that the meeting point was by the church gate.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Brown has checked all assets, and all is in order.

PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **Application** 19/0317/HH. Rivendell, 29 Begwyns Bluff, Clyro – *An in-depth discussion took place and the outcome was no objections*
2. **Application** 19/0273/REM. Land adjoining Clyro Court Farm - Section 73 application to vary the approved plans approved under application PR614400 for plots 7 to 21. – *It was decided that as this application only came in today (12/3/19) and has not been advertised on the agenda formally the Community Council cannot give a decision, the Clerk will request for an extension for consultation as we have in the past. This application will then be on the agenda and discussed at April's meeting.*
3. **Update** P/2016/0397. Lower House Farm, HR3 5RU – *non-material amendment refused*

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clerks Salary, this was discussed privately after the meeting.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Lewis reported that Yrs. 5 and 6 had a successful residential trip to Stackpole and that if anyone has any spent batteries then these can be disposed at the school as they are part of a competition to collect as many as they can, along with other Powys schools the school that collects the most wins £500 of Amazon vouchers.

POLICE REPORT: No report received this month.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See appendix A.

CORRESPONDENCE (incl)

1. Welsh Audit Office – *Invoice- action to be paid this month*
2. One Voice Wales – *Membership renewal -This was agreed, and the Clerk will look at Cllrs access to this site.*
3. Planning Aid Wales – *Responding to planning Applications training- Cllrs Morgan and Lewis are going to book onto this.*
4. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales annual report – *Cllrs to request a copy from Clerk if required*
5. Annual play equipment inspection – *Powys County Council- Concern was raised in relation to the Powys County Council playground on Castle Estate as it is looking hazardous, Chairman Brown will action this for both the Pirate Playground and the Powys Council playground on Castle Estate.*
6. Waters of Wales (WoW) – *free training “Rights of Way: Restoring the Record” – no action*

FINANCIAL:

Bank balances: Reserve £3,835.66 (as at 30th January 2019) – Current £3655.71 (as at 4th March 2019). Payments to include BT direct debit, Wales Audit Office (£182.75), Welsh Air Ambulance (£250), Rhosgoch YFC (£500), Cariad (£200), Website costs, Feb 2018- Feb 2020 (£98.22), Microsoft Office Annual fee (£59.99) and Clerks Salary (£127.82). Chairman Brown proposed payment and Cllr Hood seconded.

AOB

Cllr Hood raised that he has been approached by numerous members of the Clyro Community asking why such a large donation was made to Rhosgoch YFC? (donation passed at February's meeting) As Cllr Hood missed February's meeting Cllr's Carter, Bate, Brown and Wells explained the reasoning behind the donation that was discussed at February's meeting after receiving both a presentation (November's meeting) and a letter from Rhosgoch YFC requesting a donation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr Morgan offered past building plans for the Community Council to use for information if required.

Mr Cooper asked if the Cllrs have read the LDP and suggested that if they haven't then they should as it is a very informative piece of literature in relation to the local area. Vice Chairman Wells explained that there are links to the LDP on the website, this link will be extended to allow users to go directly to relevant local areas specifically. Mr Cooper also added that there had been an incident of fly tipping on a lane near his home. Chairman Brown advised that any problem like this would be reportable to Powys County Council.

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm

Cllrs then discussed in private the Clerks Salary, Chairman Brown thanked the Clerk for her work over the last year and explained to Cllrs how if the Clerks wage was not increased it would be below minimum wage when on April 1st the new minimum wage comes into effect. Chairman Brown proposed increasing the hourly rate to £10 per hour for 20 hours per month. This was seconded by Cllr Hood and all Cllrs agreed.

Members of the public are invited to attend council meetings and to contribute at the end of business. Minutes and agenda available on request. Also displayed on website www.clyro.org

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Cllr E Brown, Chairman)

Appendix A

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

12/3/19

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

As mentioned in my February report I have received worrying reports that the planning for the major capital investment at the school is not making progress at the moment. So, as promised I have made further enquiries. 50% of the capital investment is being funded by Welsh Government, so any changes will have to be accepted by the Welsh Government before they can happen. However, it appears that an important report is due to go to the council's Cabinet within the next few months and that its contents may well be fairly radical. This is an issue we all need to keep a close eye on!

Clyro C in W School and the Gwernyfed Catchment

The controversy over the funding of school breakfast clubs, one of which is run at Clyro School, has not entirely gone away. To recap, to date the county council has funded the schools to provide this service, which is a statutory one if parents request it, However, according to a letter sent to schools from the council in late January the council's new school funding formula would remove this funding from school delegated budgets from April this year. However, a letter from the council a week later suggested that the funding was still in place and would be included in delegated school budgets after all. The Cabinet Member for Schools insisted at the time that the funding will still be available in schools delegated budgets, but my request that she confirm that schools that put-on breakfast clubs will receive more money than if they didn't has still gone unanswered. Now, it appears from messages sent to parents by a headteacher that the money will not be included in delegated school budgets from April and that schools will have to produce a business case to the council to get the funding! Again, I have emailed the portfolio holder for schools asking her to clarify the

position, but at the time of writing (Mon 11th March) no response has been received. I will report to council via email when (if) I do get a response.

Recycling – Green Waste

Applications by Powys residents for wheelie bins for the new kerbside collection system can now be made via Powys CC's website. The new system will be introduced from April 2019.

Housing

The meeting I recently had with housing officers about the proposals for new social/affordable housing on the green area between Castle Estate and the A438 was productive and discussions about design and the exact types of houses that will be proposed are still underway within the housing department. I expect to see a planning application submitted this year.

Planning

A Section 73 application to vary the consent on the land behind the filling station in Clyro has just been registered, as per my email to the clerk.

Powys County Council's 2019/20 Budget

The Cabinet's proposals, which involve significant cuts to local services in 2019/20 plus a Council Tax rise of 9.5% were passed with a narrow majority at the second time of asking last week. I had proposed an Alternative Budget on behalf of the Welsh Lib Dem – Green Group for consideration by the council. This would have restored funding to a number of threatened local services and produced a lower 6.95% CT increase. However, the Chief Finance Officer, using powers granted to him under the Local Government Act 2003, refused to allow it to be considered, due mainly to my group's proposals to use the £2m of revenue funding he insisted should be added to the council's reserves on services and a reduced Council Tax rise instead. Without the £2m addition to reserves he would not 'sign off' the alternative budget for consideration by council.

We did have one success, proposing an amendment that committed the council to use £90,000 the Cabinet wished to leave unallocated as 'contingency' to partially restore the £133,000 cuts the Cabinet wanted to make to arts and cultural organisations, such as Wyeside Arts Centre, Theatr Brycheiniog, etc. The cuts would have risked their closure. Our amendment was passed and the restored funding should help to ensure they can stay open and can plan for the future. In the budget debate I made the point strongly that the reason that Powys residents are facing a record CT increase and cuts to valued local services is due to the Cabinet and service managers' inability to deliver services within budget over a number of years; and that that had to stop. The council cannot propose another budget like this one next year.

What is agreed is that the county council cannot continue to operate in its current form and along current operational lines. Major reform is needed. Will the current Cabinet deliver it? We shall see.

Contact: 01497 820434 or 07971048737 or cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk

DRAFT