

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held remotely via ZOOM
7pm on Tuesday 11th August 2020

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr R Wells (Chairman), Cllr Lewis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Carter, Cllr J Morgan, and Clerk to the Community Council, D Workman.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor J Gibson-Watt and T Mercer.

APOLOGIES: Cllr D Hood, Cllr E Brown, and Cllr R Francis

MINUTES: An amendment to Julys Minutes was proposed by Cllr Morgan and agreed by the Community Council.

Matters arising, item 3, Covid – Community response *Cllr Morgan explained that the Community group stepped in quickly, connections were made, and demand was met. The volunteer system worked very well, and the Community were supported.*

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

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

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Castle Estate play park and housing development update – *A successful planting of the butterfly garden took place with native butterfly attracting plants and shrubs including lavender, wild honeysuckle, dog rose and Ox eyed daisy. Infrastructure included raised bed, trellis, birdfeeders, and bug refuges. Work was carried out by 8 volunteers from the local community, Cllrs Wells, Brown, Francis, County Councillor Gibson Watt, Simone Hodges (Powys CC), and a representative from Keep Wales Tidy. Thanks go to all who took part in this enjoyable project.*
Cllr Wells explained that at present responsibility for the play park is with Powys and Powys CC have transferred the maintenance contract from the playing field to the play park. Chairman Wells ran through the possible advantages of the Community Council taking on the play area for an initial limited period of say 3 years. He felt the sense of community ownership would likely result in better care than Powys CC would be able to provide he also acknowledged that some Cllrs are uneasy with taking on the possible costs and liability. He advised that there is a good core of community volunteers who have expressed their willingness to carry out maintenance on the site. The Clerk has explored the insurance aspect that has shown that as far as public liability and material items the insurance would not change. It is not clear if the land and equipment asset value would incur extra costs for insurance purposes. The Clerk will continue to get information.

Vice-Chairman Lewis added that the value any second-hand equipment going in would not add much to the value for insurance purposes. Cllr Carter raised her concern of a member of public injuring themselves and then taking legal action against the Community Council. Chairman Wells explained that the Community Council would have to be diligent in its management of the play area and there are many play areas run by community/volunteer groups without problems. He added that we are insured for these types of liabilities. Steve Butcher (Outdoor Recreation Officer) from Powys has been helpful by giving advice on the legal and safety requirements of managing the play area. He said that as the play area is basic with not many pieces of equipment the risk assessment would be simple and as long as checks were carried out methodically including the annual RoSPA inspection the risks to the Community Council are low.

The housing development is progressing with the intention of work starting in September. They have agreed to park on the strip of land on the end of the site to relieve concern of parking on Castle Estate.

2. Additional Charity support during pandemic – Cllr Brown – A broad discussion was held around this proposal and the Cllrs agreed to not make donations now. Cllr Carter proposed MIND in Brecon as a local charity that may need help at this time. The Chairman requested that the Clerk contact the charities that the Community Council regularly donates to asking if they need help financially.
3. AGM – postponement update – Until restrictions are lifted, we are not able to meet and it is felt that an AGM needs to be a physical meeting with as many Cllrs that can be there. We will aim for a physical meeting in September if guidance allows.
4. Glasbury Community Council – potential collaboration regarding speed awareness signs. – The Clerk took the meeting through the costings and procedure of the implementation of SID's. County Cllr Gibson-Watt explained how the speed limits are set using statistics and then setting it at the 85th percentile, that is they know that people will go faster than the limit so most people will stick to the 40mph and 15% will go over. He also shared that whilst he thinks the SID's work, research shows that they do not slow the 15% that will always go over the limit. Discussion continued with the conclusion being that to opt into this would be costly and impact our budget heavily. The Clerk will enquire about having the speed camera van visit periodically.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT:

Vice-Chairman Lewis reported that the new term will start on Tuesday 1st September. This of course could change with the Covid restrictions developing.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (incl)

1. Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel – Annual report – *No action required*
2. Haygarth Doctors – consultation – *The Clerk will circulate the email address where public comments can be sent. enquiries.powyschc@waleschc.org.uk*
3. Mobile Post Office - Thursdays 15.45-16.45 opposite The Baskerville Arms – *Please use this service in the village.*

FINANCIAL: Current £2,858.24 (on 4th August 2020) Reserve £1,845.16 (on 30th June 2020). Payments to include BT direct debit, PAVO (£30) and Clerks Salary (£160). Payments proposed by Vice-Chairman Lewis and seconded by Cllr Carter.

AOB: Chairman Wells thanked Cllr Morgan for setting up the remote meetings for the Community Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: T Mercer agreed with the speed of traffic through Clyro and Bronydd being quite unacceptable at times. He also explained his concerns over the change of Haygarth doctors from a patients perspective and is glad that the Community Council are engaging with the consultation.

The meeting was closed at 8.40pm

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 R Wells, Chairman)

Appendix A

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

11/8/20

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre – Schools Transformation

Despite the pandemic and the refocussing of the county council's functions on to Covid-19 pandemic activities, work on schools transformation has continued. The general policy approach is now broadly agreed and detailed proposals are due to be revealed next month, after which another public consultation will take place. These will very likely impact on Gwernyfed HS, so will be of significant interest.

Clyro C in W Primary School

While it is unlikely that any proposals to change the number of primary schools in the Gwernyfed HS catchment will be made in the schools transformation process, proposals to change school governance arrangements may well emerge. Again, this will need careful monitoring.

Planning & Housing

Creation of the new parking arrangements at the bungalows in Castle Estate will now be delayed, pending construction of the new houses on the site there. It is hoped that a start may be made on those next month (Sept).

The new recreation area has developed nicely over the past few months and is already being used by local residents. Installation of the butterfly-friendly garden area is an excellent initiative and particular thanks are due to Cllr Roger Wells and his family for the work they put in to it.

I have asked the planners to check whether the new houses adjacent to the Baskerville Arms Hotel are compliant with the consent conditions imposed and a full response is awaited.

Highways

After receiving complaints about it from 'she who must be obeyed' at Boatside the local county councillor recently requested that the hedge and verge be trimmed back on the Clyro to Hay footpath. To its credit the Highways Dept at Powys CC responded v promptly and the result is good I think.

Powys County Council 2020/21 Budget

This has been thrown in to some disarray by Covid-19 and, due to increased expenditure and reductions in income and despite significant extra funding received from the Welsh Government (WG), the council is now forecasting an end of year deficit of about £12.5m. This deficit may be reduced by further extra funding from WG, but whatever happens there will be a significant deficit at year end, potentially necessitating further reductions in service and/or a significant increase in Council Tax rates in 2021/22. Just when we thought austerity was over....

Test, Trace & Protect (TTP) – Covid-19

There are many reasons why I am thankful to live in Wales and at present Test & Trace is one of them. Wisely, the Welsh Government decided that the system in Wales would be entirely based on local county councils and health boards working together to test (health boards) suspected cases and trace (county councils) them and their contacts. Councils and health boards have well-established systems in place to carry out disease control functions and, although these needed to be augmented with extra staff, this is really business as usual, just on a bigger scale.

In contrast, in England, where a centralised system run by a large corporation (Serco) was installed, supposedly to work alongside local councils, the result has been unsatisfactory, as communication between the central system and local councils has been poor and hampered by data protection issues that apparently prevented Serco from providing the names of individuals and their addresses to local Directors of Public Protection. That system is now changing in England, with a welcome greater emphasis on local functioning. But in Powys I am pleased to report that tracing success has from the start been close to or at 100% and this has allowed the council to assist other council areas, such as Wrexham, with their efforts. Testing has experienced more problems and whether limiting testing to people suffering from symptoms and those working in the health and care system will be adequate remains to be seen.

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