

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held via ZOOM
7pm on Tuesday 8th September 2020

MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor J Gibson-Watt

APOLOGIES: Cllr E Brown, Cllr R Francis and PCSO Jackson

MINUTES: The Minutes for the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and will be signed by Chairman Wells.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Chairman Wells declared an interest in Planning Matters 1 as the applicant is his brother-in-law – He will withdraw from the meeting and not take part in discussion of this item.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Wells has checked all assets, and all is in order. The Clerk brought up the register and questioned the values attached to the items on the register, the discussion around taking on the new play area as the Community Council has raised questions regarding the cover that insurance gives. The Clerk asked Zurich about insurance on the Village Green land, what is it covered for? The answer from Zurich was

Land is automatically covered for liabilities providing that you are undertaking measures to reduce risk in the first place. Actual damage to the land is not covered whatsoever as it falls within our exclusions. Items such as surfacing etc can be covered through (astro turf / playground surfacing etc)- Paul Moore at Zurich Insurance 1/9/20

The Clerk will send out the Assets register and next month Cllrs will comment on revising the values attached to items to make the register a realistic record for insurance purposes.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Castle Estate play park and housing development update – Chairman Wells updated the meeting on the butterfly garden and the bug hotel and how well it's all growing. Photographs were shared showing the change in the butterfly garden and the walking area. He also brought to the attention of the meeting that the path that has a stone dust topping is eroding with the rain so any rainfall is causing it to wash down onto the tarmac path at the bottom of the play area. A stone has also fallen off the wall at the entrance of the play area Chairman Wells is happy to repair the stone, but the path is something that the contractor will have to look at. Chairman Wells has been in touch with Simone Hodges (Powys County Council) regarding the path and she is arranging a visit with

from the contractor. There is a bin with birdseed in at the top of the play park and some residents have been refilling the birdfeeders as well as watering the garden.

Chairman Wells asked County Councillor Gibson-Watt if he knew about the access to the new housing development and when passing spaces would be put in place. County Councillor Gibson-Watt replied that this would be done once the housing development was nearly finished as there will be heavy vehicles using the road to enable the building so resurfacing and marking is better left until all that is finished.

2. Additional Charity support during pandemic – The Clerk reported that the Brecon Advice Centre is open to telephone/email support for four mornings a week as they operated before COVID, they are looking at ways that they could open for face to face meetings. Any donations are gratefully received. Brecon MIND also replied to the Community Councils email saying that during normal times they come to Hay every week offering support for people in need at Hay Bowling Club. If the Community Council wanted to donate, then it could be directed to the group in Hay. Chairman Wells explained that this exercise was to find out if any charities are in urgent need of funds at this time. Cllr Morgan asked if the Community Council could come up with a strategy to shape how donations are requested/given. The consensus was to put a notice out inviting local groups to apply for donations. Cllr Hood explained that he is of the opinion that the Community Council should not be funding national charities. Discussion continued and it was agreed that we are open to requests for donations from local groups or national charities that provide local services. Requests can be made in writing to clyroclerk@gmail.com
3. Glasbury Community Council – potential collaboration regarding speed awareness signs. Chairman Wells clarified last month's discussion, the Clerk relayed information from PCSO Jackson who has said that the speed camera van will come to Clyro and that a Traffic Officer has attended Clyro recently with a handheld device. She has not had feedback from that session. Cllr's expressed their thanks to PCSO Jackson for her help at this time. All agreed that even jointly with Glasbury CC the initial and ongoing costs of speed signs were prohibitive and regretfully could not be justified at this time.
4. Defibrillator maintenance – replacement of batteries and pads. The Clerk told the meeting that the batteries are £36.20, and the pads are £98.39. Chairman Wells explained that the batteries had been purchased and changed already as he felt that we shouldn't wait for the meeting in case the defibrillator failed to work. Cllr Hood proposed that the items are paid for, Vice Chairman Lewis seconded, and all Cllr's agreed. The Clerk requested that she as part of her job description could perform a monthly check on the defibrillator as it would be awful if someone needed to use it and it wasn't working. All Cllr's agreed to this action. The Clerk will keep a tick sheet in the defibrillator case that can be filled in every time.

PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **Application [20/1050/HH](#)**. Tirmynach Farmhouse, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5RS. *First floor extension and alterations*. No objections from the Community Council. Cllr Wells withdrew from discussion of this item.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Lewis reported that the school has returned following all the guidelines and so far, all is going smoothly.

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

CORRESPONDENCE (incl)

1. One Voice Wales – Cllr's were encouraged to read this guidance regarding Community engagement.

FINANCIAL:

Current A/C £2,858.24 (as at 4th August 2020) Reserve a/c £1,845.16 (as at 30th June 2020)

Payments to be made BT Direct debit and Clerks salary (£160). Cllr Carter proposed these payments and was seconded by Vice Chairman Lewis.

1. VAT claim – The Clerk has put the three-year claim into the HMRC for a VAT refund.
2. Half year budget discussion – Chairman Wells told the meeting about using a mobile broadband service without a landline connected to it, this is a cheaper way of obtaining broadband. Cllr's agreed that Chairman Wells could investigate the options available. The Clerk informed the meeting that the auditors had been in touch asking for a few bits of information, these have been sent.

AOB: Cllr Morgan explained that Haygarth Surgery are proposing to reduce their opening hours to pay for the triage system that has previously been funded by the Powys Health Board as a pilot scheme. The Health Board are asking for comments from the surrounding Communities. Cllr Carter expressed her worries that she has been told that people are just not bothering to go to the doctors as there are too many obstacles. She doesn't want the surgeries to change its opening hours. County Cllr Gibson-Watt asked that the Community Council recognise that this change is not to be confused with the COVID changes that the surgeries have had to implement, he acknowledged that the timing of this consultation is not the best. Cllr Carter proposed that the Community Council send a letter of objection to the consultation, a seconder did not come forward so Chairman Wells proposed that a letter be sent expressing the concerns that we as a Community Council have over the proposed plans including the reduction in opening hours. Vice Chairman Lewis seconded this proposal. Four Cllr's voted in favour and one abstained. Chairman Wells will write on behalf of CCC.

Chairman Wells reported that he and the Clerk had attended a Powys County Council remote meeting to liaise with Town and Community Councils. Powys gave an insight into their response to the floods and COVID. Another meeting is proposed on October 15th so if Cllr's have any issues that they would like raised then let the Clerk know.

Chairman Wells also highlighted the local lockdown in Caerphilly, which is not that far from us, so we need to keep following the guidelines and not take unnecessary risks.

The meeting was closed at 8.52pm

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

8/9/20

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

Clyro C in W Primary School

Schools have returned under the new Covid-19 safe arrangements with, so far, no incidents of concern as far as I am aware. However, the traffic problems at Gwernyfed HS are a significant problem, with parents describing 'gridlock'. This has happened because Powys CC has suspended the vacant seat payment scheme (in which pupils living within 3 miles of a school could purchase seats on a school bus as long as spaces were available) to limit numbers on the buses (for Covid-19 reasons); and also because many school buses are actually coaches, which are not fully accessible, as all buses must be now if they are accepting paying passengers (which VSPS pupils are). So, more pupils are arriving at school by car. This is a problem that will have to be addressed as the current arrangements are likely to last for many months.

Powys County Council Education Service and Schools Transformation

As previously reported, Wales's educational inspectorate, Estyn, reported on its inspection of Powys County Council's education service in September 2019. Work to implement the Action Plan to address the issues identified by the Estyn report has continued during the Covid-19 lockdown and new proposals for transforming the Powys school's infrastructure to be revealed shortly.

School Transport

The Council's Cabinet has been consulting on a new school transport policy framework. It included a proposal to remove the Council's current support for post-16 learners accessing courses out of county, if those courses are not available closer to the learner's home in county. I and my council group strongly opposed this proposal, on the grounds that post-16 provision in Powys is not wide enough, it would limit learner choice and would particularly disadvantage learners from low income families. I am pleased to say

that following the consultation officers are now recommending to the Cabinet that this proposal be dropped, at least for the time being.

Planning & Housing

The start date for the new houses at Castle Estate was set as Sept 2020, but there will be some slippage on that of hopefully only a brief period.

I have asked the senior planning officer for this area of Powys to check that the new houses opposite The Orchard in Clyro are being built according to the conditions of consent. Her report is awaited.

Highways

The programme to remove weeds and debris from the highways gutters and storm drains has been delayed somewhat across Powys, but I am assured it will be done shortly. It is very much needed!

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

DRAFT