

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held via Zoom
7pm on Tuesday 13th October 2020

MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor J Gibson-Watt and PCSO Jackson

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Carter, Cllr V Price and Cllr D Hood

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: County Cllr Gibson-Watt declared an interest in planning application 20/1328/FUL. County Cllr Gibson-Watt will leave the meeting when this application is discussed.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Wells has checked all assets, and all is in order. The assets register was discussed. Following advice from our insurers, the land at the Village Green is not required to be a costed item for insurance purposes and therefore it can be given a nominal value of £1 for reporting reasons only. This does not affect the public liability insurance which is provided as part of the policy. It was also discussed that as the Community Council has ownership of the defibrillator then that should have a replacement cost for insurance purposes. The other assets on the register were seen to be correct on the register. Cllr Brown proposed, and Vice-Chairman Lewis seconded these updates, all Cllrs were in favour.

PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **Consultation** Airwave Solutions Ltd, DFP056/EAS0010a – Proposed base station site upgrade, land at Cefn-Y-Blaen, Clyro, HR3 5SH. – *No objections were raised.*
2. **Application** [20/1328/FUL](#). Conversion of an ancillary domestic barn into a self-contained holiday let. Boatside Farm, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5RS. – *County Cllr Gibson-Watt left the meeting at 20.30, this item was then discussed – no objections were raised.*

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Castle Estate play park and housing development update - Chairman Wells spoke about the new play area, a planting group will be needed soon to plant the next stage of the Keep Wales Tidy project, wildflowers, October 31st 9-11am was agreed if Covid-19 regulations allow. The old play equipment is now in storage and Cllr Wells will liaise with Steve Butcher (Powys CC) regarding possible re-siting in the new area as appropriate. Chairman Wells added that at some point he will be putting forward a formal proposal to the Community Council that the responsibility of the new play area is taken on by the Community Council for perhaps a three-year period. Cllr Brown voiced his concern regarding the responsibility of the new play area, he said "there are lots of well documented cases where

Councils have taken previously local authority run assets on in good faith and then there have been major legal and financial implications, authorities are good at handing things over and promising but then promises do not materialise and Councils are left thinking how did we get into this? We need to think very carefully before we take it over” Chairman Wells explained that he agreed and that it was not a proposal he would be making lightly, he would prefer Powys remain the responsible body for the play area and the Community Council come in to carry out maintenance and keep it tidy. However, there does not appear to be a legal framework for this type of agreement so it’s a case of all or nothing. He fears that if ownership were not taken on by the Community Council then only the bare minimum would be done by Powys this could lead to the area becoming a wilderness in time. On the positive side he believes that it is a great asset for the Community and can provide a focus for volunteer activities and be used by residents and the school etc. County Cllr Gibson-Watt reported that the new housing development on the old play area has been delayed until November, this is due to difficulty in getting the planning conditions discharged by Powys planning.

2. Haygarth Surgery Consultation outcome – The outcome has concluded that Haygarth have not given adequate consultation to its stakeholders and have been asked to do further consultation. Cllr’s requested that the Clerk respond by asking that we are kept informed as the consultation progresses.
3. BT contract – Chairman Wells has negotiated a new contract with BT for broadband and line rental at the village hall. It consists of a two-year contract with new router and a 4G back-up if the landline goes down at a monthly cost of £24.99 plus vat for up to 8Mb/s (a monthly saving of £45 including vat on what Clyro Community Council is currently paying). Cllr’s were all in favour of this option. Chairman Wells advised that BT had offered high speed broadband fibre service at £39 plus vat which would give speeds of up to 74Mb/s – a service he felt was not needed at this time however an option to upgrade during the term of the contract would be kept open should the Community Council feel that the requirements change. He requested that the Clerk diarise the 2-year anniversary of the contract so that we can renegotiate the rate.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Lewis reported that the school is functioning well under difficult conditions, a two-week half-term break will take place from October 16th. The school has lost some funding from Powys that will have implications later, the numbers on roll were two below the next tier figure of 91. Funding is worked out in blocks of 30 pupils so if a school does not hit the 91, they are treated the same as a school with 61 pupils. Cllrs expressed their concern at the injustice of this calculation.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Jackson reported that incidents of crime have increased over the last month, four burglaries had occurred in Hay over the last week. Residents are advised to secure sheds, have adequate lighting and be aware of any unfamiliar vehicles. It has been reported that markers are being left outside houses these are known to either be to show criminals where goods of value are or even to show dog thieves where dogs of value live. There are fraud scams being reported, residents should not give out personal information via phone or email. PCSO Jackson advised residents to be suspicious of everyone and to report any suspicious events by calling 101. Chairman Wells asked about the text service that residents signed up to, PCSO Jackson will go back and see what is happening with this, she said that there had been problems with the application but didn’t know at this time if those problems had been resolved. Cllr Brown asked about the problem of speeding through Clyro. PCSO Jackson has requested both the speed van and the traffic police to include Clyro on their schedule. County Cllr Gibson-Watt asked about Speedwatch, he had heard that Hay are getting a group together. Is this something that Clyro could do? PCSO Jackson advised that volunteers are needed, County Cllr Gibson-Watt and Cllr Brown volunteered. PCSO Jackson will take this forward and let us know. Chairman Wells asked if the speedwatch was available on for 40mph

roads or just 30mph – PCSO Jackson said she would enquire about this. The Community Council thanked PCSO Jackson for attending and PCSO Jackson left the meeting at 19.20.

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

CORRESPONDENCE (incl)

1. Powys County Council – Town and Community Councils meeting 15/10/20, *Chairman Wells is going to attend remotely and will report back next month.*
2. John Richardson – New play area – *Chairman Wells has spoken to Simone Hodges about topping some trees that are in the new play area adjoining John Richardson’s property, Simone spoke to the Chief Engineer who is happy to meet on-site and discuss the trees from an ecological point of view.*
3. Powys CHC Newsletter – *no action required*
4. One Voice Wales – training programme – *The Clerk asked Cllrs to have a look as there are some free sessions and as they are online this might be easier to attend. The Clerk expressed an interest in the financial training, Cllrs agreed that she could apply to attend.*
5. Mobile Post Office – Change of time in Clyro Tuesday 13.45-14.45 – *Cllr Brown has updated the notice board and Chairman Wells will update the website.*
6. One Voice Wales - Where next for local Councils? Invite to discussion Friday 16th October
7. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales DRAFT annual report – *Cllrs to read and bring comments to next month’s meeting.*

FINANCIAL:

Current £4,528.88 (on 4th September 2020) Reserve £1845.21 (on 30th September 2020).

Credits received – VAT refund £358.76 and precept £1,667.00.

Payments to include BT direct debit (£49.16), Clerks Salary (£160), defibrillator batteries (£36.20), defibrillator pads (£98.39) and Royal British Legion (£50).

Proposed by Vice Chairman Lewis and seconded by Chairman Wells.

AOB: Cllr Brown told the Council that there will be an outdoor Remembrance service at the church on November 8th. He also requested that the Clerks salary be reviewed as it usually is every year at the AGM. Chairman Wells agreed to come up with a proposal at next months meeting.

Chairman Wells relayed an email from J Francis that informed members of the public of the changes to A+E services at Nevill Hall, Abergavenny. The hospital will no longer be offering A+E services these will be transferred to the new hospital, The Grange in Cwmbran. County Cllr Gibson-Watt clarified that for Clyro residents it will mean that often Clyro ambulances will go to Hereford A+E. Brecon hospital has a minor injury unit that functions during the day.

Cllrs are encouraged to have a look at Powys Active travel strategy and pass comment as individuals to push towards getting cycle tracks and safe walkways in the local area. The Clerk will contact Hay and see where the joint application has progressed to.

The meeting was closed at 20.35

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

13/10/20

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

Clyro C in W Primary School

No reports (yet) of any Covid-19 infections in either staff or pupils at either school, but other schools in Powys have been affected, so these are nervous times.

I have been dealing with a complaint that the Painscastle to Clyro school bus has been using the narrow route from Old Forest Farm across Hendom Common and down through the wood behind Clyro Court to and from the school, rather than using the much safer and wider route past Border's Hideaway and through the village. I made it clear to the school transport department that this is unacceptable and it appears that the bus now does use the safer route to get to school, but is still returning the pupils to Painscastle via the road up through the wood! Am still chasing this.

Powys County Council Education Service and Schools Transformation

Major transformation proposals to be put by the County Council to the Welsh Government (as it all depends on most of the capital funding coming from the Welsh Government) were discussed and approved by the council's Cabinet a couple of weeks ago. Little or no change is proposed for primary schools in the Gwernyfed High School catchment, as that work has already been done, but now the siting of Gwernyfed High School itself is in doubt. The future of the school seems to be secure, but the council's Education Department has now stated that developing the school on the current site, as previously planned, is very difficult and wants to find an alternative site for a new school. 4 sites are under consideration, only one of which is in Three Cocks. Council members have not been told where the sites are.

Given the amount of investment in the current site (new classrooms, dining hall, sports fields, etc.) that has already happened over the past 12 years and the school's location equidistant between the catchment's two main settlements in the geographical centre of the catchment area, I am very sceptical about the need to change sites and the huge costs that will involve.

Planning & Housing

The start date for the new houses at Castle Estate was set as Sept 2020, but the Housing Department has apparently had problems getting some of the planning conditions discharged. New start dates of 26th October or 2nd November have now been proposed.

I 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. All is in order except the front fencing, which is apparently higher than the regulations allow (1m for a new boundary on to the public highway). The developer is being contacted.

Highways

Some progress has been made to remove weeds and debris from highways gutters and storm drains, but more work is still required.

A Community Speed Watch group has been set up in Hay and this is perhaps something that could be considered (again) for Clyro. It is being organised by the PCSOs in Hay and I would very much support such a scheme in Clyro.

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

DRAFT