

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held at the Village Hall.
Tuesday 8th February 2022, 7pm.

MINUTES

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Lewis

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Gibson-Watt, B Morgan, Y Hood, J Smith and C Smith.

MINUTES: The minutes from January's meeting were agreed to be true so were signed by Chairman Brown.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Brown has checked all assets and they are all in order.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clyro Traffic Calming update – Cllr Fforde has circulated to Cllrs an example questionnaire for Clyro residents to fill out regarding vehicle speed through the village. Cllrs discussed the content and agreed that some of the questions needed expanding and could be used to gather more information regarding opinion on local travel opportunities. Cllr Morgan and Vice-Chairman Wells offered to help with compiling the questionnaire and Cllr Fforde will present it at next month's meeting. Costings for the various types of traffic calming apparel was also gathered and reported to Cllrs. Cllr Fforde is confident that funding can be secured to pay for this. He has contacted Powys Highways and is waiting for a reply to set up a meeting to discuss how the Community Council could proceed with the various measures.
2. Village Green path repair – Vice-Chairman Wells reported that the path has been repaired. Chairman Brown thanked Vice-Chairman Wells for resolving this matter.
3. Queens Jubilee Platinum Celebrations – Chairman Brown informed the group that St Michaels church has given permission for the Community Council to project a light onto the church in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Chairman Brown invited members of the public, Mr B Morgan and Mrs Y Hood to speak at this point as they had requested to. Mr Morgan explained that when he was a member of the Community Council during the last jubilee, he organised a street party that was enjoyed by all. He cannot organise this one as it is a huge undertaking, therefore he is

asking that the Community Council organise a similar event. Mrs Y Hood agreed with this and requested that permission be sought for the road through the village to be closed for the event. Vice-Chairman Wells replied that with events like this there must be someone who wants to take it on. Currently there is no one on the Community Council that would be willing to organise an event of this type. Mrs Y Hood and Chairman Brown both recalled how lovely the last jubilee celebration was in the village. Chairman Brown asked the Community Council for comment. Cllr Bate offered to help but couldn't lead the project. Cllrs agreed to apply for a road closure, the clerk will action this. Volunteers to help with this event should contact the Clerk.

4. Clyro to Hay cycle route update – Vice-Chairman Wells shared information that was gathered at the meeting held between representatives from Hay Town Council, Clyro Community Council and Maggie Kerr. Various routes are being thought about and examined. Informal talks with landowners to get their opinions has also been undertaken. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16th.

GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Fforde told the meeting that the fair funding formula that was applied to Clyro Schools pupil numbers and teacher ratio has been changed to a new formula that will make it fairer for smaller schools. Details are not known yet.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (*incl*):

1. Brecon & Radnor area committee meeting – Wednesday 9th February – Cllr Morgan will attend this meeting.

FINANCIAL: Bank balances: Current £4,003.63 (on 4th January 2022) Reserve £1,845.41 (on 30th November 2021). Payments to include BT direct debit (£30), PAVO (£30), Clerks Salary (£180.82), website host charge (£143.71) and web domain charge (£33.06). Cllr Carter proposed, and Chairman Brown seconded these payments.

AOB: Correspondence was received after the agenda was published regarding planning application - Lower Noyadd, Clyro, HR3 5JS. Ref [21/2118/FUL](#), Jake and Carla Smith requested to attend the meeting and explain the development as the actual application does not give the background to the development. Cllr Francis visited the site and felt that the application had been misrepresented as it is not the demolition of an old building but the removal of an "eyesore" to be replaced by a passive house that will blend in with the other farm buildings. Vice-Chairman Wells also visited and agreed with Cllr Francis adding that the visuals that were on the application did not show the actual size of the new building correctly. Discussion continued and concluded with the majority of Cllrs agreeing to the proposal from Chairman Brown of sending another comment to Powys planning explaining that the application did not give the full information regarding the development.

The meeting was closed at 8.25pm.

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

8/2/22

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

Powys County Council's Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) for Education met with the GHS Governors recently and committed himself to the creation of a new school campus, but was not able to provide any detail about where that might be. As stated in my previous report, there will be no further movement on this issue this side of the May council election.

Clyro C in W Primary School and Schools Transformation in Powys

The Council's Cabinet confirmed today (Tue.) that it will be going ahead with the closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau) School from August 2022. I spoke against the proposal from my position as Leader of the Opposition, as given that although the school is small it is full and delivering a good standard of education, while sharing a Headteacher and resources with Llanelwedd School, I and my group colleagues believe that the disruption to pupils' education and damage to the local community cannot be justified. It also sets the Council on a path towards the closure of more small, rural schools. I do not believe that enough effort has been put in to exploring alternative ways of managing the county's rural schools network, such as clustering and federation, which would sustain more provision at local village level across the county and by so doing help to sustain those communities. I hope we can find a new way to proceed after the May elections and a new Council is formed.

Planning & Housing

Progress on the new houses at Castle Estate continues to be very slow, with completion dates now stretching into the spring. I hope to have a verbal update available for the meeting.

Highways

My apologies for missing the recent meeting with regard to the proposals to create a cycle route from Clyro to Hay. I was unwell at the time and in fact did not see the messages about it until too late. I will of course do whatever I can to assist in developing this idea.

Covid-19, Test Trace & Protect and the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Although infection levels are lower than in previous months, people locally are still contracting Covid-19, even if triple-jabbed, and some people are becoming unwell. Infection levels and deaths involving Covid-19 across the UK are still at concerning levels. So, the county council and health board are continuing with both the vaccination programme and track & trace efforts to limit disease spread and serious illness; and Powys is still doing well on both fronts.

Powys County Council 2022/23 Budget

The Council's Independent/Conservative Cabinet has published its 2022/23 budget proposals, which contain a proposed 3.9% Council Tax increase. If implemented this will bring the

cumulative increase in Council Tax in Powys during this Council (from 2017) to over 30%. It is likely that the budget proposals will change over the next few weeks, as extra funding from Welsh Government is still being received as we near the end of the 2021/22 year and more is likely to arrive in the coming weeks. That and the fact that a number of the savings/costs reductions proposals contained in the Cabinet's draft budget are not very credible means that I (as Leader of the Opposition) and the other opposition group leaders were not able to set an alternative budget in time to meet the deadline of the 7th February set by the Council's Chief Finance Officer.

However, we will jointly oppose the budget if it includes a CT increase of the order suggested and unless the Cabinet returns with more credible savings proposals.

DRAFT