

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Meeting held at the Village Hall.  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 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 and B Morgan.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from February'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 had nothing to report other than he has been working on the questionnaire with Vice-Chairman Wells.
2. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – The application has gone in for a road closure if anyone wants to organise an event for the Jubilee. The volunteer sign in the box outside the village hall has not brought any interest yet.
3. Clyro to Hay cycle route update - Vice-Chairman Wells reported that another meeting was held, and three routes are being investigated and mapped. A letter has been sent to Vincent Goodwin, Powys Transport Officer asking for advice and his thoughts on the viability of a cycle route. Vice-Chairman Wells directed the meeting to a website [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org) where there is lots of information and a petition to sign asking for more safe cycle routes to be constructed. Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### **PLANNING MATTERS inc updates and decisions:**

1. **Application:** Erection of a lean-to animal shelter (retrospective), Bryn Y Garth, Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3JW. Application reference: [22/0080/FUL](#). *The Community Council discussed this application and had no comment to make.*

2. **Application:** Proposed single storey side extension, Net House, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5RS. Application reference: [22/0218/HH](#). *The Community Council discussed this application and had no comment to make.*
3. **Decision:** Erection of extensions to two storey dwelling, Cock-y-Roostyn, Clyro, HR3 5SQ. Reference [21/1474/FUL](#). Refused.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT:** See Appendix A

**CORRESPONDENCE** (*incl*):

1. One Voice Wales Annual membership – £135, all in favour of renewing this membership.
2. Community Council Elections – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Vice-Chairman Wells explained the process and asked that Councillors fill in the nomination forms when they are received and get them back to Powys as soon as possible.
3. Cabalva – Glastyr small woodland scheme – this was sent as a courtesy by Cabalva.
4. Wales Air Ambulance – donation request, Vice-Chairman Wells proposed a donation of £250, Cllr Carter seconded, and all agreed to this donation.
5. Microsoft office annual charge - £59.99, all in favour of renewing this subscription.

**FINANCIAL:** Bank balances: Current £3,681.49 (on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022) Reserve £1,845.43 (on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022). Payments to include BT direct debit (£30), Wales Air Ambulance (£250), Microsoft subscription (£59.99) and Clerks Salary (£171.74). Cllr Carter proposed, Cllr Bate seconded and all Councillors were in favour of these payments.

**AOB:** Cllr Morgan has been asked by Clyro residents about the Baskerville Arms and if it is going to reopen as a pub? Chairman Brown has spoken with the owners who have no plans to reopen in the previous format. They will continue with their current offering of boutique hotel and private dining venue. Cllr Morgan has also been approached by residents about a development in the village that is not complying with the planning permissions that relate to the times that they are allowed to work on the site. Cllr Morgan advised the resident to contact Powys Planning to raise their concerns, the resident has already done this on numerous occasions. County Councillor Gibson-Watt will also speak to planning asking them to check if the development is following the permissions granted.

Vice-Chairman Wells asked that the Community Council acknowledge the plight of the Ukraine people and said that the best way to help is by donating cash.

Cllr Bate asked if the Community Council would be meeting in the small room upstairs next month? Chairman Brown explained that the covid guidance says that we should maintain social distancing within public meetings so until that changes, we will continue to meet in the main hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm.

**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](http://www.clyro.org)**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Cllr E Brown, Chairman)

## Appendix A

### **CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**8/3/22**

#### **REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.**

#### **Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre**

No further news at present.

#### **Clyro C in W Primary School and Schools Transformation in Powys**

Not previously reported by me, due to the fact that I had not been informed (!), Clyro C in W School had its delegated financial powers restored to it sometime after Christmas. The fact that I was informed of the removal of those powers the evening before it happened (at 8pm) and was not formally told about the restoration of the powers, but heard about it during a casual conversation with a council officer in passing, is a good illustration of the way Powys CC is operating at the moment.

I moved a Motion on behalf of my council group at last week's County Council meeting calling for a pause in the current small rural school closure programme, to give the Council a chance to review the assumptions underpinning that programme, given the great changes to the way schools operate as a result of the effects of the pandemic. In particular the large increase in the levels of collaboration between schools has been significant and very welcome. Our efforts resulted in a tied vote, which was the lost on the casting vote of the Chair! I remain determined to promote a cluster-based collaborative approach to schools transformation, as opposed to the current Cabinet's preferred option of closing small rural schools, even when they are performing well.

**Planning & Housing** Progress on the new houses at Castle Estate continues steadily.

#### **Highways**

Although Storm Franklin brought one of the highest floods on the River Wye on record, I have not been informed of any serious surface water flooding incidents in the Clyro CC area, although there were very serious problems elsewhere in Glasbury Ward.

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

The vaccination programme continues as infection levels thankfully continue to drop, although Covid-19 has definitely not gone away. Test, Trace & Protect is being wound down.

#### **Powys County Council 2022/23 Budget**

The Council's Independent/Conservative Cabinet finally got its 2022/23 Budget proposals through at the second attempt, having reduced the proposed 3.9% Council Tax increase to 3.39%. This will bring the cumulative increase in Council Tax in Powys during this Council (from 2017) to over 30%.

As this was a last-minute amendment to the Cabinet's original proposal it required the Council to suspend Standing Orders to allow it to be considered. The opposition groups combined to propose a 0% increase, which we had to modify to 0.1% once it had been passed as an amendment and then defeated (by 2 votes) when it became the substantive motion! A few councillors obviously changed their vote after the Cabinet Member for Finance engineered a lengthy adjournment after the first vote. The whole process was highly questionable in my view and the Council had to re-convene a week later to complete the process and set the Budget and the Council Tax rate.

I still believe that a Council Tax freeze is justified, given the record £18m (9.6%) increase in the Welsh Government grant the council will receive in 2022/23 and the severe cost of living pressures that all our residents are facing. However, it is not to be. Whoever is running the county council after the May elections will need to get a much firmer grip on how it spends taxpayers' money, because at the moment more than one departmental budget is out of control and the council's borrowing to fund its capital budget is fast becoming unaffordable.

DRAFT