

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
meeting held at the Village Hall.
Thursday 29th September 2022, 7pm.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr J Fforde (Chairman), Cllr P Bate, Cllr M Brock, Cllr C Smith, Cllr Price and Clerk to the Community Council, D Workman.

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Wells (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Morgan, PCSO Davies and County Cllr Gibson-Watt

IN ATTENDANCE: D Hood, L Cooper, T Richardson and B Morgan.

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Fforde has checked all assets and found to be in good order.

PUBLIC COMMENT: B Morgan had some information regarding matters arising item 5, past Clyro Community Councils have discussed this idea and the outcome was that they wouldn't be able to ensure that all applicants were informed. Chairman Fforde thanked B Morgan and invited discussion when the meeting gets to the item.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Village Hall update – Cllr Brock gave more positive feedback from the most recent pop-up pub and residents are looking forward to the next one. There is work being undertaken by Welsh water as a large water bill led the committee to believe that there was a leak, the leak has been located and Welsh water are in the process of fixing it. All being well this will be finished within the next two weeks.
2. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route – Chairman Fforde told the meeting that the consultation period that encompassed the questionnaires has ended, and 165 responses have been received. He is very pleased with the quantity and just has some more paper copies to input before the results can be collated. Both Cllr Brock and Cllr Smith offered to take some to help with the inputting. Chairman Fforde distributed these to both Cllrs with thanks. Preliminary results show that residents are concerned about the speed of vehicles in Clyro and are in favour of a cycle route to Hay. There will be more in-depth information when all the responses are added to the database.
3. Bus stop update – Cllr Bate is gathering information, he has two expert opinions that say that there are no legal implications if a motorist drives through the bus stop. Cllr Smith asked if speed bumps had been considered, Cllr Bate said that over the years many ideas have been put forward, but none have had the go ahead from Powys highways department.
Improvements to shelter - T Richardson has asked about making the shelter into a tidier place, maybe add some planters in the Spring. She would also like to try adding a library in the bus shelter. Cllrs thought this was a lovely idea.
4. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils – Annual report and training plan, the Clerk now has templates to help with these exercises. The Clerk will send dates for training out as they are released.

5. Should the Community Council inform planning applicants that their application is going to be discussed at the next meeting? Chairman Fforde has realised that many applicants don't know that their application is being discussed at the monthly meeting. Cllr Smith is in favour of this as personally she as an applicant was not aware that her application was being discussed. If she had known she would have attended and would have used the opportunity to explain her application in more detail. Chairman Fforde suggested sending a comment to the planning department stating that the application will be discussed at the next monthly meeting. Cllr Bate pointed out that applicants can attend the monthly meeting to discuss at the pre planning stage. All Cllrs were in favour of this statement being sent to each application. Chairman Fforde is going to draft a uniform statement for use on each application.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Davies was not on duty this evening so could not attend. She sent her apologies to the meeting

PLANNING MATTERS inc updates and decisions:

1. Erection of an extension and associated works, Chapel Cottage, Bronydd, Clyro, HR3 5RX. Reference 22/1421/LBC – *No comments to make on this application*
2. Demolition of existing timber conservatory and erection of 2 storey extension, Pantycae, Whitney-on-Wye, HR3 6JU. – *No comments to make on this application*

GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Brock has her first meeting next week at the school.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (incl):

1. Woodland creation grant scheme - [Woodland Creation Grant | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#), [Small Grants - Woodland Creation | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#), [Woodland Creation Planning Scheme | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)
2. Powys Local Development Plan replacement consultation on candidate site assessment.
3. Brecon and Radnor Area Committee Meeting – 7pm October 6th The Strand, Builth.
4. Audit Wales Consultation on fee scales 2023-24 - [more information on our website](#)
5. Citizens Advice Powys – impact summary
6. Local places for Nature - “It’s for them” campaign <https://gov.wales/its-them-campaign-stakeholder-toolkit>

FINANCIAL:

Bank balances: Current £1669.52 (on 4th August 2022) Reserve £1846.07 (on 29th July 2022). Payments to include BT direct debit (£30) Wales Audit Office invoice 7419 (£256) PAVO invoice 1570 (£30) and Clerks Salary (£171.74). Cllr Bate proposed and Cllr Brock seconded this. All agreed to pay these invoices.

AOB: Cllr Bate informed the meeting that the Whitney-on-Wye road works are ahead of schedule and that the new houses in Clyro have been signed off so new residents will be moving in soon.

T Richardson asked what the Community Council had planned to support vulnerable people through the winter as the economic and fuel crisis that could impact individuals more than Covid did. Cllr Brock is looking into setting up the village hall as a “warm space” three days a week. The WI and PCC have been asked if they could volunteer time to run some sessions. Cllr Brock is in the process of finding out about a grant that helps with heating costs. T Richardson asked if the Covid system could be used again to help isolated people in the rural areas of the locality. Cllr Brock suggested a leaflet to all dwellings including the more rural homes. B Morgan pointed out that neighbours do look after each other naturally in the village. Cllr Bate added that out of the village this care also happens naturally. Chairman Fforde asked if a leaflet could be put out now, Cllr Brock felt that it may be too soon as the village hall haven’t got enough volunteers to run the sessions yet. A pop-up café is planned to coincide with the post office visiting and the village hall committee are hoping to have that running during November. T Richardson and Cllr Brock will meet to discuss further details. Chairman Fforde gave his full support to these ideas and offered the Community Councils help if required.

B Morgan suggested that Cllrs should view (with permission) the sites of planning applications as this is a good way of understanding the development and speaking with the applicant. Chairman Fforde agreed that it would be useful for meaningful discussion.

The meeting was closed at 7.47pm.

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 J Fforde, Chairman)

Appendix A

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT. 27/9/22

The Passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the Proclamation of King Charles III

I attended the official Proclamation in Brecon by Powys County Council's Chairman, Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe, of the passing of the late Queen and the start of the reign of King Charles III shortly after the Queen's passing; and some days later attended the Service of Commemoration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Llandaff Cathedral, attended by King Charles III and the Queen Consort.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

As previously reported, the physical condition of the school remains an increasing source of concern, despite Powys CC spending significant amounts of money making good building defects during the summer months. Following concerns raised about the operation of the redeveloped car parking/bus drop-off area, it is currently the subject of discussion between the main school bus contractor and officers from Powys CC about how its operation can be made better.

Planning & Housing

Residents have now begun to move in the new Council houses and flats adjacent to Castle Estate, which is a great relief, but the county council needs to learn lessons from the long delay in completing the scheme and this is something I will be pursuing with officers.

Highways

The final highways verge cut has been carried out by contractors for Powys CC, including the central part of the grassy area in front of Regent House Filling Station. Very valid concerns have been raised with me about the fire risk that the long, dried-out grass represented during the summer and I will be asking that changes are made to the cutting regime for areas like that next summer. I fully support the policy of leaving much of the highways verge areas uncut through the summer, to encourage biodiversity, but safety must always be the top priority in highways management.

Covid-19

Covid-19 infection rates appear to be increasing again, but accurate measurement is difficult as routine testing has stopped. However, a booster vaccination programme for elderly and vulnerable adults is well-underway in Powys.

The Progressive Partnership for Powys

The new council Administration has been in intensive discussions with council officers with regard to preparing a draft budget for 2023/24 and it is clear that the effects of approx. 10% general inflation and the consequent pay settlements for council staff and teachers and sharply-increased demand for some services, especially social care, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, means that we will have to adopt a radically-different approach to budget setting. Savings and efficiencies made around the edges of service budgets will not close the gap between the amount the council expects to receive (in Revenue Support Grant, its share of non-domestic rates receipts in Wales plus a reasonable level of Council Tax increase) and the costs of meeting the increases in demand for services. Fundamental change in the way the county council operates and the design of its services will be needed. It will be a major challenge, especially in the face of the cost-of-living crisis, to fully protect front-line services and protect the most vulnerable during the coming winter and keep within a balanced budget.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's mini-budget of last week, which has resulted in a sharp increase in borrowing costs for everyone, including local authorities, and a further boost to inflation will alas make matters more difficult.

Cllr James Gibson-Watt Glasbury Ward Tel. 07971048737

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