

MEETING OF

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held at

7pm on TUESDAY 14th February 2017

in the Village Hall, Clyro

MINUTES

271 **PRESENT:** Cllr B Morgan (Chairman), Cllr V Price, Cllr J Fforde, Cllr P Bate, Cllr J Thomas, Cllr J Carter & County Councillor Gibson-Watt

272 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies received from Cllrs E Brown and D Hood.

273 **MINUTES:** The Minutes for the January meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

274 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

275 **RESPONSIBLE PERSON** for duration of this meeting for fire regulations Cllr B Morgan (Chairman) who pointed out all fire exits.

276 **PLANNING MATTERS:**

NMA/2017/0005 – Clyro Primary School, Clyro, Hereford HR3 5LE

Application for non material amendments to planning permission P/2016/0802 in respect of variation of condition 17 that involves re-wording of the condition.

This relates to the planting plan before occupation of the property and as it is only a minimal change there was no objection and all were in favour.

277 **MATTERS ARISING:**

Mailshot review for ways to contact electors – Cllrs Fforde and Morgan had a brief meeting to discuss the mailshots which will be sent to all houses in the parish. The properties in the village will be delivered by hand but the outlying properties will be posted. Cllr Morgan has a copy of the electoral roll and Cllr Fforde will print the labels. The letter has been drafted and all Councillors were happy with the letter so Cllrs Fforde and Morgan will continue with the preparations in time for the March meeting. This will ensure that all households in the parish are aware of the existence of the Clyro Community Council and its purposes and they will, if they elect to, be e-mailed the monthly agenda ahead of the monthly meetings. Mailshots will be going out to around 300 homes.

The purchase of a new laptop for the Community Council. Cllr Morgan asked whether the Councillors were happy to agree to spending £500 for the purchase of a new laptop and associated software and McAfee security protection. Cllr Fforde proposed and Cllr Carter seconded. Cllr Morgan will purchase the new laptop and bring it to the March meeting.

278 **REPORTS ON DOCUMENTS READ, MEETINGS ATTENDED, and ACTIVITIES etc. including:**
SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT: There was no report this month.

279 **POLICE REPORT:** There was no report.

280 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT:** This is available upon request in full but County Councillor Gibson-Watt reported he had had a complaint about one of the benches. Cllr Morgan confirmed he had the new benches in his garage and was merely awaiting better weather to put them in place.

Discussed that Glasbury and Painscastle Community Councils could do with some advice regarding using a projector at their meetings and Cllr Morgan confirmed he would be happy to attend to assist them.

County Councillor Gibson-Watt said he had hoped to speak to Cllr Brown regarding the timetable for the new Primary School in terms of de-camping to Clyro Court. Cllr Morgan said he thought it was June or July as they needed to obtain planning permission and the process hadn't been started yet.

He discussed the budgets for the County Council which were pretty dire due to falling population which meant, in turn, that future budgets will be worse. Powys County Council struggling to balance books but have proposals to make cuts, particularly in social services and which, if they do make them, will mean everything will be ok.

Cllr Carter made the point that council tax payers get nothing for their council tax, referring to rubbish collection, the public toilets, the threatened library closure – what were tax payers getting for their money? County Councillor Gibson-Watt said that the council tax rise proposed was 4.5% for the next financial year. Many things proposed to make savings were very ill thought out and will never happen but had been included in the budget which meant that this then put the budget out as the savings were not made, so this shortfall was then passed on to the tax payers. Cllr Price asked whether any savings were ever made and he confirmed that yes, they were. Rather than savings it was money not spent which was essentially the same thing. Concerned that things may get worse after the election as 30 out of 73 Councillors are not standing for re-election, and it will take several years for new Councillors to get to grips with how the budgets work. A consultant has done some analysis in Powys and using Welsh Government figures she worked out that Powys spends well above the average on adult social care, pro rata. Other Councils are managing to keep their social care budgets under control.

Local Authorities will remain as they are but a lot of planning and some other services will be regionalised. It is too early to tell if this will prove to be better value for money.

The wind turbines – the Local Development Plan is to come back to full Council for debate before going to the Planning inspector.

281 **CORRESPONDENCE:** (*incl*)

1. Powys News Release – daytime activities and day centres – this related to the proposal to phase out day centres but County Councillor Gibson-Watt confirmed that these were now being kept open. Some day centres were run by Powys County Council and some were supported by PCC but they need to find 1.1 million to fund them for the next financial year.
2. Powys Electoral Review 2017 – the 22 Local Authorities will be kept but they will be looking to reduce the number of County Councillors – this will mean a small change in Powys.
3. Clerks briefings for elections in May 2017 – The Clerk is to e-mail to see whether the Chairman can also attend.
4. Local Development Plan update – this was displayed and discussed by County Councillor Gibson-Watt in his report above.
5. Rights of Way Improvement consultation – this was displayed – there is a statutory review every 10 years.
6. Powys Citizens Advice debt advice – no action.
7. Powys War Memorials Project – no action.
8. Invitation to delivering outstanding mathematics teaching in schools – no action.
9. Invitation to LDP meeting – The date had passed so no action.
10. Street naming and numbering guidance document – displayed - no action.

11. Introduction to Sunshine Playgrounds – no action.
12. Draft everyday health and care strategy – Teaching Health Board – no action.
13. Powys Community Health Council meeting schedule – no action.
14. Letter against construction of M4 Black Route – the date for objections had passed so no action.
15. Powys Community Health Council’s meeting 09/02/2017 – date passed – no action.
16. Llangattock Community Council cemetery research – no action.
17. Planning Decision Notice Notifications 20/01/2017 – 03/02/2017 – displayed.
18. Powys County Council Community Delivery newsletter – this was dated October 2016 – no action.
19. Mathematics Teaching 2017 – no action.
20. Letter from Powys Council regarding local bus services (post) – the letter was read by the clerk and is available upon request but PCC confirmed that the Saturday service was run by Roy Browns Coaches on a commercial basis and therefore PCC had no influence or control over it. The Wednesday service was however entirely supported by PCC and the smaller vehicles were run as a temporary measure when problems were experienced with the larger bus. It should be reported if this is still an ongoing problem and County Councillor Gibson-Watt requested that he be advised as it was entirely unsatisfactory if people had to stand. He also confirmed that from April the Wednesday service will no longer start in Hay which is well served by regular bus services, but will start in Llowes which will hopefully alleviate the problem of no seats being left by the time the bus reached Llowes.
21. Kidney Wales Walk for Life 2017 initial information (post) – this was displayed – no action.
22. Letter to Clerk regarding pension scheme – the clerk explained that the Community Council had a duty to advise the clerk as their employee about workplace pension schemes but that the clerk did not meet the criteria and would not automatically be enrolled in a workplace pension scheme. The letter was signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Community Council and given to the clerk.

282 **FINANCIAL:**

The Clerk confirmed that the up-to-date bank balances are now – Current A/C - £2,860.49 and Reserve A/C - £2,832.76.

Payments to include: BT Direct Debit & Clerk’s salary which was proposed by Cllr Fforde and seconded by Cllr Bate, PAVO which was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Bate, payment to Cllr Morgan for travel expenses which was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Bate and the hall hire payment which was proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Fforde.

Cheques drawn: £127.62, £30, £38.25 and £120

283 **AOB:**

Cllr Carter confirmed she had attended the HOWLS meeting concerning Powys County Council’s plan to downgrade the library. They would like to move it to the new school and have it run by volunteers. The Town Council have offered to finance the present building in order for the library to remain where it is but Powys County Council have turned this offer down. It is felt strongly that Hay, the town of books, should have a proper library and is a facility widely used by Clyro residents.

James Gibson-Watt said that he had suggested to Gareth Ratcliffe that he suggest to Powys County Council that all the Councillors have a meeting to see what Powys object to with the current proposal for Hay Town Council to finance the building. There seems to be an impasse between the two Councils. County Councillor Gibson-Watt said he is unable to get a straight answer as to what the problem actually is. He will continue to get everybody to try and get this issue sorted before the end of the financial year. He felt if the cost of £18,000 were shared out between the Community Councils it would be a relatively small amount per Council. The building is owned by Powys County Council. Cllr Morgan suggested a meeting with Glasbury and Painscastle Community Councils with Hay Town Council to discuss the situation. It could be a possibility that the Community Councils could contribute towards the cost of

keeping the library open. Hay Town Council has a bigger precept so would pick up the majority of the costs. County Cllr Gibson-Watt said Powys are looking for a 50% contribution to keep the library running as it currently is. Cllr Fforde confirmed that the librarian is only present for 21.5 hours per week. Cllr Morgan asked whether Hay Festival could contribute and Cllr Fforde confirmed that they had been for the last 10 years but were now unable to continue.

Cllr Morgan said he along with Cllr Hood, Sarah Williams and James Lewis recently visited a poultry unit in Llanbadarn which was similar to the proposed unit in Clyro. This proved to be a very useful visit and pictures were displayed that were taken by Cllr Morgan. They were stood at one point about 50 metres away and couldn't smell or hear anything. When they were closer, about 5 metres, there were two smaller fans running which then dropped out and the bigger fan cut in – they were not noisy and the smell was not unbearable. There were 32,000 chickens in there, 10,000 of which were cockerels and you could not hear them. Pictures were displayed of the entrance to the Llanbadarn unit and to the Clyro unit, and the visibility was better at Clyro. James Lewis confirmed he was glad he had gone and it had proved to be a useful visit. The units are cleaned out in 2 days but the whole clean takes about a month for a deep clean. All boards are removed and replaced. Waste water from cleaning goes into tanks and the chicken manure is spread away from the site. The sheds are open inside – there are no cages and there is a conveyer belt which carries the eggs away as they are laid. Cllr Morgan asked the clerk to write to Mr Owen Lewis at Llanbadarn to thank him for his time and assistance.

Cllr Price commented on the hedges above Pentwyn which have still not been trimmed. People are now having to walk in the road because of the amount of muck that has gathered under the hedges on either side, so the road is now barely a single track. One side is owned by Pentwyn and the other side is owned by Bill Heber-Percy. County Councillor Gibson-Watt confirmed that he will chase this up as it is up to the landowners to trim the hedges. The Council can do this and bill the landowner if the work is not undertaken.

Cllr Thomas said about the caravan site below him. The drainage in the field has been done in such a way to cause water to run into the road. This freezes in bad weather and is very dangerous. There is a storm drain on the other side of the road but the water doesn't reach this. This has been brought up before and complaints made. County Councillor Gibson-Watt said he will take this up with highways. The matter of the bollards at the bus stop was brought up again but it is accepted this won't be done. There is also a broken bollard on the junction which has been replaced by a temporary arrow road sign, but this will be replaced.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend council meetings and to contribute at the conclusion of business. Minutes and agenda available on request. Also displayed on website www.clyro.org