

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held via Zoom
7pm on Tuesday 9th February 2021

MINUTES

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

APOLOGIES: PCSO Jackson (Belated apologies from County Cllr. Gibson Watt who had internet issues)

MINUTES: The Minutes for the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and will be signed by Chairman Wells. Chairman Wells at this point also reiterated his thanks on behalf of the Community Council to David Hood for his thirty years of service to the Community Council.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Wells has checked all assets, and all is in order.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clyro School – Chairman Wells wrote to Powys County Council Interim Chief Education Officer, Lynette Lovell giving a detailed report on the new houses being built in Clyro with potential numbers of children that could attend the school. Vice-Chairman Lewis reported that unpaid ALN (Additional Learning Needs) funding from Powys that had been incorrectly withheld from the school has now been agreed and paid and back dated to September. This has helped but not solved ongoing issues with funding reduction due to the fair funding formula.
2. Casual vacancies and non-attendance at meetings – Chairman Wells acknowledged how difficult the online meetings are for some Cllrs, broadband is not available in some parts of Clyro and lack of equipment are both problems that have got in the way. However, Cllrs are required to attend meetings regularly and as dial-in is available this will have to do for the time being. Chairman Wells expressed thanks to all Cllrs for attending the meeting. With the resignation of Cllr Hood there is now a space for a new Cllr. The casual vacancy has been advertised with a closing date of February 25th, if nothing comes from this then the Community Council will look to co-opt. If anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk.
3. Housing development – The development is going well; the area is tidy and there has been no concerns. Cllr Brown was asked about the sewerage capacity for Clyro and could it cope with extra houses, County Cllr Gibson-Watt gave a detailed response via email saying that as part of the planning process Welsh Water were fully consulted and reported that there are no concerns about the capacity for sewerage.
4. Play Park – Chairman Wells reported to the Community Council that after speaking with David Pritchard from Powys, it could be viable for the Community Council to have an annual licence to take on responsibility for the management of the play park from Powys. Cllr Brown raised his concerns previously with Chairman Wells via email and asked what the benefits would be if the community Council took on the Play Park. Concerns included cost, insurance, ongoing maintenance, and grass cutting. Cllr Brown informed the Community Council that Chairman Wells' response to his email had answered all his questions and concerns. Chairman Wells agreed to send the response email to all Cllrs. Chairman Wells has an expression of interest form to fill out that Powys will answer with a document setting out the Community Council's responsibilities to the Play

Park. The Community Council can then check that they are all happy with the criteria before agreeing to take it on.

Chairman Wells recently attended an online seminar organised by www.playwales.org.uk which he found very helpful. It included much practical information including ideas to help encourage natural and explorative play and advice on how to assess and manage risk and benefit. In particular the community Tool Kit publication was useful [Community Took Kit link](#).

Chairman Wells has also spoken to John Watson from Powys County Council regarding planting in the Play Park and repair of the path, this has seen delays due to weather and Covid restrictions but should happen soon – certainly before the end of March.

5. Broadband availability and speed – Clyro Community Council were not successful for the first phase of the trial that was applied for, but Chairman Wells has asked that Clyro be kept in the loop for any future trials. Discussion ensued and Cllrs reported that there are fibre optic cables already laid in areas of Clyro that are not connected for use. Chairman Wells will investigate via County Cllr Gibson-Watt and Kirsty Williams AM who have both been involved in the past.

GOVERNORS REPORT: Vice Chairman Lewis reported that the school is teaching online via live lessons and pre recorded lessons. It is thought that the younger years children will return to school after half term. The Head Teacher was very happy to have Vice-Chairman Lewis back on board as a School Governor.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (*incl*):

1. Connecting with your local community - A Communications Guide for Welsh Community & Town Councillors and their Clerks
2. HM Land Registry survey of Community and Town Councils in Wales – The Clerk completed the survey with the input from Cllrs.
3. Powys End of life care – public survey – <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CommunityHospitalEndofLifePublicSurvey>

FINANCIAL:

Bank balances: Current £4,836.95 (on 4th January 2021) Reserve £1845.27 (on 29th January 2021). Payments to include BT direct debit (£30), Clerks Salary (£167.20) and One Voice Wales Training Fee (Clerk, Finance Module 6). PAVO (£30) and Chairman Wells (UK2, domain register 21-22 £12.20) Cllr Brown proposed the payment of these and Cllr Carter seconded. All Cllrs agreed.

AOB: K Spare emailed to bring to the Community Council the problem of dog fouling around the village, Cllr Brown added that he had noticed how it seems to be worse than ever since the Covid lockdowns. There is signage and bins around the village. It was suggested that bags could be provided and encouraging residents to say to dog owners to pick up after their dogs. If residents see other residents not picking up after their dog there is an online form to report it to Powys, it can be found on the Powys County Council website or click on the following link. [Report Dog Fouling in Powys - Powys County Council](#) Chairman Wells will investigate getting a bag dispenser to encourage residents to keep Clyro clean.

(Amended 9th March 2021) R Kirkland emailed to say that fly tipping had occurred again at Castle Mound, the Clerk will inform the owners who will clear it again.

The Clerk relayed Hay and district Dial-a-Ride and Brecon Advice Centres thanks for the donations received.

The meeting was closed at 8.07pm

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

9/2/21

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

No further news at present.

Clyro C in W Primary School

The issue of the missing ALN funding for the school has now been resolved, although not before the Board set up by the county council to manage the school's finances had met and started the consultation process with regard to changes in the staffing structure. In my view this should not have happened until after the ALN issue was settled, as any extra funding was bound to make a difference to those plans. The extra funding was backdated to April 2020, which is not as far back as it should have been, but it will help. I have been assured by the Interim Chief Education Officer at the Council that the consultation process will be an opportunity to make changes to the school's financial plans, so we will have to wait to see what develops from now.

I remain firmly of the view that the school has been badly treated by Powys CC and re-building that relationship will be a long process.

Powys County Council Education Service and Schools Transformation

The Council has continued with the project to remodel the schools' network in Powys, despite the Council moving to business-critical activities only during the pandemic period. Further proposals were presented to the Council's Cabinet today (Tue.), which resulted in the Cabinet approving a consultation process prior to the closure of 4 primary schools – Llanbedr (near Crickhowell), Llanfihangel Rhydithon (also known as Dolau) in central Radnorshire, Churchstoke (near Welshpool) and Castle Careinion (also near Welshpool). This is a return to the bad old way of doing things - picking off small schools without any attempt at a strategic analysis of the secondary school catchment areas that they lie in. I spoke strongly against this approach at the meeting and I predict a strong backlash from the communities affected over the coming weeks.

Planning & Housing

Progress on the new houses adjacent to Castle Estate seems to be OK, despite the difficult.

Highways

No major issues to report

Test Trace & Protect

Contact tracing levels remain at well over 90%. The mass vaccination programme is now also underway across the county and Powys is leading the way in Wales, which as of last week has vaccinated a larger proportion of its population than any other region of the UK.

Covid-19 infections are falling steadily across the UK, but remain above 100/100,000 people in Wales. Some areas of Wales have seen dramatic falls, e.g. Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent. The rate locally as of the 4th Feb. was 117.6/100,000.

Please stay safe!

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