

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held at the Village Hall.
7pm on Tuesday 8th June 2021

MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr Gibson-Watt

APOLOGIES: Cllr Price and Cllr Lewis

MINUTES: Both the minutes for the AGM and May's meeting were agreed to be true so signed by Chairman Brown.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

CHAIRMAN BROWN'S WELCOME: Chairman Brown gave thanks to Vice Chairman Wells and Cllr Lewis for staying in their posts for two years due to COVID, he also thanked Cllr Morgan for her kindness in allowing the use of her zoom account to enable the Community Council to stage monthly meetings. The Clerk was also thanked for keeping the meetings going for what has been a different year for the Community Council.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS:

1. Chairman Brown has checked all assets and they are all in order. Following a query last month, the Clerk explained that assets such as computer equipment do not depreciate as it would in a business environment. The book value remains the cost until the item's disposal. To answer last month's question regarding insurance coverage of computer equipment Zurich insurance told the Clerk that the Community Council's policy provides accidental damage cover for all risks up to £10,000 in total with a £100 excess per claim. This would be on a new for old basis.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Zurich Insurance – the questions surrounding the policy were answered above so the policy was renewed at the same cost as agreed during May's meeting.
2. Play Park update – Vice-Chairman Wells reported that Cllr Morgan helped install the length of rope to make a piece of play equipment that children can use to pull themselves up the hill. He has asked Powys CC about adding a bench in memory of Chloe Green, he is awaiting a reply. Vice-Chairman Wells has been providing the bird seed to refill the feeders and asked if the Community Council would consider purchasing some bird seed in future. Or if anyone in the Community would like to donate some. Cllr Morgan, Cllr Fforde and Cllr Carter volunteered to donate bird seed themselves. Cllr Francis has wheat that he would donate. Vice Chairman Wells told the Community Cllrs how valuable the bird feeders are to the residents who enjoy both refilling and watching the bird's feed.

Vice-Chairman Wells needs some more information for the application to potentially take on the running of the new play park.

3. Risk assessment, code of conduct and standing orders review. Cllrs all agreed that as these items have been reviewed in recent years that they would be accepted. Cllr Carter proposed this, Cllr Fforde seconded, and all were in favour of this.
4. Annual return, the Cllrs had all seen the audit form and bank reconciliation. The Clerk explained that the internal auditor, Rachel Davies had completed her checks, and all was in order. Cllr Bate proposed that the annual return be accepted, Vice-Chairman Wells seconded, and all Cllrs agreed. Chairman Brown signed the return.

PLANNING MATTERS inc updates and decisions:

1. Parciau Farm, Clyro, HR3 5SG. Agricultural building to store grain and hay. [21/0740/AGR](#) – application was discussed, and all agreed that there are no objections.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Fforde reported as Cllr Lewis had sent his apologies. He explained how Powys is still controlling the financial decisions of the school and the redundancy process has been started. Parents have rallied and made promotional videos to encourage parents to send their children to Clyro school. Pupil numbers are still lower than required but it is hoped when residents move into the new houses being built in Clyro then children will also attend the school.

CORRESPONDENCE (incl):

1. James Evans MS replied thanking the Community Council for the email sent congratulating him on his election to Member of the Senydd for Brecon and Radnorshire.

FINANCIAL:

Bank balances: Current £3,909.95 (on 4th May 2021) Reserve £1845.31 (on 30th April 2021). Payments to include BT direct debit (£30) and Clerks Salary (£160). These were proposed by Vice-Chairman Wells and seconded by Cllr Bate.

AOB:

Chairman Brown requested that a thank you be sent to the Village Hall Committee thanking them for making the hall Covid compliant and informing them that as he is now Chairman, he also becomes a trustee for the village hall.

The Clerk relayed some information gathered from a meeting that she attended remotely with One Voice Wales. Welsh Government have said that all meetings need to have remote access for all. Clyro Community Council can achieve this using Zoom as we have Wi-Fi in the Village Hall. Cllr training will be enhanced, and a plan will need to be developed by Councils to ensure that Cllrs are up to date. Councils will be expected to submit an annual report detailing what actions have been taken. The Clerk will work on these areas in readiness.

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm

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

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

8/6/21 REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

Further news on Powys CC's proposals for the school is still awaited. The Council's Education Service is currently heavily engaged in consulting on the closure of four primary schools in the county (Llanbedr (near Crickhowell), Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau), Churchstoke and Castle Careinion (both in the north of the county)). This means that developing proposals for improving the secondary schools sector is rather limited, which is ironic given that it was the secondary sector that gave the schools inspectorate (Estyn) most concern when it inspected the county's Education Service two years' ago. The Primary schools sector was deemed to be delivering effectively and in a generally strong financial position, yet the Council's Cabinet has largely concentrated on this sector.

Clyro C in W Primary School

It appears that the school has managed to organise matters so that it has retained four classes, although alas staff redundancies have still had to take place. It is still important that the school continues to attract more pupils to secure its future.

Planning & Housing

Construction of the new houses adjacent to Castle Estate still continues apace. A socially-distanced 'Topping Out' event (when the final roof slate is symbolically nailed in place) was held there last week, involving the Leader of the county council, the Cabinet Member for Housing, myself as the local county councillor and various senior council officers. The houses are impressive and constructed to a very high specification, using Welsh timber from a local sawmill, although the roof slates are from Spain, not Wales, due to the cost of Welsh slate. The progress of the project is very pleasing and housing allocations are due to be made in September, with the homes due to be available for occupation in November. The new residents' experiences will be subject to an ongoing study by the Welsh Government to help inform future housing programmes in Wales.

The new recreation area at Castle Estate was also visited and admired and I stressed that the role of the Community Council was and remains crucial to its success.

Highways

No further news at present.

Test Trace & Protect and Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Powys is still doing very well with the vaccination programme and the infection rate in the county remains very low (5 per 100,000 people). Most counties in South Wales have even lower infection rates than Powys, but concerns about the spread of the Delta (Indian) Variant are rising, although when I enquired last week no cases of that variant had been detected in Powys as yet.

Wales is now the country that has vaccinated the highest proportion of its adult population in the world and Powys is the leading county in Wales in that respect. In fact Wales is now about three weeks ahead of the rest of the UK in its vaccination programme, something that was featured in a recent episode of 'More or Less' on BBC Radio 4. When the London media takes notice of things happening in Wales one knows that we are doing something of real note!

DRAFT