

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
meeting held at the Village Hall.  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm.

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Fforde (Chairman), Cllr R Wells (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Morgan, Cllr Price, Cllr Richardson and Clerk to the Community Council, D Workman.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr P Bate, Cllr C Smith, Cllr M Brock, PCSO E Jackson and County Cllr Gibson-Watt

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

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS:** Vice-Chairman Wells has checked all assets and found to be in good order. Apart from the bench above the school that needs a tidy up. Chairman Fforde and Vice-Chairman Wells agreed to go up and fix this. Cllr Richardson offered to keep the area tidy thereafter.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee – to receive minutes from December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and to agree draft terms of reference. Vice-Chairman Wells reported that after the meeting held earlier the subcommittee would like to carry the item over to next month.
2. Clerks annual review – a private meeting was held to discuss this with only Cllrs present. The Chairman reported “discussions were held, and it was agreed that Mrs Workman’s high professional conduct and integrity fully warranted a rise to the SCP 12 rate, carried without dissent”. Chairman Fforde proposed, Vice-Chairman Wells seconded, and all Cllrs were in favour.
3. Precept 2023-24 – A discussion surrounding the upcoming years precept, previous years financial documents were reviewed and compared. Chairman Fforde added that we have additional costs from the salary increase. Vice-Chairman Wells proposed the precept to be £5000, this is an increase on last year to consider economical increases. Cllr Morgan seconded this, and all Cllrs agreed to this. Cllrs requested a quarterly financial report in readiness for making this decision next year. The Clerk will add this to the agenda.
4. Cllr training – The Clerk received a request from Cllr Richardson to attend three courses and Vice-Chairman Wells would like to attend the Financial Course module 6. The Community Council can apply for a bursary that pays for half of the cost of the courses. The Community Council will pay £17.50 for each course. It was agreed that by applying for this the four courses can be attended. Chairman Fforde proposed this spending, Cllr Morgan seconded and all agreed.

**POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Jackson was due to call in to the meeting, but Police business took precedence and she sent her apologies.

**GOVERNORS REPORT:** Cllr Richardson expressed an interest in taking on the role of Governor at the school, all Cllrs agreed to this, and the Clerk will inform Powys of this change.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE (incl):**

1. General dispensations for Cllrs – letter from C Pinney PCC
2. Warm Space directory can be found by following the link - [www.powys.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.powys.gov.uk/costofliving)

**FINANCIAL:**

Bank balances: Current £1,848.26 (on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022) Reserve £1848.23 (on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022). Payments to include BT direct debit (£39.99), HMRC (£128.60), Powys CC – uncontested election charge (£431.66) and Clerks Salary (£171.74).

These payments were proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Richardson. All Cllrs agreed to these.

**AOB:** Chairman Fforde started a discussion around electronic banking, Vice-Chairman Wells reported how other Community Councils are using debit cards and online banking. He explained how much easier it is to pay bills and if the council transactions get busier than it is now it would be a good way to go. The Clerk expressed her opinion that at this time she feels that the cheque system is safe and fit for purpose, however if the business of the Community Council was to increase and needed quicker responses then she would not be against going to electronic banking. All Cllrs agreed to stay as we are at this time but be open minded to future changes.

Vice-Chairman Wells has arranged a meeting with Steve Butcher from Powys at the new play area to discuss the planting of trees. He suggested a mulberry tree for its longevity and interesting look to mark the Kings Coronation. A wild cherry tree could also be an option, Vice-Chairman Wells will discuss with Steve Butcher.

Vice-Chairman Wells informed the meeting that the village hall now has high speed fibre broadband that is capable of high-level streaming and downloads for village hall users to take advantage of. The monthly charge was increased due to a carriage charge added to the bill. Cllrs agreed to this charge.

The meeting was closed at 8.06pm.

**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 J Fforde, Chairman)

## Appendix A

**CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

10/1/23

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

**Gwernyfed High School & Community Sports Centre**

No further news at present.

**Clyro C in W Primary School, Archdeacon Griffiths School and Schools Transformation in Powys**

No further news re. Clyro School or Archdeacon Griffiths School at present.

As previously reported, a review of the Crickhowell HS catchment has been completed and proposals for the future configuration of schools in that area was due to come to the council's Cabinet for decision on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022. However, due to the receipt of late representations from the Diocesan Director of Education (Llanbedr and Llangattock Primary Schools are Church in Wales schools), as Chair of the Cabinet I decided to move the item to the next meeting of Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to allow for those representations to be considered.

It is becoming clear that the general difficult financial situation affecting Powys CC and all public sector organisations will have a very damaging effect on delegated school budgets in coming years, which means a more radical approach to schools' transformation may be required in the coming years to save costs and ensure delivery of the full curriculum to a high standard across the schools network.

**Planning & Housing**

No new issues to report. The problems at Dan y Castell in Clyro are being dealt with by the Housing Service and I have received no further complaints in the past month, although I would be grateful if members could pass on any they receive as soon as they receive them.

**Highways**

Water has replaced ice in the past few weeks as the main cause of problems for highways staff, but no major problems have been reported to me. More heavy rain is forecast for today (Tuesday), so please let me know (on 07971048737), or 'phone Powys Highways on 01874 754221 or Careline on 0845 054 4847 out-of-hours, to report any issues of concern.

## **Covid-19 and Winter 'Flu**

'Flu continues to be the main concern at the moment as it increases across the country, although Covid-19 infections and hospitalisations also continue to rise. This re-inforces the need for people to receive the seasonal 'flu vaccine, as well as the Covid-19 booster. More generally the health service is in its worse crisis for many decades and Powys Teaching Health Board is as much under pressure as other health authorities. I am pleased to say that senior officers from Powys CC and the Health Board are working very closely together to address the problems, with significant progress made last week to create more capacity on the community hospitals and social care settings to enable more patients to be moved out of the District General Hospitals that serve the county.

## **Powys County Council 2023/24 Budget**

After an exhaustive and exhausting process of considering options for the 2023/24 council budget, a draft budget will be published on Wednesday this week. Fortunately, the grant settlement from Welsh Government to the council was better than expected, which has enabled the Cabinet to remove some potential savings proposals and retain service levels in e.g. Leisure Services. However, the public will see some changes to service levels and patterns of delivery in 2023/24 and future years from 2024/25 on look particularly bleak, as this is the point from which the significant reductions in public expenditure in the UK will start to be made.

Unavoidable increases in costs will also force a higher than hoped-for Council Tax increase, e.g. the Fire & Rescue Service levy (which the council has no choice but to pay) will increase by an unprecedented 13%, which represents a 1.1% increase in Council Tax.

Protecting front-line services and the most vulnerable remains the council's Progressive Partnership's top priority while setting a balanced budget that can be delivered, as the law requires.

## **Powys County Council Corporate Plan – Stronger–Fairer–Greener**

The new council Administration's draft corporate plan for 2022-2027 has been published and can be found here on the council's website:-

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/13663/Have-your-say-on-our-Corporate-Plan-Survey>

Although the formal consultation period on it has now closed, all comments are still very welcome. It is a working document and does represent a change in direction for the council, although future actions are still inevitably going to be very much shaped by the budgetary situation, which will remain very difficult for many years to come.