

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
meeting held at the Village Hall.  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7pm.

## **MINUTES**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr P Bate and County Cllr Gibson-Watt

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Morgan

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

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Cllr Brock declared an interest in item 1, Correspondence as she sits on the Village Hall Committee as Treasurer. Cllr Richardson declared an interest in item 2, Correspondence as she founded the Hay Day Café and is a member of the committee. As this correspondence is a request for funding Cllr Richardson will withdraw from this discussion.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS:** Vice-Chairman Wells has looked at the bench above the school and found that it needs some new wood as the seat has rotted. The bench is also placed directly on the ground this is causing it to lean forward so Vice-Chairman Wells proposes adding some heavy-duty slabs under the steel legs to stop the legs digging into the ground. Chairman Fforde and Vice-Chairman Wells will meet on Saturday morning to repair and reinstate the bench. Chairman Fforde has checked the rest of the assets, and all are in good condition.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee – report from meetings, Vice-Chairman Wells reported that the committee have held a meeting where the draft environmental policy prepared by Cllr Richardson was discussed, this will be scrutinised further and brought to full council next month. Terms of reference will also be brought next month. They have looked at speed indication devices but are concentrating on looking at sites for these devices to be placed and taking these proposals to Powys Highways for advice. As far as the cycleway Vice-Chairman Wells is still waiting for responses from Vincent Goodwin and David Allday, who are the active travel officers in Powys, to have a meeting. Contact has been made with Town and Community Councils locally to establish a conversation about the cycleway.
2. Bus stop update – Chairman Fforde discussed the value of a notice/cork board being put on then wall, Cllr Richardson isn't worried about it as people are using it to put notices anyway. Cllr Smith might have a board; she will check before next meeting.
3. Coronation Tree Planting and new play area update – Vice-Chairman Wells told the Council that a meeting with Steve Butcher, Outdoor Play Areas Officer for Powys, was very positive and said that trees could be planted where required if it doesn't overshadow properties. A patch at the top of the new play area was suggested for an oak tree and some others in the centre of the dog walking loop. Discussion also included the area between the new play area and Castle Tump, it is Powys owned and is covered with scrub. The idea of a Community Garden being established was talked about and could be something that the Community Council lead on. The new play area is also under Powys control and Vice-Chairman Wells explained his proposal from sometime ago that would mean the Community Council taking on a lease for

the new play area and now to include the unused land up to Castle Tump. He is suggesting an annual lease so that if the Community Council feel that they can't manage it then it can be handed back. Cllr Brock suggested an information board be placed in the Village Hall to engage the community and get feedback on the ideas coming forward. Chairman Fforde reminded Cllrs that there hadn't been a formal vote of agreement to pursuing the idea of the Community Council taking the extra land on with a view to make a Community Garden, he proposed this, and Vice-Chairman Wells seconded. All Cllrs were in favour of this proposal. Chairman Fforde will make a flyer ready for the next pop-up pub telling the Community and asking for interested parties to get in touch. Vice-Chairman Wells will source an oak tree for the Kings Coronation that will be put at the top of the new play area.

**GOVERNORS REPORT:** Cllr Richardson has attended a Governors meeting; the three teachers and three classes is running well and there is less money worries being discussed. They held a very successful Parents evening to explain the new curriculum, it was an active session that involved parents' input and engagement.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE (incl):**

1. Clyro Village Hall annual agreement and invoice – The Village Hall have amended their terms and conditions that now requires that users pay in advance rather than as the Community Council have been doing and paying in arrears annually. After discussion the proposal is to ask the Village Hall for an invoice for the first three months of 2023 and pay that. Then ask for the annual invoice to start from April to ensure that each payment comes out of the correct accounting year. The Clerk will sign the new agreements.
2. Hay Day Café donation request – The request is £330 to pay for the hire of the Village Hall for the next year. Chairman Fforde stated that as this is a support for Clyro residents the Community Council should help keep this service going. Vice-Chairman Wells proposed accepting this donation request, Cllr Morgan seconded, and all Cllrs agreed to the proposal.
3. PAVO – payroll services invoice

**FINANCIAL:**

Bank balances: Current £3,353.28 (on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023) Reserve £1,849.45 (on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022). Payments to include BT direct debit (£53.88), PAVO, inv 1782 (£30), 2022 Hire of village hall 12 x £16 (£192) and Clerks Salary (£171.54).

Vice-Chairman Wells requested that the Clerk check the BT invoices as he is not sure why the amount is £53.88.

These payments were proposed by Vice-Chairman Wells and seconded by Cllr Morgan. All Cllrs agreed to these.

**AOB:** Cllr Richardson proposed that we have a training plan on our website as required by the new Welsh Government legislation. Cllr Richardson will put together a training plan and send it to Vice-Chairman Wells for publication on the website. All agreed to this proposal.

She explained that if the audit checks we will be picked up on not having one on the website. The Clerk added that the external auditors have picked up on the website not having the financial regulations published. Vice-Chairman Wells agreed with this as it came up on his financial training module, he also said that a budget for the year must be discussed and completed formally. The financial regulations will be published by using One Voice Wales model and the budget can be worked on for the new financial year.

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

**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)

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## Appendix A

**CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**14/2/23**

**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 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. The Diocesan Director presented a proposal that more time should be provided before decisions are made on the Crickhowell HS area review, in order that the options for creating an all-through (4-18) C in W school (incl. the high school) in the area could be explored. However, he was not able to provide much detail and no evidence of whether Llangattock school would wish to be involved. So, the Cabinet decided to approve the recommendations of the catchment review to implement the decision of the previous Cabinet to close Llanbedr C in W School from August 2023; encourage further collaboration between the remaining schools in the catchment; and leave open the option of creating an all-through school should more evidence become available in the future that the schools and local communities favour that option.

**Planning & Housing**

Indications have been given that the Welsh Government is shortly to make fresh proposals with regard to resolving the phosphates issue that is so restricting development in the Wye and Usk SACs; and the Commission set up by Powys and Herefordshire Councils to consider the issue is continuing its work with a report due shortly. However, I remain very concerned about the major impact this problem is having on the economy and communities across much of Powys, with no clear resolution as yet in sight. This is made more frustrating by the fact that reported phosphate levels in the River Wye in the Llowes/Clyro area remain low.

**Upper Glasybont Common in Glasbury**

Sian Barnes from Powys CC recently issued an update on the situation with regard to canoe and watercraft launching from the common to all stakeholders, including the local community councils. Hopefully matters may be settled in time for Easter (this year!

**Highways**

The past month has been relatively calm and dry and regular gritting has been carried out as required.

## **Health & Care Services**

The health service remains in its worse crisis for many decades and Powys Teaching Health Board is as much under pressure as other health authorities. The development of increased collaboration on planning and commissioning of services between Powys CC and the Health Board continues and the two organisations are working very closely together to address the problems. As council Leader I will continue to strongly encourage this approach as a means of improving service delivery and controlling costs.

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

After an exhaustive and exhausting process of considering options for the 2023/24 council budget, a draft budget was approved for publication by the council's Cabinet recently. Following consultation across the council's political groups and comments from the Scrutiny Committees the Cabinet agreed to some minor but important amendments to the draft, which is now subject to further scrutiny by the committees.

It is pleasing that we have been able to propose a budget that, for example, means no reductions in services such as Leisure Centres, Libraries and recycling/refuse collections; provide £0.5m for energy efficiency measures in schools; extend the payment of the Real Living Wage to the council's apprentices; and continue to meet the increased demand for social care services. However, despite the council being able to increase funding to schools by £5.6m, the massive increase in the costs of energy and general inflation will mean that schools will have to find about £3.8m in efficiencies from their delegated budgets. This will be a challenge for governing bodies, it should be somewhat mitigated by the fact that school budgets in Powys were boosted late in March 2022 by the introduction of £5m+ in Covid-19 recovery grants from the Welsh Government.

It remains the case that the public will see some changes to service levels and patterns of delivery in 2023/24 and more markedly in future years from 2024/25, which look particularly bleak, as this is the point from which the significant reductions in public expenditure announced in the Chancellors' Autumn Statement will start to be made.

A higher than hoped-for Council Tax of 5% is proposed, 3.8% to fund Powys CC's services and 1.2% to meet the Fire & Rescue Service levy (which the council has no choice but to pay) which will increase by an unprecedented 17%.

Protecting front-line services and the most vulnerable remains my Administration's top priority, while setting a balanced budget that can be delivered, as the law requires. The draft Budget will be considered by the full County Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

## **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>

The Cabinet will consider a report on the responses to the consultation on the Plan and decide whether to formally adopt the Plan at its meeting on Tuesday this week (14<sup>th</sup> February). If adopted the operation of the county council will cease to be guided by the Corporate Plan

(Vision 2025) adopted by the previous Cabinet, and will from now on be based on Stronger-Fairer-Greener.

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