

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
meeting held at the Village Hall.
Tuesday 9th May 2023, following the AGM.

MINUTES

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

APOLOGIES: County Cllr J Gibson-Watt

IN ATTENDANCE: B Morgan

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comment was made at this time.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chair Fforde has checked all assets and found to be in good order. Cllr Brock asked about the computer trolley and screen that are on the register as they are stored in the village hall, she requested that if they are not used then could they be sold. Discussions ensued and it was decided that brackets should be added above the bowls mats stands to store the screen and trolley. Vice-Chair Wells will action this.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Councillor's annual expenses form – all Councillors completed the forms.
2. Cyclepath/Footway and Traffic Calming Sub-Committee – action notes from April's meeting. Chair Fforde and Vice-Chair Wells are going the AGM of the Brecon to Hay Greenway that is being held on the 24th of May. Chair Fforde has sent the pre-planning proposal for the Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) to the Highways department in Powys, now he is gaining advice from Powys who have told him that the SID's needs to be TOPAS (Traffic Open Products and Specifications) compliant. However, as Clyro's will be moveable this may not apply. This has not been agreed by Highways yet.
3. New Play Park / Community Garden – To approve the submission of an Expression of interest form to enable the Community Council to apply for a Community Asset transfer. Chair Fforde thanked Vice-Chair Wells and Cllr Richardson for their time to get the form to this point. Vice-Chair Wells explained that the form is asking Powys for a formal dialogue to discuss the lease of the New Play Park and the strip of land that is unused between the Castle Tump and the New Play Park. Cllr Brock challenged the level of interest in a community garden. She asked if some research should be undertaken. Cllr Richardson explained that the dialogue must be had first so that the Community Council have the full picture before bringing in residents. Vice-Chair explained that a £500 budget has been suggested to pay for the grass cutting for the year, he feels that this is the best way to ensure that the area is kept tidy. Chair Fforde questioned the £500 from the Community Council, could this be reduced? Is funding available? Vice-Chair Wells explained his thoughts are that if the Community

Council are going to do this then the basics should be covered during the first year without fundraising. All Cllrs agreed to the expression of interest being sent to Powys as a first step.

4. Bus stop update – Cllr Bate is awaiting a professional reply regarding the legality of motor vehicles crossing the bus stop.
5. To approve appointment of internal auditor – The Clerk requested permission to employ R Davies to carry out the Community Councils internal audit as has been done in previous years. All Cllrs agreed to this.
6. To approve Environmental Policy – Cllr Brock raised an objection to the statement regarding the addition of EV charging points. Cllr Brock believes that electric cars are not a good way forward. Chair Fforde proposed that as it is stated “if appropriate” then it may never be appropriate to have them installed so the statement should stay, the rest of the Cllrs agreed to leave it in. Cllr Morgan asked about the statement regarding procurement of catering and produce is local, organic, fairtrade and plant based. She felt that to put plant based in as a policy was not appropriate in the area that Clyro is situated. All Cllrs agreed to remove the plant-based part of the policy. Discussion ensued around the language used to give the Community Council some freedom within the aspirational thinking behind the policy, all agreed to add “where possible” to facilitate this. Vice-Chair Wells proposed accepting the amended policy, Cllr Morgan seconded it and all Cllrs agreed to it.
7. To approve Annual report – as this hasn’t been seen before the meeting the Clerk will send this out to give Cllrs time to read it.
8. To approve budget 2023-24 – Vice-Chair Wells and Cllr Richardson have developed a budget to give the Community Council a structure to work from. Vice-Chairman Wells explained the costs that are unmovable and looked at items that the Community Council can choose to pay in the future, for example charitable donations. Cllr Brock suggested that charities that the Community Council have supported annually should be told in advance if they are not going to be helped during the next year. Cllr Brock added that the cost of the PAVO service that deals with employee salary and PAYE could be lessened if the Community Council did it themselves. Chair Fforde asked Cllr Brock to investigate the process and bring her findings to next month’s meeting. Vice-Chair Wells explained the BT business part of the budget, there have been problems with the account that have led to differing amounts being taken from the bank account. BT have implemented a price rise as they are allowed to do as per the contract however it is calculated on the before discount price so for the Community Council gives a 23% increase instead of a 14% increase if it was applied to the discounted figure. Vice-Chair Wells is in talks with various people at BT to try and negotiate a better deal. He will report back next month. Chair Fforde proposed to accept the budget, Cllr Richardson seconded this, and all Cllrs agreed to accept it.

PLANNING MATTERS inc updates and decisions:

1. **Approved:** Tree felling application - to fell x8 Leylandii trees within a conservation area. Sacred Cottage, Clyro, HR3 5SE. Application reference: 23/0446/TRE

GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Richardson reported that the September intake is lower than last year, but the initial thoughts are that no more splits of year groups will be needed as there are enough to keep the three classes. Post-Covid there were concerns that attendance would drop, across all schools in Wales the figure is 91% but in Clyro the figure is 94% so this is encouraging. The school defibrillator is not attached to the wall outside because the cost to have it installed is around £300 and their budget does not stretch to that at this time.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (*incl*):

1. Zurich Insurance renewal document and invoice
2. Powys CC Winter Service review for both residents and Cllrs to complete - https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/powys-roads-winter-service-review?tool=survey_tool
3. Democratic Health of Community and Town Councils - <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-democratic-health-community-and-town-councils>
4. Objection to planned Nant Mithil and pylons project – various authors via email for Cllrs information. – It was decided that individuals can give their support to this objection, but it is not something that the Community Council will get involved in.

FINANCIAL: Bank balances: Current £1,173.10 (on 4th April 2023) Reserve £1,852.03 (on 28th February 2023). Payments to include Zurich Insurance (£257.60), PAVO inv 1951 (£30) and Clerks Salary (£183.34).

Vice-Chair Wells proposed these payments, Cllr Bate seconded, and all Cllrs agreed.

AOB: Cllr Smith has been approached by a resident who is concerned about the amount of Landrover type vehicles accessing the Begwyns via green lanes/bridle paths. These lanes are getting cut up badly. Cllr Price informed the meeting that they are unclassified roads that haven't been finished with tarmac. Vice-Chair Wells will send a link to Cllr Smith that Powys provide to allow residents to fill out to report incidents.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

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 J Fforde, Chair)

Appendix A

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

9/5/23

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School

New leadership at Gwernyfed HS is now in place with the appointment of a new Headteacher and a strong post-inspection Action Plan has been established, which I am assured means the school is well-placed to see rapid improvement in all aspects. This is good news.

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

No further news re. Clyro School at present.

Planning & Housing

The problems with heating systems and the operation (or non-operation) of the solar panels experienced by residents of Dan y Castell in Clyro will now be the subject of a detailed investigation by independent specialists, with a report to be produced for the council's Housing Service and Welsh Government (which part-funded the scheme) in due course. This should provide valuable lessons for the future provision of social housing meeting net zero carbon emissions standards in all areas of the county and across Wales.

The phosphates issue is a continuing source of great frustration for me as council Leader, given the negative impact it is having on the future progress of current and future housing and economic development projects. This is made worse by the fact that Powys CC's Head of Planning, who is the all-Wales lead planning officer on the phosphates issue, has confirmed that Natural England is operating a less restrictive regulatory regime in England, which is, as members will have noted, the reason why house building and business developments are continuing across the border in most of Herefordshire while matters are much more restricted in all of south Powys. This, along with the severe limitations on the electricity grid system, is likely to limit the scope for economic and social developments in much of Powys for some time to come. This can only worsen the demographic challenge already creating severe service delivery and economic problems, as more young and working age people leave the county seeking housing and employment.

Highways

Members will have noted that the A438 has been surface-dressed between Llowes and Glasbury, with problems of dust causing a nuisance to some households alongside the road prior to the surface being sealed once the grit had all settled. Despite that, the outcome is good in my view.

Health & Care Services

The situation in health and social care services in Powys remains fragile and discussions are continuing between the County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board about the integration of service planning and delivery. This remains a high priority for me as Council Leader.

Powys Well-Being Plan

The Powys Public Service Board (PSB), a partnership of all the public agencies operating in Powys, plus associate participation from PAVO, One Voice Wales and others, has produced

and consulted widely on its draft Well-Being Plan for the county. It outlines the joint strategies and actions that the public agencies will pursue to achieve the aims in line with the requirements of the Well Being of Future Generations Act to adopt measures to help safeguard the well-being of current and future residents of the county through to 2040 and beyond. It covers matters such as health, social care, leisure and recreation, the development of a sustainable economy, the protection of biodiversity, measures to combat climate change and so on. Three main broad aims have been agreed:-

- People in Powys will live happy, healthy and safe lives
- Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities
- An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys

The Plan will be considered by Powys County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 9th May and all the other statutory agencies by early June, with a view to adoption and implementation. The aims and objectives very much align with:-

Powys County Council Corporate Plan – Stronger–Fairer–Greener
which is now available on the council's website.

DRAFT