

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
meeting held at the Village Hall.
Tuesday 12th September 2023, 7pm.

MINUTES

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr C Smith, Cllr P Bate, Cllr J Morgan and County Cllr Gibson-Watt.

IN ATTENDANCE: B Morgan and A Crichton-Stuart

MINUTES: There was no meeting in August.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Vice-Chair Wells declared an interest in the planning application that was to be discussed.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chairman Fforde has checked all assets and found to be in good order.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Chair proposed Cllrs to consider co-opting A Crichton-Stuart as a Community Cllr, Mr Crichton-Stuarts personal statement had been circulated to all Cllrs before the meeting. Cllr Brock seconded the proposal and all Cllrs voted in favour of the co-option. Cllr Crichton-Stuart moved to be seated with the Community Council.

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee - Chair Fforde reported on the search for TOPAS registered speed indicator devices (SIDs), he has found some and taken them back to Powys who have now agreed that these are compliant and is willing to have a site meeting. He is also in touch with highways to arrange the siting of posts for the SID. Chair Fforde will arrange the site meeting and invite subcommittee Cllrs. Cllr Crichton-Stuart will also sit on this subcommittee. Chair Fforde is also working on various funding streams that he is hoping can be applied for at some point soon.
2. Bus stop update – Cllr Bate sent a message to the Community Council saying that his enquiries are still ongoing regarding the legality of vehicles other than buses using the bus stop as a thoroughfare.
3. New play area and Community Garden – Vice-Chair Wells discussed the ongoing process for the heads of terms. A solicitor is required to check the document, Cllrs agreed to ask residents for help with this. Cllrs will come back next month with any interested parties. It was decided that some publicity should be arranged by interested Cllrs.
4. Budget update – The Clerk explained the financial position that the Community Council is in at this time. The accounts are in a good place and as long as the audit cost isn't massive there would be a surplus. Chair Fforde is going to look at the purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday, discussion ensued that led to Cllr Brock proposing that we purchase the wreath for £25 and then use the other half of the donation for the war memorial flowers as already fulfilled via Mrs Anthony. Cllr Richardson seconded this, and all Cllrs agreed with this proposal.

PLANNING MATTERS inc updates and decisions:

1. Application - The extension of the existing Clyro Wastewater Treatment Works including the upgrade and provision of plant, machinery, kiosks, hardstanding with proposed fencing and landscaping at Kilverts Mill, Clyro, HR3 5TR. Application ref: 23/1260/FUL.

Vice-Chair Wells having declared a personal interest in this application withdrew from the meeting room and did not participate in the discussion.

Chair Fforde explained the plans and in his opinion found that the proposal is much needed and sees no problem with the application. Cllrs discussed various scenarios with noise levels and working hours. It was agreed that these issues could be discussed if they occurred at the time. All agreed that the Community Council have no comment to make on this application.

Vice-Chair Wells re-entered the meeting.

POLICE REPORT: Chair Fforde requested that the Clerk contact the PCSO's to ask when they might attend the Café in the village hall.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (incl):

1. PAVO – invoice for payroll services (carried over from August)
2. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – annual form. Vice-Chair Wells requested that zeroes be added to each box. The clerk will amend and publish.
3. A Highway obstruction, U1410. Emailed correspondence from Chris Marsden. Chair Fforde explained that this route is only public access by foot as shown on the ordnance survey map not a byway open to all traffic. If a Clyro resident takes an interest in this route they will be directed to Powys County Council for action.*Amended for factuality 10/10/23*
4. Brecon Advice Centre annual report, information for Cllrs.

FINANCIAL:

Bank balances: Current £1,329.82 (on 4th August 2023) Reserve £1,860.69 (on 30th August 2023). Payments to include BT direct debit 8/8/23 (£41.25), PAVO Inv 2058, August (£36), Clerks Salary, August (£183.34) and Clerks Salary September (£183.34)

Cllr Brock proposed, and Cllr Richardson seconded these payments, all Cllrs agreed.

AOB:

Chair Fforde explained his report regarding the climate change forum that he sent last month. He would like to put in place some small ideas that can make a difference. Contact has been made with Martin Draper who founded "On the Verge" a group that adds wildflower areas to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. Together with John Sly from the garage Chair Fforde had an informal meeting with Martin to look at the grass area in front of the garage to see if anything can be done there. Cllr Price expressed his concerns that Powys will not like anything being done on that grass area, Chair Fforde replied that he feels it is worth a try. Cllr Brock offered notice boards in the village hall to give people ideas of

how to make small differences. Cllr Richardson added that this crosses over to the Community Garden and new play park ideas. Chair Fforde requested that dates be offered for a meeting to encompass both the climate change ideas and the Community Garden and new play park.

Cllr Price brought a magazine page that explains how change of village assets can be stopped before the planning application for change of use is put in. Cllr Price would like to protect the future of the Baskerville Arms Pub. The clerk will investigate the information given.

B Morgan reported that the path to Hay is overgrown and that the path from the village to the school is also being encroached by tree branches falling onto the path. Chair Fforde will have a look at both, Vice-Chair Wells directed residents to the Powys website where these issues can be reported directly to Powys County Council.

The meeting was closed at 8.26pm.

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, Chairman)

Appendix A

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

12/9/23

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School

Members may have noticed that GHS students achieved excellent, much-improved on 2022, GCSE results this summer; in doing so ‘bucking the trend’ across the rest of Powys, Wales and England. It is clear that the new Headteacher and leadership team at the school are making a real difference and this is an example of what can be achieved with the right leadership approach in schools. This is particularly impressive, given the ongoing concerns about the physical condition of the school, as indeed is the condition of a number of Powys secondary schools.

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

No further news re. either school at present.

The gradual transformation of Powys’s schools system is continuing, with a report on proposed changes to primary provision in the Llanfyllin HS Catchment due to be considered by the Council’s Cabinet this month; as is a report on the future shape of secondary provision in the Llandrindod Wells/Builth Wells area.

Planning & Housing

With regard to the phosphates issue, I have now met with the Chair and senior officers of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to try to establish where NRW’s current policies with regard to housing and business development in the Wye and Usk SACs are leading us. I stressed the point that the current virtual ‘moratorium’ on development in the SACs is placing much of Powys at a great disadvantage in comparison with areas in Herefordshire in the Wye SAC, where Natural England is operating a different policy and housing and business development is continuing at pace, with a consequent effect of contributing to the continued outward migration of young and working-age people, with all the adverse impacts this has on the future sustainability of our economy and communities.

NRW acknowledged those impacts, but stated that it was bound by Welsh Government policy on these issues, which I found odd, since it is supposed to be an independent environmental regulator. However, more encouragingly, NRW officials stated that a system of new permits

will gradually be issued to individual areas within Welsh SACs where the outflow from waste water treatment plants meets phosphate level standards. I asked for and was promised a list of where those permits are likely to be issued in the coming months and years, to help Powys CC plan its new housing and business development options better. The list is still awaited. Although the meeting was helpful, I remain very concerned about the impacts of the current regulatory regime in the SACs.

Highways issues, etc.

No particular issues of note in the Clyro CC area to report this month.

Health & Care Services – public finances

Although improvements in the working relationship between Powys CC and Powys THB (and indeed other public bodies and the voluntary sector) are continuing, with agreements on key operational matters being reached, this does not alter the fact that the whole system continues to operate under terrific pressure. This has been made more acute by the fact that Welsh Government has recently announced that it is seeking substantial in-year savings from the NHS and other public bodies, to cover a deficit created in large part by the announcement by the UK Government that this year's public sector pay awards must be funded from existing departmental budgets, with a consequence that the expected increase in funding to Wales to cover the costs (the so-called Barnett formula consequential) will not happen. While local authority budgets for 2023/24 are set and will not be directly affected by this development this year, not only will this mean that the NHS and other public bodies will have to find significant in-year savings, but the 2024/25 funding settlement for local government is bound to be lower than previously indicated. Given the continued high levels of general inflation and increasing demand for services, it is difficult to see how the inevitable funding gaps can be closed without some reduction in services, however much service redesign and cross-organisation collaboration takes place. These are worrying times.

James

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