

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

### **MINUTES**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MINUTES:** Chair Fforde proposed an amendment to September's minutes for factuality, Correspondence 3 was amended to show only facts as detailed by Chair Fforde. All Cllrs agreed to this amendment.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MATTERS ARISING:**

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee. Chair Fforde and Vice-Chair Wells had a meeting with Powys CC's, J Lancey to discuss the location of the SID's. The kerb was marked and J Lancey approved the sites, Powys must supply the posts and install them. Chair Fforde has emailed L Parry who will reply with a cost for the works. He has narrowed the purchase of the SID's down to a company called Twm.
2. Bus stop update – Cllr Bate reported that Powys CC own the whole of the bus stop up to the house located behind. There is no TRO (Traffic regulation Order) on it meaning that vehicles can travel over the bus stop. The signage is guidance only, so no laws are being broken when vehicles travel over it. Chair Fforde proposed writing a letter to the legal department of Powys to request help with the ongoing issue. All agreed to this action.
3. New play area and Community Garden – Vice-Chair Wells reported that he and Chair Fforde met with C Gwilym who is heading up the Hay and Clyro Community Gardening group using a Facebook group as a starting point. He has experience of Community gardening, applying for funding and is enthused to start this club with a meeting in the village hall. Vice-Chair Wells hopes that this group steered by C Gwilym will be the driving force for the Community Garden project. This meeting will be held during November. Cllr Richardson requested posters around the village as not all residents are online. Vice-Chair Wells will now write to Powys asking for a lease to be drawn up under the terms discussed at last months meeting. A Clyro resident who is a solicitor has agreed to have a look over the lease to check for any legal snags that the Community Council might not pick up on. Keep Wales Tidy – Local Places for Nature are offering free packages for this type of project, Vice-Chair Wells and Cllr Richardson will put in an application.
4. Report on inaugural meeting of Clyro Community Climate Plan – This meeting was postponed so will be rescheduled and reported on at the next monthly meeting.

**POLICE REPORT:** The Clerk reported that PCSO Jackson was going to try and attend the café last Wednesday, no written report this month.

**GOVERNORS REPORT:** Cllr Richardson shared with the Community Council the latest Governors meeting at the school, along with the annual share out of roles and responsibilities, Class Governors have been introduced, this is a Governor who is given a specific class to take an interest in, this gives support to both the class teacher and teaching assistant. A Macmillan Coffee Morning and Harvest Festival are both upcoming events.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE** (*incl*):

1. Welsh Air Ambulance – phase 2 public engagement
2. One Voice Wales – newsletter
3. Climate and Ecology Bill – Zero Hour, for discussion at November’s meeting

**FINANCIAL:**

Bank balances: Current £2,954.57 (on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023) Reserve £1,860.69 (on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023). Payments to include BT direct debit 8/9/23 (£41.25), HMRC (£137.40) and Clerks salary (£183.34)

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

**AOB:**

Chair Fforde noted that the 20mph speed limit is now applicable to Clyro. He informed the meeting that Ashbrook Garage has changed ownership in the past few months, although it is trading under the same name. The Clyro Community Council recognises the huge help and assistance John Reese has given the residents of Clyro over the past sixteen years (literally, in all weathers and at all times of day) and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. The Council also welcomes the new owners of Ashbrook Garage and have no doubt they will continue the tradition of local support that Mr Reese had established.

The meeting was closed at 7.40pm.

**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, Chair)

## Appendix A

### CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

10/10/23

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

#### **Gwernyfed High School & the Secondary Education Sector in Powys**

As reported previously, 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. Although not of direct relevance to the Glasbury & District Community Council area, members might be interested to note that Brecon High School’s Governing Body recently decided to close its 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision with immediate effect. Only 6 pupils enrolled for the 2023/24 academic year there. This is an indication of the decline across the county of pupils choosing to study post-16 in Powys schools, with only Crickhowell High School having a thriving post-16 provision. All the other high schools are struggling to maintain numbers, with many pupils choosing to access 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Further Education (FE) provision out-of-county. The ‘consortium’ and the new Post-16 commissioning system in which pupils are facilitated to access courses across more than one school setting has not worked. The trend of post-16 pupils leaving the county has been gathering pace for about 20 years and Post-16 review and reform is long overdue. A report is going to the council’s Cabinet tomorrow (10<sup>th</sup> October) on the issue. Improving matters is bound to include much more co-operation between the schools, FE and Work-Based Learning providers, which I would warmly welcome. We now need to quickly explore how this is to be achieved.

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

No further news re. either school at present.

The council’s Cabinet took a major decision last month, to agree to go out to public consultation on placing Bro Careinion School, a 4-18 dual stream school in Llanfair Careinion in north Powys, on what is known as the Welsh Language Continuum, in which year-on-year English medium provision is phased out from Years Reception and 1 and Year 7, from 2025, so that in 7 years the school will become a fully Welsh medium/bi-lingual school, with all courses taught through the medium of Welsh. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation this should settle a decades-old debate about how and where to establish fully Welsh-medium provision in the north of Powys.

#### **Planning & Housing**

As reported previously, with regard to the phosphates issue, NRW officials had 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 and I am chasing this.

### **Highways issues, etc.**

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

### **Health & Care Services and state of the public finances**

Members may recall that the Welsh Government has recently announced that it is seeking substantial in-year savings from the NHS and other public bodies, to cover an in-year 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. In addition, the 'Barnett consequential' funds from spending increases on HS2 in England in recent years have not been passed to the Welsh Government. 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. This pressure will only get worse in 2025/26, as the UK Chancellor announced severe public sector funding restrictions will be put in place from that year in last year's Autumn Statement.

This has increased the urgency of the work currently underway to re-design services in Powys, to find ways of sustaining them at less cost. To that end another member/senior officer workshop took place recently and discussions with other public sector organisations are underway about the situation they face. But it is difficult to see at this point how we will avoid some reductions in service levels if Powys CC is to be able to set a balanced budget next year without imposing an unacceptably high increase in Council Tax.

It is inevitable that the county council will have to move increasingly to become an enabler of service delivery at local level in some service areas, rather than a direct provider, and will have to increase its partnership working with other public bodies, but also local community councils, the voluntary sector and the private sector. New mechanisms to allow that to be achieved and to increase local community resilience will have to be developed and quickly.

### **New Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

I am delighted to report that Powys County Council has appointed a new CEO, following the resignation of Dr Caroline Turner on health grounds. From a strong field of applicants, Emma Palmer, currently Director of Corporate Services at the council, was appointed last week at a meeting of the full County Council. She will take up the role at the end of the month. The council has been very well-served by our Interim CEO, Jack Straw, over the past 9 months.

James  
Tel. 07971048737  
cllrjgw@powys.gov.uk

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