

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

**MINUTES**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr J Morgan, Cllr Price,

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MINUTES:**

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Vice-Chair Wells declared an interest in the planning application, he will leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion.

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

**MATTERS ARISING:**

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee – No meetings have been held this month, Chair Fforde is still waiting for prices off various people regarding traffic calming measures. Vice-Chair Wells has nothing to report on the cycle route apart from the next step being to raise money for a feasibility study.
2. Bus stop update – Chair Fforde wrote a letter to J Lancey (see Appendix B), a reply has not been received at the time of the meeting.
3. New play area and Community Garden – Vice-Chair Wells attended the first meeting of the Hay and Clyro Gardening Club, there was interest and support for the Community Garden from a few attendees. He explained the lease between Powys and the Community Council would run for 5 years with an exit clause annually. Powys advised that this may not be a good option as some grant providers won't like the annual exit clause, Vice-Chair investigated this and found that as long as the applicants agree to maintain the grant conditions (mowing, keep tidy) for five years then there is no issue. Vice-Chairman proposed that the Community Council go ahead with this asking Powys CC to prepare a lease under these terms, Cllr Richardson seconded this, and all Cllrs agreed. Applications for various grants have been completed as it seems that once the lease is agreed work will be able to go ahead.
4. Resignation of Cllr Smith – The Community Council thanked Cllr Smith for her time and energy during
5. Clerks annual review to include annual homeworking allowance £75. The Clerk left the meeting, and this part of the meeting was held in private. It was agreed that as last year SCP 12 on the Local Government Services Pay Agreement was agreed as the correct level of payment this should be carried forward this year giving an hourly rate of £13.73. The homeworking allowance that has been £75 was increased by 10% to £82.50. The Clerk thanked the Community Council.

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:**

1. Environmental plans going forward. The Clyro Climate Action Plan, sub-committee have met and discussed and agreed that Clyro should adopt a more robust action towards the climate emergency, it was noted that Clyro Community Council have an Environmental Policy that is going in the right direction, but it was agreed that the Policy should be reviewed and updated from the conclusions drawn from the Climate meeting that Chair Fforde attended in July. He will have a draft ready for January's meeting. It was agreed that Clyro Community Council can deal with any new plans and strategies. These should appear on the agenda and Cllrs can commit themselves to environmental projects on an ad hoc basis and report back monthly. Due to Cllrs limited time it was agreed to give one or two sound projects delivered a year would be preferable to 9/10 ideas talked about but with little headway. The first two projects would likely be the wildflowers on Texaco meadow/other open spaces and an information hub for Clyro. Cllr Richardson asked that the Community Garden be added as a first project as this was now well underway as a project that will need Cllrs time and energy. Chair Fforde agreed that this will be added to the initial list.
2. Wildflower meadows on unused land. Chair Fforde asked if any Cllrs would like to have a walk around to locate areas that could be used for wildflowers. He will let Cllrs know when this will take place.
3. Clyro Information hub. Chair Fforde would like to introduce an Information Hub to show environmental news and ideas. He suggested an online presence and a notice board in the bus stop to encourage resilience of the biosphere to climatic change and decarbonisation. For example, wildflower meadows help balance the biosphere and efficient boilers/car sharing help with decarbonisation. Cllr Brock asked for clarification on what the information hub was informing. Chair Fforde explained that it would be to inform residents of ways to help the environment. Vice-Chair Wells questioned how/what the best way is to facilitate these ideas, Chair Fforde suggested a meeting to brainstorm some ideas. Cllrs asked for this to be carried forward to January as it is a busy time for many. Leading on from number 1 Chair Fforde will put the Information hub as a tentative 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list of priorities and work on it steadily in the background. Cllrs agreed that Chair Fforde can put the notice board in the bus stop to share environmental ideas.
4. Review and expand Environmental Policy. Covered in number 1.

**PLANNING MATTERS:** Clyro Wastewater Treatment Works – Permanent diversion of Right of Way 111/CY1972 – Vice-Chair Wells left the meeting at this point. The Community Council discussed the application and had no comment to make.

**POLICE REPORT:** Vice-Chair Wells reported that the Speed Watch police group was checking speeds on the 40mph last week.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE (incl):**

1. PAVO invoice 2185 – Payroll services

2. #LoveOurRivers campaign – Bannau Brycheiniog  
<https://bannau.wales/environment/love-our-rivers/the-love-our-rivers-checklist/>
3. PCC Town and Community Council online meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> November 6pm – The Clerk will send the invite out to all.
4. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report and consultation
5. Completion of Audit 2022-23 – The Clerk reported that apart from some missing pieces of website publications (corrected when flagged) the audit was completed and in order. The Audit notice will now be displayed for residents to see.

#### **FINANCIAL:**

Bank balances: Current £2,322.05 (on 3rd November 2023) Reserve £1,865.06 (on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023). Payments to include BT direct debit 8/11/23 (£41.25), PAVO (£36) and Clerks salary (£183.14)

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

#### **AOB:**

Chair Fforde asked about the Climate and Ecology Bill that we had on the agenda last month, as a Community Council should we be backing political views. This bill is being raised by The Green Party; the Clerk will ask for guidance from One Voice Wales.

Chair Fforde and Vice-Chair Wells attended and laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service on behalf of Clyro Community Council.

Chair Fforde would like to get farmers views on Environmental matters, Cllr Bate suggested inviting R Lewis to a meeting. Chair Fforde asked Cllr Bate to invite him along to inform the Community Council about what is happening in farming at this time.

Cllr Richardson brought a resident's complaint about the footway between Clyro and Hay, it has deteriorated further and is a danger to walkers. The Community Council will pass this on to County Cllr Gibson-Watt. Residents can also go on the Powys website to report highway problems. Cllr Richardson suggested a petition to show residents feelings on this issue.

Chair Fforde will formulate a petition to take forward and email County Cllr Gibson-Watt.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

**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**

14/11/23

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

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

No further news on Gwernyfed HS this month, other than that I continue to receive good reports about the school, which is very pleasing.

Proposals for the future of Ysgol Calon Cymru, currently based on two sites at Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells, are due to come to the council's Cabinet for discussion shortly.

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

No further news re. either school at present.

Public consultation on proposals for the future configuration of primary schools in the Llanfyllin/Welshpool High Schools catchments and moving Bro Careinion High School at Llanfair Careinion to transition to Welsh Medium from its current dual stream status continue.

**Planning & Housing**

The promised list from NRW of areas of the county where the outfall from water treatment (sewage) works are below the permitted phosphate levels, to then allow housing and business premises development, is still awaited. I am still chasing this hard!.

**Highways issues, etc.**

One issue of note in the Clyro CC area this month is that it appears that the smaller tipper lorries from the quarries at Burlingjobb/Walton are using the Dolycannau to Clyro road, instead of going round via Eardisley to access the A438. Given that the road is narrow and steep in places, and that it is a school bus route, I have asked highways officers to contact the quarry owners to ask them to stop doing it, unless of course delivering to an address along that route.

We have received a lot of rain recently. If members know of any storm drains that are blocked and causing surface water problems, please do contact me.

**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. This is 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. The impact on Powys Teaching Health Board's current year budget has yet to be announced, but it will be significant and will put further unwelcome strain on our NHS (and consequently social care) services locally.

This has increased the urgency of the work currently underway to re-design public services in Powys, to find ways of sustaining them at less cost. As Chair of the Powys Public Service

Board (PSB) I am pleased to report that at a recent meeting of the PSB all the public sector bodies in Powys have agreed to work together while setting their budgets for 2024/25. This will help to soften the impact of the inevitable reductions in service levels that are bound to result from the current situation.

I will report in more detail in the December and January reports on how Powys County Council's draft 2024/25 budget is developing.

James

Cllr James Gibson-Watt

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## Appendix B

Re: Bus Stop area in Clyro

Dear Ms Lancey,

The area outside the bus stop in Clyro is once again causing difficulties. Despite the 'no motor vehicles' signage, a small but determined group of residents still drive across it as a short cut despite the signs, arguing - it seems correctly - that the area outside the bus stop was originally the main road, and was never legally redesignated after the main road was straightened through the village in the 1960s.

This legal designation of the bus stop as 'highway' and the belief that a prosecution would be unsustainable in court is rapidly becoming accepted fact in the area and seems to have encouraged others to use it, despite the signage and the area often used by pedestrians.

The last communication we had from your department was that the Clyro Bus stop was signed correctly and vehicles should not drive across it. However, we feel that a notice from Highways in which they categorically give a legal and defensible designation of the area as NOT highway would be sufficient to make people stop driving across it.

Is there any way you can help us in this matter? Or pass it on to the relevant person in the Department?

Yours Sincerely,

Jasper Fforde

Chair, Community Council