

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
meeting held at the Village Hall.  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 7pm.

**MINUTES**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MINUTES:**

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.

**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 – Chair Fforde is getting nowhere with SID's prices from Twm, he will continue to ask. Powys CC have come back with a price for making the holes for the posts to sit the SID's on, £700 plus VAT per hole.
2. Bus stop update – Chair Fforde has not received a reply from Powys regarding the bus stop, Cllr Brock asked if as a Cllr she could say to individuals that continue to use the bus stop as a road to refrain from doing it as children often congregate at the bus stop. All agreed that if the opportunity arises to educate residents, then it should be taken. Chair Fforde stated that "The matter of whether the area outside the bus stop is designated a highway or bus stop? and thus the legality of driving across irrespective of the 'no vehicles' signage has long been a matter of contention within CCC and the village. Although there are sound arguments as to why it should be highway, a redesignation or even confirmation of designation by Powys - despite requests - does not seem to be a realistic proposal. It is the view of the Chair and many Councillors that irrespective of designation, the bus stop area should not be used as a short cut for drivers, as it is an area used by pedestrians, and a dangerous conflict may occur. It is the view of the CCC that the issue should be for the moment shelved, until such time as a legal challenge is brought upon a potentially offending motorist and the matter can be tested in court."
3. Politics and the Community Council – Chair Fforde will forward this to January's meeting as he would like a full conversation with a new heading as politics cannot be referenced in any way.
4. Petition to Powys for resurfacing/repair of B4351 footway – Cllr Morgan reported the poor condition of the footway to Powys via the website, she received a reply stating "This is not a designated paved PCC listed footway. Verge maintenance only along this section of the B4351." This created a discussion that included Cllr Richardson asking, "what is going to happen to the footpath over time", Cllr Bate informed the meeting that County Cllr Gibson-Watt got the repairs done last time. Chair Fforde will speak with County Cllr Gibson-Watt and the petition will be put on hold.

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:**

1. New Play Area and Community Garden – Vice-Chair Wells attended the second meeting of the Clyro and Hay Gardening Club; a committee was formed. The Gardening Club will have its own cash kitty from subscriptions to pay for ongoing costs, such as hall hire and refreshments. The Community Garden will run by a subcommittee from the Community Council who will be responsible for the financial management of the community garden project including raising funds via grant applications etc. Practically there will be a lot of collaboration but financially the two will be totally separate. Cllr Richardson and Vice-Chair Fforde have applied for grants and a Keep Wales Tidy package. A meeting was held with Steve Butcher, PCC, he is hopeful that the Community Garden will be eligible for a grant that is ringfenced for green projects and food production. It could pay for secure storage and water containers if required. Powys are looking at ten projects of around £2500 and Clyro is number three on the list, so it looks quite positive. The funds won't be released until early summer next year. Cllr Richardson reported that a link has been established with the Eco-Council at the school. A meeting will take place to talk with the Eco-Council about plans for the Community Garden and other ideas for green areas around the village. Vice-Chair Wells through his woodland work has made links with students from the Black Mountain College, Talgarth who are keen to get involved with off-site activities and may be willing to give practical help to the community garden project. Vice-Chair Wells will cultivate this relationship. Also, residents have offered diggers and rakers to get the project started when the legalities allow.

Vice-Chair Wells reported that Powys have cleared the path in the new play area, manually weeding and removing moss.

2. Wildflower meadows on unused land. Chair Fforde spoke to Steve Butcher regarding the wildflower meadow in front of the garage, he responded that the area is mown by Powys twice a year contracted by Highways because of the splay. Steve is going to find a contact in the Council to speak to. Cllr Crichton-Stuart explained that PCC will have cutting maps that shows all mowing areas with splays shown. Chair Fforde is going to research these.

Cllr Richardson asked if some structure by way of a plan could be established to show the Community Councils priorities as there seems to be a lot of projects going on with no formal direction. Chair Fforde replied that he felt that Cllrs had told him that they have limited time to give to these projects, so he had pared the projects down to a top three. Cllr Brock said that she felt the Community Garden should be the focus. Chair Fforde would like to carry on with the projects as they stand. He offered an appendix in the Environmental Policy, but this isn't what Cllr Richardson was asking for, Cllr Richardson has templates for plans which she would be happy to adapt if the Community Council had a use for the resource. Cllrs agreed that it would be good to have structure and direction recorded in a plan. Chair Fforde will work with Cllr Richardson to bring some ideas to February's meeting.

**SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT:** Cllr Richardson attended a meeting at the school, an Open Morning was held for prospective parents, four families attended and were shown around the school by year 5 and 6 pupils. Governors who were in attendance were able to have a

chat with the parents and positive discussions were had. There are vacancies for a staff and parent Governor. The afterschool club is going well, this is run separately from the school. Year 5 and 6 visited the Hay Day Café and helped serve refreshments. They chatted with Café users and all parties had a pleasant morning.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE** (*incl*):

1. Police funding survey - <https://bit.ly/DyfedPowysPrecept24-25>
2. Consultation, Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill - <https://business.senedd.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?id=539&RPID=1035567228&cp=yes>

**FINANCIAL:**

1. Appropriate sum expenditure limit 2024/25 - £10.81 per elector
2. Budget to include setting the Precept – 2024/25 – The Clerk has prepared the bank reconciliation for Cllrs to look at and evaluate. Vice-Chair Wells explained that Cllrs need to think about what costs will the Community Council incur during the coming year. Cllr Richardson acknowledged that the budget was prepared at the start of the financial year but has not been reviewed at the half year stage. However, decisions that were made at year start have been carried through. Therefore, this budget will be useful for the precept process, Chair Fforde suggested a meeting between Cllr Richardson and Vice-Chair Wells before next meeting to update the budget in readiness for setting the precept. Cllr Bate added that we could have an election that would deplete our reserves. The Clerk will find out how much an election would cost the Community Council. Cllr Richardson reiterated that the Community Council must justify any increase so facts are needed, look at what has been spent and what we would like to spend next year and then ask what is reasonable if we need an increase. Chair Fforde asked that Cllrs give Vice-Chair Wells any extra funding requirements as soon as possible. Vice-Chair Wells and Cllr Richardson will meet in January and bring a report to the Community Council at the next meeting when the precept will be decided.

Bank balances: Current £2,322.05 (on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023) Reserve £1,865.06 (on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023). Payments to include BT direct debit 9/12/23 (£41.25), Clerks homeworking annual allowance (£82.50) and Clerks Salary (£183.14).

Chair Fforde proposed, and Cllr Morgan seconded these payments, all agreed.

**AOB:** Cllr Bate reported that Mr Lewis (local farmer) is busy with family and farming until April, he might have a window in January. Cllr Bate will continue to ask him. Vice-Chair Wells spoke with M Eccles from Hay Community Resilience Initiative, he has done a lot of work around three areas, food, mental health, and energy, in preparation for climate change and general health of Hay. He would like to come and talk to the Community Council about it and see if Clyro can feed into the Hay group with the Community Garden and any other ideas that are Clyro are working on. The group felt that initially they should attend an event that Hay Community Resilience Initiative is putting on at the Swan in Hay on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Then maybe hold a public event in Clyro. Posters will be obtained before our next meeting. Cllr Crichton-Stuart will attend another new Councillor training during January as

no email was received from One Voice Wales for the booked session and the Community Council was charged for the session.

The meeting was closed at 8.22pm.

**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)

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## Appendix A

**CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**12/12/23**

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

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

GHS continues to show significant improvement in the way the school is operating and pupil achievement and outcomes; and a recent monitoring visit to the school by schools inspectorate Estyn apparently went well. This is very good news.

Proposals for the future of Ysgol Calon Cymru, currently based on two sites at Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells, will now be presented to the council's Cabinet early in 2024.

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

No further news re. either primary school at present.

Proposals for the future of Ysgol Calon Cymru in Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells are now due to come before the council's Cabinet in early January 2024.

### **Planning & Housing**

The list of Waste Water Treatment Plants under review by NRW for the issuing of phosphate permits is now available on the NRW website:-

[Natural Resources Wales / Phosphorus limits on environmental permits for waste water treatment work discharges](#)

This is a really helpful list and will help guide the county council and private housing developers and businesses in deciding where to plan investment in new housing and business developments across the county. Obviously, there will still be many areas in the south of Powys where new developments will be strictly limited, but this is welcome progress.

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

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

The flooding on the A438 close to Clyro over the weekend has now been cleared, with the culvert under the main road, which takes the water from a brook that flows through Courtway Farm from the forestry above it, having been cleaned out this morning (Monday). This is a regular problem, which requires regular attention from Powys CC's Highways staff and heavy equipment.

### **Powys County Council 2024/25 Budget**

As members will surely have noticed, many councils across the UK are in grave financial difficulty. Over a decade of central government grant funding (Rate Support Grant or RSG) reductions, or at least increases that do not cover general costs inflation and/or the increased demands on services resulting from an ageing population (social care services in particular), have now taken the whole local government system to a 'tipping point', in which severe reductions or withdrawal of service delivery are inevitable. Powys CC is better-placed than some local authorities. But despite a likely increase of about 3.1% in our RSG in 2024/25, savings of about £20m will have to be found to balance the budget. This is on top of

cumulative savings of over £100m made in the past 10 years and the prospect of nil or negative increases in RSG settlements in future years.

The Council has just launched a public consultation on next year's Budget (available on Powys CC's website) and I urge members to respond to it. This will be followed by a much more direct engagement with stakeholders, such as town and community councils and the voluntary sector, over the current and future transformation of service delivery (a project badged as Sustainable Powys) and how best the council can, working with other organisations and communities, create a public service system that is sustainable in a world of permanently-reduced real terms public funding. I will report further on that engagement process in the coming weeks.

Happy Christmas and let's hope for a good 2024.

James

Cllr James Gibson-Watt

Tel. 07971048737

[cllr.james.gibson-watt@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.gibson-watt@powys.gov.uk)

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