

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
meeting held at the Village Hall.
Tuesday 13th February 2024, 7pm.

MINUTES

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Fforde (Chairman) and Cllr M Brock.

IN ATTENDANCE: M Smith, G Anthony, Y Hood, and D Hood.

MINUTES: The minutes from January's meeting were found to have Cllr Brock misspelt as Cllr Brooke, after these were corrected it was agreed that the minutes were a true account of the meeting and were signed by Vice-Chair Wells.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Vice-Chair Wells has checked all assets and found to be in good order.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee – Vice-Chair Wells reported that Chair Fforde has all the information ready for the installation of both the posts in preparation for the SIDs.
2. Repair to B4351 footway – reply from County Cllr Gibson-Watt – Vice-Chair Wells shared the response with the Council with the conclusion being that Powys County Council are responsible for the maintenance and will action repairs as soon as possible. PCC also agreed that the Clyro to Hay footway would be a perfect fit for an active travel scheme with the footway tarmacked all the way. The Officer has passed this information on to the Active Travel Officer.
3. Casual vacancy for Community Councillor – The Community Council has a vacancy, Vice-Chair Wells encouraged those in attendance to share this with residents who might be interested.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:

1. New play area and Community Garden.
 - a. Lease for new play area and community garden.

Vice-Chair Wells told the Council that the application for a grant of £930 was successful and has been received. Cllrs have had sight of the lease and all documentation. A solicitor has looked over it externally and has said that it is legally fine and contains all the clauses that the Community Council had asked for, the next step is to have this written formally by the solicitor. Vice-Chair Wells proposed that Cllrs give approval for the Clerk to sign the lease subject to the formal advice from the solicitor not raising any issues. Cllr Price suggested that the Council be prepared that costs of these projects sometimes increase. Cllr Richardson seconded this proposal and all Cllr agreed to the proposal.
2. Wildflower meadows on unused land – Chair Fforde is working on this item.

POLICE REPORT: No report received.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT: Cllr Richardson reported that the Governing body membership is full, and the school development plan has been signed off. The school has two new pupils starting after Easter.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: See Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (*incl*):

1. Buckingham Palace Garden Party nomination – The Chair has passed the opportunity to the Vice-Chair who will send the nomination in.
2. Polling arrangements review, public consultation. <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/review-of-polling-districts-and-polling-places-stations-2024>
3. Welshpool Air Ambulance base – third and final phase of consultation. Comments can be made by clicking <https://easc.nhs.wales/engagement/sdp/>

FINANCIAL:

1. Clyro Village Hall Hire - £192
2. PAVO payroll services - £36

Bank balances: Current £3,247.37 (on 4th January 2024) Reserve £1,869.66 (on 30th November 2023). Payments to include BT direct debit 8/2/24 (£41.25), and Clerks Salary (£197.74).

Cllr Bate proposed, and Cllr Morgan seconded these payments, all agreed.

AOB:

Cllr Crichton-Stuart reported that a blocked drain on the corner outside the Old School House is causing a puddle that won't clear, residents have complained, and PCC have been out twice with poles giving it a stab. This hasn't worked. Vice-Chair Wells will contact PCC and explain what the problem is to ensure that they send the right equipment to clear the blockage.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Clyro residents expressed concerns regarding the precept increase that was approved at last month's Community Council meeting and asked for further explanation. Vice-Chair Wells explained that the average amount that a household will be paying towards the Clyro parish precept will increase by £11.06 per year.

The reason for the increase was explained as being needed due to the general increase in administration costs (£1.95) due to inflation etc plus, the cost of providing the speed indicator devices for traffic calming on the A438 (£9.11). Following many years of complaints from residents about the speed of traffic along the main road through the village and since the traffic survey consultation carried out by the Community Council in 2022 the Community Council has been discussing the traffic calming measures that could be employed. The favoured method was speed indicator devices (SIDs) which after much investigation have been sourced and costed. The SIDs also collect data on speed that in the future could be useful and are very low maintenance. The Community Garden Project at Dan Y Castell has not contributed to the precept increase as its creation is being funded by grant moneys and ongoing maintenance by volunteers.

Following the discussion residents expressed satisfaction with the explanation and justification for the increase.

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

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

13/2/24

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & the Secondary Education Sector in Powys
No further news at present.

Clyro C in W Primary School, Archdeacon Griffiths School and Schools Transformation in Powys
No further news re. either primary school at present.

Planning & Housing
No major issues to report at present.

Highways issues, etc.
Nothing of significance to report. The culvert under the A438 at the bottom of the driveway to Courtway appears to be working OK now following previous flooding problems there.

Powys County Council 2024/25 Budget

The Council's Cabinet published its proposed draft County Council 2024/25 Budget on Wed. 10th January. It is a legal requirement for local authorities to set a balanced budget and I believe we have set out as good a balanced draft budget as could be achieved in extremely difficult circumstances of ongoing inflationary cost and demand pressures, particularly in the field of social care; and after the UK Government agreed public sector pay settlements without providing the funding to cover the extra costs imposed. The draft budget papers are here (Item 4 on the Cabinet Meeting Agenda of the 16th Jan. 2024):-

<https://powys.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8074/Agenda%20frontsheet%2016th-Jan-2024%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=0>

The papers are only 525 pages(!), but the main headlines are that, following a below-inflation increase in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from Welsh Government of 2.8%, we are having to propose a 7.5% increase in Council Tax, of which about 1% is to cover the Fire

& Rescue Service levy increase imposed on all the county councils in the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority area. Funding for Adult Social Care will rise significantly by about £8m (11%) and the money delegated to schools by well over 4%. Providing this extra money for those two big lines in the budget means cutbacks and rationalisations elsewhere, some of which are unwelcome, but necessary to ensure the council remains viable and able to sustain its vital services, especially to the most vulnerable in our communities.

The draft proposals have been closely scrutinised by the council's main scrutiny committees and no Alternative Budget has been proposed by any of the non-executive (opposition) council groups. The 2024/25 Budget papers will now go to a meeting of the full County Council for decision on the 22nd of February.

Comments and suggestions from the community council are welcome and, in particular, I would welcome discussion with the council about how best the county council can work with you to maintain local services into the future, as it is now certain that future RSG funding is likely to be flat at best and may well be less in actual terms for the foreseeable future. This leads me to -

Sustainable Powys

As for much of local government in the UK, it is clear that for the county council to avoid becoming insolvent it will have to become a smaller, leaner organisation and one that works in very close collaboration with its main public sector partners, such as Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB), neighbouring local authorities in Wales and England, local councils and the private sector to sustain services. I am pleased that the Health Board has agreed to work with the county council on a joint process for consulting on and planning the future pattern of service delivery across Powys in the future. PAVO is also closely involved in this. Town and Community Councils will have a key role also and will be closely consulted as things develop. Community consultation jointly with PTHB on the Sustainable Powys process has begun, beginning with focus group meetings, and local councils are receiving invitations to their local events. Significant changes to the way services are delivered and where are inevitable and it is important that the public and local organisations' voices are heard before decisions are made.

James
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