

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
meeting held at the Village Hall.
Tuesday 14th January 2025, at 7pm.

MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Chichester and R Kirkland.

MINUTES: The minutes from December's meeting were agreed as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: No declarations of interest were expressed

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were made.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee – Chair Fforde explained that he will be arranging a meeting of volunteers to get the SID programmed and put in place.
2. Repair to B4351 footway – nothing to report from Powys County Council, Chair Fforde will email County Cllr Gibson-Watt for advice.
3. Casual vacancies for Community Councillors –The community council has three vacancies for Cllrs. It was with sadness that the council received the resignation of Cllr Trish Richardson. The council noted Cllr Richardson's excellent contributions to the community, not just in well considered opinions regarding Council matters, but also school liaison duties, her drive to initiate and ratify the Council's Environmental Policy, and her work on the Community Gardens. Mrs Richardson will continue to be a member of the Community Garden subcommittee as a non-council member. The council extended their gratitude to Mrs Richardson and wish her the very best for the future.
4. Clerks annual review to include annual homeworking allowance - the Clerk, Diane Workman, had her annual employers review with Cllr Fforde and Cllr Morgan on the 15th of January 2025. This meeting raised no actionable issues on either side apart from a job description was shared with the clerk for her to review and amend/agree ready for next month's meeting. The only items to be brought forward to the Council's attention is the increase of the Clerk's salary from NALC SCP 12 rate (2023) £13.73 per hour to the NALC SCP 12 rate (2024) of £14.36. It was also suggested that home working allowance be raised (10%) from £82.50 to £90.75 per annum. Chair Fforde proposed these changes Vice-Chair Wells seconded this proposal, and all Cllrs agreed to these changes.
5. Promote website sign-ups to encourage resident engagement – Chair Fforde thanked Cllrs for poster ideas that have been emailed in, Chair Fforde suggested a mail drop

as the community council did for the traffic calming questionnaire, Cllrs agreed to help with the distribution. Cllr Morgan suggested adding to the poster that the agenda and minutes are available every month on the notice board in front of the village hall as this then makes them accessible for residents who are not online. Cllrs agreed with this suggestion. Cllr Crichton-Stuart will amend the favoured design and send out again for feedback.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:

1. New play area and Community Garden – Vice-Chair Wells reported the outcomes from the Community Garden sub committee meeting, it was decided to plan an official opening of the garden for Sunday 13th April 9-11am. A Facebook page has been planned for giving information to interested residents. A regular meet up is planned for every two weeks on a Sunday starting from the 13th of April. It is hoped that other groups will plan their own times to meet and work on the garden as interest increases. The RoSPA report recommended signs for the new play area advising that dogs aren't allowed in the play area. Vice-Chair proposed spending up to £50 on signage. Chair Fforde seconded and all Cllr agreed.

PLANNING MATTERS inc decisions and updates:

1. **Application approved:** Change of use of land for the erection of an agricultural storage building and greenhouses incorporating a domestic swimming pool and office, Hendom Barn, Clyro, HR3 5JX. Application Reference: 24/0976/FUL
2. **Application approved:** Extension to deck/balcony, Barneys Orchard, 24/1182/HH

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (incl):

1. Consultation on reforms to the compulsory purchase process and compensation rules. [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#) – Information.
[Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Reforms - GOV.UK](#)
2. Local Bus Consultation (includes Clyro) <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/powys-local-bus-network-consultation>

FINANCIAL: Bank balances: Current £9,327.46 (on 3rd January 2025) Reserve £1,896.72 (on 29th November 2024). Payments to include BT direct debit 8/01/25 (£46.10), R Wells Community Engagement in Planning Training (£50), HMRC (£146.79), Elancity (£2807.99), Wales Audit Office 2023-24 (£200) and Clerks Salary (£197.74). The clerk noted that the Elancity invoice has the incorrect address on, it was agreed that the cheque would be held until this query was answered. Chair Fforde proposed paying these invoices (approve but hold Elancity), Cllr Crichton-Stuart seconded this and all Cllrs agreed.

1. Precept setting 2025-26 - After discussion, the Council decided to set the 2025 precept at the same level as 2024, of £11,553. The chief reasons for this were to allow

the purchase of a second SID device for the Eastern end of the village, the continued and increasing running costs of the council, and an updated policy over Councillor's expenses: traditionally no Councillor had ever claimed any expenses, but it was decided that this policy created a pressure to existing or potentially new councillors that they should also not claim expenses. It was decided that this was wrong, that councillors should be able to claim permitted expenses with no let or hindrance or pressure, and that the budget should make provision for this.

It was also noted by Cllr Wells that of the Community Councils in Powys, Clyro was rated only the 72nd highest precept out of 112 (extrapolated from the latest available figures, 2023) and that the Average (Band D) Clyro household cost for the precept was £26.77 per annum. The following link lists Powys Community Council precepts for 2024 <https://spotlightpowys.wales/communities>

A.O.B: No items were discussed.

The meeting was closed at 8pm

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)

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Appendix A

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

14/1/25

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & the Secondary Education Sector in Powys

The extensive flooding that occurred in December, which included the flooding of part of Llanelwedd Primary School, has delayed the report due to come to Powys CC's Cabinet on proposals for the future provision of Welsh Medium education in the Mid Powys area, while the impact of the repeated flooding (twice in the past few years) of the school and wider primary education provision in the area is considered. This is disappointing but as the decisions involved will be highly significant and far-reaching, it is important that all factors are fully considered before the Cabinet is presented with the options and recommendations.

The condition survey report in to Gwernyfed High School is still awaited.

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

No further news re. Clyro Church in Wales Primary School to report.

Archdeacon Griffiths Church in Wales Primary School in Llyswen has been found to be in need of significant improvement by the Schools Inspectorate in Wales, Estyn. Although the inspectors found that the school provides a supportive and nurturing environment where pupils feel safe and valued, they were of the opinion that the school is in need of significant improvement. The school's senior leadership team will work with Powys CC education officers to produce an improvement plan and implement the changes recommended in full. The report can be found in full via this link:-

www.estyn.gov.wales

Planning & Housing

A decision by the Head of Planning Services on whether to refer the planning application at Hendom Barn to Powys CC's Planning and Rights of Way Committee for decision is still awaited, pending the receipt of further information from statutory consultees.

No other issues of significance to report.

Highways issues, etc.

Powys County Council staff were heavily involved in assisting residents and businesses during the flooding events in November, December and on New Year's Day. During one of the storms a Powys CC staff team manned pumps in Crickhowell for 21 hours without a break to protect businesses and homes alongside the River Usk; and the response of the council's staff and managers across the whole county was excellent.

Capital funding for initial work on the refurbishment/replacement of Glasbury Bridge has been included in Powys CC's forward capital programme for the 2027/28 year. More will be included in 2028/29 for the substantive work on the bridge.

Sustainable Powys (SP)

The Community Council has previously received an information pack on the background and rationale for Powys County Council's SP process. It contains detailed financial information, population data, service user data and much more. Powys CC's Cabinet is shortly to consider a number of reports on service transformation proposals in connection with SP. Engagement with local councils and communities on those reports' recommendations will be crucial prior to any final decisions being made by the Cabinet. Given the extreme financial pressure the council is facing (see report below), the SP work is critical to the future viability of the council and the services it provides.

Powys County Council 2025/26 Budget

Following the new UK Chancellor's Autumn Statement to Parliament, the Welsh Government announced some very welcome in-year extra funding for Welsh local authorities, mainly to assist them deal with the surge in demand for social care services; and an average increase of 4.3% in the draft Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to local government in Wales for 2025/26. Unfortunately, due to the way the funding formula works, Powys CC's RSG increase is set to be only 3.3%, the second lowest such RSG settlement amount in Wales. Although the extra funding is welcome it cannot in itself be enough to make up for even a small proportion of the 14 years of below-inflation settlements that have preceded it, which have forced Powys County Council to make annual revenue savings of about £10m, leading in turn to successive cut backs in some services. In the past couple of years, high levels of general price inflation have also made matters much worse; and a surge in demand for adult and children's social care services, plus the additional responsibilities placed on schools and the council to meet the requirements of recent Additional Learning Needs legislation in Wales, meant I and my colleagues on the council's Cabinet were faced with filling a projected £22m funding shortfall in 2025/26. Through a combination of identifying further potential savings from service delivery and an increase in Council Tax we have found a way of doing that, but it will require a proposed CT increase of 8.9%, which is much higher than we would wish to impose.

The Welsh Local Government Association has requested that the Welsh Government introduces a RSG 'floor' (minimum increase) of 4.5% to ease the pressure on councils, which, if implemented, would provide an extra £2.5m to Powys CC. We will not know whether this will happen until the latter part of February, when the Senedd votes on WG's proposed budget. If it does this will enable the council to ease the pressure on services and potentially reduce the CT increase.

The 2025/26 Powys CC Budget Report and associated papers can be found on Powys CC's website and via this link:-

[https://powys.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s91700/
Budget%20Report%20Cabinet%2014th%20January%202025.pdf](https://powys.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s91700/Budget%20Report%20Cabinet%2014th%20January%202025.pdf)

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