

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
meeting held at the Village Hall.
Tuesday 11th March 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.

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

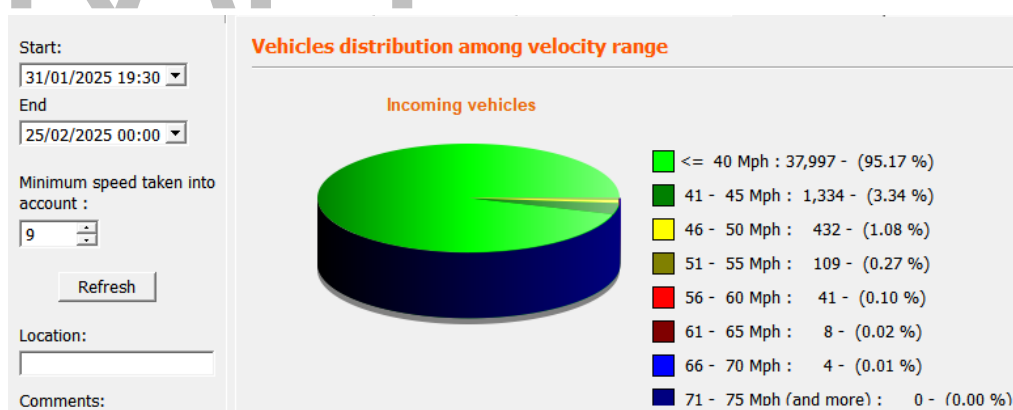
DECLARATION OF INTEREST: No declarations of interest were expressed

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS: Chair Fforde has checked all assets and found to be in good order. The clerk has had a reply from Zurich Insurance explaining that if the community council increases the cover on the policy this will change the type of policy that we can have. The clerk has replied asking for quotes for both policies. Zurich hasn't replied.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were made.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clyro traffic calming/cycle route subcommittee – Vice-Chair Wells has been checking the data on the SID, 95% of vehicles are travelling at less than 40mph, 3% are travelling at 41-45mph and the rest are above 46mph.



Chair Fforde has sent an invoice request to Powys County Council for the costs of the posts.

2. Casual vacancies for Community Councillors –The community council has three vacancies for Cllrs. Interested residents can speak to Cllrs or the clerk for more information.
3. Meet the Community Council Event – Cllr Bate proposed that we get Clyro residents to come together for a photograph, the last photo was taken in the year 2000 so this year 25 years on would be an ideal time. Chair Fforde questioned the level of interest but Cllr Bate thinks that residents would like to take part. Vice-Chair Wells suggested

the Community Garden as a location. Cllr Bate will investigate a photographer and bring back information next month.

4. Website sign-up marketing – Cllr Crichton-Stuart has updated the leaflet and will send it out to Cllrs. The clerk will get printing costs when the design is decided on.

PLANNING MATTERS, inc updates:

1. **Application** – *Please note this application is attached to Gladestry Community Council but as it is very close to Clyro Community Council border Powys Planning have included Clyro in the consultees.* Erection of a replacement dwelling, installation of private treatment plant, creation of new relocated vehicular access and associated works. Castle Farm, Brilley, HR3 6HL. Application reference 25/0261/FUL. *After discussion the Community Council had no comment to make on this application.*

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:

1. New play area and Community Garden – Vice-Chair Wells reported that workdays have been completed, the shed is complete, and the shipping container is in place. The official opening of the garden is on Sunday 13th April 9-11am. Cllrs are encouraged to attend.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIBSON-WATT: Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE (incl):

1. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Report 2025 <https://www.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-annual-report-2025-2026>
2. Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 <https://dppopcc.azurewebsites.net/media/d0gjuu5m/jref26262-crime-plan-2025-29-eng-stp-digital.pdf>
3. Joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales – Thursday 27 March from 10:00am to 1:30pm, remote via Zoom “Understanding the Planning System – your questions answered.

FINANCIAL:

Bank balances: Current £8,398.54 (on 4th February 2025) Reserve £1,898.97 (on 30th January 2025). Payments to include BT direct debit 8/02/25 (£46.10), One Voice Wales, Annual Membership (£170), One Voice Wales Training, Cllr Crichton-Stuart (£20) and Clerks Salary, including backpay from April (£297.48).

Vice-Chair Wells proposed these payments, Cllr Bate seconded and all Cllr’s agreed.

A.O.B: A resident has contacted the clerk to ask if the path on the Village Green to the Church could be restored with pea gravel. Chair Fforde will action this request.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Cllr J Fforde, Chair)

Appendix A

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

11/3/25

REPORT BY COUNTY CLLR JAMES GIBSON-WATT.

Gwernyfed High School & the Secondary Education Sector in Powys

Powys County Council's Cabinet and Corporate Management Team received a first draft of proposals for the future of Ysgol Calon Cymru (based on the Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells campuses) this week. This is the next major step in developing and modernising the secondary schools' system in Powys and I will report further on the issue next month. No further news re. Gwernyfed High School, but the school is continuing to perform very well when benchmarked against other secondary schools in Powys and across Wales, which is very pleasing.

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

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

Powys County Council's Cabinet recently took the difficult decision to issue a Statutory Notice to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, a very small (25 pupils) English-medium primary school in the very north of Powys, from August 2025. The pupils will transfer to Llanrheadr-ym-Mochnant dual-stream primary school nearby. This decision is part of the outcome of the Llanfyllin school catchment review process. It has also become clear that sustaining schools of this size is neither sustainable financially or educationally.

Planning & Housing

No issues of significance to report this month.

Highways issues, etc.

Very well done to the community council for the installation of the speed reminder devices in Clyro, which will surely help to reduce traffic speeds through the village.

The condition of minor roads in Powys is now causing considerable concern across the county, so I am pleased that as a result of the extra funding secured for local government for 2025/26 by Mid & West Wales MS, Jane Dodds, as part of a political deal to allow the Welsh

Government's 2025/26 Budget to be approved by the Senedd, the county council is able to allocate an extra £1.2m to the highways budget for 2025/26. Successive real-terms reductions to the highways budget over many years, mainly in order to help sustain the education and social care budgets, has left a backlog of storm drainage and surface maintenance work that needs to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Sustainable Powys (SP)

The Community Council will shortly receive information about a further round of community engagement exercises in the coming months, to consider proposals on new service delivery models, as a means of sustaining services for the long term.

Powys County Council 2025/26 Budget

As previously reported, following the UK Chancellor's Autumn Statement to the UK Parliament, the Welsh Government announced some very welcome in-year extra funding for Welsh local authorities to assist them in dealing 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. Although Powys CC's RSG increase was actually set to be only 3.3%, after the budget negotiations between Jane Dodds, MS for Mid & West Wales, and the Welsh Government over the introduction of a funding 'floor' to help protect local services, that increase will now be 3.8%, an extra £1.2m.

Powys County Council Cabinet's draft 2025/26 budget indicated a proposed CT increase of 8.9%, but rather than reduce that increase, the Cabinet proposed putting the extra £1.2m in to the highways budget to help deal with the deteriorating state of the county's minor roads in particular (see above). Last week the full County Council voted to approve the budget on that basis.

So, the Council has managed to set a budget for the next financial year that will protect the vital services our residents depend on. However, given that, following 15 years of the Council having to find about £10m worth of savings and cuts per year to balance its budget, the Council had to identify a further £12m for this budget round, it is very unclear where the Council will be able to find those sort of savings for 2026/27. With the news last week that the UK Treasury is looking for multi-billion pound reductions in public sector funding, the challenge looks even more daunting than previously.

The above situation is why the Sustainable Powys process is so important – to find new models of service delivery at a local level that can maintain public services within a real-terms smaller revenue budget quantum.

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

<https://powys.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s93983/Budget%20Report%20Council.pdf>

Cllr James Gibson-Watt
Tel. 07971048737
cllr.james.gibson-watt@powys.gov.uk

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