

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30pm on Tuesday, 13th May 2025

PRESENT: Chair Fforde, Vice Chair Wells, Cllr Price, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Crichton-Stuart and Clerk to the Community Council, D Workman.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Bate

MINUTES: These were acknowledged as approved at the meeting in June 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT 2024-25: Chair Fforde presented his report to the Councillors:

The Clyro Community Council met every month during 2024-25. At the start of the year we had eight councillors. Cllr Brock resigned in April 2024 and Cllr Richardson resigned in January 2025 and for their service we are very grateful. Cllr Carolyn Ford joined us in October but due to a change of circumstance resigned in December 2024.

There have been no new councillors added, so the current standing is six: Cllrs Paul Bates, Jennie Morgan, Vincent Price, Alex Crichton-Stuart, Roger Wells as Vice Chair and Jasper Fforde as chair. This is three short of ideal, and we are actively looking for new councillors to join us.

Cllr Richardson has also stepped down from her role as School Community governor, a position that has been filled by Cllr Crichton-Stewart.

The appointment of Diane Workman as clerk is unchanged, and whose service and expertise to the council and community we are very grateful. An annual review was held in January as regards working conditions, pay and an updated job description, and all matters were concluded to the mutual benefit of all parties.

The following issues are noteworthy:

Clyro Village Hall.

The Clyro Village Hall continues to be a tower of strength and the council recognises the huge social benefit to the community and extends its gratitude to Maggie Brock, Caroline Lloyd, Jo Davies, Helen Haines, Liz Smith, Sarah Coates, Clive Meredith, Gordon Griffiths, Sue Hodgetts and everyone else for the huge amount of time and energy they have donated to make the Village Hall such a success.

In February it was announced that the Village Hall had won Powys' Silver Kite award for 'deserving people in Powys who have gone above and beyond to support their community.' I think all will agree that it was very well deserved.

It appears as though legal impediments to the granting of the new lease from the Diocese are now out of the way, and the hall can look forward to receiving a new lease, on the back of which grants for much needed maintenance can be sought.

Clyro Community Gardens

With the signing of the lease with Powys in June 2024 and a new terms of reference as to how the Garden subcommittee functions published in August, the Community Gardens are moving swiftly ahead with good attendances from volunteers and much to be seen on the ground with raised beds, access paths, a new shelter, a secure shipping container and earth toilet. The gardens were officially opened on the 13th April 2025 with Powys Ward Councillor James Gibson-Watt in attendance.

Fund applications have been successful, with Bwyd, Keep Wales Tidy, Tyfu Powys, and Have a Grow bringing in a cumulative £4230, with the additional assistance of the Powys Sustainability fund of £2000 worth of materials.

It is well to note that the Clyro Community Garden is self-funding and does not receive any funds from the Community Council.

Our thanks go to Christian Gwilym, Jan Gardiner, Afon and Vanda Williams, Trish Richardson, Alex Crichton-Stuart, Alison Fallon, Roger Wells and the many other volunteers.

Environmental Policy/Clyro Climate Action

The Chair continues to attend Powys Sustainability meetings, and reports back to the council on a regular basis. Plans to wildflower the meadow in front of the Texaco has taken a back seat due to a lack of resources, but may be tackled in the future along with other local projects when human and cash resources permit. The Council updated its Environmental policy in November to reflect Best Practice.

Speed Indicator Devices

The supplier Evolis was chosen as the supplier of the Speed Indicator device, and it was programmed and installed on the East end of the village in January 2025. The most recent figures show that 95% of vehicles are below the 40 MPH speed limit, with 3% of vehicles in the 41-45 MPH bracket, and the remaining 2% above that. All are agreed that it has lowered traffic speeds in the village, and the council currently has plans to purchase a second device for the West end of the village.

Footway to Hay

The Hay Footway plans have currently fallen into abeyance as energies are being absorbed by the Community Garden, but Cllrs Wells and Fforde are keeping in contact with the Hay to Brecon Greenway as to how funding opportunities might be shaping up for the future.

The current footway along the B4351 Clyro to Hay was the subject of much debate over the past year and was subjected to a two-day facelift in January courtesy of Powys, and is currently much more usable.

Planning

There have been a modest number of planning applications over the past year. The proposed extension to the Static Caravan Site in May was of great concern to local residents who gave a robust defence of their views to the council who passed on these concerns to planning and the application was subsequently withdrawn. A more modest proposal was submitted in December, but the council, again petitioned by residents, saw no material difference in the new application, gave the same opinion to planning and it too was withdrawn. The council thanks the members of the public for their engagement.

Budgeting

The council has continued with a more robust view of budgeting this year and decided to maintain last year's precept of £11,553 going into 2025/26. This is to cover increased running costs, an

updated policy on Councillor's expenses which have to be taken into account even if councillors choose not to claim for them and to the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device.

The last available figures for Powys Community Councils show that the precept in Clyro is ranked only 72 out of 112, and the average cost to Clyro residents for the Council is £26.77p per household, per annum.

Outreach

Due to several occasions in which residents did not know of planning applications even though on the Council's agenda, it has been the aim of the Council to try and get more residents on an opt-in email group to receive meeting agendas and notices of planning. There are plans to do a pamphlet mail out in the next year, but posters advertising the email opt-in are currently on display.

Jasper Fforde, Chair, Clyro Community Council

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

There was one nomination for the position of Chair this year, Cllr Morgan nominated Cllr Fforde who accepted the nomination noting that this would be his last year as Chair. Cllr Crichton-Stuart seconded this nomination, and all Cllrs agreed to re-elect Cllr Fforde.

Cllr Wells declared that he would be standing down from the Vice-Chair role he proceeded to nominate Cllr Crichton-Stuart who accepted the nomination. Cllr Morgan seconded this nomination, and all Cllrs agreed to approve this appointment.

Chair 2025 - 2026 Cllr J Fforde

Vice-Chair 2025 - 2026 Cllr A Crichton-Stuart

ACCOUNTS: The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer gave Councillors the financial position of Clyro Community Council

Balances as at 31/03/2025

Current Account - £4,689.69

Reserve Account - £1,009.05

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 7.55pm