

## ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL/ CYNGOR CYMUNED ERWYD

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 1st APRIL 2022 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023

During the last twelve months, Erwood Community Council has been involved in the following activities:

#### COMMUNITY COUNCILS ELECTIONS

Community Council elections took place in May 2022 with Cllr. Haydn Powell and Cllr. Elizabeth Williams stepping down and one new Councillor Lisa Payne was appointed as well as Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry who returned as Community Councillor, but resigned on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Cllr Tracey Jones was then co-opted as Councillor in August 2022. This has left one vacancy for a Councillor to be co-opted but to date this post has not been filled. A new County Councillor, Tom Colbert was also appointed to Bronllys and Felinfach Ward at the Elections which includes Erwood.

#### ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S AGM

I was elected as Chairman at the May Annual General Meeting of 2022. Other posts were filled by Cllr Geoffrey Lewis as Vice Chairman and Cllr Alan Pryce remaining as Treasurer. I was also appointed as the second Treasurer replacing the outgoing Treasurer, Mr Haydn Powell, with the Clerk, Mrs Gwyneth Davies, agreeing to be the third signatory on cheques for the time being.

#### CLERK TO ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Clerk, Mrs Gwyneth Davies, stated she wished to retire after 52 years from her post as Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer at the end of August 2022. This position was advertised and two candidates were interviewed. Mrs Meryl Lewis was successful but realised after a short time that the volume of work involved would be too much for her to commit to the job as she is already involved with several other local Committees and resigned in September 2022. The present Clerk agreed to carry on until the end of the financial year the end of March 2023. This post was re-advertised and 3 candidates applied this time. Miss Carrienne Ralph was appointed to commence in April 2023 and the present Clerk agreed to complete the Council's Accounts ready for Audit Wales during the handover period with the new Clerk.

#### TRAINING PLAN

The training plan has been completed for each Councillor and the two new Councillors, Cllr. Lisa Payne & Cllr Tracey Jones have received the Induction of Councillors training and the Code of Conduct training as required. Monthly lists of training are received from One Voice Wales and occasionally sessions arranged by PAVO which Councillors can make a decision on.

#### QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Commemorative mugs were purchased for all children in the Erwood area, 18 years and under, at a cost of £527.00 to be delivered beginning of May 2022. An application to the National Lottery Award for All Grants to help with the purchase of these mugs was successful and the Council was

given £600.00. Distribution of these mugs were made at the Community's afternoon tea celebrations in Erwood Market Hall, and Councillors delivered to those children who were not present at the event.

#### **TREES FOR THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

Free trees were being offered by the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and the Council agreed to request the Copse Package of 30 saplings which were divided between the five areas of Erwood. Delivery was made in November 2022 and distributed to each location.

#### **ERWOOD CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION GROUP & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT 2022**

The Clerk with the help of members of the Climate Change Action Group completed the Carbon Audit and Climate Emergency Action Plan for Erwood as well as the Environmental Report for 2022. There are 25 stipulated different plans which have been supported by Erwood Community Council and recently a presentation by Rachel Carter, New Places for Nature Officer, One Voice Wales attended remotely a Community Council meeting and shared the work she has been involved with in the presentation. It was decided that she would visit Erwood Village in the near future to tour the village and make suggestions of what the Action Group could take forward on Climate Change in our area in particular the possibility of a new footpath for walkers from Erwood Village to Erwood Craft Centre at Erwood Station avoiding the dangerous A470 trunk road.

#### **BROADBAND PROJECT FOR ERWOOD AREA**

This scheme is ongoing with a few Community Councillor members on this team and all have worked very hard to get fibre broadband connected to the homes that have signed up in this area. A fibre cabinet head has been installed at Erwood Market Hall. At the end of March 2023, each household was notified that our chosen supplier – Beacons Telecom – has been acquired by Voneus and existing customers will be transferred to them. Our local team together with Powys County Council broadband team will determine the best route forward and although the installation of super fast broadband will move more slowly than anticipated, they will work as hard as possible to secure super fast broadband for our Community.

#### **DEFIBRILLATORS IN ERWOOD AREA**

Erwood Community Council now have a defibrillator in each of the four villages in our area, the last one received from Builth Wells Health Care will be located in Crickadarn's redundant Telephone Kiosk as soon as the Kiosk is blasted and re-painted. The Welsh Government and Powys County Council are carrying out a survey to collate all the details of each Defibrillator in Powys. Relevant information has been sent to them of the four defibrillators in our area.

### **DONATIONS TO CHARITIES & LOCAL HALLS**

This year, Erwood Community Council has donated the sum of £885.00 to five charities and the two local Village Halls to help with their finances. Erwood Market Hall are also celebrating 125 years since the Hall was built so an extra funding of £200 was given to them to carry out repairs to the gable ends of the Hall.

### **NEW NOTICE BOARDS FOR CRICKADARN & LLANGLWYS VILLAGES**

Two new notice boards have been supplied this year for Crickadarn and Llaneglwys Villages and Councillors helped to prepare both sites with a mini digger provided by myself. A photo of all persons involved was taken for the local Brecon & Radnor Express by Mr Ted Edwards.

### **BUS SHELTER FOR ERWOOD VILLAGE**

Although previously rejected, residents of Erwood requested that the Community Council try again to get a bus shelter in the Village as it was definitely needed. Representatives from Powys County Council, Trunk Road Agency, Welsh Government, Ms Jane Dodds MS and our local County Councillor were invited to a site meeting. Those attended were Powys County Council who also represented the Welsh Government, the Trunk Road Agency, and our local County Councillor together with Community Councillors & residents of the Village. It was agreed that two Community Councillors approach the owner of the land adjacent to the bus stop to ask if they would be prepared to let the Council have a small patch of land to erect the shelter. This is still ongoing.

### **COUNCIL'S INSURANCE**

Erwood Community Council requested a quotation to add the two notice boards and defibrillators on to the Council's Insurance Policy with BHIB. This was added in November 2022 and will be included when renewal is due in June 2023.

### **KING CHARLES 111's CORONATION**

In March 2023, commemorative mugs were again purchased for children, 18 yrs and under, in the area to celebrate the King Charles 111's coronation in May 2023. An afternoon tea is to be arranged in Erwood Market Hall by the Market Hall Committee when the Community Council intends to present the mugs.

Finally, as Chairman, I would like to thank both Clerks and all the Community Councillors of Erwood for all the help and support given to me over the last year as Chairman. This has been much appreciated.

Cllr Stephen Davies  
Chairman  
11.5.2023