

## KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



### ***Cyngor Cymuned CERI / KERRY Community Council***

Serving the Villages of Kerry, Sarn and Dolfor.

### **Annual Report for Kerry Community Council 2024-2025**

#### **ORGANISATION:**

Kerry Community Council (KCC) encompasses the villages of Kerry, Sarn and Dolfor. the three villages are represented by the following councillors/ officials:

<b>Chair</b>	Cllr. D. Jones (Sarn)
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Cllr. C. Seal. (Kerry).
<b>Cllrs.</b>	Cllr. V. Wildish (Kerry) Cllr. S. Holloway (Kerry) (Resigned Sept 24) Cllr. D. Lush (Kerry) (Resigning May 25) Cllr. B. Pryce. (Sarn) Cllr. I. Jones (Dolfor) (Retired May 24) Cllr. R. Gardner (Dolfor) Cllr. P. Jenkins (Kerry) Resigned Aug 24 Cllr M. Morgan (Kerry) Cllr L. Powell (Kerry) Resigned June 24 Cllr S Robertson (Kerry) Cllr E. Meredith-Jones (Kerry) Cllr T. Blatch (Kerry) Co-opted July 24 Cllr C. Fairclough (Dolfor) Co-opted Sept 24 Cllr F. Blatch (Kerry) Co-opted March 25
<b>County Cllrs</b>	Cllr. K. Lewis (Dolfor) Cllr. B. Breeze (Kerry & Sarn)
<b>Biodiversity Officer</b>	Cllr E Meredith- Jones
<b>Clerk/ Proper Officer (RFO).</b>	Ria Roberts

Contact details for councillors can be found on the Kerry Community Council website or upon request from the clerk  
[clerk@kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

The Council aims to communicate with residents, to represent their views at council meetings and to ensure the well-being and maintenance of the three villages. To facilitate this, councillors sit on a number of diverse committees and sub-committees to make themselves as approachable and visible as possible.

#### **KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES & COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS' COMMITTEES:**

<b>Committees/ Sub Committees/ Organisations</b>	<b>Councillors/ Officers</b>
Planning Sub-Committees	Kerry – Cllr. V. Wildish Cllr. G. Evans (resigned Feb 24) Cllr. D. Lush Sarn - Cllr. B. Pryce Cllr. D. Jones

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	Dolfor- Cllr. I. Jones (retired May 2024) Cllr C Fairclough replaced Cllr. R. Gardner
Biodiversity Sub Committee/ Officer	Cllr E. Meredith Jones
Village Hall Committees	Kerry - Cllr V Wildish Sarn - Cllr. B. Pryce Dolfor - Cllr. I. Jones
School Governors- Kerry	Cllr. D. Lush
One Voice Wales, Montgomeryshire Area Committee (2 representatives)	Cllr. V. Wildish Cllr. C. Seal
The Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster (2 representatives)	Cllr. C. Seal Cllr. G Evans Resigned Feb 2024/ Cllr. S. Robertson Cllr E. Meredith-Jones – Clerk of VMRC Maria Roberts – RFO VMRC
Amenities Sub-Committee	Cllr. S. Holloway (Chair – resigned Sept 24) Cllr T. Blatch (Chair – appointed October 24) Cllr. B. Pryce Cllr. V. Wildish Cllr C. Seal
Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm	Cllr. I. Jones (retired May 2024) Cllr R Gardner replaced Cllr. D. Jones
Garn Fach Wind Farm	Cllr. R. Gardner
Community Grants Sub-Committee	Cllr. D. Lush Cllr. D. Jones Cllr. I. Jones (retired May 2024) Cllr V Wildish replaced
Finance & Governance Sub-Committee	Cllr. C. Seal Cllr. D. Lush (resigned April 25) Cllr T Blatch replaced Cllr. G. Evans (Resigned February 24) Cllr B. Pryce (February 24)
Powys County Council & Town and Community Council Meetings	Cllr. V. Wildish

Throughout the year councillors/clerk also participated in on-line meetings and discussions with other organisations including PCC Planning; PAVO; Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, SLCC, OVW; and groups concerned with environmental issues including PACE and Pethau Bechain.

### **KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEES**

The council employees three part time staff, as follows.

#### **Clerk**

Sarah Reast was appointed Clerk in April 2025 – an experienced bi-lingual Clerk.

#### **RFO**

Maria Roberts who served as Clerk/RFO from October 2022 to April 2025

#### **Playground Caretaker**

K. Cornell was appointed Playground Caretaker in March 2023 following the relocation of the previous caretaker.

### **KERRY VILLAGE INSPECTION**

In August 2023 Kerry councillors undertook a visual inspection of Kerry Village. Issues arising were discussed by the Council and actioned, as appropriate.

### **KERRY CEMETERY SURVEY**

The annual year end Cemetery Survey was conducted by Cllr. C. Seal and The Clerk 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The survey did not identify any major issues and minor maintenance issues were reported to Cemetery Maintenance contractor.

### **ROSPA REPORTS**

Annual Safety Inspection RoSPA reports were completed for the play equipment at Kerry Recreation ground and Dolforgan Park. Remedial actions and recommendations have been actioned, as appropriate.

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO)
- One Voice Wales (OVW)
- The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
- Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster (VMRC)

**FINANCE:**

See attached Statement of Accounts (Appendix A)

**Bank Balances as of 31/03/2025**

Note: To satisfy tighter internal controls, the Council resolved to change bank accounts from HSBC to Unity Trust.

Unity Trust Current Account: £28,724.24

Money Manager Account: £17,219.38

**Total Funds £45,943.82**

**ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED:**

- Kerry Public Conveniences
- Dolforgan Park including the Grade II listed bridge and children's play area
- Children's play area at St Michael's School, Kerry
- An area for play at Herbert Court, Kerry
- Kerry Cemetery
- War Memorial

**KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2024/25 – Achieved or in progress:**

**KCC Green Energy Project**

The Council successfully obtained grant funding from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the installation of a PV Solar Array at Kerry Toilets. The grant received was £3,800.00. The funding was supported by Powys County Council and administered by PAVO.

The benefits of the project are as follows:

**The environment/ climate/ reduced carbon footprint** – The PV System will reduce the amount of electricity currently supplied by the National Grid by 51% annually and the installed inverter/ export smart meter will export unused energy back to the grid.

**Enabling KCC to keep the public conveniences open 24/7** – Thanks to significant financial savings, KCC is committed to maintaining public toilets, ensuring they remain open and accessible for both residents and visitors. Access to public conveniences is crucial, especially for individuals with hidden disabilities. By providing these essential services, we are making a positive impact on the community, enhancing the quality of life for everyone.

The toilets are used by:

- Local residents including people with disabilities and children using the nearby playpark/ Walking Groups/Tradespeople including delivery drivers/refuge collectors/postal workers/taxi & mini-bus drivers.
- People attending funerals, weddings and regular services at St Michael's Church (the church does not have its own toilets.)
- Visitors/holidaymakers travelling from the Midlands and south Shropshire as a welcome comfort break before continuing on their journey to other parts of Wales.

The Council often receives emails or are left messages of "thanks" from grateful travellers as detailed below:

Comment via website/ email (name/s & contact supplied)

"I wish to say thank you for providing travellers and visitors very clean and safe toilet facilities with easy free parking. In this period of cutbacks and lack of finance Kerry Community Council has succeeded in maintaining high standards, Thank you!"

"...Also, I had to use the toilets by the village hall and they were lovely and clean very well kept in this day and age" – a visitor to Kerry Cemetery.

### **St Michael's Adventure Playground Maintenance Programme**

The play equipment required significant maintenance, and some items needed replacing. The Council agreed a maintenance programme to ensure that the playground remains a safe and fun area for the children.

The repairs carried out were as follows:

Aerial runway new running gear £1860.00

Spring rider new spring £490.00

Basket swing - new chains £380.00

Slide climber new bolts and rope repairs £1000.00

**Total maintenance repair =(ex-vat) £3730.00**

Additional maintenance is planned to follow the successful renewal of the playground lease agreement with Powys County Council, which has not yet been completed.

### **Training Plan**

Completed and published an updated training plan for councillors /clerk in November 2024 to meet Welsh Government requirements. The Council actively encourages Councillors to utilise training provided.

### **Biodiversity**

The Council continues to maintain the Kerry Cemetery Butterfly Garden with the aid of local volunteers. In addition, the Council worked collaboratively with the VMRC and held a joint event - Biodiversity Engagement Event- Sunday 30th June 2024.

Kerry Community Council held their event in the historic St Michael and All Angels Church and its grounds.

The event ran from 1pm to 5pm and, apart from refreshments available in the Church café, all of the activities were free of charge. Kerry Community Council funded hand-out re-useable cloth bags, both to celebrate the event and remind everyone to do their bit to look after nature!

We were joined on the day by Havenmore Hedgehog Rescue Centre, Montgomeryshire Beekeepers Association and Curlew Connections Wales. Iolo Williams, unable to attend personally, sent us an introductory video of support, played on a loop inside the church. Tim McVey from Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust dropped into each event in turn and was available to answer the many questions put to him by our residents.

Children enjoyed taking part in the nature trail competition; making bags from an old t-shirt; building bird houses; investigating the wormery and helping to create the amazing bug mansion, mini pond and toad hall.

Demonstrations included environmentally friendly insecticides; gift boxes from old birthday cards; bird feeders; fat balls; seed papers and fabric beeswax wrappers all of which could then be taken away to use at home.

There was also a plant identification and a plant swap stall; ideas on how to deter pests without using chemicals; a tree of pledges – each leaf attached to the tree held a signed promise to do one thing to look after nature.

Information sheets detailing the various activities were (and remain) available to download from our website: [https://www.kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk/VMRC\\_45498.aspx](https://www.kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk/VMRC_45498.aspx)

Kerry Primary School provided the wildflower seed balls and notified parents of the event.

B.E.E. was also widely advertised on notice boards in the village, social media and in the 'Kerry News'.

Many residents from Kerry and Sarn helped with this event which was well attended despite the slightly less than summery weather and it was deemed to be a resounding success.

The Event was submitted for a One Voice Wales award in two categories Environmental Project and Community Engagement Initiative category and received a Commended award from OVW in the Environmental Project Category.

### **Dolforgan Bridge Maintenance & River Mule riverbank erosion project.**

The Grade II listed bridge had a scheduled survey in May 24, which highlighted the requirement for major maintenance and some immediate minor maintenance.

The Council engaged a contractor to complete the minor maintenance however the cost of the major maintenance will require significant grant funding.

Due to winter storms the riverbank at Dolforgan Park, adjacent to Dolforgan Bridge, has suffered significant erosion.

The Council has liaised with Powys County Council to review environmentally friendly options for repair and in addition has obtained grant funding of £13,119.40 to allow the Council to carry out the necessary repairs. In addition, the Council has resolved to agree a contribution of £4,000.00.

If the Council do not attend to this issue the bridge structure will be undermined.

The Council anticipate completing the project by October 25.

### **Engagement with the Community and other organisations**

- Engagement was mainly via social media, including websites Facebook, notice boards, via village events, grant funding and reports in the Kerry News

### **HIGH POINTS OF 2024/25**

- Continuing to be successful in grant applications
- Completing a comprehensive and varied programme of forward-looking projects, as detailed above.
- Grants for Community Projects – S137 funding for community projects – see below for additional information.
- Continuing to enhance the Council's governance to uphold and exceed the established high standards of public accountability.

### **Kerry Community Project Grants (S137)**

The Council provided £4,800.00 of Grant Funding for community projects, which make a significant difference to the various local organisations' members and residents. Feedback from some of the grant recipients, as follows:

"Thank you for our grant last year we had to replace the wooden boards around the inside the bowling green, we also had to lift and re-lay the slabs around the outside edge of bowling green, this has made it a lot safer for our bowlers and visiting bowlers. Project completed early May 2024" Many thanks Lorna Edwards Sarn club secretary

"The project was given for redecorating the school room and kitchen at Sarn Baptist Church. The money was used as part of a major renovation project which included the reroofing of the school room and redecoration of this area. The project has now been completed, and this has enabled us to start a craft afternoon for the community including the residents' Oaks Meadow Development." It is also used to provide the community with coffee and refreshments following services. ... Michael Collis,  
On behalf of Sarn Baptist Church.

"Kerry W.I. would like to thank the Community Council for the £150 which was awarded to us last year. The grant enabled us to have a large planter made to brighten up the drab area which was left by the removal of the old telephone kiosk some time ago. A commemorative plaque was attached to record the 100th anniversary of Kerry W.I. The planter was planted up with summer bedding as can be seen in the accompanying photos, and subsequently a shrub, some winter pansies and bulbs which are showing through now. We also planted up some hanging baskets on the wall behind in the same area. Other areas of planting include the historical Old Water Supply, a pot which was placed by the bench alongside the KCC Information Board, daffodil bulbs at the base of the tree just behind, a further pot alongside the bench on Garden Close, crocuses in the grass alongside. We have also planted more snowdrops to add to the ones already planted on the grassy bank opposite the Post Office. We hope these have all brought pleasure to local inhabitants and passers-by." ... Sue Farrington, Kerry WI

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"Grant award - £750. Our application for support was made in November 2023 and asked for financial help towards erecting a new perimeter fence (on the car park aspect of the Club) as well as the provision of a new name board. The work replacing the old wire fence, which had been in situ for many years and was bent in places and looked weary, commenced the spring of 2024, with the labour being provided by Club members. Costs had almost prohibited us going ahead with the project as we were unable to secure additional funding from other sources and, therefore the bulk of the costs fell upon the Club itself. It is only due to hard work and efforts of Club members that we were able proceed." Mandy Thomas, Kerry Bowling Club

"The difference that grant has made to our organisation is that it bought all previous and current members together to celebrate the last 85 years of Sarn YFC. It has brought previous members back in touch with the club giving their support to the club. It also allowed Sarn YFC to support the wider community by raising money for the Samaritans.

The grant received by Kerry community council was spent towards the hire of the marquee to hold the event.

Sarn YFC would like to thank Kerry community council again for the grant we received". Eleri Roberts, Sarn YFC

"On behalf of Dolfor Woman's Institute I would like to thank Kerry Community Council for the generous donation of £250.00. We are grateful for your support" Mrs Hazel Francis, Secretary Dolfor WI (2023)

### **REFLECTIONS ON WHAT WORKED WELL AND NOT SO WELL:**

#### **Positive Reflections**

- The Council is pleased with the various project outcomes.
- The Council has experienced another busy year with all the councillors being actively engaged in the community either directly or via sub-committees/ external organisation committees.
- The Council has completed the update of processes and governance documents in accordance with One Voice Wales – Finance & Governance Toolkit.
- In order to ensure tighter governance and accountability the Council has split the role of Clerk and RFO.
- The Council received an unqualified triennial audit from Audit Wales.
- Positive feedback received from Grant recipients.
- The Council are proactive with training and are ensuring that all Cllrs have access to up-to-date training provided by One Voice Wales & Planning Aid Wales.
- Former Councillor Ivor Jones, in April 25 received a Certificate of Appreciation and Silver Kite Award of Merit by Powys CC for 50 years of Council service.

#### **Negative Reflections**

- The year 24/25 saw the Council lose three hardworking Councillors however we have been fortunate to be able to Co-opt two replacement Councillors quickly in 24/25 and filled the Sarn vacancy in April 25.
- Unfortunately, the Council will be losing another experienced Councillor – David Lush in May 25.
- Council resolved to approve a precept of £35,056.49 from £33,871 an increase of 3.5%. The Council was hesitant to raise the precept; however, due to increased service and employment costs, along with an inflation rate of 2.3% as of October 2024, they felt it was necessary.

### **FUTURE OBJECTIVES:**

- The Council's major commitment for this coming year is the riverbank maintenance
- Due to local residents' concerns related to Powys CC sale of farm estate assets Kerry CC organised at Public Meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, at Sarn Village Hall, to discuss the issues.
- The Council is keen to engage in Biodiversity projects and activities. In order to achieve the best outcomes, the Council is supporting Cllr E Meredith-Jones with specific Biodiversity training from One Voice Wales.

Finally, Kerry Community Council are keen to ensure that we represent the whole community in our ward and if any resident or group feel that we could do better in an area please let us know and we will put it on our Agenda.

Signed: *C Seal*

Chair

Date: 28/05/2025

# KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

## KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FYE 31/03/2025

	RECEIPTS £	PAYMENTS £
Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	49,240.37	
Precept	33,871.00	
Grant Funding	3,800.00	
Bank Interest	344.90	
Clerk Wages		9,909.98
HMRC PAYE		343.60
PAVO Payroll Administration		222.00
Stationery		99.71
Website, email & SSL Costs		229.38
Audit Fees/ Accounting Software		521.10
Sundry Expenses		114.13
Kerry Grants S137		2,900.00
Dolfor Grants S137		250.00
Sarn Grants S137		1,650.00
Cllr/ Council Officer Training		455.00
Dolforan Bridge Maintenance & Surveys		447.00
River Embankment Maintenance & Surveys		396.00
General Reserve		79.93
One Voice Wales Membership		426.00
ICO Data Protection		35.00
SLCC Membership		150.00
VMRC		
HSBC Bank Charges Current Account		51.60
Cemetery Maintenance		4,682.52
Annual Insurance PL/EL/ Assets		1,990.37
Cllr Basic Payment		546.00
Cllr Travel, Subsistence & Consumables expenses		153.74
Sundry Maintenance Expenses - Noticeboards/B		358.96
Kerry Toilet Caretaker Wages		3,957.20
Kerry Toilet Electricity Charges		1,078.00
Kerry Toilet Water Charges		484.74
Kerry Toilet Janitorial Supplies		425.31
Kerry Toilet Maintenance, Repairs & Contingenci		339.93
VAT Reclaim	569.67	
Grass Cutting Dolforan Park/ Herbert Court		2,175.00
Cemetery Fees	2,090.00	
FHU Servicing		56.36
Playground Caretaker Salary		745.96
HMRC Employers NI		126.89
Signs & additional works		3,816.99
RoSPA Reports		124.80
Sundry/ Event Grants		252.62
Additional Insurance premiums		29.76
KCC Green Energy Project		3,800.00
Pension Payments (Employer/Employee)		362.20
Unity Trust Service Charges		19.20
VAT	2,661.34	2,734.94
	<b>43,336.91</b>	<b>46,541.92</b>
<b>Closing Balances:</b>		
Balances in Bank Account		46,035.36
Cash in Hand		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>92,577.28</u></b>	<b><u>92,577.28</u></b>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2025

Signed

Responsible Financial Officer

Date

Ria Roberts 28/05/2025