

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 2023-2024

ORGANISATION:

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

Chair	Cllr. D. Jones (Sarn)
Vice-Chair	Cllr. C. Seal. (Kerry).
Cllrs.	Cllr. V. Wildish (Kerry) Cllr. S. Holloway (Kerry) Cllr. D. Lush (Kerry) Cllr. B. Pryce. (Sarn) Cllr. I. Jones (Dolfor) Cllr. R. Gardner (Dolfor) Cllr. P. Jenkins (Kerry) Cllr G Evans (Kerry) (Resigned February 24) Cllr M. Morgan (Sarn) Cllr L. Powell (Kerry) Cllr N. Hayward (Kerry)(Resigned July 23) Cllr S Robertson (Kerry) (Co-opted September 23) Cllr E. Meredith-Jones (Kerry) (Co-opted March 24)
County Cllrs	Cllr. K. Lewis (Dolfor) Cllr. B. Breeze (Kerry & Sarn)
Biodiversity Officer	G. Gough (Resigned July 23) Cllr L. Powell (January 24)
Clerk/ Proper Officer (RFO).	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

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:

Committees/ Sub Committees/ Organisations	Councillors/ Officers
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 Cllr. R. Gardner
Kerry Eisteddfod Committee	Cllr. D. Jones Cllr. I. Jones Cllr. V. Wildish
Biodiversity Sub Committee/ Officer	G. Gough (to July 23)/ Cllr L.Powell (from January 24)
Village Hall Committees	Kerry - Cllr. N. Hayward (resigned July 23) / Cllr V Wildish Sarn - Cllr. B. Pryce Dolfor - Cllr. I. Jones
School Governors- Kerry	Cllr. D. Lush
Black Hall Trust (wound up July 23)	Cllr. V. Wildish
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
Amenities Sub-Committee	Cllr. N. Hayward (Resigned July 23) Cllr. S. Holloway Cllr. B. Pryce Cllr. V. Wildish Cllr C. Seal
Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm	Cllr. I. Jones Cllr. D. Jones
Garn Fach Wind Farm	Cllr. R. Gardner
Community Grants Sub-Committee	Cllr. D. Lush Cllr. D. Jones Cllr. I. Jones
Finance & Governance Sub-Committee	Cllr. C. Seal Cllr. D. Lush 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 employs two part time staff, as follows.

Clerk/RFO

Ria Roberts was appointed Clerk/RFO in October 2022 and has obtained the FILCA & ILCA qualifications. It is anticipated that the CILCA qualification will be undertaken shortly.

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 22nd April 2024. 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 31/03/2024

Community Current Account: £32,274.15

Money Manager Account: £16,966.22

Total Funds £49,240.37

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

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2023/24 – Achieved or in progress:

Kerry Toilets Renovation and Extension Project

As stated in last year's Annual Report the project was completed in April 23 and the toilets officially opened on 6th May – Coronation Day.

The Council has ensured that the much-needed facilities have been maintained in Kerry Village for the use of both residents and tourists. The Council has received complimentary correspondence from visitors to the area on the high standard of the toilets.

The project was recognised for an award from One Voice Wales at the Annual Awards Ceremony March 24 and the Council received a Commendation in the 'Devolution of Assets Project' classification.

Completion of the new playground – Dolforgan Park

Following the public consultation commencing in December 2022 that allowed residents (including children aged 4-8 years) to express their views on the type of equipment they would like to have in their play area. The Council successfully obtained grant funding from Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm Benefit Fund for £7,800.00 (22/23) and the National Lottery for £40,000.00. (23/24) together with S106 funds £10,000.00 from WYRO Green Homes and a funding of £5,000.00 from the Council.

The new playground works got underway in September 23 and was completed, within tight timescales and budget, for October half term with a small opening ceremony on 29th October.

The feedback from the community has been positive.

Training Plan

Completed and published an updated training plan for councillors /clerk in November 2023 to meet Welsh Government requirements. The Council actively encourages Councillors to utilise training provided.

Kerry Cemetery Extension Project

The Council completed the plotting out of the cemetery extension with the technical assistance from Powys County Council.

This ensures that the Council can continue to serve Kerry residents regarding internments for the foreseeable future.

Kerry Community Council website upgrade

The upgraded Kerry Community Council website was completed and online for September 23 to ensure WCAG compliance. This refers to meeting the standards set by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which are part of a series of web accessibility guidelines published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)¹. These guidelines are internationally recognised and detail how to make web content more accessible to people with disabilities.

Dolforgan Park Tree Maintenance Project

The TPO (tree preservation order) protected trees that line the old coach way to Dolforgan Hall have been surveyed and essential works carried out to ensure tree health and lifespan, promote safety, enhance aesthetics and encourage/ support biodiversity. All works were carried out in accordance with the TPO planning application approval and the chippings were recycled around the access to the new playground.

Biodiversity

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

Engagement with the Community and other organisations

- Engagement was mainly via social media, including websites, face-book, notice boards and reports in the Kerry News
- KCC engaged with members of the community with a resident survey regarding the planning application for Brynlywarch Hall School and held an open meeting for residents to voice concerns.
- KCC liaise regularly with local and national organisations to ensure that the local residents receive a high level of service from the Community Council.
- S137 Funding for the Coronation celebrations in the three villages and continuing to support local projects with S137 Grants.
- KCC engaged with Openreach Ltd, who attended our September 23 meeting, to assist with enabling more pledges for the roll out of Fibre Broadband in Kerry Village.

HIGH POINTS OF 2023/24

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

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.

Negative Reflections

- Grant Applications for the Council's S137 disbursements are still lower than the Council would like despite regularly publishing the grant therefore the Council need to consider innovative ways to attract Grant Applications from local organisations.
- Due to inflation the Council was forced to increase the precept for 24/25 by 5%. The Council, due to successful grant funding had been able to maintain the precept level in 23/24.
- The year 23/24 saw the Council lose two hardworking Councillors however we have been fortunate to be able to Co-opt replacement Councillors quickly.
- The Kerry Public Toilets have been subject to some vandalism, which has resulted in additional maintenance costs for the Council and installation of security measures. The Council is reluctant to reduce the opening hours of the toilets or charge for the facilities and hope that the additional measures employed will have the appropriate effect.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES:

- Dolforgan Bridge Maintenance Programme - The Grade II listed bridge is scheduled for a survey this year and maintenance may be required. The Council will look to cover any expensive maintenance via grant funding.

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- St Michael's Adventure Playground Maintenance Programme – The play equipment requires significant maintenance, and some items need replacing. The Council has agreed a maintenance programme to ensure that the playground remains a safe and fun area for the children.
- Speed Watch Volunteer Group - To address residents' concerns regarding speeding traffic in Kerry, Sarn, and Dolfor the Council, in conjunction with PCC Cllr B. Breeze, are in the latter stages of arranging training for Community Speed Watch volunteers to monitor the speed of passing vehicles using a hand-held speed detection device.
- Biodiversity Projects in collaboration with the VMRC e.g. Biodiversity Engagement Event - Sunday 30th June 2024.
- Review Energy efficiency at Kerry Toilets to ensure that running costs are kept low and our carbon footprint is reduced.
- The Council has a commitment to apply for grant funding for projects, as appropriate.

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: *D. Jones*

Chair
29/05/2024

(signed copy on file)

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Insert Statement of Accounts Below. Appendix A

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15 April 2024 (2023-2024)

Kerry Community Council STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	£ 55,674.28	
Cash in Hand		
Precept	£ 32,257.68	
S106 Payments	£ 10,000.00	
Grant Funding	£ 40,000.00	
Bank Interest	£ 210.25	
Donations & Sundry Income	£ 5,000.00	
Clerk Wages	£ 9,000.30	
HMRC PAYE	£ 366.22	
PAVO Payroll Administration	£ 192.00	
Stationery	£ 95.00	
Website Costs	£ 702.38	
IT Services & Equipment	£ 65.00	
Audit Fees/ Accounting Software	£ 858.00	
Sundry Expenses	£ 183.74	
Kerry Grants S137	£ 1,900.00	
Dolfor Grants S137	£ 950.00	
Sarn Grants S137	£ 450.00	
Clerk Training & Conferences	£ 90.00	
Clr/ Council Officer Training & Conferences	£ 318.00	
Rec/Play Areas Maintenance & Surveys	£ 2,250.31	
Tree Surveys	£ 250.00	
Project - Phase 2 Toilet Renovation	£ 6,654.14	
Project - Dolforgan Park	£ 60,008.41	
General Reserve	£ 100.00	
One Voice Wales Membership	£ 400.00	
ICO Data Protection	£ 35.00	
SLCC Membership	£ 148.00	
VMRC	£ 250.00	
HSBC Bank Charges Current Account	£ 68.80	
Cemetery Maintenance	£ 3,694.64	
Cemetery Contingencies	£ 15.02	
Annual Insurance PL/EL/ Assets	£ 1,552.93	
Clr Basic Payment	£ 312.00	
Clr Travel, Subsistence & Consumables expenses	£ 105.60	
Sundry Maintenance Expenses - Noticeboards/Benches	£ 83.00	
Kerry Toilet Caretaker Wages	£ 3,318.00	
Kerry Toilet Electricity Charges	£ 878.47	
Kerry Toilet Water Charges	£ 543.39	
Kerry Toilet Janitorial Supplies	£ 380.33	
Kerry Toilet Maintenance, Repairs & Contingencies	£ 75.46	
Grass Cutting Dolforgan Park/ Herbert Court	£ 1,200.00	
Cemetery Fees	£ 4,427.50	
Donations S137	£ 250.00	
FHU Servicing	£ 61.58	
Playground Caretaker Salary	£ 680.16	
HMRC Employers NI	£ 35.26	
Cemetery (Expansion) Project	£ 400.00	
VAT	£ 14,531.42	£ 13,939.62
	£ 106,426.85	£ 112,860.76
Closing Balances:		
Balances in Bank Account		£ 49,240.37
Cash in Hand		
TOTAL	£ 162,101.13	£ 162,101.13

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2024

Signed
Responsible Financial Officer

Date