

## KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Chairs report – May 26/05/2025

I would like to highlight here some of the items that we are particularly proud of and some things which are still ongoing:

The installation of solar panels on the Kerry public toilets, which will help to reduce our electricity costs - we received £3,800 in funding from "The Rebuilding Community Foundations in Powys Grant, UK Government Levelling Up Fund". This meant we were able to install the solar panels with minimum cost to ourselves. Thanks must go to the Amenities Committee and our Clerk for the work put in to secure these funds and indeed for overseeing the work to its completion.

Work is ongoing to the embankment alongside the river Mule in Dolforgan Park. The severe weather, storms and unusual amount of rainfall in recent years has undermined part of the river bank that Kerry Community Council is responsible for. The bank behind the rare grade II listed iron bridge is also showing signs of erosion. The work required will be costly and so we are particularly grateful to the Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm benefit fund for their support and grant of £13,119.20 and have set aside £4,000 to cover the work. Permissions needed have been sought and now been granted, the work to strengthen and repair the bank will soon begin.

In June we held a biodiversity event in conjunction with other local councils, highlighting things we can all do to help nature and reduce our own impact on the natural world. Kerry Community Council was pleased to be able to fund and give away reuseable cloth bags to commemorate the event.

Kerry Community Council would like to offer their appreciation to the two very kind members of the community for tending to our small butterfly garden which is situated within Kerry cemetery. I am sure everyone that walks past can appreciate the pretty garden and the work done to keep it that way.

In May, a public meeting was held in Sarn Village Hall in response to concerns relating to the management of the county farms estate. The meeting was very well attended and we had a presentation outlining policy from Gwilym Davies and Matt Perry, both Senior Officer's at Powys County Council. We were joined by Steve Witherdon, MP, Russell George AM, Aled Jones, NFU Cymru President, Ian Rickman, FUW President and Sarah Lewis, YFC Wales President who all spoke. There were a number of Powys County Councillors present who also spoke and questions were received from the floor from farmers and members of the public. Due to the level of concern a motion was passed requesting a moratorium be placed on the sale of the county farms network in the county and this would be taken to full council by the Powys County Councillors present.

We are again pleased to have supported organisations within the community with S137 grants and as members of the Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm benefit fund to have aided various projects throughout our area.

I would like to send a special thank you to our outgoing Clerk for all the work she has done for us since joining KCC, I am very happy to report that Ria will remain as our Responsible Financial Officer. I would also like to welcome our new Clerk, Mrs Sarah Reast.

At the AGM I will be standing down as your chair after 3 years and I would like to thank my colleagues for the honour of serving the community during that time, it has been a real pleasure.

Kind regards

David Jones

Chair Kerry Community Council