

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT TREWERN COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), David Corfield, Judy Evans, Rob Breakwell, Fiona Warburton, Peter Davies, Rex Turner and County Councillor Amanda Jenner.

1851 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillors Colin Jenkins and Phil Hughes.
Josh Bennett was not in attendance.

1852 Minutes of the Meeting from 18th October 2022 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 18th October 2022 to now be signed by GC and approved.
Proposed by JE, seconded by RB

1853 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

RB declared an interest in planning application 22/1746/REM. JE declared an interest in planning application 22/1855/NMA. FW declared an interest in the proposed school car park plans.

1854 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1855 Playgrounds

Middletown play area lease agreement

Email sent to Ei Group requesting renewal/extension to lease of land in Middletown. Waiting for response.

It is thought that an attempt had been made to cut the hedge by the D outside the school, not sure if it has all been cut and the quality of the work has also been questioned. GC will discuss further with the school Head.

ACTION: GC

The willow tree outside the school has been cut down, however it has damaged two panels of the play area fence. We will need to claim off the Community Centre to get these replaced. AE to find original invoices to get the specifications and then speak to insurance company.

ACTION: AE

1856 Highways

CCAJ has passed on street light concerns along the A458 and chased for an update on when the Cefn bridge work will be done. CCAJ has also left an answerphone message to speak with Andrew Jones for a general update.

Last week, CCAJ had a discussion with the Active Travel team within PCC who work with Welsh Gov and Sustrans (the Active Travel charity). They have given some initial advice regarding taking forward what the community/school wants in terms of a scheme which allows children to walk from school/bus stops to home etc. It was agreed that all footpaths need to be cleaned up and street lights along Criggion Lane needs to be replaced.

Following CCAJs motion approved by full council in October, GC, DC and CCAJ drove round and identified high risk drain/flood areas. All have been passed on to PCC. CCAJ has also had a recent depot meeting where CCAJ again highlighted the areas that need to be prioritised before the winter. CCAJ has also written to the portfolio holder for Highways to ask that this be taken forward. At the recent depot meetings CCAJ asked about ditching work in our area and was told that this would be happening within the next few months. CCAJ asked for further details about this and it doesn't seem that the general ditching team will be coming to our area for a few months. The Highways manager has however said that Heldre Lane and Sale Lane roads will be scheduled.

Heldre Lane & U2253 – verge slippages – CCAJ not sure there are barriers on both of these and remains concerned about the safety. DC will double check and let CCAJ know.

ACTION: DC/CCAJ

Hope Road – Update from Highways Manager “U2473 Hope Road unfortunately was not included in the final levelling up bid but I can confirm it was considered. Other roads within the bit have since received capital funding in the North Area, we'll therefore need to adjust our programme if the bid is successful. Highways Supervisor will include the hope road in the capital list for ranking 2023/24.”

Pot Holes – Llyn y Melyn, Parc Caradog - reported again.

AE to update TCCs own spreadsheets on Highways and County Road issues, including each time an issue was reported and when work was completed etc.

ACTION: AE

Salt Bins/Piles – GC, DC and CCAJ have checked a few of these and many are ok. Please can someone check the Hope Road, Llyn y Melyn area, Pentre Gwyn, Chestnut Drive area up to Mount Pleasant.

Work behind the top row of Mt Pleasant has been completed. The hole with the missing grid by Buttington Church has been filled and the utility strip across the road heading towards Leighton has been re-filled.

AE has sent the letter to PCC regarding concerns that we are not getting responses, feedback or updates from PCC on issues we have been reporting to them. Ideally, we would like to be able to have access to the system that PCC use so we could see what the priority scale is or who actions the high priority work etc. It was suggested that if issues persist, we could submit a freedom of information request or contact the Ombudsman. AE to find out if other Community Councils are having the same frustrations and what their course of actions has been.

ACTION: AE

We have received concerns from a resident with regards to flooding of their property. This property has been flooded a few times over the years. The residents' neighbours have previously pumped out the brook when the property has been at risk of flooding. These neighbours have now moved, so the resident is understandably already very anxious about flooding happening. AE to contact Andrew Jones.

ACTION: AE

1857 County Councillors' Report

Problems continue with timely and complete pick-ups of waste recycling. All councillors are highlighting frustrations. CCAJ continues to raise questions about workforce management and trying to mitigate this.

Willow Tree outside the school, the school is looking for grants to possibly replace the tree with another mature willow tree.

Next surgery will be on the 3rd February with Craig Williams MP.

1858 Planning

Concerns have been raised with regards to PCC Planning Dept. Comments and suggestions made on planning applications consultations are not taken into consideration by the planning dept. When concerns are also raised with PCC about developers not complying to the planning rules and conditions specified on their application, there is no one in PCC to enforce these rules. PCC open an enforcement case, but it doesn't seem to get investigated any further. It was also agreed that there were too many retrospective applications being passed and developers should be made to pay more for these applications.

22/1720/FUL | Erection of extensions to existing warehouse and production area, to include the creation of a mezzanine level within existing building | Offas Dyke Business Park, Unit 3 Fisher Road Buttington Welshpool SY21 8JF

We have not received any objections and therefore we would like to support this application.

22/1746/REM | Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 & 3 attached to Outline planning approval 18/1205/OUT (8 dwellings) to allow an extension of time in which to submit reserved matters | Old Coal Depot Middletown Welshpool Powys SY21 8EJ

RB declared an interest. Trewern Community Council have considered this application and are happy for an extension of time to be granted.

22/1838/FUL | Change of use of existing annex into self-contained unit suitable for renting on a short term (AirB&B) basis. | Long Mountain House Heldre Lane Buttington Welshpool SY21 8SX

We have not received any objections and therefore we would like to support this application. However, we would like to highlight our concerns about the parking on site and the access to this development.

22/1855/NMA | Application for non-material amendments to planning permission 20/1962/RES (outline planning permission P/2017/0747) in respect of changes to approved plans. | Priors Cottage Middletown Welshpool SY21 8DF

JE declared an interest. We have received concerns from a local resident in relation to this application, specifically Plot A. Plot A has already been constructed to roof height and the non-material amendments specified in the application have already been made, so this appears to be retrospective. We would like to reiterate the above concerns. The movement of windows and doors is a significant change to the plans that were originally approved, therefore we would like to object to this application.

Proposed plans for the car park at Trewern School

FW has declared an interest. CCAJ will set up a meeting with school Governors, Head and Councillors to discuss the proposed plans in detail and so that the plans satisfy all concerns. AE to obtain copies of plans from Roger Parry and amalgamate all comments received from Councillors so far.

ACTION: CCAJ/AE

1859 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £21,303.94 in the accounts at the end of October 2022. Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by RB and seconded by PD

Payments

Clerks Salary – £261.05 (20hrs for October) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Middletown Village hall -£25 (Hall Hire for January) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

GloverSure - £36 (SSL 1 year renewal) under L.G.A 1972 s111.

Payments proposed by DC and seconded by RT

There is one unrepresented cheque from October 2020 for Ben Simms, all agreed to now remove this cheque from the Bank Reconciliation.

Online banking

Waiting on paperwork from HSBC to activate online banking.

Budget/Precept

AE has sent a draft version of the budget/precept for the next financial year to all Councillors, the Council Tax Base figure for 2023/24 is not expected until the 22nd November. All happy that the figures were okay, however it was agreed that the column titled 'Maintenance' should be changed to 'Capital Reserve' on both the draft budget/precept and on the Bank Reconciliation, to avoid confusion, as this column is our emergency fund to cover anything unexpected spending required for the play areas etc, and any maintenance carried out comes under the heading 'Play area/open spaces.

Proposed by RB and seconded by FW

The Broadband costs at MVH are £39.50 per month. All agreed to make a 50% contribution to this cost for the first 12 months. All agreed to pay for the McAfee Security Software for the Clerks laptop. Happy for AE to pay for this and then be reimbursed.

Proposed by RB and seconded by FW

MVH agreed that they would not charge any extra to TCC for the use of the hybrid meeting equipment, but there will be a charge for other organisations. TCCs annual donation and support is so important to the village hall and its future.

1860 Correspondence

None.

1861 Any Other Business

Parking issues, Pentre Gwyn, Trewern

CCAJ has raised obstructions with the Police who have said they will carry out patrols

Trewern Mission Church

Deferred to next meeting.

Tesco Community Grant

An email was received regarding The Tesco Community Grant Scheme, which allows any not-for-profit groups to apply for a grant of up to £1500 for anything that benefits the community. CCAJ is discussing this with the school.

1862 Date of Next Meetings

17 January 2022 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.