

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT TREWERN COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Judy Evans, Fiona Warburton, David Corfield, Phil Hughes, Rob Breakwell and Rex Turner.

1965 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Amanda Jenner, Colin Jenkins, Peter Davies and Nicola Dyson.

1966 Minutes of the Meetings from 17th October for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 17th October to now be approved and signed by GC.
Proposed by FW, seconded by PH.

1967 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, renewable energy, membership of voluntary organisations, school governors, school modernisation and school transport.

DC and GC declared an interest in The Breidden Hotel, Middletown.

1968 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1969 Playgrounds

Trees and land maintenance by Breidden car park, Middletown

Wootton Tree Services have been and cut the top of Leylandiis and other trees near the Breidden Car park in Middletown. CA Bowen has quoted £285 for doing all work on the bushes in that area. £46 of that cost will be taking the trimmings/offcuts to Potters Recycling Centre, we can try to bring the price down by possibly not taking it to Potters. Everyone in agreeance.

The Breidden Hotel, Middletown

JE has prepared a report from MVH Committee to TCC, regarding the new owner of the Breidden's proposed changes to the Village Hall car park and relinquishing of the right of way at the rear of the pub. PH reads the last email out from the Breidden to TCC dated 16th Nov. It was agreed that it is not our place to put any pressure on MVH committee, we should stay neutral. AE to draft a response to this email. We also discussed the possibility of putting speed bumps behind the pub along right of way or moving the play area gate that is currently located nearest the pub, so kids wouldn't be tempted to run across the right of way to the play area from the pub and therefore making the area safer. We are due to make payment to the new landlords of the Breidden for the rent of the play area in Middletown, all agreed to send a cheque for the next two payments that are due. AE to request a VAT invoice.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Reports

Middletown is very low risk, bit of rust on the handle of the slide, report said it can be repaired. Trewern has some high risk issues, therefore GC will organise for Robert Wyn Jones and Son, Welders in Buttington to sort out these issues at the weekend. All in agreeance to get this sorted, otherwise we would need to close the play area.

ACTION: GC

The hedge in the D outside the school is not looking very good and the gate going into the play area is nearly covered over. This piece of the hedge is cut by the school contractors. FW will speak to Anna Griggs.

ACTION: FW

Insurance policy update

Insurance asking for valuation on play equipment, quote for replacing Middletown play equipment is £31,000 and Trewern its £32,500. This is for the play equipment only and not the flooring, fencing etc. Play equipment is currently insured for £106,000 for both play areas. Ground surface is £14,000. Not sure we are insured enough on the ground surfaces, so maybe do a review. Add to agenda in February to discuss closer to the time of the insurance renewal.

ACTION: AE

1970 Highways

AE to send out updated Highways spreadsheet to all Councillors.

ACTION: AE

GC reads out the response we have received from Jackie Charlton after we requested for her to visit the area to look at the continuing issues we have in some areas. We have sent photos to her of our priority areas and if anyone complains, we need to ask them to keep sending emails through.

There is some drainage and culvert work being done on Heldre Lane and Bacheldre. CCAJ has written to follow up previous requests that this covers the Llwyn y Melyn parts.

CCAJ met with highways on the Leighton road last week to discuss the flooding there. This is of concern because when this road is flooded it usually means that things are so bad that Leighton and Forden are also cut off from other directions. Highways are writing to the landowners (Powis Estates) to see if there can be some verge work done to improve the drainage there.

Hope road – with the announcement of significant funds coming to the County for infrastructure levelling up, CCAJ has written again to request that this road is included so that it can be brought back to being a decent cycle route.

Trunk Road – with the flooding of the Brook Cottages due to the build up under the bridge by the school, CCAJ has raised this with the Trunk road (AGAIN) and also asked Russell George's office to write to Welsh Gov asking for this to be done regularly.

CCAJ has also been in touch re. drainage around the Buttington quarry entrance due to residents concerns. CCAJ understands that Andrew Jones has visited the site.

Brook Cottages Flooding – CCAJ has been in discussions with the owners regarding this and has referred them to PCC to apply for SPF funding for flood resilience. CCAJ has highlighted to the owners that it is worth them following up on this opportunity due to the regular flooding here.

1971 County Councillors' Report

CCAJ is meeting some residents of Middletown Residential Park next week with Russell George to discuss whether there can be any improvements to the Welsh Government protections and standards that govern residential parks.

CCAJ has put forward a motion to full council for December's meeting to prevent any further sale of Powys owned County farms until they bring forward a scrutinised and transparent policy.

1972 Planning

23/1580/CLE | Certificate of Lawfulness application (Section 191) for an existing use - Siting of mobile unit and occupancy as a dwelling house without complying with condition no. 3 of planning permission reference M22846 (occupancy condition) | 5, Fair View (mobile Unit) Trewern Welshpool SY21 8DW

TCC considered this application. We do not wish to make a comment.

23/1673/FUL | Construction of Workshop | Land At Buttington Quarry Buttington Welshpool SY21 8SZ

TCC considered this application. We do not wish to make a comment.

1973 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £28,918.48 in the accounts at the end of October 2023.

Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by FW and seconded by PH

Payments

Clerk Salary £261.05 (October payment) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Middletown Village Hall - £273.48 (Donation towards Broadband) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

GloverSure - £35 plus VAT (SSL - 1 Year) under L.G.A 1972 s111.

PAYE - £195.80 under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Proposed by FW and seconded by PH

Audit update

We have received the results of our annual audit, AE spoke to Audit Wales regarding budget/Precept, for future reference they would like to see a bit more about how much reserves we have at the end of the financial year, so AE has added a bit more to the draft budget for 2024/25 to satisfy this request.

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 2024/25 was due to be decided by PCC today. The Councillors thank AE for preparing the budget/precept. All happy that the figures were okay, however it was agreed that 'Capital Reserve' funds should be £5,000, which is our emergency fund to cover any unexpected spending/maintenance required for the play areas etc. AE to add 'Budget/Precept' to the next agenda in January, so it can be officially approved.

ACTION: AE

PAYE automatic payments

Ruth Lewis, who deals with payroll, has informed us that there is a way of setting up a regular DD to pay HMRC their PAYE using the payroll system. TCC considered this, however agreed to leave it as it is for now, unless Ruth finds objection to it.

1974 Correspondence

We have received a request from the Air ambulance, asking for donations. However we do not donate any money to any charities.

1975 Any Other Business

AE to report a street lamp that's out along Criggion Lane, Trewern.

ACTION: AE

All agreed to hold the next meetings in January, February and March at Middletown Village Hall as Trewern is not the ideal place in terms of infrastructure for online meeting.

1976 Date of Next Meetings

23 January 2024 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.