

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT TREWERN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Philip Hughes, David Corfield, Rob Breakwell, Sasha Hart, Peter Davies, Rex Turner, Fiona Warburton and County Councillor Amanda Jenner

0118 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ida Hughes.

0218 Minutes of the Meeting from for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 17 July 2018 were signed and approved.

0318 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

Gill Corfield and David Corfield declared an interest in the planning application for Land Adjacent West Penyoel, Middletown.

0418 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

0518 Playgrounds

Clearing of the hedge between the play area at Trewern School and Hazel Close has now been completed.

A letter was received from a resident requesting if the pig wire fencing along that hedge can be removed, however it was felt that if it was pulled down, there would be nothing in place to stop someone/something coming through and encroaching on the school area, potentially causing issues.

There have been some issues in and around Trewern and Middletown playareas whereby some areas have not been kept or maintained, such as the hedge between the play area at Middletown and the residential park. Quotes have now been received to carry out this work along with other areas. Quotes have been received from Charlie Bowen for £300 and Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd for £185 (plus VAT). The hedge close to the play area in Trewern also needs cutting, again quotes received from Charlie Bowen for £108 and from Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd for £135 (plus VAT). It has been decided that due to Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd already currently carrying out this type of work for Trewern Community Council, that his quote will be accepted for this additional work. It was noted that some amendments need to be made to the tenders for next time.

Proposed by RB, seconded by FW.

Rubbish is being left in the bus bay just outside of Trewern school, therefore the school is keen to have an additional bin sited in order to help combat this situation. Potentially a bin could be sited

on the grass area in the D and the lady who empties the playarea bins has agreed she would empty it and the rubbish could be disposed of in the school skips which was agreed by Mr Jenkins.

The play area next to Trewern School already has two bins in place, however it still has not limited the litter been left around this area. It was suggested to put a bin in the bus bay on a trial basis to see if the issue improves, but concerns were raised that once a bin is situated there then it should remain there permanently. If an additional bin was sited in this area, the area would be seen to be a layby, encouraging people to litter more, therefore the decision was made that this proposal would not go ahead. It is noted that due to conflict of interest, only SH, PD, RB, DC and GC can make this decision.

Dog Fowling is still continuing near to Trewern School and therefore signs will be put up along the fence around the school by the Headmaster.

Painting was scheduled to begin today on playground, but due to adverse weather condition it will hopefully start in the next few weeks. It has also been noted that the plastic caps are already missing on the new playground equipment at Trewern.

ROSPA reports for both play areas have been received and there are some minor issues that need to be addressed. RT and DC will carry out this work in due course. It is recommended that the play area is inspected weekly and records to be logged, which are to include the date that the play areas are checked, any observations whilst also monitoring the surrounding areas for broken glass etc. GC has created spreadsheets to assist with this requirement. PD agreed to do the inspections.

ROSPA reports are done every 12 months but we have not yet received an invoice from them. We have been offered a 6 monthly ROSPA report, however as the play areas are being checked every week it was felt extra reports are not required.

Photos have been received of a broken bin, the lid of the bin now has a jagged edge and therefore a new bin needs to be ordered.

Proposed by FW, seconded by PH.

0618 Highways

CC AJ has covered 'highways' in her CC monthly report.

A representative from the Highways department will be doing an inspection in the area tomorrow (Wednesday 19th) as work completed by the Highways has not been consistent.

Areas around Hope have had jet patching, however areas on Hope Lane that have been recently jet patched have already started to break down. The Jet Patcher was there a few weeks ago, but not all the pot holes were filled.

A pool of water has been standing on Heldre Lane for some time, Highways have been out to clear the drain and the water has now drained away, but the road is still in an appalling state and covered in mud.

There have previously been complaints about visibility due to over grown hedges, however most of these hedges have now been dealt with. CC AJ will put it in the Border Gossip, that if there are still overgrown hedges in the area, for residents to contact her and she will pursue this issue with the Highways department.

ACTION: CC AJ

A campervan has been parked behind Garreg Bank, close to Maes Fron, which has been obstructing other road users. A request was put forward for the Campervan to be moved, which it was for a brief time but has now been moved back again. It is unlikely that any emergency service vehicles would be able to get passed if needed, as some residents already have difficulty with smaller vehicles. It is suggested that maybe this issue should be reported to 101.

White lines at Buttington brick yard coming onto road, this issue has already been picked up by Andrew Jones.

Narrow bridge signs are needed on the River bridge in Buttington as some buses and larger vehicles are having difficulty getting passed them, query to Andrew Jones in regards to this issue.

ACTION: CC AJ

White lines at the bottom of Golfa Bank Road needs to be put back into place.

Park caradog parking – back in spring CC AJ was officially told that yellow lines would be put on the entrance, so emergency vehicles could get passed. Council have not had time to do it. CC AJ can only chase.

CC AJ has asked if anyone wants her to organise a litter picking day in the area, she is happy to do so.

Concerns have been raised about the speed limit on Criggion lane and there have been queries relating to the costs of having the speed limit officially changed to 30. If this proposal is refused by the planning department, then safety issues on that road need to be addressed in an alternative way.

Capital funding has been approved for the School heater and works is now underway.

0718 Burgess Land Trust

Nothing to report.

0818 County Councillors' Report

See attached.

0918 Planning

18/0225/HH Cefn Farm Sale Lane, Trewern - Erection of single and 2 storey extension to existing dwelling (resubmission)

Permission has already been approved.

18/0190/OUT Land Adjacent West Penyfoel, Middletown – Erection of 4 dwellings, formation of vehicular access and all associated works

GC and DC left the room due to an interest being declared in this application.

It is noted that CC AJ has not received any complaints in relation to this application.

It was first thought that this site was not situated within the Local Development Plans (LDP), however on further inspection it is within the settlement boundary for Middletown. A previous application was rejected for 9 houses on this site, however the 9 houses took the development site outside of the LDP. As this application is only for 4 houses, there is no requirement for this site to include affordable homes and there is no plans to improve the access onto the A458.

We are concerned that due to the high number of newly accepted planning proposals in Middletown it would be unsustainable without additional local infrastructure.

We object to this application on the grounds of highways access to the A458 and the increased amount of traffic it would generate, bearing in mind that there has been an application approved opposite for 25 new dwellings.

ACTION: AE

18/0528/AGR Land South of Fox Farm, Trewern – Erection of steel portal framed agricultural building for storage of machinery and fodder

Application for erection of an Agricultural Building. This was not showing as a planning application that the Community Council would be consulted on and when questioned we were told that PCC no longer had to consult Community Councils on Agricultural Buildings. Councillors felt this was wrong and requested that we wrote to whoever this directive came from, either PCC or the Welsh Assembly.

ACTION: CC AJ

1018 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

Bank statements checked and signed. Financial report checked to confirm that it is all In order.

Budget

Nothing to report.

Chair Allowance

GC not taking for the moment.

Payments

Clerks Final Salary, Mrs K Weaver - July 10 Hours

Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd - £157.01 (August payment)

Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd - £157.01 (September payment)

Trewern Community Centre - £2,100

Middletown Village Hall - £1,800

Clerks Salary, Miss A Evans - August 7.5 Hours

All payments were proposed SH, seconded FW.

Agreed to pay Andrew Evans Landscaping LTD on a monthly basis.

Proposed by SH, seconded by FW.

Clerks Contract and General Employment Details

Clerk left the room. Clerk hours were agreed at 20hrs a month at £12 per hour with Clerk to continue keeping a monthly timesheet. Clerks holiday pay will also be paid on a monthly basis.

Proposed by PD, seconded RB

Advice on pensions to be obtained for Clerk.

Audit

Meeting with Ruth and David Morrell Thursday 20th September to discuss previous issues with audit.

Councillors Remuneration Submission

GC has completed a Councillors Remuneration Submission (which should be completed every year) to show that every councillor receives nil.

VAT Return

VAT return money has now been paid into bank.

Cheque Signatories

RB and PH to become signatories on the account along with GC.

1118 Correspondence

Website

The website for Trewern Community Council requires updating. A quote has been obtained for a bespoke website costing £1650 Or alternatively the same template used by other community councils in the area would cost £450 for the website with an annual hosting fee of £99 (plus VAT). A lot of the Community Councils locally use this template and it has been recommended to us. Policies, procedure, minutes from the meetings, agendas, declaration of interest etc need to all be added to the website for public viewing/access.

Proposed by PH, seconded by RB.

Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments

It has been noted that some of the required Policy and Procedures, Standing orders, Code of conduct etc are either not currently in place or need updating, therefore GC has obtained various documents to cover these aspects. Councillors will assist by checking these documents and give their opinions on which to adopt for Trewern Community Council.

These will also need to be added to the new website.

ACTION: GC/RB/FW

1218 New Data Protection Legislation, GDPR

Nothing to report.

1318 Any Other Business

A resident asked whether it would be possible for a public foot path to be formed near Pentre Gwyn, Trewern. Residents of the Estate have been crossing the Council land (initially field, now garages/parking) from the estate road to the junction of Criggion Lane/A458. This crossing is used particularly by school children to catch the school bus, residents travelling to Welshpool/Shrewsbury by bus, post letters and general access to the A458. All councillors are in support of this proposal and CC AJ will pursue this further.

ACTION: CC AJ

It has been noted that the roof on both bus shelters has started to rot and that there is still graffiti inside the shelter. Quotes are to be obtained for next meeting.

ACTION: GC/ PD

Co-option of a new Councillor

A new councillor is required to join Trewern Community Council.

It was suggested that there is no one on the Community Council from the Buttington area, however it is felt that the Community Council would benefit more from having someone who will have a valuable input rather than focussing on the geographical coverage of the council.

CC AJ to advertise of social media.

ACTION: CC AJ

1418 Date of Next Meeting

16 October 2018 – Middletown Village Hall.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT/UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY ISSUES

- HIGHWAYS REPAIR WORKS - Over the Summer, the road leading up Moelygolfa, Shepherds lane and up Middletown Hill to the boarder, was resurfaced in patches (funded from the Highways Capital Programme budget). This was a road that residents had been complaining about for a number of years. We had also fought for Heldre Lane to be included in the Capital Programme but unfortunately it wasn't ranked as high a priority. I shall seek to have this included on next year's programme.
- Pothole jet patching repairs have been carried out on Hope Road. Water and drains have been cleared along Heldre Lane (under the bridge).
- HEDGES - Thank you to those residents whom have already started to cut back hedges that are adjacent to roads. If you have a roadside hedge please can you check that it isn't causing any visibility issues and cut back accordingly.
- OBSTRUCTIVE PARKING - I have been contacted by a number of residents with concerns about obstructive parking, including parking along narrow minor roads (which could make it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass) and parking along the pavement on the A458 (causing issues for residents walking along the pavement). Please try to be considerate, and if you are picking up children from school, please use all of the space available in the school car park (park as close as reasonably possible to the cars next to and in front of you, to allow for all cars to get in!). Having spoken with the police, their advice is that if you feel there is a safety issue, report it to 101.
- ONGOING ISSUES – Myself and Gill Corfield, the Chair of the Community Council, have recently met with the Trunk Road Agent and will be meeting with the Powys Highways supervisor to discuss various issues which residents have raised with us (e.g. noisy man holes, pot holes along Heldre and Sale Lane, street lights, issues with road signs, fly tipping, subsiding verges). We will continue to report these problems and chase up with the highways teams to request that they are prioritised. Please do continue to raise any issues with either the Community Council or myself and we shall pass these on.
- PARC CARADOG PARKING – Earlier in the year, following numerous concerns raised by residents (including access obstructions for emergency vehicles), I requested double yellow lines in the entrance to the estate and along the A458 around there. I reported the issues raised and asked the highways experts to use their discretion regarding the precise location and length of these restrictions. I understand that the Welsh Government has agreed to fund this work, but that resource constraints are causing hold up with the official documents/design. I shall continue to chase this and seek updates on timescales.
- SCHOOL HEATING BOILER SYSTEM – having fought hard for a replacement system to be included on the School Capital Works programme, I am pleased that this work was approved and is now underway. I shall continue to stand as a Governor at the School in order to help with any issues that arise with Powys CC.
- LITTER PICKING – Over the summer, I carried out a litter pick in the Trewern Playground and around some of the lanes. It is disappointing that some people leave litter in our lovely ward. In other wards, I know that Councillors have arranged for a Community effort on this. If this is something you would like to take part in or for me to arrange, please do let me know.
- CRIGGION LANE SPEED LIMIT – I am awaiting the outcome of a planning application which will, if approved, fund the cost of the order required to reduce the speed limit to 30mph (should the site ever be developed). This is something that I requested and which the applicant was cooperative with. If the planning application is not approved, then I shall seek

to find out how else the council can look at improving the safety of this road, given the concerns residents have raised with me.

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

- FOSTER PANEL - Earlier in the summer, I was appointed as the County Councillor Representative for the Foster Panel. This panel sits twice a month and makes decisions on Children's Services issues such as foster carer applications, reviews of carers and family assessments. It is humbling and informative to meet with frontline staff and foster carers who work to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children.
- CHILDREN'S SERVICES - I continue to sit on the committee that scrutinises policy regarding Children's Services. There are still improvements to be made to this service and it faces a number of challenges. For example, there are vacancies that need filling in the Children's Department (including Foster Carer and Social Worker Roles). If you or anyone you know may be interested in such roles, please get in touch with Powys' Recruitment Team - <https://recruitment.powys.gov.uk/>
- WELSHPOOL LIBRARY – I have seen in the press that it has been reported there may be potential changes to the location of the library. This was the first time I have been made aware of this. I have asked the portfolio holder a number of queries regarding this, such as: access concerns, opening hours, children's facilities, safety of canal, parking and planned public computer facilities.

Councillor Amanda Jenner – 18th September 2018