

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT TREWERN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2018

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Philip Hughes, Sasha Hart, Ida Hughes, Peter Davies, Rex Turner, David Corfield and Rob Breakwell.

1433 Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Amanda Jenner and Fiona Warburton.

1434 Minutes of the Meeting from 16th October 2018 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 16th October 2018 were signed by GC and approved.
Proposed by RB, seconded by RB

A minor amendment was made to the September 2018 meeting, it showed Clerk was to be paid for 'August 7.5hrs', but Clerk was actually paid for August (7.5hrs) and September (20hrs).
Proposed by SH, seconded by RT

1435 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

GC and DC declared an interest in the planning application for the erection of 9 dwelling Houses, Land East of Golfa Close, Middletown.

1436 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1437 Playgrounds

It was decided at the last meeting that the painting of the play equipment should commence in Spring 2019 instead, as the weather is now starting to get colder. The contractor was happy to do this and confirmed the original quote will remain the same.

RT and DC met to discuss the play areas in Trewern and Middletown and the recommendations that had been made in the ROSPA report. Shrinkage of the wet pour was the biggest issue, with Middletown play area being the worst. It is noted that we do have a reserve from last year's budget to cover the cost of replacement wet pour in Middletown. AE to look through paperwork to see when the wet pour was last put down in Middletown and also have a look if it came with a warranty.

ACTION: AE

Rubbers are also missing off gates which is now a RoSPA requirement. Bolts on play equipment in Trewern also need covers, Children have previously pulled these covers off, so next time the covers need to be glued on.

As discussed at Septembers meeting, there was a broken bin in the play area, however as there are already two other bins in that same area, it is thought that there may not be a need for a third bin there too. GC will ask Sue Davies to monitor the situation to see if two bins will be sufficient.

ACTION: GC

It has previously been noted that the roof on both bus shelters has started to rot and that there is still graffiti inside, PD has received a quote from Roy Evans to re-do roof and paint the bus shelter, work will be approx. £500 (£250 per bus shelter). We are struggling to obtain more quotes. One of the noticeboard doors has also fallen off too, PD will again obtain a quote from Roy Evans to fix this.

ACTION: PD

At September's meeting, it was decided that an additional bin would not be situated in the D outside Buttington Trewern CP School, as it was thought that the area would be seen to be a layby and therefore encourage people to litter more. This will now be added to January's agenda for reconsideration, as it is thought that all the littering there is not pleasant for the person who has to pick it up and also not pleasant for the Children who attend the School.

1438 Highways

A closure order application for the Cefn bridge will go in for night time work in mid-February.

Complaints are still being received about the noisy manhole cover outside The Breidden Pub. Severn Trent have agreed to sort this issue but the work has not yet been completed.

CCAJ has been corresponding with the police and Chris Jones from the highways dept with regards to double yellow lines being put down by Buttington Trewern CP School and Parc Caradog. Parents are still parking on Parc Caradog estate during busy periods, which causes mayhem and it is unlikely that any emergency service vehicles would be able to get passed if needed. The police have been out to review the situation, however on these times, parents seem to all park at the school rather than on Parc Caradog, so as the issue does not happen when the police are there, nothing can be done to resolve this. CCAJ has suggested that we ask people (possibly people who live on Parc Caradog) to monitor the situation themselves, taking photographic evidence to show the police and the Highways dept that there is a need for double yellow lines. It is agreed that this is a good idea and CCAJ will proceed further with this.

ACTION: CCAJ

River bridge in Buttington is very narrow, therefore the Highways will be putting more signs up to indicate that there may be oncoming traffic in the middle of the road.

It is also noted that the surface of the road turning onto Leighton Road by the Green Dragon Pub in Buttington is breaking up due to lorry's turning.

The Jetpatcher has filled some pot holes in on Heldre Lane and up by Moel Y Gofa, but is now out of use for the winter.

White lines need to be put back in place at the bottom of Garreg bank junction in Trewern, it is believed that someone went straight across the junction there and into the hedge opposite, so it is important that these lines be put back into place asap.

A text from a resident has been received regarding lots of pot holes and water coming down the lane as you turn towards Pentre Gwyn in Trewern, as the drains are blocked with leaves. Powys County

Council are expected to be clearing drains on the main roads in the next two weeks and we have requested Criggion Lane is a high priority, immediately after they finish the main roads.

It has been mentioned that the sweeper rarely goes down Criggion Lane, GC to remind the highways to send the sweeper down there.

Mud on back road by White House Farm, highways are already aware of this. If any residents call us to complain of this problem and it is a danger, ask them to report this to 101 or if it just looks messy, we can again email Dave Gardener at Powys County Council.

It was discussed at Septembers meeting, that a campervan has been parked behind Garreg Bank, close to Maes Fron, which has been obstructing other road users. 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. As winter comes, there may be people wanting to be picked up by ambulance. SH wants to contact the person who lives there before the issue is reported to 101. Is it agreed that it is worth possibly putting a note on his car to warn him.

ACTION: SH

1439 Burgess Land Trust

The next Burgess Land Trust meeting will be held in January 2019. Nothing else to report.

1440 County Councillors' Report

See attached.

1441 Planning

18/0729/FUL Erection of Agricultural Building, Land South of Fox Farm, Trewern.

It is a concern that this application could generate additional traffic onto the main highway from Fox Lane, as this is already an inferior junction. Although we note that as it is an agricultural building for fodder storage this may not be an issue, as long as it remains for agricultural purposes only.

It is also a concern about the building itself being in the line of vision from the junction making it difficult for any traffic coming onto the main highways from Fox Lane, however we do not oppose this application.

18/0599/FUL Erection of 9 dwelling Houses, Land East of Golfa Close, Middletown.

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

We would like to re-iterate what the Highways have already stated in regards to this application, that this application should include full access for the proposed roads, footways and surface water drainage etc. Consideration also needs to be given to the existing footpath running parallel to the A458 as with the new development the footpath will have to cross the access junction.

It is also a concern that this application does not show the proportion of Affordable Housing appointed, however we do not oppose this application.

It is noted that the planning applications for 18/0809/OUT Land At Trelystan Poultry Units Trelystan Welshpool and P/2018/0474 Land Near Mulsop Farm Trelystan Leighton Welshpool do not come under Trewern Community Council's area, therefore we do not have any issues with these applications.

1442 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank statements show that there is £18,960.97 in the accounts at the end of October 2018 and the bank reconciliation on the financial report for October 2018 also matches this amount. Financial report checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC checked and signed bank statements.
Proposed by RB, seconded by PH.

Budget/Precepts

GC explained to all present Councillors that an error was found on the financial spreadsheet when AE and GC were working on the precept for the next financial year. The budget for 2018/19 on the spreadsheet had not been updated, so was actually showing the budget for 2017/18. This discrepancy has now been amended.

The precept/possible budget for next financial year was handed out and explained to Councillors ready for discussion at January's meeting. GC, AE and RB to double check figures before next meeting.

ACTION: GC/AE/RB

Each household pays so much money to each Community Council to keep running, at the moment it is currently £28.60, so we need to decide if it should remain at £28.60 or should this figure increase by inflation? It is suggested that maybe we should budget an amount for the play areas rather than using surplus cash as this is our biggest asset. Again, it was also suggested that maybe we should give more to the Village Halls each year if they are struggling to survive. AE to contact Middletown Village Hall and Trewern Community Centre to find out their end of year balance.

ACTION: AE

Chair Allowance

Nothing to report.

Payments

Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd – £586.50 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3) (as agreed at Octobers meeting for Andrew Evans Landscaping Ltd to be paid monthly. Also includes payment for additional hedge cut, as quoted in Septembers meeting).

Ray Parry Painting - £571.20 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

All payments were proposed by PD, seconded by PH

Clerks Salary/Contract

AE has looked through Clerks contract, need to amend pension information on the contract, due to the Clerks wages being under the threshold for the pension scheme.

Clerk left the room for Councillors to discuss Clerks salary, Clerk hours were agreed at 20hrs a month at £12 per hour (with Clerk to continue keeping a monthly timesheet), therefore Clerk should have received the full 20hrs pay for August. GC to inform Timerelease to pay this.

Proposed PH, seconded RT.

Audit

Nothing to report.

Councillors Remuneration Submission

Nothing to report.

VAT Return

Nothing to report.

Cheque Signatories

AE to phone bank and find out exactly what RB and PH need to do to become signatories on the account.

ACTION: AE

Citizens Advice Bureau & other Charities

It was discussed whether or not we thought it a good idea to give money to a Charity. However it was argued that we should not be using tax payers money to give to Charities, as it is a personal choice and not something the Community Council should decide.

On the other hand a lot of people do use service, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau etc, which may struggle to raise funds.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to get a sense of what the Community think by going through the Border gossip to ask the public. Also we should email One Voice Wales to get an idea of what other Community Councils do.

1443 Correspondence

Heathy, Active and Outdoors project – Powys County Council's Countryside Service has successfully gained funding to support Town & Community Councils and local residents improve their local rights of way. Countryside Services are now seeking expressions of interest to see who would be interested in the project. CCAJ has suggested local residents that she thinks might be interested. AE to send this letter to the individuals whilst reminding them that we need comments by the 7th December so we can feed this back to Powys County Council.

ACTION: AE

Recycling development in Abermule – A letter has been received regarding a motion that has been put forward by Cllr Gareth Pugh to Powys County Council, "Councillors should engage with their electorate and listen to the views of the communities". As a Community Council we have experienced change of plans to an application and had no consultation, therefore CCAJ suggests we write a letter supporting this motion.

ACTION: GC/CCAJ

Powys County Council are looking to co-locate Welshpool library with Powysland Museum next year. Co-location will mean a smaller space for both services but it will reduce running costs. If anyone uses the library, and are interested in completing a Combined Welshpool Library & Museum Survey, GC has asked Councillors to print out this survey for them. This survey seeks views on how best to use the space if they do co-locate and what peoples preference is.

Powys County Council is planning to launch a new green garden waste collection service for residents next year and would like to gauge interest in the service, plus views on the frequency of collections, the cost and the payment options that people may prefer. If any local residents are interested in this, GC has asked Councillors to again print out the Green Garden Waste Collections Survey for residents to complete.

Website

Discussed photos to be used on front page of website. GC put together an introduction page, all agreed it sounds good.

GC checked what contact information (such as, telephone number, email address etc) each Councillor would want on the website, whilst reminding everyone that they should be easily contactable by residents etc.

It was suggested that CCAJ should have a page on the website that she could upload her reports too and any other information she thought relevant. All agreed that it was a good idea.

Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments

Policies and procedures are currently being worked on and we will be looking to adopt these 2 or 3 at a time in the next coming months.

1444 New Data Protection Legislation, GDPR

It was decided at the last meeting that an audit of all personal data was required in order to know what (if any) data/personal information was held by each Councillor and then we would have a better idea of how to best protect the data. After completing this order it was found that no Councillors hold any personal data other than email addresses and contact numbers of current Councillors and TCC contractors.

1445 Any Other Business

Co-option of a new councillor

Possible person interested for new Councillor position, but will let us know in due course.

A request has been received for horse signs to be put on Criggion Lane. Lots of people ride horse along there and cars travel at quite a speed, with one person even reporting to having a near miss with a speeding car whilst riding their horse. GC will ask Dave Gardener from Highways if putting horse signs up here is possible.

ACTION: GC

1446 Date of Next Meeting

15 January 2019 – Middletown Village Hall.

County Councillor Report – November 2018

Salt Bins

In preparation for the Winter, I have asked for Salt bins to be topped up around the ward. Please let me know if you are aware of a salt bin which has not been topped up. The broken salt bin has been replaced in Garreg Bank and a new salt bin has been provided for Parc Caradog estate. It was quite difficult to persuade them to provide one for here (and it was refused earlier in the year). It has to be placed somewhere accessible to all and not on private property (such as the car parks) or obstructing any paths or access routes. With regard to additional salt/grit piles on sides of steep/high roads, I have been informed that these will be put in place as the winter gets colder and that they don't like to put these out when rainwater may wash them away. I have received recent requests from residents for a salt bin along Criggion Lane. I did request this last year but it was refused. I will ask again though.

Mud on Road

Myself and the Community Council are receiving complaints about mud on the roads/lanes which is causing concerns for residents. The advice we have been given is that if it is felt that the condition of the road could be dangerous, then residents should call the Police on 101. Please note that we have a duty to pass on concerns on to the Council so that they can also decide whether or not they feel it is necessary to take action.

Obstructive Parking

It is unfortunate that some residents are still parking large vehicles along narrow lanes which make access difficult for other residents and causing concern that emergency services would not be able to get full access. The police have been made aware of some obstructions.

I was pleased to see the Police recently attend the school car park and main road during school leaving time. The feedback from the police has been that during these periods, vehicles have squeezed into the carpark and there has been enough room as parents have parked better and closer to each other. I hope that this action continues as if people use the car park responsibly, there is no need for parents to park on the main road blocking the footpaths or causing obstructions.

Notice to Dog Owners

Residents often contact me about dog owners not picking up dog mess, particularly on roads around Middletown and in the vicinity of the school. This is not acceptable and is an offence. Residents can report instances of this to the council and the council have recently issued fines for this.

<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4511/Report-dog-fouling>

Residents have also contacted me about dogs barking for hours on end. If dog barking is persistent, it can be regarded as a nuisance. Please ensure that your dogs are not left in circumstances where they cause a nuisance for neighbours. Residents who are concerned about noise pollution can contact the council on: **Email:** public.protection@powys.gov.uk **Phone:** 01597 827467.

Mount Pleasant Estate

Following requests to myself and to Powys Housing departments, there has been some maintenance of the verges, footpath and the hedges around the estate. Myself and the Community Council are still trying to get to the bottom of who owns the top hedge (back row of Mount Pleasant) and if it transpires to be owned by Powys County Council, we will request that residents are reimbursed for the costs of having the hedge cut back.

Powys County Council

By the time you receive this, the full council will have met to interview shortlisted candidates for the role of Chief Executive of Powys County Council. I hope that we will have made an appointment which can bring appropriate experience and a determination to drive through improvements, efficiencies and positive cultural changes.

I continue to sit on the Powys Foster Panel and have been involved in the recommendations for approving new foster carers and placements for Powys' children. There is still a shortage of foster carers in Powys and so if you or anyone you know might be interested, please either ask them to get in touch, or you can contact the council at: **Email:** fostering@powys.gov.uk. **Phone:** 01597 827666.

Christmas Period

I shall be taking some time off over the Christmas period. If you would like to get in touch with me but it is not urgent, please do leave me a message or email and I will get back to you when I can. If you need to speak with the council straight away, please contact the Council (general enquiries <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/contact-the-council/> **01597 826000**)

Or in an emergency, there is an out of hours team: <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/customer-services/contact-the-council-out-of-office-hours/>

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all manage to enjoy some time off with friends and family.

Amanda