

# **MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2019**

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

Two members of the public were also present.

## **1433 Apologies**

Peter Davies wasn't in attendance.

## **1434 Minutes of the Meeting from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for approval**

Minutes from the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were signed by GC and approved.  
Proposed by PH, seconded by RT.

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). These amended minutes were signed by GC and approved.

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**

RB declared an interest in the planning application for the 18/1205/OUT\_demolition of existing buildings, development of 8x dwellings, formation of estate road and all associated works, Old Coal Depot in Middletown, Welshpool.

## **1436 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda**

None.

## **1437 Playgrounds**

Discussion on Playgrounds, Bus Shelters and Noticeboards will be deferred to the next meeting and a pre-meeting has been suggested at the Play area, so everyone can have a look at the Wet Pour and decide what needs to be done.

Again, a discussion on an additional bin being situated in the D outside Buttington Trewern CP School will also be deferred to the next meeting, due to lack of time at tonight's meeting.

## **1438 Highways**

Cefn Bridge – if timings allow, the surface on the bridge will be done at the same time as the barrier, so there isn't another bridge closure.

Manhole outside The Breidden Pub – a further notice has been issued by PCC to Hafren Dyfrydwy requesting the work be done.

### **1439 Burgess Land Trust**

There's been a date change for the next Burgess Land Trust meeting, it will now be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **1440 County Councillors' Report**

Highways – The Jet Patcher is out of action over the winter. CCAJ is going to compile a list of every hole in the area for the Jet Patcher to do when it is back in the area again, so it would be helpful if all Councillors could check the roads around them in order to compile this list. If there is any particularly bad pot holes, then they can be listed as a priority.

Cefn Bridge – requested that the surface of the bridge is done at the same time as the barrier on the bridge, so that there isn't another bridge closure.

Drains on Mount pleasant – All the drains on A458 have been cleared now, however CCAJ thinks that the drains on the roads off the A458 have not been cleared. It is thought that the drains on Mount Pleasant were still full with leaves, RB to check this and let CCAJ know.

Council Tax – CCAJ has been told in order to balance the budget, there needs to be an 8 to 10% raise in Council Tax, as well as cuts to services. CCAJ needs to make a decision about cuts, reversing funding for things that have already been approved, turning street lamps off etc and is therefore interested to hear from the Community and if an 8% raise will be affordable in our area.

It is thought that Powys is one of the highest areas for Council Tax and the question was raised that if there is an increase this year, will there be another increase again next year? Last year the Council Tax went up by 5% and Inflation in the UK is currently 2.5%. Why should we pay more when we are getting less? It is also thought that if the Council get the money they need, they are not being challenged to improve services or run more efficiently. The average cost of a Band D property in this area was approx. £1442 in 2018, so if it went up by 10%, it would possibly be approx. £150 extra a year, plus possible cuts on top of this too. However, we are aware that costs are going up for everything, such as Social Services for Children as well as the Elderly, pension schemes (which is a statutory service), plus there is more Children in care too.

Future fit hospital – a decision will be made on the 29<sup>th</sup> January to decide where Emergency Care will be located, either at Shrewsbury or Telford. People in this area want Emergency Care to be in Shrewsbury and Planned Care to be based in Telford.

Door knocking surgery – CCAJ will be doing a Door Knocking Surgery with Russell George and other members of the party on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in Middletown.

Parc Caradog parking – It was agreed at the last meeting, that CCAJ would ask people (possibly people who live on Parc Caradog) to monitor the parking situation on Parc Caradog during school drop off and pick up times, taking photographic evidence to show the police and the Highways dept that there is a need for double yellow lines. However CCAJ thinks that we may need to repeat this exercise as it was done in the lead up to Christmas, which was a bit mad and so a view from a normal school week would also be required. CCAJ says parking has been a lot better lately and there hasn't been so many cars queuing to get in. 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 the issue does not happen when the Police are there, therefore it would be an idea to have plain clothed Police officers and have them turned up at the School at 3.10pm. CCAJ has secured funding for double yellow lines to be put down at the entrance to Parc Caradog. One car was parked over the entrance to Parc Caradog during the School pick up time, so even if there was double yellow lines,

one person it would not make a speck of difference to that person, as it is illegal to park over the entrance anyway, it would need to be enforced. We need to collect more photographic evidence to show Police, otherwise the Police say CCAJ is wasting their time, so the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> February will be put in the diary for monitoring this situation.

It was discussed at the last meeting, that a campervan has been parked behind Garreg Bank, close to Maes Fron, which has been obstructing other road users. The campervan has now gone but two cars are still there. CCAJ took a photo to send to the Police, but CCAJ was told it was not considered an obstruction. It was argued that an Ambulance or any other emergency vehicle, would not be able to get through the gap if they needed to, but they would be able to access the properties up that road as there is another road. CCAJ can put a message on Facebook to encourage people in the area to email photos, the Police can't keep ignoring it. SH wants to contact the person who lives there before the issue is reported to 101.

## **1441 Planning**

### Broad Energy

If Councillors have a Personal and Prejudicial interest or a Pre-determined interest, it must be declared. GC has been liaising with Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services at PCC, he has been giving excellent advice on declaring interest. A blanket Dispensation Notice can only be given if there are enough Councillors who do not have a predetermined, personal or prejudicial interest in the application, a quorum would be 4 Councillors, so potentially we could have enough Councillors to get a Dispensation Notice. However, if Councillors could not be impartial to this project, that would mean that they have a Pre-determined interest.

It was agreed that it's frustrating, that if you are passionate or feel strongly about something in your area and want to be able to do something about it, as a Councillor you cannot as it is considered a 'Pre-determined interest'. CCAJ has asked if we should try to get a Dispensation Notice for everyone and once we know the what the majority of the Community want, we can then represent them. If Councillors are given a Dispensation Notice, they must remain impartial as a Councillor, however can still exercise their personal rights to speak.

CCAJ is worried that if Councillors do not get a Dispensation Notice, a member of public may not be heard because Councillors are unable to respond. CCAJ will also have a lot of work if she is the only Councillor that can discuss this project, although it is thought that AE will not have to declare an interest, so AE will be able to assist CCAJ. CCAJ will speak to Wyn Richards to discuss this matter further.

### **ACTION: CCAJ**

### 18/1205/OUT Demolition of existing buildings, development of 8x dwellings, formation of estate road and all associated works, Old Coal Depot Middletown Welshpool, Powys SY21 8EJ

RB declares interest, as the planning site is next to his property. It is decided that RB will exercise his public speaking right, and will then leave the room whilst the other Councillors discuss the application.

RB lives adjoining the planning site and has raised a concern that there is no Public Notice sign, so is unsure if this application is widely known in the Community and if there is no Public Notice sign, should this be challenged? RB's personal view is that there are too many houses suggested for this plot and too many houses in close proximity to existing properties. RB shows a map of all areas that have had planning permission approved in the area and thinks it will be a strain on infrastructure, although he is not objecting to whole planning permission, just how close it is to his boundary. RB does understand it is only outline planning at the moment. RB also shows an photo of the view at the back of his house at the moment, which shows the hill and down the Valley and also

an image of what his view will be like if the development goes ahead as per the plans, which will leave him with no view at all and just a brick wall from the side of a house.

RB left the room for the rest of the Councillors to discuss the application.

It is a concern that the infrastructure could not cope with more houses, however CCAJ thinks we need to raise it with Severn Trent and not just oppose every application based on this and that the developers will need to put in the required and sufficient infrastructure when developing the site. CCAJ thinks that aside from any planning application, we should be going to Severn Trent to raise this issue anyway.

It is also a concern, that if all the sites in Middletown that have had planning permission granted recently were developed, it would double the size of Middletown. As this site is within the LDP (Local Development Plan), we cannot oppose it, but it was agreed that maybe the layout of this site should be mentioned, 8 properties for that site does seem like a lot.

This application was submitted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, but did not appear on the planning portal until the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, therefore we have asked PCC (Powys County Council) for an extension on this, which was approved, however the deadline for comment is still before our next meeting.

It is slightly worrying if there is no Public Notice Sign, it means the consultation should not have started yet, although it is also thought that a sign did get put up by PCC on the a telegraph post on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. CCAJ will be contacting the Council to make sure they are aware that the Public Notice Sign did not go up until the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. CCAJ also wants to hear comments about this application from all residents.

Two of the eight properties on this site are to be bungalows and it was mentioned that there is a shortage of bungalows in the area. Everyone happy that we take this forward, get an extension to discuss this further and see if anymore comments come in at the next meeting.

#### 18/0996/OUT Outline application for a rural enterprise dwelling, garage, installation of a septic tank and all associated works, Land At Trelystan Poultry Units Trelystan Welshpool, Powys SY21 8JA

It is noted that the planning applications for 18/0996/OUT Outline application for a rural enterprise dwelling, garage, installation of a septic tank and all associated works, Land At Trelystan Poultry Units Trelystan Welshpool, do not come under Trewern Community Council's area, therefore we do not have any issues with this application.

### **1442 Finance**

#### Bank Reconciliation

The bank statements show that there is £22,657.59 in the accounts at the end of December 2018 and the bank reconciliation on the financial report for December 2018 also matches this amount. Financial report checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC checked and signed bank statements.

Proposed by FW, seconded by RT.

#### Budget/Precepts

GC, RB, PH and AE met last week to work out the Precept for 2019/20. It was decided that we should keep an additional amount each year to cover any unexpected costs that may occur on the Play areas, as the Play areas are our biggest assists, therefore we have added an additional £3,000 to the budget to cover this cost. And after viewing the end of year accounts for the Village Halls, we have added an additional £200 per Village Hall to the budget for 2019/20 as well.

It was suggested that maybe it was worth opening a separate bank account separate bank account The draft budget for 2019/20 is £19,822.10. Each area has a multiplier which we use to work out how much we can get. This year, the multiplier for Trewern area is 652.92 and if we want £19,822.00 Precept, we will need £30.36 per Band D household. ( $£30.36 \times 652.92 = £19,822.65$ ). An increase of

£1.76, which is a 6% increase from the previous year. All of this money will be used in our Ward for the bus shelters, village halls, green areas, hedges etc. Everyone is agreement.  
Proposed by RB, seconded by SH.

#### Chair Allowance

Nothing to report.

#### Payments

Clerks Salary – £636.00 (20 hours for November and 20hrs for December) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

PAYE - £215.40 under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Chair printing cost - £69.71 under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Enterprise – £225 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Andrew Evans – £405 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

All payments were proposed by PH, seconded by FW.

#### Clerks Salary/Contract

Nothing to report.

#### Audit

Nothing to report.

#### Councillors Remuneration Submission

Nothing to report.

#### VAT Return

Nothing to report.

#### Cheque Signatories

RB has requested to defer being a Signatory on the bank account for the moment, but if we are short of people, he will step up.

#### Citizens Advice Bureau & other Charities

At Novembers meeting, 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. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows us to give £8.12 per household to charities in wales. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to wait until any Charities ask and then we can look at each one on its own merit. GC has noted that Middletown Village Hall has got a bill to be paid fairly soon, plus they need a new fire door there too.

#### **1443 Correspondence**

None

#### Website

Nothing to report

#### Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments

A Public speaking protocol has been adapted from Llandrindod Wells Town Council. A Public Speaking Protocol is needed if a member of public wants to speak at a meeting. Councillors will need to declare an interest in anything on the agenda that is an interest, but can exercise their public speaking rights at a meeting, then leaving the room after they have spoken, following the Code of

Conduct at all times. The protocol requests that the member of public wanting to speak will need to submit their request in writing 24 hours before the meeting, speaking for a maximum of 3 minutes and no more than 5 people are to speak at each meeting. It is at the Chair's discretion if they want to speak for longer than the allocated 3 minutes. A copy of this Protocol was handed out for Councillors to look at for comments. Everyone is in favour that this protocol is adapted.

Proposed PH, Seconded SH.

**1444 New Data Protection Legislation, GDPR**

Nothing to report

**1445 Any Other Business**

Co-option of a new councillor

TCC welcomes HB as a new councillor, therefore 'Co-option of a new councillor' can come off the agenda now.

A Play sufficiently in Powys Survey was passed to some of the Councillors to complete. The Assessment requires a review and up to date status of Play Sufficiency Opportunities in Powys, which cover a range of different matters and requires the input and engagement of services, partners and organisations.

A request for lighting between Parc Caradog and Trewern Community Centre has been received. It is very dark along the pathway there. It is agreed that this is something that the Community Centre would deal with and not TCC, however it is agreed that the whole area around the Community Centre is very dark in the evenings. RT will bring this issue up at the next Community Centre meeting.

**1446 Date of Next Meeting**

19 February 2019 – Middletown Village Hall