

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2022

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

1767 Apologies

Councillor Phil Hughes was not in attendance.

1768 Minutes of the Meeting from 18th January 2022 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 18th January 2022 to now be signed by GC and approved.

Proposed by PD, seconded by FW

1769 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 Broad Energy. SH declared an interest in planning application 21/2254/FUL.

1770 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1771 Playgrounds

Ongoing issue with the overhanging tree between Parc Caradog and the school. CCAJ has emailed PCC again this week and is having no luck. GC has obtained a quote of £100 to reduce the branches and a further £50 to tidy up and remove the wood. The lease showed that TCC are only responsible for the hedge and therefore, the tree should not be our responsibility, however it is also thought that because the tree is in the middle of the hedge then it should be TCCs responsibility.

It was agreed that we have money to support the community and so we should pay for this to be done. Everyone happy to go ahead. CCAJ happy to draw up a letter for the resident to sign and GC will organise for the work to be done. AE will check with insurance that if a branch fell onto the residents' conservatory, would we be covered.

Proposed by PD, seconded by JE

ACTION: AE/GC/CCAJ

CCTV has now been installed around the school and community centre, so CCAJ has kindly offered to cover the cost of 'No dog fouling' signs that will be put up in this area.

CCAJ discussed the public footpath through the school grounds and reads out the email Calum Carr has sent through, which states, diverting a public footpath requires a legal procedure and is carried out by the council. Due to limited resources, we have a significant backlog of cases and so a diversion could take years to confirm under highways legislation. However, if a diversion is needed as part of a development, then it is carried out under Planning legislation and it is given priority.

FW has notified the school about the overgrown hedge running between the play area and the D, which is encroaching on the pavement. This is now in hand.

1772 Highways

GC, DC, CCAJ and AE drove around the ward yesterday to check the pot holes, roads, signs etc. The Highways spreadsheets have now been updated. We have identified three priorities that we need to sort out quickly. It was a fairly positive drive around, as quite a lot of work had been completed.

Sale Lane – There is lots of debris, BT wires down and the ditch will need some focus. The road could also be a potential for Capital funding.

Road passed Middletown Farm, down by old Mill - CCAJ had a chat to a resident there, not sure if the road is adopted or not. Road is also falling into brook too.

Llwynmelyn – Really bad stretch of road, drains blocked, water running down road and lots of pot holes.

Heldre bridge – PCC has done some work that seems to be diverting water.

Cefn Bridge – GC will email Highways dept urgently about there being no white lines on the bridge and also ask for an update on the scheme for resurfacing.

ACTION: GC

Green dragon signs are causing visibility issues when pulling out as they are on the public footpath.

1773 County Councillors' Report

Council tax level and planned deficiencies for next year, still looking at 3.9%, but nothing decided yet. Planned cuts to Arts and Culture, which CCAJ is in support of, as there are lots of establishments that don't have funding and if they can't survive on their own, then they aren't sustainable.

Jubilee celebrations – CCAJ is planning to organise a picnic in Trewern for Saturday 2nd June, bring your own picnic and something to share. Mr Jenkins was also keen on the school being part of it too. If Middletown wanted to do something, someone would need to take ownership of that.

The school is now advertising for a new Headmaster, as Mr Jenkins is retiring.

1774 Planning

Broad Energy

GC and DC have declared an interest in this application.

CCAJ has been given notice that the hearings will start remotely on the 14th March. CCAJ and BIIG (Buttington Incinerator Impact Group) have been invited to make representations. They will raise the main points of concern. When CCAJ knows how it will be broadcast, she will put a notice out.

21/2360/FUL | Installation of ground mounted Solar PV arrays | Buttington Old Hall Buttington Welshpool Powys SY21 8ST

We have not received any objections and therefore we do not oppose this application.

21/2254/FUL | Change of use of 2 shepherd's huts from domestic use to units of holiday accommodation, to include improvements to vehicular access | The Sycamores Garreg Bank Trewern Welshpool SY21 8EA

SH declared an interest in this application.

We would like to object to this application from a Highways point of view, as the access to this site would be along an extremely narrow road, which is already very dangerous without the added increase in traffic from this proposed development. It has also been noted that this application is not for retrospective planning, however it has been highlighted that the Shephard's Hut have been advertised as holiday accommodation for approximately 12 months previous to this application being submitted to the planning. As the application contains minimal details, we would also like to request that a planning officer comes out to do a site meeting with us to discuss the above concerns and clarify the plans.

21/0577/OUT | Outline permission for the erection of up to 40 dwellings, formation of new school parking and access road and associated works | Land To The East Of Trewern School Trewern Welshpool Powys SY21 8TB

We are aware that this outline planning application will not include the details of the layout at this stage. It was agreed that AE would send an email to the planning department to make sure that TCC and the school will be fully involved with implementing the layout of the car park and access when the reserved matters are being prepared. This cannot just be done with the Council Education Asset team without direct input from the school and community. The school is happy with the development, but not the carpark as there is a lot of safety concerns. JE and RB will send their thoughts on the carpark through to CCAJ.

ACTION: AE

1775 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £22,904.18 in the accounts at the end of January 2022. Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by GC, seconded by RB

Payments

Clerks Salary – £233.90 (20hrs for January) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Border Gossip – £600 under L.G.A 1972 s137.

Payments proposed by GC, seconded by RB

Bank/Cheque Signatories

There is a £6.60 bank charge on the statement and when AE called HSBC, they said there is now a monthly fee of £5 for all non-profit organisations and the additional £1.60 are charges for using cheques. Payments made by bank transfer would not incur any costs (additional charges only apply to cash and cheque withdrawal and deposits). HSBC have advised that we could apply for online banking but we would need to minute that everyone is happy to appoint one person to take sole responsibility for making payments through the online banking, there would also be a form everyone would need to sign too and HSBC would also need a copy of the minutes.

Everyone happy to apply for online banking. AE to also check if there could be different access levels, such as a 'view only' access.

ACTION: AE

1776 Correspondence

Repair Café Wales

It was thought that it should not be a Community Council run Repair Café and AE will put together a notice to go onto Facebook and TCC website to promote it instead.

ACTION: AE

1777 Any Other Business

FW has highlighted a potential safeguarding breach at the school due to new gates having been put up that lead onto the school grounds from residents' back yards on Parc Caradog. FW has asked the community council's views on the drafted letter that is to be sent to residents who live backing on to the field. Everyone fully supports the school on this issue. It was also thought that the school and the community centre needed to think about the possibility of putting up a fence around the school, as a way to safeguard the school during opening hours, making the gates redundant anyway. The Councillors were all quite shocked that the gates would be allowed there and be allowed to open

onto school property. We understand that the field does have mixed use, however the school has a duty of care towards pupils during opening hours. RB deals with the safeguarding of Shrewsbury College and he thinks we need to always look at the worst case scenario in these situations.

AE to draft response to FW.

ACTION: AE

Footpaths

RB has done a brilliant report of the footpaths in Middletown. AE to send report to Calum Carr and ask if he can have a look at point 3 of the report urgently, as there are 2 fallen trees that are leaning against each other and are very unstable. It is very dangerous and does need removing and footpath closing until the work has been completed.

Wales Air Ambulance

Wales Air Ambulance have contacted us as they are collecting donations, as we do not usually donate to any charities, it was suggested that maybe we could tie this in with the Jubilee Event and ask for donations as part of the Jubilee occasion. We will wait to see if anyone in the Village does organise an event.

Funding survey

As we have recently secured funding for the Sensory Garden and the play area in Trewern, it was agreed that we survey the community to find out what they would like us to spend money on in the area, should any funding become available. Some suggestions were received for footpaths and a dog walking area. It was discussed that we could advertise a particular route as dog walking friendly. It was also suggested that it would be good to have somewhere for over 12s in Middletown. CCAJ will put together a list of what facilities in the area that we do have so if a resident is interested in organising anything, they will know what we have in the area that can be utilised. CCAJ has previously explored the idea of a youth club, but had no volunteers to help.

ACTION: CCAJ

1778 Date of Next Meetings

15 March 2022 via MS Teams.