

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021

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

Susanne Davies has joined the meeting from Dyfed Powys Police.

1666 Apologies

No apologies.

1667 Minutes of the Meeting from 16th February 2021 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 16th February 2021 to now be signed by GC and approved.

Proposed by FW, seconded by PH

1668 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

GC and DC have declared an interest in Broad Energy.

1669 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1670 Playgrounds

Ongoing work

RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd quote was formally accepted to replace part of the Wet Pour in Middletown and the quote from Ray Parry to re-do the Wet Pour in Trewern was also accepted. AE to chase Ben Sims for an update on the Noticeboards and Benches.

ACTION: AE

C A Bowen has submitted his invoice, the invoice accounts for two extra expenses other than the grass cutting. We asked C A Bowen to power wash the surface of the Play area in Trewern before we re-opened as it was a slip hazard. It has also been two years since the hedges were cut in Middletown, so it took a day and a half complete.

Maintenance Tenders

The 2 year ground maintenance contract is coming to an end in July. AE to send Maintenance Tenders to C A Bowen (the current maintenance contractor) to see if he would be interested in submitting a Tender again this year.

All happy to place an advertisement in the County Times.

ACTION: AE

Quotes for Flag/flag pole

Quotes have been received from Welshpool Printing Group and House of Flags in Birmingham for having a flag pole installed outside Buttington Trewern CP School. There was originally a flag pole halfway up the school drive, however as the trees have grown so much, the flag won't be seen there, so the quotes also cover installing a flag pole on the side of the Community Centre.

Quote from Welshpool Printing Group

1 x 6m 2 piece aluminium flag pole, with ground sleeve, joining sleeve, cleat, truck head and halyard: £190 each

1.6sqm mirror image flag to suit: £95 each

1 x 8m 2 piece aluminium flag pole, with ground sleeve, joining sleeve, cleat, truck head and halyard: £245 each

3.2sqm mirror image flag to suit: £145 each

4m aluminium pole, including truck head, cleat and halyard and vertical wall bracket: £185 each

1.6sqm mirror image flag to suit: £95 each

Installation - £200. All prices excluding VAT

Quote from House of Flags

6m Aluminium 2 Piece Pole, complete with ground sleeve, halyard, cleat & truckhead £110.00

Landscape Flag – 1m x 1.6m Digitally printed onto 115gsm knitted polyester. Mirror imaged design – reads correctly on one side & reverse imaged on the other. Finished with rope & toggle For 6m Pole £50.00

8m Aluminium 2 Piece Pole complete with ground sleeve, halyard, cleat & truckhead £142.00

Landscape Flag – 1.5m x 2.2m Digitally printed onto 115gsm knitted polyester. Mirror imaged design – reads correctly on one side & reverse imaged on the other. Finished with rope & toggle For 8m Pole £75.00

Origination set up £20.00. Installation work – Into soft soil in Welshpool £550.00

GC will speak to Mr Jenkins regarding the quotes.

It is thought that if the flagpole is on a vertical wall bracket, there is an issue with it wrapping around the flag pole when it is very windy. GC and AE will go back to Welshpool Printing Group and House of Flags to see if this is a known issue and what can be used to prevent it.

Community Sensory Garden

Last month FW bid for a Powys Nature Partnership grant to set up a community sensory garden, this grant has now been awarded to us to buy plants and seeds. Therefore it was agreed previously that we can place orders and make payments for these in order to have receipts for everything by the 22nd March 2021 to meet the funding authorities deadlines.

It has been difficult to order everything in time to meet this deadline, as a lot of companies will not accept Cheques as a form of payment, have been closed during COVID or the required items have been out of stock.

Accounts have been created with TTS and an order has been placed. Thompson and Morgan have received the Cheque from us but will not process the order until the Cheque has cleared. They also will not provide us with an invoice until all goods have been delivered.

FW still waiting to hear from Suttons and AE is waiting to hear back from Primrose. FW will send the list of plants to GC, to see if GC can get any from the Derwen Garden Centre instead. The plants have to be child friendly, plants that they can smell or taste too.

Allotments

No response to our FB notice, however it was agreed that we would try to put something in the Border Gossip to see if anyone would be interested.

ACTION: AE

1671 Highways

Fixed speed cameras

Susanne Davies from Dyfed Powys Police has joined us tonight to discuss installing speed cameras in our area. As our area does not meet the criteria to have fixed speed cameras, other speed limiting options were discussed, such as, Vehicle Activated signs and Operation Snap. Under Operation Snap, members of the public can submit dashcam footage that show evidence of driving offenses at gosafe.org website. Mobile Speed enforcement is also carried out in Middletown, however they are finding it difficult to find a place to park the van in Trewern.

Llandrinio have a Community Speedwatch, which involves members of the community using detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. It was decided we would add Operation Snap and Community Speedwatch to the next agenda for discussion.

CCAJ has received a response back from the Highways, the highway supervisor confirms that issues reported are awaiting scheduling, including sweeping, gully cleaning and pot hole repairs. These are not a priority at the moment as they are not a safety issue, so have been scheduled for action in 2 to 6 months.

The work on the Cefn Bridge is due to be completed at end of March.

There is a sign as you approach Cefn Bridge that has been knocked and twisted around – GC will let Andrew Jones know.

1672 County Councillors' Report

See 'Highways'

1673 Planning

Broad Energy

DC and GC declared an interest in this application. The consultation process has not yet started, so as yet there is nothing to report.

20/2128/FUL | Erection of 4 holiday chalets, including improvements to existing access road network (C2162 & U2475) including junction improvements and the provision of 1 passing bay, installation of a package treatment plant and other associated works | Rhos Farm Trelystan Leighton SY21 8JB

We would like to object to this application from a highways point of view, as the access to this site would be along extremely narrow roads and due to the current COVID-19 crisis, we are unable to undertake a site visit with the applicants to discuss this application. We are also unsure of the impact the Chalets would have on the landscape, which is again a cause for concern. Therefore we would like to object to this application.

21/0240/REM | Section 73 application to vary conditions 23 and 24 of planning approval P/2017/0010 | Land Adjoining The Fron Middletown Welshpool Powys SY21 8EN

A letter from Fletcher Homes, the site developer has been sent to TCC. We have not received any objections and therefore we do not oppose this application. However, we are concerned about the allocated Church parking detailed on the proposed plans. These spaces have been located next to the residents and therefore there is the potential that this area could be used as an overflow car park for residents instead. The plans also do not detail who will then own this land once the development has been completed, causing further concern that there will again be no parking specifically for the Church. If possible, car parking nearer to the Church would be more suitable.

At present, when a Funeral is held at the Church, the Funeral Hearse is able to park outside the Church, however if a footpath is created in this area with no drop curb, the Funeral Hearse would have no choice but to park along the Highway carriage causing safety issues. We would also like to raise further concerns about the public footpath which currently runs along the top of the development plot and whether this footpath remain in place. It has also been noted that there are several other new and approved planning developments that will exist onto the A458, again causing safety issues. We would like to request that a planning officer comes out to do a site meeting to discuss the above concerns.

21/0194/OUT | Erection of a rural enterprise dwelling and all associated works (all matters reserved) | Hillside Stables Heldre Buttington SY21 8TE

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

21/0388/REM – an extension for commenting on this application has been requested from PCC, as this application was submitted after our meeting agenda had been published.

1674 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £23,920.17 in the accounts at the end of February 2021. Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by FW, seconded By DC

Payments

Clerks Salary – £216 (20hrs for February) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Peter Davies – £20.68 (for materials to repair noticeboard) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

PAYE - £289.60 under L.G.A 1972 s112.

CA Bowen - £904.00 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Thompson and Morgan - £228.49 (including VAT) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Gill Corfield (Chairs Allowance) - £520 under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Payment proposed by FW, seconded by DC

Chairs Allowance

At AGM held in October 2020, it was agreed that the Chairs Allowance would be discussed at a future meeting, due to the possibility that if Broad Energy submit a full planning application, FW will chair any meetings regarding this application (as GC has declared an interest). Therefore, if this application does go ahead, GC would like Chairs Allowance to be split with FW.

However, as we are now nearing the end of the financial year and no meeting has yet been held by TCC regarding Broad Energy, it was agreed to pay GC the Chairs Allowance of £650 for this year.

Clerks contract

CCAJ and FW suggested that Clerks contracted hours be added to the agenda to discuss, as AE may be needed to work extra hours due to the incinerator planning application. GC reads out Clerks contract regarding overtime, which states *'If overtime hours are required in excess of the Clerks agreed 20 standard hours per month, it will be necessary for a Councillor to sanction this request before overtime hours commence each month. Overtime will be capped at 5 hours per month, paid at the prevailing standard rate which is currently £12 per hour'*.

It was agreed that if there is extra work due to the incinerator, then Councillors will monitor Clerks hours each month.

1675 Correspondence

Litter & Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales

An email was received from One Voice Wales. The Welsh Government is currently consulting on its new Litter & Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales. The document provides an overview of the current position in Wales in relation to littering and fly-tipping, the measures which have already been introduced to address these issues and what it believes needs to happen next. One Voice Wales will be submitting a response to this consultation and would like to receive the views of the Community and Town Councils to the Plan and the actions proposed in order to inform their response. Everyone happy for AE to respond.

ACTION: AE

Colin Jenkins has informed us of a Year 1 pupil who has collected two bin bags full of litter on his walk to School. It was agreed that we would send a letter of thanks along with a Litter Picking Champion Certificate. It has also been brought to our attention that there is also a gentleman in Middletown who has been collecting litter too, AE to also send him a letter of thanks.

ACTION: AE

New Welsh Government legislation affecting play areas - Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020

An email was received that highlighted changes to the law that affect public playgrounds, which came into effect on 1st March 2021. As of that date, under the Welsh Government's 'Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020', it is against the law to smoke in public playgrounds; this includes those owned and managed by Town and Community Councils. Many Town and Community Councils in Powys have already installed 'No smoking' signage several years ago. However, under the new Regulations, additional wording will be needed at public playgrounds as of 1st March. There will need to be a statement that smoking is against the law and a 'No smoking' symbol. The Welsh Government has produced a bilingual template of the sign. AE to put up signs in Middletown and Trewern.

ACTION: AE

1676 Any Other Business

Mailing List

AE has suggested possibly creating a mailing list for any members of the community who want to sign up for any urgent communications, such as, the latest email raising awareness of the vaccine scams etc. Any urgent communications are currently posted on the TCC website and our local FB page, however to reach the wider Community, AE also suggested a mailing list. After discussion, it was decided that due to privacy issues and in order to comply with GDPR, we should not start a mailing list at this time.

Use of Middletown Hill by bicycles – a complaint has been received from a local resident, there has been a bicycle track made by local kids on Middletown Hill during lockdown. As we are unsure exactly where the track is and if a footpath/bridle goes through it, if it is common land or forestry owned, RB will obtain the grid reference to discuss further at the next meeting.

ACTION: RB

1677 Date of Next Meeting

20 April 2021 via MS Teams.