

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

Present: Councillors Phil Hughes (Chair), Fiona Warburton, Harriot Bates, Rob Breakwell, Judy Evans, Rex Turner, Peter Davies and County Councillor Amanda Jenner.

PH welcomes JE back to TCC and thanks her very much for joining us, all very pleased JE has taken the position of Community Councillor.

1743 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Gill Corfield, David Corfield and Sasha Hart.

1744 Minutes of the Meeting from 19th October 2021 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 19th October 2021 to now be signed by PH and approved.
Proposed by FW, seconded by RB.

1745 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

JE declared an interest in Middletown village hall, due to been the Treasurer of the Middletown Village Hall Committee.

1746 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1747 Playgrounds

We have not yet had a response to our application for the COVID Community Recovery Grant. AE to chase.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Report

The RoSPA report for Middletown play area looked good, but Trewern play area had a few remedial things that needed to be completed. As the law changes every year, some things cannot be done. There are some caps missing on some of the play equipment, some of these have been previously replaced by PD and DC, but they have been removed by the Children playing there. PD cannot find the correct size caps to go onto some of the play equipment, so we will have to go back the manufactures to check. There are also some bolts that need to be cut too, some of which are right under the play area that PD cannot get to, but he will have another look when DC is back and update us all at next meeting. It was suggested that a photo was taken of the caps being replaced, so we have evidence, and audit trail to show what we have done.

ACTION: PD/DC

It was noted that the hedge between the road and the play area at Trewern needed trimming. PH will speak to GC to see what we usually do about this, as we cannot remember who usually cuts it and if it is the responsibility of TCC.

ACTION: PH

1748 Highways

Last month, we discussed the overgrown hedge along the footpath on the way out of Middletown towards the Seven Sisters and it was agreed that we would send a letter to The Parish of Alberbury with Cardeston Council. AE has also spoken to Highways, who have confirmed that it would be their responsibility to contact the landowner to have this hedge cut if they deem it a safety issue.

CCAJ noticed that the new flashing lights on the Cefn Bridge look like it has been twisted around, CCAJ will email Andrew Jones. CCAJ also wants an update on their safety plans for the bridge and thinks they are going to be putting a new surface down as there are currently no white lines on the bridge.

Some of the pot holes in the area have now been done, however CCAJ has reported pot holes on top part of Heldre Lane. Pot holes around Pentre Gwyn are quite bad again, FW will drive around whole estate and have a look.

ACTION: FW

CCAJ has reported mud coming out of Burnt Lane and hopefully they will be speaking to whoever is responsible.

CCAJ has asked for an update on the dropped culvert at end of Sale Lane. PD has noticed concrete has been lifted but the mud has not been dug out. The actual railway side is cleared but culvert is blocked. CCAJ and AE did a drive around to look at pot holes and thought that was one of the worst sections of road, along with the road up towards Hope.

At the last meeting, it was noted that there was a bad patch of road heading towards Leighton from Buttington, possibly a drain cut across the road, but the repair of the road has now dropped. CCAJ thinks she sent an email, but needs to check if she has had a response.

The footpath opposite the Smithy in Buttington has turned green and is very slippery, CCAJ will report this to Andrew Jones.

At the last meeting, we discussed a drain with a missing manhole cover towards Leighton, there is now a board over the hole with a cone on top.

It was reported that there is a lot of congestion on the road, up the hill opposite the Breidden towards Mount Pleasant, there is a lot of cars parking on that road and there was also an incident with a van coming crashing down due to the handbrake failing. It was agreed that the hill was too steep a gradient to rely on a handbrake. CCAJ will ask Chris Lloyd, Parking Officer for a site meeting there with RB.

1749 County Councillors' Report

See 'Highways' and 'Planning'. It was noted that both Adult and Children's Social Services are under the most pressure they have ever been under. Procedures that could have taken place if we didn't have the pandemic and then wouldn't have needed social care, need it now. There's also pressure in terms of staffing. In Children's services, some of the needs of the Children are the most complex they have ever seen. CCAJ will keep us updated.

1750 Planning

Broad Energy

CCAJ and TCC asked for an extension for commenting, which was given until 10th Dec. CCAJ has started working through her submission. There are more pockets of waste along south corridor of Wales, so if the incinerator down there was refused because there was no need for it, that would be good news for us. The Buttington Quarry is an employment site for the LDP, however Broad Energy has previously said the employment type there would be dealing with waste from the Quarry and they did not then mention toxic waste. RB made a point that we would likely lose jobs in tourism and the hospitality sector if the incinerator was to go ahead.

21/1827/FUL | Conversion of farm buildings to form 4No dwellings, installation of sewage treatment plant, upgrading of vehicular access and associated works | Moat Farm Criggion Lane Tre-Wern Welshpool SY21 8ED

We have not received any objections and therefore we do not oppose this application. However, we would like further information on why a new access would be needed and a more detailed plan of the new proposed access, as it was thought the current access is more than sufficient.

21/1848/FUL | Demolition of existing dwelling and domestic outbuilding, and construction of a replacement dwelling and all associated works | Diamond Cottage Brunant Buttington SY21 8TF

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

Residential park in Middletown – Permission has been granted for the removal of condition 2 on this new unit, but the condition will remain in place for the rest of the park. Site owners will need to apply for the removal of this condition for each unit. CCAJ spoke at the meeting to put forward the views of the residents, there were a lot of mixed views. Condition is down to colour and materials only, what would be fitting in local area and not just on the residential park.

21/0240/REM – no update.

21/0577/OUT - No update, waiting for Highways.

1751 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £17,987.51 in the accounts at the end of October 2021.

Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

PH to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by FW, seconded by PD

Payments

Clerks Salary – £234.10 (20hrs for October) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

GloverSure - £30 plus VAT (SSL 1 year) under L.G.A 1972 s111.

Payments proposed by FW, seconded by PD

Budget/precept

AE has sent a draft version of the budget/precept for the next financial year to all Councillors, all agreed that at the moment it looked okay and we will hopefully approve it at January's meeting if there are no amendments to it by then.

1752 Correspondence

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons

AE to ask other Community Councils about what health and safety procedures and risk assessments are put in place when hosting a bonfire.

ACTION: AE

Repair Café Wales

AE has put a notice on FB, TCC website, noticeboards and in Border Gossip, so far only one response offering sewing services, resident has 40+ years' experience and would be happy to help.

CCAJ will be happy to volunteer husband to do joinery. AE to speak to Repair Café Wales for advice on how many volunteers we need etc and the newly set up Repair Café in Llanfyllin for further advice. It was agreed we would likely need approx. 6 volunteers, each with different skillsets.

ACTION: AE

Multi-location meetings

AE obtained quotes from Vodafone, O2 and BT. There is a grant available for initial set up costs of Broadband. The cheapest option is a O2 dongle at £16 (including VAT) per month for 15GB for 12 months. It was discussed if having Broadband in the halls might make the halls more attractive to rent out, however this option would be expensive. It was decided that we would trial using a mobile phone as a hotspot before purchasing a dongle at our next meeting, however as the COVID-19 restrictions in Village Halls are still in place, it was agreed we would look at meeting face-to-face in April when hopefully restrictions will then be eased. AE to speak to the Clerk at Llandrinio Community Council to see what they are doing with their meetings, as they are now meeting physically. JE will get clarification on mask wearing before next meeting. All agreed to continue meeting remotely.

ACTION: AE/JE

1753 Any Other Business

PD has asked if anyone knows anything about what is happening with Burgess Land Trust, as he has not heard anything for 2 years. CCAJ hasn't not heard anything either.

Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau) CP School - your help requested

We have received an email from Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School, they have been given statutory notice for closure by Powys County Council and they would like our support, however it was agreed that we would not get involved as we do not know what implications Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau) CP School staying open would have on Buttington Trewern CP School.

Grants for footpaths

CCAJ will chase Calum Carr for an update on the grants for footpaths.

ACTION: CCAJ

No Dog Fouling signs

Trewern Community Centre are getting more CCTV. CCAJ has suggested getting some CCTV signs, approx. £10 for a couple of signs and split the cost between TCC, Trewern Community Centre and the School. All agree, FW and CCAJ will take this idea forward.

ACTION: FW/CCAJ

Sensory Garden

A request for a bench in the Sensory Garden has been received. It was agree it would be a nice idea, however it was agreed that we need to price up and measure where in the garden it could be located and then decide how to fund raise for this.

Street Lamps

We have received a complaint about the street lamps along Station Road in Middletown, they are not as bright as the ones before and feel it makes it very unsafe for the people walking about our village, i.e. when walking their dogs etc, especially around this time of year when it's getting dark earlier. AE to repost this to PCC.

ACTION: AE

1754 Date of Next Meetings

18 January 2021 via MS Teams.