

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

2 members of the public were in attendance, as well as Marion Hayes from Border Gossip.

1517 Apologies

Rex Turner was not in attendance.

1518 Minutes of the Meeting from 16th July 2019 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 16th July 2019 were signed by GC and approved.

Proposed by SH, seconded by PH

1519 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

SH and CCAJ declare an interest in planning application 19/1149/FUL, Conversion of stables to a dwelling, erection of extensions, a garage and retaining wall, Stables At Trinity Cottage Trewern SY21 8ET.

1520 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1521 Playgrounds

Scott Jones has started the painting at Middletown, he started this morning and has already done the double swing and two thirds of the slides. All agreed it looks amazing, absolutely fantastic, it's like we have new equipment. The climbing frame had two panels that were originally green, however as we didn't have any green paint, they have been done in red. GC will power wash the roundabout at Middletown tomorrow, so the painting can be started on that.

ACTION: GC

AE has spoken to RoSPA about pay inspections, which were done on the 7th of June, so we have now received the reports. There isn't really anything on the report in Middletown that is of high risk, it's all low risk. Only the nuts and bolts under the swing need to be tightened and we need to fit a rubber buffer on the gate, but we are still working out how to do that. The gate in Trewern also needs a rubber buffer. The report for Trewern also states that the handle on the one piece of equipment is a bit loose, however we bought a new piece for this, so this has now been fixed. PD thinks that the handles on the bird are a bit loose, PD is not sure anything can be done about this. It was decided that we should meet down at the play area one night to have a look at this and what can be done, maybe buy a replacement or weld them on.

1522 Highways

Highways – patching work on Heldre Lane should be taking place imminently. Some pot holes have been repaired (e.g. one in Middletown on the corner past the residential estate). However, they have not done the whole of our area and just seem to be doing individual pot holes on a priority basis.

Firs/Fox lane being monitored (CCAJ took the highways officer for a drive along here). CCAJ has written to the Portfolio Holder for Highways to request a site visit/drive around of our ward – there

are a few ongoing issues which CCAJ would like to highlight that have been on the 'to do' list for quite some time e.g. the overgrown passing place on Firs Lane.

Drains – continuing to raise the problem areas but have been told that the jetter is again on the trunk road network for the next 6-8 weeks.

Hedges – there are a couple of areas where residents' hedges are causing visibility issues. It was agreed that the Community Council would write to these residents to remind them of their duty. CCAJ will email AE in due course the areas which have been highlighted.

Bus Passes - concessionary bus pass scheme is being updated and if you have an existing pass, you need to upgrade it by 31st December 2019. The scheme applies to those who are over 60 years old and also those who are in receipt of disabled bus passes. For the full details of who would qualify under the scheme please see the detail which can be found at <https://tfw.gov.wales/travelcards> or you could call 03003 034240. CCAJ will also be putting this in the Border Gossip.

Trunk Road – CCAJ has requested (through the Police) that the speed trap van sits in Middletown as well as just outside of it (given the recent accidents outside the Breidden). CCAJ has also asked the trunk road agent to look into a sign highlighting the number of accidents on our stretch of the road and/or specific points like the Cefn Bridge.

CCAJ has yet to hear back from Andrew Jones about the signs that are still very covered up. It was also noted that the sign by the Cefn Bridge is also a bit wonky, which is an issue for people coming up to the bridge from the Welshpool direction. CCAJ will raise this with Andrew.

PD noted that there also needs to be signs on Sale Lane, as lorries are getting stuck up there. The Sat Nav is taking lorries up there but they are not able to get through. A lorry has also gone in a drop culvert on Sale Lane too, PD suggests that it should be piped and filled in, as it is a health and safety risk. CCAJ has this on her list and has asked someone higher up to look at this.

Parc Caradog parking issues – there are still issues with parking at Parc Caradog, a lot of the new parents aren't able to park at the School and therefore are parking on Parc Caradog. CCAJ had secured funding for double yellow lines to be put at the entrance of Parc Caradog, but doesn't think this will be helpful and doesn't want to waste money. Some parents are even parking across the junction, so double yellow lines there would not stop them. It was suggested that people should car share, walk to School or have a 'walking bus', where a couple of parents walk a few kids to School at the same time. CCAJ thinks she will put a letter together about the issues inviting people to come up with another idea or to provide comments about it. All agreed that a letter would be a good idea.

The noisy manhole cover on Middletown has now been done. Managed to get drains done on an unadopted road up Moel Y Golfa for the first time in five years. Signs are now on Garreg Bank for any lorries going to Criggion Quarry.

1523 Burgess Land Trust

Nothing to report, however the next meeting will possibly be held in January.

1524 County Councillors' Report

Community Garden in Trewern – CCAJ has had lots of responses, everyone seems to like the idea of maybe having raised beds. CCAJ will look into funding for a wildlife garden etc.

This afternoon, CCAJ attended a 'drop in' session on Welsh Governments proposed National Development Framework (Renewable Energy Development), which was all to do with where they decide to have solar wind sites over the next 20 to 30 years. CCAJ passes around a map of Montgomeryshire area showing priority sites, none of it is in our ward, but CCAJ wanted to know how they were planning on connecting it to the grid. CCAJ thinks from a local point of view, we

should be giving feedback on this and the deadline for the feedback is the 1st of November, therefore it was agreed that we would start our next meeting in October at 7.00pm in order to discuss this. AE to send out the link to the website for everyone to have a look at ahead of the next meeting.

ACTION: AE

Welsh Government Funding for Powys – CCAJ has joined a small group of County Councillors who are looking at the way Welsh Gov funds Powys County Council and whether the formula that is used takes adequate account of the impact of rurality on the cost of running services. Powys has the longest road network of all local authorities in Wales (5507km). The obvious impact is road maintenance costs, but there are many other cost implications such as rubbish collection costs (fuel/time), carers having increased travel costs and spending longer on the road rather than being with clients, school transport costs. The aim of the group is to make sure that Powys is being treated fairly.

CCAJ has also been appointed the Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Working Group. We meet to review Powys' ongoing improvements to Children's Services Department.

1525 Planning

19/1149/FUL | Conversion of stables to a dwelling, erection of extensions, a garage and retaining wall | Stables At Trinity Cottage Trewern SY21 8ET

2 members of public were in attendance. SH and CCAJ left the room as they have both declared an interest in this application.

This application was originally submitted in June, however there were things that needed to be addressed, the potential for bats and newts, as well as concerns about installing a septic tank. Therefore this application was withdrawn whilst they waited to be able to do the surveys. When the application went back in, they found bats but no newts and necessary mitigation measures have been outlined. There was also issues raised about the access. There is now a bigger access and improved visibility splays.

The access was the main concern for TCC and now that it has been addressed and improved, we cannot see any problems with this application and therefore everyone is happy to give it their full support. AE to send a response to the planning department.

ACTION: AE

19/1091/HH | Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling | Ty Cefn Trewern SY21 8EF

As we did not have a meeting in August, GC sent out a copy of the planning application to all Councillors, however no one had any concerns, therefore we did not oppose this application. Since submitting a response to this application, it has been approved.

19/1281/HH | Installation of replacement septic tank & soakaway | Plas Cefn, Wisteria Cottage Heldre Lane Buttington Welshpool SY21 8SX

We have not received any objections and therefore we do not oppose this application. AE to send a response to planning.

19/1366/FUL | Conversion of barn to a dwelling, to include the demolition of agricultural buildings, installation of septic tank and all associated works | Rhos Farm Barn Trelystan Leighton SY21 8JB

We have had no concerns from any residents. PD will find out if anyone in his area has any concerns and if not, AE will draft a response to the planning to say we do not oppose this application.

ACTION: PD/AE

The application for 19/0612/HH, Demolition of existing garage and workshop and erection of new workshop and garage with home office above, Lilcroft, Buttington and 19/1091/HH | Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling, Ty Cefn, Trewern have both been approved.

There has been no update on the planning applications for 18/0599/FUL Erection of 9 dwelling Houses, Land East of Golfa Close, Middletown or 18/0190/OUT Land Adjacent West Penyoel, Middletown.

19/0739/OUT Land Adjacent To 10 Mount Pleasant, Middletown Update – Highways are not happy and don't think it is suitable in its current form. It could also potentially be a site for slow worms and newts.

1526 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank statements show that there is £22,306.78 in the accounts at the end of August 2019 and the bank reconciliation on the financial report for August 2019 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 RB

Payments

Clerks Salary – £432.00 (20hrs for July and 20hrs for August) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Time Release - £125.00 under Audit Commission Act 1998 s2.

Middletown Village Hall – £2,100 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Trewern Community Centre - £2,100 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Buttington Cemetery - £1,328.44 under L.G.A 1972 s214 (6).

All payments were proposed by FW, seconded by PD

Cheque Signatories

AE is now a Cheque Signatory on the account. Waiting on HSBC to approve PH as Cheque Signatory.

AE has called HSBC and was told to ring after 19th September for an update.

ACTION: AE

Border Gossip Yearend Finances

Marion Hayes is the Treasurer of the Border Gossip and has come along tonight with the accounts. TCC help fund them and are actually their largest donor. Marion is happy to answer any questions that we have. The Border Gossip currently have a healthy balance and have had a good income from advertisers. They have lost some advertisers but have been lucky to gain others and are thrilled to have Moos, the new Coffee bar in Trewern on board.

The Border Gossip charged advertisers £25 for the front cover. The printer was also discussed and as they only print 700 copies, it was agreed that it was a good idea to support a local Company.

The Border Gossip desperately need feedback, or if anyone has any questions or suggestions? Kim's husband did do a Wildlife column for a couple of issues, but had no feedback, however Marion will see if he is happy to do it again if people enjoyed it.

Audit

The audit report came back and all was good, only one thing missing which was the minute reference and date. However this was given to them on request. We now need to publish the accounts. If anyone wants to view the accounts they can do so, by appointment only between 6pm and 7pm on the 15th of October at Trewern Community Centre. AE to also complete the Audit survey.

ACTION: AE

1527 Correspondence

Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments

A copy of the Health and Safety Policy, Model Informal Resolution Protocol and the Disciplinary Procedure has been adapted for Trewern Community Council and was sent to all Councillors before the meeting for them to have a look through and make any amendments if needed.

All agreed to adopt the Model Informal Resolution Protocol.

Proposed by FW, seconded by PH.

AE will contact ask One Voice Wales to see if they have a specific Health and Safety Policy that covers employees who work from home.

ACTION: AE

Phone Box Consultation – There were only 28 calls made from this phone box in the last 12 months. however it was agreed that it is needed in our area as we have bad mobile phone coverage and we are in a rural area, so if anyone does breakdown they can use this phone box to call for recovery. The phone box is also located near a defibrillator and needs to be kept for those emergencies.

AE to draft a response for this consultation by the 30th September.

Response to Letter from Leader of Powys Council on the Budget – If anyone has any ideas on how PCC can deliver services better, please let AE know and she can complete the feedback form. Is there any services would u be willing to pay for, like the green bins? Would you be happy for the bins to be collected each month rather than every three weeks? Or would you rather Council Tax went up? Is there anything TCC would be happy to take on, i.e, verge cutting etc? The official deadline for feedback on this has now passed, however they are still accept any responses as they know that Community Councils were not meeting until nearer the end of September.

GC has a copy of the Annual Police Commissioners Report If anyone wants to have a look at it.

The Police are also doing a drop in surgery in Moos Café in Trewern one Saturday in November, CCaj will let everyone know the date.

1529 Any Other Business

Previously a request had been received from a resident in Buttington, the current Royal Mail post box is very often full and this resident frequently has to drive to the Post Office to send anything, therefore they requested that it is replaced with a larger post box. AE has spoken to Royal Mail and they will be doing an investigation of their own to see if it needs replacing.

Co-option of a new Councillor

A gentleman put himself forward for this position, Stephen Novick. GC reads out the email we have received from him. He is the only person that has put their name forward. All happy to invite him to stand. AE to officially offer him a chance to join us on the Council.

Proposed by HB, seconded by PH

It was agreed that for IH's retirement party, the Council will contribute £15 for cakes from Sidolis and money for a bouquet of flowers for IH, to thank her for all her dedication and hard work over the past 50 years as a member of the Community Council.

1530 Date of Next Meeting

15 October 2019 – Trewern Community Centre