

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Philip Hughes, David Corfield, Stephen Novick, Rob Breakwell and Harriot Bates

1544 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sasha Hart, Rex Turner and Peter Davies.

County Councillor Amanda Jenner and Fiona Warburton were not in attendance.

1545 Minutes of the Meeting from 15th October 2019 for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 15th October 2019 were signed by GC and approved.
Proposed by SN, seconded by PH.

1546 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, school modernisation and school transport

None.

1547 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

1548 Playgrounds

Both handles have gone off the spring bird at Trewern play area. GC has arranged for someone to have a look at it and put a thread bar through it before it can be painted. It would be approx. £1500 to replace the whole thing, so it is agreed that putting a thread bar through it would be the cheaper option. GC asks for authorisation to have the bar made. Everyone happy for this to have the go ahead.

The noticeboard hasn't yet been done.

DC and RT haven't yet had a chance to go down to the play areas with the RoSPA report.

We have agreed previously to CA Bowen cutting the grass in Middletown and Trewern and so it was suggested that it doesn't need to be added to the agenda every time we receive his invoice, as we have already agreed to his quote. Everyone happy with this. We also need to get the hedges cut in Middletown, as they haven't been cut for approx. 18 months. CA Bowen has quoted £408, GC doesn't envision him doing this until Spring time, but would like to give him the go ahead for these to be done. Again, everyone is happy with this.

1549 Highways

We have not received an update from Dave Gardener. It was suggested that we should maybe write a letter if concern that he has not responded to our emails lately and there are things on our list dating back as far as June 2017 that still haven't been done.

Andrew Jones will keep us up to date on the Chevrons, twisted sign and the road surface on Cefn Bridge.

The sign saying 'Buttington' isn't visible by the Cefn Wood, Andrew Jones thinks it is in an odd location, and has asked if it would be better positioned nearer the Brick Yard? GC will respond to ask him whether it should just be positioned where Buttington actually starts.

The bridge at Buttington is very narrow, however there is an ongoing project looking at this site. Andrew Jones will be looking at all the Signs in the area again. GC will also ask Andrew Jones if the 50mph road sign between the School and the Cefn Bridge is necessary as the speed limit there goes from 40 to 50 to 20.

The sign at the bottom of Moel Y Golfa will get inspected.

Sale lane looked clean, but down by Middle Heldre it was horrific, couldn't get through with a vehicle as there is over 10 inches of water standing there. It has just been resurfaced too, there must be a blocked Culvert by bridge somewhere. GC will ask Highways for an update. The bricks at the bottom on the Railway line are standing in water, it is thought that this must be a Health and Safety issue, not sure if this belongs to the Railway or not, if so, GC will ask Dave Gardener and Andrew Jones to put pressure on the Railway to do something about it.

As mentioned in previous meetings, there is also a lot of water standing on the road just off Garreg Bank towards the red bridge, so it must be a blocked drain.

Again, the culvert on Sale Lane has not been done yet.

1550 Burgess Land Trust

Nothing to report.

1551 County Councillors' Report

None.

1552 Planning

[19/1692/HH | Erection of a barn | Ivy House Middletown SY21 8EL](#)

The proposal appears to seek to replace 'like for like', and therefore we are quite content to support this application for re-construction of the stone barn that was partly demolished several years ago. However, we would not be supportive of any future application of change of use to residential. We do not oppose this application.

[19/1661/FUL | Improvements to the existing access to include demolishing the existing concrete block walls and piers and replacing with stone walls and piers | Entrance Leading To Trewern Hall Buttington SY21 8DT](#)

We have not received any objections and therefore we would like to support this application. Thoughts are that it will also make the entrance safer too.

[18/0190/OUT | Erection of 4 dwellings, formation of vehicular access and all associated works | Land Adjacent West Of Penyfoel Middletown Powys SY21 8DG](#)

This application has been re-submitted, Highways were objecting to the entrance. GC shows Councillors drawings of the old entrance and new entrance. It was decided that the new entrance would be a lot better for everyone. We have not received any objections, however we are concerned about the road narrowing considerably outside Llwyn Celyn. We do not oppose this application.

1553 Finance

[Bank Reconciliation](#)

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £14,758.71 in the accounts at the end of October 2019.

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

GC checked and signed bank statements.

Proposed by SN, seconded by PH.

Payments

Clerks Salary – £216.00 (20hrs for October) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Payment proposed by RB, seconded by HB.

Middletown Village Hall - £200.00 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Trewern Community Centre – £200.00 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

GC explains that in the budget for last year we had increased the donations for Middletown Village Hall and Trewern Community Centre to £2,300, which we had forgot when we sent them the donation in September. All agreed to pay the additional £200.

Payment proposed by RB, seconded by HB.

Budget/Precepts

GC explains the precept to new Councillors. This year a Band D property in the area paid £30.36 to give us £19,822.00 for the year.

We have already spent £4,000 on the play areas this year and we still have to pay Scott Jones for the painting of the Play areas, the annual play area inspection and CA Bowen for the grass cutting. So, in total it will be over £6,000 going out of the account in 2019/20 for the ground maintenance and play areas alone. However the recurring costs for 2020/21 for the ground maintenance and play areas should be under £3,000. We have also budgeted £3,000 for a sink fund to be spent on the Wet Pour in Trewern play area.

It was agreed not to increase the donation for the Village Halls again this year, however they only get money from the School use of the hall from PCC, but no other funding. If the Village Halls do need anything doing that is outside of their budget, ask them to let us know and we can help.

It was agreed to keep the precept for next year at no more than a 4% increase on this year.

Another concern was the Clerks salary, as there could be a need for additional hours to be worked if the plans for the incinerator goes ahead. Agreed to increase the budget for the Clerks Salary to £4,000, this will include any potential overtime worked. AE to calculate what percent increase that would make the precept and to re-send the draft precept to all Councillors before the next meeting.

ACTION: AE

Clerks Contract

A copy of Employee Contract for AE 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. In the contract it doesn't mention any provision for doing over the Clerks agreed 20 hours a month, as there is the potential that the incinerator may go up in the area and if this goes ahead, there may be a need for overtime each month. The Clerks annual salary is £3700 (including the PAYE contributions). For the next financial year, we have budgeted £4000 (this includes any overtime hours required). Therefore we have budgeted for a maximum of 5 hours overtime a month, if overtime hours are required. This needs to be added into Clerks contract and the contract sent out to all Councillors again before the next meeting.

Citizens Advice and other Charities

At the previous meeting, it was agreed that AE will find out from One Voice Wales how much money we can donate each year and also look at how much money we used to give to Charity. One Voice Wales have said that we are allowed to give £8.12 per elector in the area to Charity.

In the past we have given money to Buttington Trewern CP School, Cefn Chapel, Citizens Advice Bureau and the local YFC, as these all benefit our Community. 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. However, everyone is favour of supporting local Community issues and projects if needed.

1554 Correspondence

National Development Framework – Welsh consultation

At the last meeting, it was decided that we would ask CCAJ if she could perhaps give advice on a draft response for the National Development Framework, then we could submit an official response to the consultation. Everyone was happy with what CCAJ had suggested and the response was sent.

Parking at Parc Caradog

At the last meeting, it was decided that CCAJ would send a letter out to the School parents. Everyone happy with the letter CCAJ has typed up. AE to ask CCAJ for an update on this letter.

ACTION: AE

Royal Mail Post box in Buttington

Royal Mail has confirmed the decommissioning of the wall box outside the Church of All Saints, Buttington and the installation of a new lamp box is underway. However, Royal Mail have advised that this is quite a lengthy process because where work involves excavation of the ground, they must ensure compliance with the Streetworks Act of 1991 and CDM 2015. This means the gathering of relevant information from various third parties over which Royal Mail have no authority to influence the time taken for them to respond

Representing the interests of people in the NHS in Wales

Community Health Council (CHCs), are currently engaging with people in their local communities to find out what matters to them about the NHS services, and what their local priorities should be. There is a questionnaire that requires completing for this and its agreed that it is important that each of the Councillors fill this out. AE to also put the link on the website.

ACTION: AE

Draft Corporate Plan

An email has been received from Mid and West Wales Fire Service. They will be hosting a live webinar and general discussion regarding the Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025 on Monday 25th November at 18:00pm – 18:30pm. So if anyone is interested in this, Mid and West Wales Fire Service welcome your feedback and encourage you to join the debate on the live webinar.

Powys schools vision 2019

We have received a letter from Powys County Council in response to the Estyn report. Powys are continuing to develop a Vision for education, in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and therefore they will be holding two engagement sessions for Town and Community Councils, both of which will be held at County Hall, Llandrindod Wells. Again, if anyone is interested, they can ring up and put their names forward.

An email has been received with a petition to sign that demands PCC publish third party responses. Agreed that we would not sign the petition, however if we could make a comment instead suggesting that PCC could ask if a third party is either happy or not for them to publish their response.

1555 Any Other Business

There is a small wicket going into the School grounds by the Community Centre. The post there is rotten, not sure if the School or the Community Centre owns it, however if the Community Centre

gets a quote, we could potentially spilt the cost of it three ways between the School, Community Centre and TCC.

Dog Fouling in the School grounds again, this is an ongoing issue. There are no bins in the area for either, as there is no one to change the bins. AE to contact PCC to get more 'No dog fouling' signs for this area.

1556 Date of Next Meeting

21 January 2020 – Trewern Community Centre