

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 19th December 2018 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Present: Chair Cllr L Gethin, Vice-chair Cllr B O'Sullivan, Cllr N Francis, Cllr E Thomas, Cllr P Breese, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr I Astley, Cllr R Davies, Cllr M Harding.

In attendance: Clerk S Palmer

Chair Cllr L Gethin extended thanks to Cllr B O'Sullivan for putting up the Christmas tree lights.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr L George, Cllr D Collington, Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas
2. **Declaration of interests of any items on the agenda** *Declarations of interest, whether likely to benefit or disadvantage, should be disclosed prior to commencement of discussion of any items for discussion.*
None given
3. **Signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for new Member:** Mary Harding signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed onto the Community Council.

Local residents from Caersws were present at the meeting and requested to speak in relation to the following agenda item. Chairman Cllr L Gethin confirmed that they would be restricted to speaking for 5 mins.

Spokesperson for concerned residents group confirmed the following concerns with the planning application P/2017/0754:

- Strong objection, above application has been in progress for 3 years, amendments have been made without any consultation
- No representative to speak with and put concerns forward
- The development is unsustainable
- Lacking crucial information
- Should be forcibly refused

Other concerns were raised by various residents and Councillors:

- Main concern is the flooding. Many residents in this area are already having to pay extra insurance and already suffer with flooding. This development will make it worse.
- Amount of footfall within the village is unsustainable as it is. The village cannot support this development.
- There will be more cars in the village where there is already an issue with parking.
- The development will be crowded and out of character with the rest of the village.
- No objection to a smaller development which wouldn't affect the flooding so much.
- It's in the wrong place! Development should be at the top of the village nearer the school which would not impact the village in such a negative way.
- Some residents aren't insuring their homes as the insurance is too high due to the high risk of flooding already.
- Visibility is an issue from where the location of the bus shelter has been proposed.
- Two pumps are being put in at the Green so there is clearly already an issue with flooding which this development will exacerbate.
- Resident stated that the new development included intenuation storage and one of the technical directors has stated that SuDS isn't the answer to somewhere that floods regularly. Can't be calculated exactly.
- Second time for this to be put in at the same time as last year, over Christmas. Resident confirmed their disgust that it has gone in at a time when people may overlook and miss the information going through Planning.

4. **Planning Applications:** *Please note that Caersws Community Council is invited to make comments on planning applications as a consultee only and is not a decision maker.*

- a) **Application Reference: P/2017/0754** Outline: Proposed housing development for 50 residential units, sheltered housing proposal and construction of a bus layby. Land at Penyborfa Carno Road Caersws Powys SY17 5JA

Caersws Community Councils response (sent to Powys Planning Department on 20th December 2018) was as follows:

Caersws Community Council called for an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 19th December 2018 in order to discuss the above development in light of the recent amended documentation added to the planning application.

The Community Council also welcomed input and opinions from local residents, many of whom also attended the meeting.

The Community Council first wish to confirm its disappointment that Powys County Council Planning Department did not confirm the additional documentation added to the application as has been requested and have asked why this was not sent out for consultation as it is a large development which many are concerned about.

It has been acknowledged by both Councillors and residents that yet again information for this development has been submitted to Powys County Council over the Christmas period possibly in the hope that the information will not be picked up by those who may object.

At the meeting this evening the community councillors unanimously agreed that the previous objection to this planning application, see attached letter originally sent on 6th January 2018, still stands as the new information provided still does not reassure that this development would not threaten the local areas of the doctors surgery, the highways and the village of Caersws with further flooding which they already suffer from on a regular basis. There is also a query as to whether SuDs are effective for an area which floods on a regular basis.

It was previously suggested that a public enquiry should be called to answer some of the anomalies brought about by this application. Powys County Council have not responded to this request to date. Local residents have also requested a site meeting which has not been arranged.

Caersws Community Council and local residents do not feel that Powys County Council are involving them enough through the stages of developments such as this and the timescales offered for responding to applications and any additional documentation are far too short. The Community Council would ask for the Planning Department to involve and update those who are affected by planning applications in a more positive way and offer more time for them to digest and respond effectively to any applications going forward to Planning Committee.

In conclusion Caersws Community Council strongly objects to this planning application as they believe it is the wrong type of development in a flood risk area and the amended details do not rectify the inherent problems with a development of this size on this site.

- 5. Road markings near Level Crossing in Caersws. Response from PCC for discussion:** Cllrs discussed the response received from PCC which stated that as cars should not be parking opposite a junction (near St Johns Ambulance building) then the lines should be left as previously suggested. Councillors unanimously agreed to confirm that they wish to stick with their original suggestion that the double yellow lines are stopped before the junction as parking is already an issue in the village and having double yellow lines too far along the road will push even more people to park in other unsuitable parts of the village.
Clerk to forward this response to PCC.

Clerk also reported that PCC have sent details confirming that Third Party responses will no longer be added to the Planning Portal. Cllrs are not happy about this as it is not feasible to expect individual Cllrs to go to the planning offices to be able to read these responses and unless third parties send their concerns/comments direct to CCC as well then CCC may not be aware of the opinions of its own residents which is an important factor for the Community Council in making a response to planning applications. This is also affected by the already insufficient time scale available to comment on planning applications of 21 days. Clerk often has to request extensions in order for the Community Council to be able to comment on applications and individuals finding the chance to go to planning offices will be made more difficult by this tight time scale also. Clerk to write to PCC.

One resident who requested to speak asked if it would be possible to have some form of newsletter from the Community Council in order to keep members of the community informed of matters such as the above and other important information relevant to the community. Clerk to add to a future agenda for discussion.

6. Finances

a) Bills for payment:

P G Wainwright Hedge cutting @ Llanwnog Cemetery (2018) £246.00

Although not on the agenda Clerk confirmed receipt of invoice from H Jones for cleaning carried out at Caersws W/C. At the discretion of the Chairman a cheque was drawn for this invoice.

H Jones Cleaning at Caersws W/C £144.00

Bills to be paid were proposed by Cllr I Astley and seconded by Cllr P Breese.

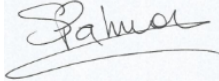
7. Councillors Comments:

Cllr R Davies: A consultation document has been sent out regarding the federation of the Primary School and High School in Llanidloes. The deadline to comment is prior to CCC's next meeting. Clerk to send out the details again for Cllrs should they wish to send an individual response.

8. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Chair Cllr L Gethin thanked everyone for attending, wished all a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Palmer', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)