

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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 T P Calvin-Thomas, Cllr L George, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr I Astley, Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Breese, Cllr M Harding.

**In attendance:** Clerk, Mrs S Palmer

**Members of the public present:** 4

1. **Apologies:** Cllr D Collington
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.*

Cllr A Wallbank declared an interest in agenda items 6d and 7f.

Cllr I Astley declared an interest in agenda items 6d and 7f.

Chairman Cllr L Gethin confirmed that some members of the public were present at the meeting in order to put forward their concerns in reference to the following planning application which they are objecting to. Chair Cllr L Gethin confirmed that residents would be permitted to speak for 2-3 minutes each on this matter.

Application Reference: 18/0987/FUL Grid Reference: **E:303790 N: 291046**. Proposal: Siting of 30 static caravan derived holiday lodges, construction of new roadways and all associated works. Site Address: Maesmawr Farm Resort , Moat Lane, Caersws, SY17 5SE

A number of residents are objecting to the above proposed application for the following reasons:

### **First resident:**

- This resort will be made bigger and there is a larger site nearby which will mean around 400 trailers in total which is industrialising the countryside. This is not diversity, just more of the same thing.
- Flooding is a concern. Residents garden and the area where the café is floods even without rain. There will be concrete for the site which will make the flooding issue worse. The area is well known for flooding and even when the weather is fairly dry the this is still an issue.
- Open countryside – the application notes this and it is a finite resource. The application states that the caravan site won't be seen but this isn't the point. Light pollution will also be increased from this development.
- Solar panels; resident was told he couldn't have these as they would be out of character; how is this development not out of character?
- Light; application states it is hidden by hedgerows which it isn't. There are flood lights which make the site look like a goods yard or detention centre. The lights are very bright and much worse than the level crossing lights.
- Local economy; this is a monopoly which is not good for the local economy.

### **Second resident:**

- Planning application states that there is no flooding but it is a continuous issue in this area.
- Historic battles in Wales were near this site. On the hills there was a battle between Maesmawr and Llandinam; this is important heritage which will be adversely affected by this plan.
- Resident received warmth and support from the community when she moved here. There is a good community here with a real sense of pride in Caersws. If this application and others nearby go ahead there will be around 1000 extra people in the area who are not invested in the community. Caersws cannot cope with this extra amount of people.

- There is negative history from PCC and CCC needs to stand up for its community and its people.
- Residents home faces the site but no one came to her to let her know about the proposed development.
- The lights facing her house are very bright. If this development expands up the hill this will be much worse for many more local residents.
- Flooding; resident has this issue at her home already. The extra water coming from this site will overwhelm the village.

**Third and fourth residents:**

Concur with everything the other residents have said. All the lighting and flooding etc is already affecting them. This application will affect the peace and tranquillity of the area. The field in front of them turns into a lake at times already and this will get worse. They confirmed that they are objecting to the application very strongly.

**Cllr L George:**

CCC have already been made aware of the site and the development that is planned. There are other planning applications for much larger sites with many more caravans/trailers which are outside the Caersws ward and are not being discussed as Caersws CC is not a consultee for the area that these are in. The other applications are on a much bigger scale than this resort. The previous caravan site that was developed at Maesmawr Farm went through without the knowledge of the Community Council, the County Councillor at the time and the residents of the Community; this should be looked into.

Residents left at this point of the meeting.

Caersws Community Council comments to conclude:

- Is the sewerage system adequate to cover the number of caravans on the full and future plans?
- How will any current flooding be rectified?
- Concern about nearby applications which affect the flooding and the negative impact on the countryside and the historical site that these areas sit on.

Cllrs are in favour of this application if the above points are clarified but they have concerns for the local residents over the flooding and the lighting.

This development plans to be an up-market resort which is very different to others locally which have a higher number of units in a small area and do not have the same facilities and opportunities for local people as this resort is promising.

Clerk to confirm comments to PCC Planning Dept.

- 3. Minutes** of ordinary meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were proposed as accurate by Cllr B O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr A Wallbank and extraordinary meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr P Breese and seconded by Cllr I Astley.

**4. County Cllr Les George Report**

- Council tax will go up by around 10%. Many Cllrs stated that it cannot go up by this amount but it will be passed because so many services will be cut/dropped etc if it doesn't. Police Commissioners report states that tax will be going up 10% also. Powys has received a cut from the Welsh Government for the third year in a row but Cardiff has received a rise, this leads to many cuts. Cllr L George raised the issue of rural crime with the commissioner last week as there has been an increase. Police confirmed they are investigating several issues such as sheep rustling. Cllr P Breese is happy that Cllr L George has stood up for this as he has himself been on the receiving end of these types of crime and it often feels that little is done to prevent it.
- Letter received from Russell George AM regarding the Caersws footbridge. Money has been allocated for the first part and the project will continue. Cllr L George to provide updates as and when they he has them.

- Caersws School is short of two parent governors. This has been an ongoing problem. Not much that can be done if parents do not want to put themselves forward.
- Neighbours who came to CCC regarding a dispute over planning last year have been in contact with Cllr L George. CCC at the time stated that they could not get involved in a neighbour dispute but forwarded the concerns to the Planning Dept about a possible breach of planning regulations. If a breach was present then it was a matter for the planning department. Cllr L George has been threatened by one of the neighbours and told that he was a liar and threatened with social media, newspapers etc. Cllr L George offered to help in any way that he could.
- Cllr L George is continuing to promote the idea of a car park for the station with PCC who have confirmed that they will offer the land as a Community Asset Transfer. The main issue is when would the money be available for it and where would it come from? Cllr L George has also spoken with Network Rail who have reported that the platform has been declared as unsafe and will need to be replaced. Cllr L George confirmed that there could be access from the other side of the platform but Network Rail would have to ask for permission from PCC to use heavy equipment. This might help with the car park progression.

## 5. Projects:

- War Memorial Refurbishment update:** No update at present, the company carrying out the works stated previously that the work would be starting early January. Clerk to chase this up as it has not started as yet.
- Village Plan:** Clerk has contacted two Community Council who have completed village plans to ask for their feedback on the process but has not received a response as yet. Some information has been forwarded to the Clerk from One Voice Wales which details the process of putting a Village Plan together. Clerk to chase responses from other councils and go through the paperwork.

## 6. Matters Arising:

- Pavement widening between Spar and car park:** Clerk has chased up but not yet received any response from the owner about this.
- Planning issue:** Entrance to poultry unit in Pontdolgoch. Clerk received communication in 16<sup>th</sup> January stating that the planning officer would be visiting the site again to find out whether the works had been started following being told that the works needed to be done. No further update has been received despite the Clerk chasing this up. Clerk to continue to chase this up.
- Dog Fouling** throughout Caersws. Clerk has put up notices around Caersws. Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas confirmed that it is still going on and is still the same person as the dog fouling is always found in the same places. Cllr L George said that his wife and her friends go for a walk around the village and one of them stood in some by accident. Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas confirmed that there were 9 piles between Saturday and Monday outside the village hall two weeks ago (19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January). Can we DNA test the dog fouling to confirm that it is the same dog and therefore the same owner consistently not picking the dog fouling up? Clerk will contact PCC about this continuing issue.
- Defibrillator for Clatter:** Not received yet as there were some discrepancies between the costs previously given and the actual cost with St John's Supplies. Clerk is sorting it out with them and hopefully will be able to get the order sorted and on the way by the next meeting.
- Plas Maldwyn:** Street Lights query. Clerk reported that she had responded to the resident following PCC confirming that the road in question is has not had street lights installed by them as they have not adopted it and is therefore still a private road. Resident was not happy with this and insists that he was told they would be installed. Clerk is awaiting further feedback from Powys County Council following information received from the former Clerk.
- Standing Orders:** Clerk confirmed that CCC's standing orders need to be reviewed and will therefore send a draft version to Cllr A Wallbank in the first instance to then be sent out to all Cllrs and discussed at a full council meeting with the intention to adopt an up to date version as soon as possible.

- g) **Cllr details on Noticeboards and notice board lock:** Clerk confirmed that she has added Cllr details onto the noticeboards as this was something raised at a previous meeting. It has also been raised that the noticeboard in Caersws is a mess as there is no lock and although there is a sign stating that anyone wishing to add any notices must contact the Clerk, this is never done and Council notices and posters are often covered up. Clerk confirmed that although there was once a lock on the board there is now only a hole for a key but no locking mechanism. Chair Cllr L Gethin confirmed that he will look at installing a lock onto the board prior to the next meeting.
- h) **White Lines:** Main Street and Station Road. Clerk has been in contact with PCC but needed further clarification. White lines were confirmed as required outside the Buck Inn to show the edge of the road and no lines are required on Station Road as this has been done. Clerk to confirm details to PCC.

## 7. Correspondence:

- a) **DWP:** Armed Forces Covenant: Cllrs present were in favour of being part of this. Motion was proposed by Cllr A Wallbank and seconded by Cllr B O'Sullivan. Clerk to draft the covenant and forward to all Cllrs prior to the next meeting.
- b) **Future Fit:** Information was received from the Future Fit consultation regarding a decision-making meeting which has now taken place and the outcome is that Royal Shrewsbury Hospital has been confirmed to be the home of the urgent emergency care and Prince Royal in Telford will deal with the non-urgent care.
- c) **SARPA:** Newsletter received and noted. No action.
- d) **Local Resident:** Children's party in Caersws. Clerk has received an email asking whether CCC knows of anyone who might be willing to take over the Christmas party which has been arranged by volunteers every year as they are looking to hand it over to someone else but wish to see it continue. CCC can add information to the website and Facebook asking people to contact the group if they are interested in taking this over.
- e) **Powys CC (LDP):** Supplementary Planning Guidance Consultation. Cllr A Wallbank was previously on a protest relating to a windfarm but was specifically about the planning process. Application was initially rejected but kept getting pushed through. PCC gave permission for the development although developers were acting contrary to consent which meant they were then in breach of the Welsh Government planning regs. PCC and NRW going against the planning regulations too often showing total disregard of the planning rules and laws and makes a mockery of the whole process. No response to SPG consultation.
- f) **Clatter Community Centre:** Update in relation to the new roof which has now been completed. Further issues have been raised during the works for the roof in relation to the boiler which requires further works. Cllrs went through the details of the precept amounts from last year and this year and agreed that £2,000 was due for each Caersws and Clatter village halls and a further £7,000 per hall is available from the precept. The £7,000 however will be paid out on receipt of invoices for works completed. Clerk to write to both Village Halls to confirm these details.
- g) **Email sent to Town & Community Councils:** Grouse Shooting. Information noted, no action.
- h) **Welsh Government:** Community & Town Council update. Document received detailing how the Welsh Government intend to begin implementing the recommendations laid out by the Independent Review Panel. No action at present.
- i) **Recreation Association:** update received regarding money raised so far. The Lottery Grant has been applied for but they will not hear back for up to 4 months. Clerk to confirm £5,000 precept to donate to the Recreation Association if the lottery grant is not received.

## 8. Caersws Public Conveniences:

1. **Refurbishment:** Clerk is having trouble getting tradesmen out to quote for the work at W/C but will keep trying.
2. **Drains affecting neighbouring property:** Ongoing issue of neighbours' drains becoming blocked on a frequent basis due to the drains from W/C running directly to her property and a larger pipe going into a smaller one. Clerk has tried to assist by contacting Severn Trent but this seems to have confused the situation more than

helped. In one communication from the neighbour she states that Severn Trent are in contact with PCC in order to look at altering the pipes. Clerk to find out who at PCC is aware of this and request details.

Cllr A Wallbank asked for an update regarding EV car charging points which were discussed some time ago. It was confirmed at the time to wait to see if one gets put in by Powys County Council as it is something that they were looking into.

#### 9. Caersws Station:

1. **Barrier timings:** Clerk confirmed response received from Network Rail in relation to the barrier timings which were previously queried. Network Rail clarified the full process for the barriers and stated the process and timings would be double checked next time this person was on site.
2. **Answers to queries previously raised with Cambrian Railway Partnership:** Clerk had previously sent some queries raised by members of the public and CCC regarding whether there could be a toilet at the station and whether the waiting room could be re-opened with a timed lock to ensure it was locked overnight. Claire Williams at the Cambrian Rail Partnership responded to say that both of these facilities would require considerable investment to bring them up to any kind of standard. Clerk to ask for more information for any options that might be available for the station.
3. **Parking near rail crossing, prohibitions etc:** Following the last meeting Clerk responded to PCC to confirm that Cllrs would still prefer that the double yellow lines stop where originally stated (where the solid white line ends) at the Caersws side of the level crossing. PCC responded to say that this may not be possible but that they would let the relevant people know.

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

- a) Application Reference: 18/0987/FUL Grid Reference: **E:303790 N: 291046.** Proposal: Siting of 30 static caravan derived holiday lodges, construction of new roadways and all associated works. Site Address: Maesmawr Farm Resort, Moat Lane, Caersws, SY17 5SE  
*This application was discussed at the start of the meeting as members of the public were present in order to put their views across.*
- b) **Application Reference: 18/1197/FUL.** Grid Reference: **E: N:** Proposal: Erection of a holiday chalet and all associated works. Site Address: Land at Sofl Ceirch, Caersws, Powys, SY17 5DQ.  
All Cllrs present agreed that the same restrictions should apply to other applications that have been put forward at this site due to the access to the highway.

#### 11. Cemeteries:

1. **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard updates:** Details received from Clatter Shiloh graveyard Trust confirming the work completed over the last year. The funds held have been almost completely depleted in getting the graveyard up to the required standard. Cllrs were all in favour to confirm that the maintenance of the graveyard will be taken over by CCC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 as previously confirmed. The cemetery committee who currently carry out risk assessments for the cemetery in Llanwnog will take on the same for Clatter Shiloh. Clerk to write to the Trust confirming this and also to ask for an update on the queries sent through last year in relation to the Trust and how CCC can take the graveyard on long term.
2. **Llanwnog Cemetery Risk Assessment:** Cllr I Astley for December and Cllr N Francis for January 2019. Both confirmed the cemetery is looking well except the driveway which we will look to resurface in the spring/summer.  
WI put a tree with a plaque on it in the cemetery but its no longer there. Plaque will be relocated to a new tree.  
Confirmed Cllr L George for February 2019 risk assessment.
3. **Llanwnog Cemetery Burial Fees Review:** Cllrs discussed the current burial fees and looked at other fees charged by other councils (Llanidloes Town Council &

Powys County Council) and decided to increase the fees by 50% as of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. Motion proposed by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr B O'Sullivan. Clerk to action and inform all funeral directors.

## 12. Finances

### 1. Bills for payment:

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary & Expenses	£561.26
<i>[Salary (Jan 19) &amp; expenses (Dec 18 &amp; Jan19)]</i>		
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk	£0
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at Caersws W/C	£240.00
Andrew Evans Landscape Ltd	October 18 (final cuts)	£264.00
Metro Rod	Unblocking drains @ WC	£126.00
Border Janitorial	WC Supplies	£20.90
Southern Electric	W/C Electricity (Direct Debit) Nov 18	£40.07
Southern Electric	W/C Electricity (Direct Debit) Dec 18	£43.22

All bills to be paid were proposed by Cllr I Astley and seconded by Cllr R Davies.

### 2. Revenue Received

NatWest	Interest	£6.25
W/C revenue	31 October 18 – 27 November 18	£194.54
Leach & Son	Burial	£261.00
Leach & Son	Cremation	£174.00
Leach & Son	New Memorial	£105.00
NatWest	Interest	£4.73
M Jones & Son	Burial	£261.00
NatWest	Interest	£4.60
Powys CC	Precept	£9,432.00

### 3. Bank Balances

Current Account	= £7,705.97
Reserve Account	= £36,542.86

## 13. Councillors Comments:

**Cllr M Harding:** resident complained about a layby just past village from Llanwnog – damaged car in layby, just passed Gwernypwll turning. Clerk to report to PCC.

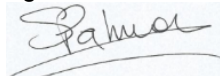
**Cllr A Wallbank:** State of road in Carno – up to Ty Gwyn – little lane up into the hills – lots of timber lorry damage – bad at the edges. Grid – SN984965 to SN982974 above Ty Gwyn drive turning. Apologies for February meeting were also given.

**Cllr R Davies:** Gave apologies for February meeting.

**14. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Chair Cllr L Gethin thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.23pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)