

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held remotely on Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Chair Cllr D Collington, Vice Chair Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr P Breese, Cllr M Cheshire (arrived 7.39pm), Cllr C Woosnam, Cllr L George, Cllr M Harding

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer, members of the public, applicant for agenda item 9a2 Planning Application 20/1716/FUL.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas, Cllr I Astley, Cllr R Davies, Cllr E Thomas, Cllr B O'Sullivan.
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 L George declared an interest in agenda item 9.
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)
4. **Minutes** of decisions made on 27th January 2021 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr A Wallbank.
5. **Cllr Les George Report:**
 - Dog Fouling:** is a big issue everywhere at the moment and PCC are looking to crack down on it
 - Police:** Information gathering relating to CCTV which some people feel is intrusive. It is costly but can be very effective in fighting crime. CCTV partnership in rural areas could provide an opportunity for businesses to share the information they get in order to help one another.
 - Caersws Bridge:** Cllr L George has received a response from Welsh Government regarding the bridge and the investigation currently being carried out. He has asked to have a site meeting with the relevant organisations.
 - Caersws crossing:** The pedestrian crossing in Caersws is very dangerous and Cllr L George feels that CCC should be persevering with the request for a pelican crossing here.
 - Van parked in car park:** There was a large van parked at the car park which was there for some time. Cllr L George contacted PCSO Daryl McWatt and the police have looked into it. The van belonged to someone in Llanidloes and has now been moved.
6. **Highway Matters:**
 - a) **Logs blocking culvert, Main Street:** Clerk to remove this agenda item as the culvert has been unblocked and no further issues have occurred.
 - b) **Double yellow line markings near level crossing, toilets and throughout the village:** This is not a definitive action as it would need to go to consultation prior to a decision being made. However, there seems to be some contradiction in what PCVC highways have stated and what the Police state is possible on double yellow lines. Highways state that drivers can still stop and use shops briefly whilst on double yellow lines whereas the Police have said that drivers can pick up or drop off but not stop to use shops. Clerk to get some clarification on this and raise the issue of differing information from these two sources.
 - c) **Caersws Bridge (correspondence from Welsh Government):** Cllr L George forwarded the response that he received to all Cllrs regarding the bridge survey. This point was discussed during Cllr L George's report.
7. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Benches:** Benches have not yet been delivered, Clerk to chase this.
 - b) **Defibrillators (Caersws & Llanwnnog):** an issue has recently been raised with the defibrillator at the Spar. The work being undertaken at the Spar which will now be a Premier shop has included a metal shutter door on the outside of the building which has resulted in the defibrillator now being accessible only during the hours that the shop is open. The defib used to be accessible 24 hours a day. Clerk and Cllr P Breese and been in contact with each other and others in order to confirm that the cabinet at the shop in Caersws could be used in the kiosk in Llanwnnog. Clerk to confirm with the electrician to swap the cabinets around, reinstall the Caersws defib on the outside wall of the shop (agreed with the owner) and install the other cabinet and defib in the kiosk in Llanwnnog. Confirmed and agreed by all Cllrs present for the Clerk to give the go ahead for the installation as long as under £350. Clerk to action and report at next meeting.
 - c) **NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day 5th July 2021:** No further information on this. Wait until nearer the time when the situation may be very different in relation to covid restrictions.
 - d) **Dog Fouling:** This has come up again as an issue, Clerk has received an email from someone in Llanwnnog who has been having to pick up someone else's dogs mess from their own garden. I have provided her with details of how to report it the offender should she have details of them.
 - e) **Cloud services for document sharing:** Office 365 keeps coming up as a preferred option to use. The issue with any cloud sharing is that whatever software the Clerk has, Cllrs will also need which will incur costs. Clerk to contact One Voice Wales about this and bear in mind the issue of GDPR.

8. Correspondence: *All correspondence relating to COVID-19 has been forwarded to Cllrs and shared online where necessary*

- a) **PAVO: Listening to you visit/virtual meeting:** PAVO have been in touch about this meeting. Cllrs feel that this could be useful so Clerk will request that someone from AVO joins a XCCC meeting.
- b) **One Voice Wales:** Connecting with your local community - A Communications Guide for Welsh Community & Town Councillors and their Clerks This is a useful guide which will be of use for CCC to refer to when looking to engage with the community via social media and the website etc.
- c) **Local resident: request to send flowers to elderly resident following a spell in hospital:** A local resident sent a message via the website. It was confirmed that Cllrs are not allowed to send gifts to individuals and Cllrs felt that Cllrs as a rule send something to local residents when they turn 100, as they did when this resident was 100. Cllrs felt that by sending something this time is creates a precedent and some people end up being left out. Therefore, nothing will be sent on this occasion but Cllrs may wish to send something themselves.
- d) **PCC: Broadband Community Pilot:** Clerk received confirmation that CCC have not been chosen to take part in the project.
- e) **Anonymous: Letter received regarding the previous meeting:** A letter was sent to Chair Cllr D Colington anonymously complaining about the previous meeting and that declaration of interest had not been made. Clerk had sent a copy of the letter to all Cllrs prior to the meeting and confirmed that there was no case to answer as any declarations of interest were given at the start of the meeting and no comments were made outside of this. CCC is unable to respond due to the letter being sent anonymously.
- f) **Website search issues:** It was found that if you search 'Caersws CC' on Google it does not bring up CCC's website. I have asked PC-Q about this and they have said we would have to go to the web developer to look into this. This will generate a fee so Cllrs decided to leave this for the time being.
- g) **Cllr M Cheshire: communication with residents on important issues:** Cllr M Cheshire sent an email during the month suggesting that CCC publish a note regarding items which have been raised during the meeting such as the double yellow lines. Clerk suggests that social media can be utilised for this. Clerk also suggested whether it is worth discussing producing a newsletter maybe quarterly where we can summarise the issues that have been raised / discussed / resolved etc? Clerk spoke with Delma Thomas recently who said that someone who used to be on the council used to send her a summary of the council meeting for her paper each month. Clerk to look into producing a summary each month and contact Delma about putting this in Seren Hafren and on Facebook and the noticeboards.
- h) **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Review of the remuneration framework for Community & Town Councils** IRPW is asking Councils if they would like to be part of the review. Cllrs do not wish to be part of the review.
- i) **Local Resident: concerned over the zebra crossing in Caersws:** Clerk received a message via the website with concerns over the Zebra crossing and suggesting a pelican crossing instead. This is something Cllrs have already discussed and TRA have stated is not viable here. Cllr L George has stated that this is still an area of concern and even more so with the increased traffic due to the bypass. Cllr L George is pushing for a site visit here to discuss what can be done.
- j) **One Voice Wales: New Draft Guidance on Code of Conduct:** This is a consultation on the draft guidance on the Code of Conduct but the Code of Conduct itself has not changed.
- k) **PAVO: Laptops 4 Schools, IT 4 Kids project:** Information received and shared online and with Cllrs.
- l) **Cllr A Wallbank:** Good Cllrs Guide hard copies. Cllr A Wallbank has asked the Clerk if hard copies of the guide are available but OVW don't provide these. Clerk will print a hard copy and send to Cllr A Wallbank and any other Cllrs who wish to have a hard copy.

9. Planning

- a) **Planning Applications:**
No new planning applications received
 - 1) **Application Reference: 20/2087/FUL** Crematorium. There is no new information regarding this application. The next Planning Committee meeting of PCC is due to be held on 18th March and this application is not on the agenda.

10. Reports:

- a) **Remote meeting with PCSO Daryl McWatt** Minutes for the meeting were shared with everyone for those who did not attend. Cllr M Cheshire suggested that the Clerk look into whether the local residents who were previously interested in Speedwatch are still interested in doing this.

11. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) **Drainage works at toilets** Holley Drainage went to carry out the work to unblock the drains at the weekend but it was blocked again so they unblocked it but it was too wet to carry out the work. They are hoping to go this weekend to get the work done.

12. Cemeteries:

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr L George has been unable to complete the risk assessment so far but will complete and send on the outcome.
- b) **Yr Ynys Island: Improvement works to be carried out:** No further updates on this currently.

- c) **Shiloh, Clatter graveyard: Transferring from Trust to CCC.** No further correspondence received. Clerk to chase.

13. Finances:

a) **Bank Balances**

Current account = £10,883.52
Reserve account = £39,923.00

b) **Bank Account Options**

Clerk sent out an email to all Clerks in Powys and have had many responses. Unity Trust seems to be popular with many councils moving across to them particularly over recent months. I have not received any negative feedback regarding Unity.

There are also a number of councils who have suggested Lloyds or Barclays community accounts which they find fit for purpose and have been able to gain internet banking for them too. Unfortunately, these are either not opening new accounts at present or do not allow for two signatories on online banking.

Trefeglwys CC are currently opening a Unity Trust account so Clerk can feedback more on that later on.

c) **Bills to be Paid**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (Feb 2021 & Expenses (Jan &Feb 2021)	£775.08
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (Feb 2021)	£6.60
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at W/C (Feb 2021)	£192.00
Satch Norton	Work on website to add 2021 folders	£50.00
PG Wainwright	Hedge cutting – Llanwnog cemetery	£264.00

Bills to be paid were agreed and proposed for payment by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr P Breese.

14. Items with no progress at this time:

- a) Electric Car Charging
- b) Pavement widening between Spar and car park
- c) Road markings at Weig Lane crossing

15. Councillor Comments:

Cllr A Wallbank: Confirmed that he would be doing the risk assessment for the cemetery in March. Cllr A Wallbank completed the online training of the Code of Conduct with One Voice Wales. There was a SAARLC meeting recently and they asked about Dementia Friendly Railways. Cllr A Wallbank will find out more about what they are asking for.

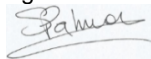
Cllr P Breese: There is talk of closing a number of schools which is really bad for rural schools. Currently Caersws School is set to continue.

Cllr M Harding: confirmed that she has also completed the online Code of Conduct training.

16. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st March 2021.

Chair Cllr D Collington thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.16pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)