

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held at **Caersws Village Hall** on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022** at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Chair Cllr P Breese, Vice Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Cllr D Lowe, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr L George, Cllr D Collington, Cllr C Knapp, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr A Wallbank (arrived at 7.40pm)

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Skitt
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.*
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)  
No members of the public in attendance.
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr D Collington and seconded by Cllr C Woosnam.
5. **Police Visit**, PCSO Gemma Lewis and PCSO Rhiannon Williams  
Points raised by Cllrs:
  - Parking is an issue across Caersws, particularly parking on the pavement at Chapel Street. PCSO Rhiannon said they were not aware of this and will go and take a look at the times suggested by Cllrs.
  - Farm Watch – is it possible to set this up for this area? Yes, a co-ordinator would be needed who would feed information to the Police. PCSO Rhiannon will forward information onto the Clerk to pass on to Cllrs.
  - How much do PCSO's walk around/patrol areas? PCSO's stated that they usually find it better to drive around rather than walk. Sometimes people may feel there is something going on if they see Police walking around. They will try and do some foot patrols in the area as well as driving through.

PCSO Gemma and PCSO Rhiannon left the meeting at 7.50pm.

6. **Councillor Co-option:**  
Sarah Sargent attended the meeting and introduced herself to the Council and would like to be co-opted onto the council.  
Cllr M Cheshire proposed that Sarah be co-opted onto the Council, this was agreed unanimously by all Cllrs present.
7. **Cllr Les George Report:**
  - The Green in Caersws has suffered flooding. There was a manual pump which a resident manned for many years. It was renewed for something more modern. An electric system has been installed but the electric is not yet connected. This has been going on for some months. Clerk to write a letter to Russell George MS (David Richards is the person to) to push for this to be sorted as the area will be suffering from flooding again over the next few months. SP energy Networks should have dealt with establishing the connection. An application should have been put in for this.
  - Local resident, Delma has requested that the lighting on the zebra crossing is not bright enough. Clerk to contact Street Lighting Services at PCC.
  - Shiloh graveyard, have been in contact with Cllr L George. Interested in purchasing a parcel of land. Discuss further at agenda item 14b2
  - Residents have stated that the bus timetables are not provided for the routes. Could a timetable be available to pick up off the bus. Clerk to contact Celtic Travel and ask if this is possible.
  - Trefeglwys Road; Network Rail previously have been asked to put down double yellow lines and cross hatch. Clerk to contact Highways to ask why this wasn't done when the road was resurfaced and relined.
  - Nigel Price, Clerk to check what date he is doing the roadway into the cemetery.
  - Village Plan – there are people in Powys who can assist with putting together a Village Plan. Confirmed that the Village Plan idea has been put to one side for the time being and for CCC to focus attention on the LDP. Cllr L George confirmed that there should be some information coming out regarding adding sites onto the LDP soon.
  - TCT is finishing now. The responsibility of the information boards will be passed on to CCC. Cllr D Lowe has cleaned the boards but said that they are outdated.

8. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**
  - a) **Report following meeting with Russell George MS:** Cllr P Breese, Cllr C Brooks and Cllr D Lowe met with Russell and raised the issues as detailed below:
  - b) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** PCC issue, Clerk to ask for an update.
  - c) **Caersws bridge:** keep pushing for progress for the footbridge with Welsh Government.

**Cllr M Cheshire** reported that there are residents who are scared to cross the bridge now that the traffic lights have been removed as there is little space if two vehicles are crossing together. There are more people walking alone, with families, young children, dogs due to the increase in holiday parks on either side of the bridge. Cllr M Cheshire proposed contacting Powys CC Highways to ask them for an official risk assessment.

**Cllr C Knapp** said that this has been going on for years and it is not acceptable for people not to have a safe route to cross.

**Cllr C Brooks** confirmed that Russell George stated that there will be a round of funding

**Cllr A Wallbank** confirmed that it would be TRA/Welsh Government

**Cllr M Cheshire** reported that there was a survey going on today on the bridge which was related to the wind farm transport.

- d) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** Weig Lane is a PCC issue so should be responded to by then.
- e) **Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** PCC issue. Clerk too push for a response from PCC.
- f) **Powys Decision Matrix for PCC:** Clerk to update the matrix and send on to those responsible for the different items.

Active Travel Plan was raised which is for Towns rather than villages but this could be something that CCC can utilise further down the line.

Cllr C Brooks suggested asking Russell George to return in January to hold him to account to some of the points that he said he would push Welsh Government for. Clerk to action.

## 9. Place Plan Committee Report

- a) **LDP:** No further information received for discussion at this time
- b) **Active Travel Plan:** Covered in agenda item 8a (currently for Towns rather than villages)

## 10. Matters Arising:

- a) **Signal box at station:** Clerk chased this up and has been forwarded a message from Network Rail to confirm that this work is planned to be completed at the latest by the end of the financial year, March 2023.
- b) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** Confirmed at agenda item 5.
- c) **Finance & Governance Toolkit:** Clerk has started collating the details of what needs to be looked at/update/implement. Cllr D Collington and Cllr A Wallbank happy to take a look at this and go through with the Clerk.
- d) **Annual Report and Training Plan:** Cllr A Wallbank and Clerk to draft annual report. Training plan to be discussed also.
- e) **Caersws Workshops:** Response received from Cllr Berriman with details of how the workshops are advertised. 1 workshop currently available but there is interest.
- f) **Christmas Tree & Lights:** Waiting for the new lights to be delivered.
- g) **Community Space idea at Glan y Nant field:** Response received and sent on to Cllrs from Dylan Jones. Cllrs feel that the Councils stance has been made clear. CCC is happy to support the project but cannot lead it.
- h) **Maintenance fund establishment for a grave at Llanwnnog:** Email received from family to discuss in relation to the requests being made. Cllrs agreed unanimously that the requests made cannot be granted as they are outside the scope of what CCC provides for any other families with plots at the cemetery. Clerk to confirm this response.
- i) **Air Ambulance – possible move from Welshpool:** There should be a proposal on the public engagement process from EASC available next month.
- j) **Clerks' laptop – Office 365:** New email address will need to be set up as part of this. Clerk to go ahead.
- k) **Plan for Clerk in-case she is unavailable/incapacitated:** This was raised at the previous meeting. Clerk to put together details that the Chair would need should she become unable to do the job at short notice.
- l) **Alternative bank account options:**
  - Unity Trust – specifically works with Councils, can set up for 2 signatories and for Clerk to have admin access only. Costs £6 per month
  - Most of the high street banks provide a community account which are usually free. These do not seem to have the same options for users as Unity have.Cllrs discussed and would like further details of the Unity trust account. Clerk to gather prior to the next meeting.
- m) **One Voice Wales council representatives:** 2 representatives required for One Voice Wales. Cllr D Collington happy to put himself forward. Clerk to leave on the agenda for the next meeting as 2 representatives are required.
- n) **Focus Newtown Enterprise Hub visit to the Council:** Clerk has asked if someone can attend our Jan meeting but no response yet. Cllr feel that February would be better. Clerk to re-send request.
- o) **CCC representative for Caersws Primary School Governors:** Current vacancy for council representative. Cllr C Woosnam stated that he would be happy to re-join the school governors as

a Council rep. Clerk to contact the head teacher and put this forward and request further details if required.

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

- a) **Powys County Council:** Progress on Planning Services. Information noted, no action
- b) **Boundary Commission:** Revised proposals published. Cllr A Wallbank to put together a response as previously discussed.
- c) **NRW:** Sustainable Farming Scheme Outline Proposals. Information noted, no action
- d) **Emergency Ambulance Services Committee:** Briefing note. Information noted, no action
- e) **Campaign Group** to stop closure of Welshpool Air Ambulance. Information noted, no action
- f) **Clatter Community Centre:** Request for funding. This will be discussed during precept discussions at the next meeting.
- g) **Welsh Government:** Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper. Cllrs to respond as individuals if they wish.
- h) **Powys CC:** Climate Emergency Forum Questionnaire. Information noted, no action
- i) **IRPW:** Annual Report consultation. Cllrs discussed and feel this would be better as a discretionary payment rather than it being mandatory. Clerk to find out whether the payments would be taxable and add to the November agenda for further discussion.
- j) **PSB:** Public Participation. Information noted, no action

**12. Planning:**

- a) **Application Ref: 22/1470/TPO** Grid Ref: E: 304045 N: 291918 Proposal: Removal of elm tree and silver birch tree, crown reduction of oak tree and works to trees on driveway Location: Maesmawr Hall Hotel, Caersws, SY17 5SF  
Cllrs discussed the above application and have no objections

*The following application was not on the agenda as it was received the day before the meeting. Application to be discussed at Chairs discretion*

- b) **Application Reference: 22/1670/FUL** Grid Reference: E:305275 N: 293145 Proposal: Erection of 6 holiday units, formation of a new vehicular access and roadway, installation of sewage treatment plant, formation of car parking area and all associated works Site Address: Land At Tregastell, Aberhafesp, Newtown, Powys SY16 3HR  
Cllrs discussed the above planning application and have concerns over flooding issues here and sewerage. Clerk to forward comments via the planning portal.

**13. Caersws Public Conveniences:**

- a) **Lights repair:** Not yet completed, Clerk is chasing this up
- b) **New doors / hinges:** Looking to get further quotations for replacing the doors
- c) **Beeping of coin boxes:** Clerk will cover the circuit board this week or next
- d) **Leaking toilets and blockages:** Due to be done tomorrow (Weds 26<sup>th</sup>)
- e) **Repair and maintenance contract:** Cllrs discussed the EOM discussed and agreed unanimously to agree this maintenance contract for 12 months to see how it goes. Clerk to action with EOM.

**14. Cemeteries:**

- a) **Risk Assessments:**
- b) **LLanwnog Cemetery:**
  - 1) **Gates and roadway repairs:** Due to be done on 4th November
  - 2) **Shiloh, Clatter graveyard:** Email from Robert Hanratty was discussed. Cllrs are still very wary about taking the liability of the graveyard on. Clerk to ask what would happen should CCC not take on responsibility of the graveyard; would the Charity Commission be responsible?

**15. Finances:**

- a) **Account balances**  
Current Account = £27,096.45  
Reserve Account = £41,973.99
- b) **Accounts and Budget Review**
- c) **Bills to be paid:**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (Oct 22)	£786.92
Sophie Palmer	Clerks expenses (Oct 2022)	£33.59
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (Oct 2022)	£12.66
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting	£456.00
Border Janitorial	WC Cleaning Supplies	£84.00
Satch Norton	Website – notice of Queen's death	£105.00

Bills to be paid were agreed and proposed for payment by Cllr D Collington and seconded by Cllr M Cheshire

**Direct Debits:**

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (Sept 2022)	£46.78
<i>Cllrs asked for more details of the SSE contract and what rate the account is on. Clerk to confirm the details of the account by next meeting.</i>		
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection	£16.95

**a) Income received:**

WC revenue	Cash from WC (17.08.2022 – 17.10.2022)	£181.35
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**16. Councillor Comments:**

**Cllr C Woosnam:** New 3G, multi-use area is up and running now.

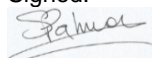
**Sarah Sargent:** Has CCC considered the request for warm spaces/hubs. Cllr C Brooks confirmed that Clatter Community Centre is looking into this.

**Chair Cllr P Breese:** Could the defib located at Caersws Football Club be maintained by the Football Club? Cllr C Woosnam will ask.

**17. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Chair Cllr P Breese thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)

DRAFT