

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Agenda for meeting Wednesday 25th October 2023 at **Caersws Village Hall** at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Vice Chair Cllr D Lowe, Cllr P Skitt, Cllr C Knapp, Cllr P Breese

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer

1. Apologies:

- 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 item
Cllr D Lowe declared an interest

- 3. Public Speaking Session (15 minutes maximum time allocated)**
No members of the public were present.

- 4. Minutes** of meeting held on 27th September 2023 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr P Skitt and seconded by Cllr D Lowe.

5. Cllr Les George Report:

- Flooding issue on the Green: the new electric pump is still not connected to the electricity. It is being suggested that it may be another 5 to 6 weeks until they can get onto site. This has been going on for far too long. Cllr L George to write again to try and help to get this resolved.

6. Councillor Co-option:

Malcolm Carroll, local Caersws resident has contacted the Council requesting to be co-opted onto the council and although invited to this meeting he confirmed that he was unable to attend this time and sent a covering letter regarding his request to

7. Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:

- a) Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** No update on this item
- b) Caersws bridge & roundabout scheme:** There have been no updates regarding this issue and Cllrs feel that we should be pushing more on this item and involve Russell George MS. Cllr C Brooks stated that we need to push for the quarterly meetings with Russell George MS as that is the route to the Welsh Government which is where the decisions and funding will come from. Clerk to put together an agenda with several points for discussion with Russell and request a meeting as soon as possible along with a covering letter. Copy in the Minister for Transport with the correspondence. Clerk and Chair to communicate to get this actioned.
- c) Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** Stay from the electricity pole can be moved onto the properties land following communication with SP Energy Networks. Clerk has received confirmation from the current owner that they are happy for the stay to be moved from the pavement onto their land. Cllr C Brooks was told by a contractor that someone from Powys CC Highways came to the property and stated that the pavement was going to be re-tarmac-ed and the road sign to be moved back. Clerk to check with PCC Highways whether or not this is the case.
- d) Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** No update, Clerk to chase up as the markings are still not as requested.
- e) Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** This is still on the agenda as the clearing of the Brook in one area has still not been carried out. Cllr L George stated that he believes the property will be sold soon so new owners may carry out the clearing required.

- 8. Place Plan Committee:** There has been no information received on either of the below points.

- a) LDP
- b) Active Travel Plan

9. Matters Arising:

- a) Maesawelon car parked long term:** No information received. Cllr P Breese will go and see whether they have been moved.
- b) New Bank Account:** Paperwork has been sent.
- c) Website:** Clerk and Cllr C Brooks tried to set up a meeting with OnTrac who are busy now until February 2024. Cllr C Brooks has contacted a couple of other website providers who have provided quotations based on the brief. Clerk to send out the 2 new quotations to all Cllrs for their opinion.
- d) Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** Clerk has contacts Street Lighting to ask for them to increase the brightness of the street light here as it is still not bright enough. Clerk is yet to receive a response for this as yet.
- e) Bench for the Kings Coronation:** Clerk has requested that the Recreation Committee confirm the site for the bench and we will arrange for it to be placed there once received.

- f) **Request for pavement in Pontdolgoch:** Clerk has requested for TRA to consider a pavement in Pontdolgoch. Clerk has not received a response and Cllr L George has not either. Cllr L George to chase this up.
- g) **Information boards in need of updating:** Cllr D Lowe raised this point at the previous meeting. The information on the boards is very out of date. Cllrs discussed and agreed that the information needs to be put together by someone and the boards to be designed. To redesign and replace the boards will be an involved and expensive project. Cllr C Brooks will look at the boards to see how easy they are to remove from their stand and replace. A committee should be put together in order to discuss the best way forward. Cllr D Lowe is happy to make contact with the person who was involved with the original boards.
- h) **Llyn Mawr reserve issues:** Cllr S Sargent reported that there are no updates currently.
- i) **Post Box removal:** Clerk is yet to receive a response from Royal Mail regarding the post box removal in Clatter. Residents have been complaining and asking when it will be returned/replaced as some elderly people are having to ask others to post letters for them. Clerk to chase this matter up.

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

- a) **Local resident:** Cremation plot request. CCC has received a request for ashes to be buried in the old cremation island. Cllrs are happy for this on the basis that the plot cannot be pre-purchased. If the space requested is available when required, they can certainly have it. Cremation burials are generally within the newer cremation island so shouldn't be an issue. Clerk to confirm.
- b) **Local resident:** Rubbish overflowing. Clerk confirmed that there has been an issue with staffing recently at Powys refuse dept so some bins have not been serviced as often as they are meant to be. Clerk has asked for reassurance that this will be rectified.
- c) **One Voice Wales:** D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024. Clerk to keep on the agenda for further discussions.
- d) **Zero Hour:** Caersws Community Council support for Climate and Ecology Bill. Information noted, no action.
- e) **Welshpool Town Council:** Major consultation on Welshpool Town Hall. Information noted, no action
- f) **Police:** Open door events. Information noted, no action.
- g) **IRPW:** Remuneration Report. The suggested remuneration is the same as previously, no changes so no comments to make.
- h) **Cambrian Mountains Initiative:** New directors. Information noted, no action.
- i) **One Voice Wales:** Review of democratic health in Town & Community Councils. Information noted, no action.

11. S137 Donation Requests

- a) **Delma Thomas** - request for concert to raise funds for Urdd. Cllrs discussed and agreed to provide the full funds and to confirm that the funds are for the concert only and should this be cancelled for any reason the funds will need to be returned.
- b) **Caersws School** – Request for funding towards tree works. Cllrs discussed the request and agreed to provide the full funds requested.
- c) **Air Ambulance** – request for funding for the charity. Cllrs discussed and agreed not to provide funds as they wish to keep funds to provide direct to community groups and organisations.
- d) **Clatter Community Centre** – Request for funding for WiFi installation. Cllrs discussed the request and agreed to provide the full funds requested.

12. Planning:

- a) **Application Reference: 23/1453/HH** Grid Reference: E:301756 N: 292084 Proposal: Construction of 2 story side extension to dwelling and improvements to access Site Address: Maes Gwasted , Trefeglwys Road, Caersws, SY17 5HT
Cllrs discussed and have no comments to forward.

13. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) **Doors:** The new doors have now been fitted. Cllr D Lowe asked where the coin boxes from outside have gone. It was explained that they were not in good working order and were hard to remove so have been scrapped.

14. Cemeteries:

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Graves still need to be filled in. Some stones are slightly wobbly.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Clerk awaiting a response from the solicitor about moving this forward.
- c) **Grass cutting at Llanwnog 2024:** The person who cuts the grass in Caersws and Clatter will provide a quote and a recommendation has been received from G Woosnam who has cut the grass at the cemetery for many years so he too will be asked to provide a quotation for Cllrs to discuss.
- d) **Cemetery Committee review:** Due to the resignation of Cllr D Collington there is one less Cllr on the cemetery committee. To be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

15. Finances:

- a) **Account balances:**

Current Account = £36,546.69
Reserve Account = £42,394.12

b) Precept meeting date: Wednesday 8th November at 7pm agreed to hold the meeting to discuss and set the precept.

c) Bills to be paid

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (October)	£879.89 (net)	
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (October)	£44.51	
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (October)	£31.58	
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£192.00	
EOM	WC retainer (October)	£50.00 (net)	[£60 total]
Second Life Products Wales	Recycled plastic benches x 2	£551.00 (net)	[£661.20 total]
EOM	Unblocking of toilets	£120.00 (net)	[£144.00 total]
JA Morgan Construction	New doors installation at WC	£4,230.00 (net)	[£5,076 total]
Sarah Sargent	Clr remuneration (basic & consumables)	£208.00	
Eisteddfod Yr Maldwyn	Urdd Concert Donation	£1,000.00	
Caersws Primary School	Required tree works Donation	£2,312.00	
Clatter Community Centre	WiFi installation Donation	£450.00	

Direct Debits:

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (October 2023)	£78.92
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365	£29.31

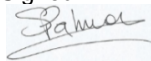
d) Reserves breakdown:

RESERVES HELD	
PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Public Convenience	£18,920.00
Unforeseen Maintenance costs for Cemetery	£8,000.00
Precepted amount for new website	£2,500.00
Training costs	£512.00
Precepted amount for village halls	£10,000.00
Reserves for any extra costs unplanned at the time of precept	£8,000.00
Clr Remuneration	£1,800.00
Care Costs in case required/requested from Clrs	£4,500.00
TOTAL RESERVES HELD	£54,232.00

16. Councillor Comments:

17. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre. There will be a precept meeting prior to this on Wednesday 8th November at 7pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)