

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Caersws Village Hall at 7pm

1. **Apologies** Cllr Mr A Wallbank, Cllr Mr P Breese and Cllr Mr T P Calvin Thomas, Mrs E Thomas
2. **Present** Cllrs: Mrs R Davies, Mrs M Woosnam, Mr D Collington, Mr B O'Sullivan, Mr N Francis, Mr I Astley, Mr L George, Mr R Burrows.

### 3. **Introduction and discussion of level crossing and surrounding issues with Andrew Bound, (Route Level Crossing Manager, Network Rail) and Jim Metcalfe (Level Crossing Manager, Network Rail).**

Andrew Bound and Jim Metcalfe introduced themselves and explained that they manage the potential risks at level crossings. The issues with the level crossing were detailed for them regarding the issue of people parking on or close to the level crossing and the issue of the car park being across the road and on the wrong side of the tracks so people can easily get stuck and miss their train.

All the following points were made for the benefit of Mr Bound and Mr Metcalfe to clarify the issues faced with car parking at Caersws station:

- There is no option currently to extend the existing car park for the station.
- People park on the road close to the crossing and some times block the barriers coming down. This can put other drivers in a dangerous position when trying to get around these parked cars.
- People also park all over the village, in inappropriate places in order to park and use the station.
- A possible solution was that the farmer with land at the rear of the station was willing to negotiate for it to be used for car parking but CADW wouldn't allow it. Mr Metcalfe suggested asking for an archeological survey for this.
- Would a bridge from the car park to the station solve the issue of people getting stuck on the wrong side of the tracks to catch the train? And land may be able to be bought that is also on the wrong side of the tracks but not such an issue if there was a footbridge connecting to the platform.
- Would there be any financial support from Network Rail in order to get issues fixed?

Mr Metcalfe and Mr Bound made the following comments regarding the issues and how to move forward:

- A footbridge could be an option as could a road bridge over both Caersws and Weig Lane crossings. Essentially ask for as much as you think is required no matter how big or expensive as it could be possible long term/in the future.
- Issues will be taken up with PCC by Network Rail.
- Suggestion to get a sponsor to build a business case. Get in touch with other local councils who may be affected and the local MP for support to help build a case. Network Rail will support Caersws CC case as much as possible but this is most likely to be in the form of providing documents, facts and figures and details of possible risks.
- Get in touch with the Highways Dept and point out the risks. Network Rails dealings with councils have been positive.

The following other points were also discussed:

Chairman Mr N Francis asked if there was any progression with the reopening of Carno station. The Welsh Assembly is looking at progressing that and Bow Street.

Cllr Mr B O'Sullivan asked how busy Caersws station is in comparison to Machynlleth. These footfall figures can be provided to us.

Mr Metcalfe confirmed that he was due to be meeting regarding signage for Weig Lane and would provide an update following the meeting. Cllr Mr R Burrows stated that the road markings could be improved here too.

Cllr Mrs R Davies stated that there are many accidents at Moat Lane as there is a bad blind spot when pulling out of the junction. Cllr Mr R Burrows agreed and further added that there is also a blindspot when approaching the turning from Newtown and turning into Caersws. Mr Metcalfe confirmed that he believes road speed is a big issue here. Cllr Mr R Burrows suggested the junction for turning into Caersws could be moved further away from the rail

crossing to prevent many of these issues. Mr Metcalfe said this could also be suggested and he will also speak to PCC regarding putting sensors down to check the road speed.

Mr Metcalfe concluded by confirming he would send an update next week and at some point when a site visit could be set up it would be very useful for members of the council to attend.

Mr Metcalfe and Mr Bound were thanked for their time and left the meeting at 7.45pm.

4. **Confirmation of minutes** of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016: proposed and seconded by two councillors.

5. **Matters Arising:**

**Option of purchasing/loaning a projector for viewing of Planning Applications:** Clerk needs to look more into option of borrowing a projector from someone. Hiring one is not an option long term. Cllr stated it would be good to see certain sites to be able to comment on planning applications.

6. **Correspondence:**

- a) **Powys CC:** Upcoming road closures information.
- b) **Powys CC:** Tour Of Britain, Shop Front Competition.
- c) **TCT: Freestanding footbridge for Caersws:** Letter received by Cllr Mr P Breese from TCT regarding the issue of a footbridge in Caersws. TCT are in support of this. Cadw have previously put a stop to certain proposals unless traffic lights were installed and tested for 12 months. Chairman suggested that a footbridge could be fastened to the existing bridge or Cllr Mr L George stated that a totally freestanding bridge could also be an option. Clerk to contact Glynn Cook and find out the latest information.

7. **Risk Assessment**

A headstone with no name needs some TLC. Another large headstone that has been down for years is too heavy to be lifted manually but maybe when one of the funeral directors is there with a digger they could help to lift it? Clerk to look into this. Can Roger Wainwright who cuts the hedges reach the top as it has grown very high. Chairman Mr N Francis stated something can be done this time to bring it down but moving forward Clerk will speak to Roger Wainwright.

8. **Planning Applications**

*Declarations of interest, whether likely to benefit or disadvantage, should be disclosed prior to commencement of discussion of any planning applications.*

**Application Ref: P/2016/0669**

**Grid Ref: 303237.96/291916.42 for Refurbishment of existing childrens play area and installation of new multi play equipment at Playground Main Street Caersws Powys**

Cllr Mrs M Woosnam declared an interest.

No comments

**Application Ref: P/2016/0734**

**Grid Ref: 302234.81/294230.36 for Erection of rear single storey extension and first floor extension together with installation of a balcony (including demolition of rear utility and toilet) at Tanrhallt Llanwnog Caersws Powys**

No comments

9. **Bills for payment**

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Healthmatic                    | W.C Maintenance (June)                                 |
| Clerks salary                  | July 2016  |
| Clerks expenses (incl mileage) | July 2016  |
| Andrew Evans                   | Grass Cutting (One off initial cut prior to TCT event) |
| Anthony Richards               | Annual internal audit                                  |
| Andrew Evans                   | Grass Cutting (July 2016)                              |

**All payments proposed and seconded by three councillors**

10. **W/C Revenue**

## 11. Any other business

**Agreement for public conveniences to be confirmed:** Clerk confirmed that paperwork will be sent to PCC to confirm the continuation of the lease for the public convenience for the following 12 months. PCC require confirmation of the opening and closing times. They are currently 7am-9pm. This was thought to be too late opening and too late closing but Cllr Mr R Burrows confirmed it was altered due to vandalism. It was decided and agreed to keep these times for Friday-Sunday but other days of the week would be changed to open at 6am and close at 9.30pm.

**Powys Community Health Council's Local Committee meeting 1<sup>st</sup> August:** Cllr Mr D Collington will be attending this.

**Financial Regulations to be confirmed at next meeting:** This will be added onto the agenda to confirm next month. Clerk to send the financial regulations to Cllrs Mr A Wallbank and Mr D Collington.

**Budget review:** Clerk confirmed that one point brought up by the external auditor was that the community council should have reviews of the budget throughout the year that should be minuted. Clerk to add this to look at during next months meeting.

## 12. Any other business from members

**Cllr Mr P Breese:** fly tipping in Bwlch y Garreg. Clerk to report to PCC.

**Cllr Mr L George:** A car park at the other side of the tracks at the station should be pursued.

**Cllr Mr B O'Sullivan:** There is a little car park near to the football field and a bridge can be seen from there which could be utilised to take people over the river instead of using the road bridge.

**Cllr Mrs M Woosnam** left the meeting at 8.45pm.

**Cllr Mr R Burrows:** Car park at the public conveniences could be moved around to create more parking spaces which could help with the overflow of people parking to use the station. Clerk to contact PCC about looking into this.

**Cllr Mr R Davies:** The tree that creates a blindspot which is on her land (brought up by Cllr Mr A Wallbank at the last meeting) will be looked at. She will speak to Highways about it and if necessary the tree will be cut back in the autumn. Cllrs Mrs R Davies and Mrs E Thomas will be attending the One Voice Wales Conference coming up.

## 13. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st August at 7.30pm at Clatter Village Hall.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm.