

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 31 January 2018 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Due to a double booking being made at Clatter Village Hall, the meeting was relocated to the Old Mill at Pontdolgoch. Meeting started at 7.37pm.

Present: Chairman Cllr I Astley, Vice-chair Cllr R Davies, Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas, Cllr D Collington, Cllr L Gethin, Cllr L George, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr B O'Sullivan, Cllr P Breese Cllr N Francis.

In attendance: Clerk S Palmer, E Jehu (Maesmawr Farm Resort)

Due to the arrival of Emma Jehu who wished to introduce herself to the Community Council following joining the team at Maesmawr Farm Resort located on the outskirts of Caersws. Emma stated that the resort wishes to be involved with the community and involve the community in their plans and ideas. Emma confirmed details of the plans for the resort and gave details of an open weekend event (10th & 11th February). Emma confirmed that from 2025 there will only be cladded lodges at the site and there are plans to turn the old farmhouse into luxury accommodation along with adding a spa and restaurant. Cllrs were pleased to hear of the plans for the site and thanked Emma for attending and taking the time to come and meet with the Council.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr E Thomas and Cllr P Pemberton.
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.* None
3. **Minutes** of meeting held on 29 November 2017 were proposed as a true account by Cllr R Davies and seconded by Cllr L George. Minutes of the extraordinary planning meeting held on 5th January 2018 were proposed as a true record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr L Gethin.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Tree Charter Legacy Tree:** when and where to plant. Cllrs decided to add this matter to the agenda for the next meeting in order to agree a time to plant the tree at the cemetery in Llanwnnog. Clerk confirmed that she has asked the Tree Charter for two more trees for the wards of Caersws and Clatter but is yet to receive a response. Clerk to chase for the next meeting.
 - b) **Station Parking (Cllr L George):** Details regarding Community Asset Transfer. Cllr L George confirmed that there is a demand for development of a car park in Caersws and that the way forward would be to look at a Community Asset Transfer of the land and submit a pre-application enquiry. Clerk to look into costs for a pre-application enquiry to bring to the next meeting.
 - c) **Maes Y Dre Playground:** Clerk confirmed that Sunshine Playgrounds have ordered the equipment for the play area and will contact me again once they have an idea of when they would be able to carry out the installation. Cllrs asked and Cllr B O'Sullivan confirmed that the plans that the Recreation Association have for the site opposite The Buck Inn have not moved forward due to not being granted the Lottery Funding.
 - d) **Powys War Memorials Project:** Clerk has yet to confirm the owners of the war memorial. Cllrs suggested The Church in Wales and Land Registry for information. Clerk to look into receiving quotes also for the work that needs to be completed.
 - e) **Caersws Footbridge: Consultation following traffic lights trial.** The deadline for response is today and CCC has not as yet submitted a response as a Community Council. Cllrs confirmed details to forward as a response confirming that Cllrs believe the only way forward is for a stand-alone or attached footbridge to be constructed. Clerk to CCC's response following the meeting.
 - f) **Review of Community & Town Council Sector:** The Independent Review Panel are holding some engagement events. There is one on 1st March which the Clerk will try to attend if possible. Cllr A Wallbank also stated that he may be able to attend.
 - g) **Matters in hand with Powys Housing:** Cllr L George has spoken with the land owner whose trees are over hanging a resident's garden. He is happy for the trees to be cut back. PCC will send people to take a look. Clerk to follow up with Cllr L George/PCC.

- h) **Jobs list for Caersws School:** Cllr L George has visited the school and seen the issues waited to be resolved. Cllr L George is in contact with PCC to get the jobs completed.
- i) **Beacons for WWI commemoration:** Cllrs have tried to find people locally who might be able to make a beacon for this and other commemorative events but no one has come forward. Clerk to get pictures and exact costs of generic beacons to discuss at the next meeting.
- j) **Hedge at property by Spar:** The owner of the property where the hedge was cut down has stated that she and the tenants are unhappy that the hedge has been cut right down and Clerk has also confirmed to the owner that the fence is not PCC's responsibility so they will not replace the fence. Cllrs discussed that the owner gave 'permission to cut the hedge back and what ever else you need to do to make it safer for pedestrians, mums with pushchairs & disabled people to travel safely to the Spar, butcher, chip shop etc.' Cllrs stated that the pavement at this location is extremely narrow and asked the Clerk to contact the Trunk Road Agency to ask whether the pavement could be widened.
- k) **Laptop for Clerk:** Clerk confirmed details of quotations offered by PC-Q for laptops that would be suitable along with costs from PC World as well. Cllrs confirmed that they would be happy for the Clerk to go ahead with a machine at the cost of £479+vat quoted with PC-Q as they are a local business and support is offered if required. Clerk will update on this at the next meeting.
- l) **General Data Protection Regulations:** Clerk confirmed that there is still no definitive information on this as yet and more information is expected. Cllr D Collington confirmed that he is assisting some local businesses/groups and will assist the Clerk with this matter as well so as to ensure that the Council is compliant.

Ticket machine at Caersws Station: Cllr A Wallbank raised the continuing issue of the threatening notices at the train station warning rail users that they will be fined if they do not purchase a ticket at the machine. This is not always possible if the machine is not working or if customers only have cash for example. The other issue is that the machine does not always sell the cheapest ticket. Clarification is required from Arriva Trains whether this issue will be rectified and how. Clerk to chase up with Arriva Trains Wales.

5. Correspondence:

- a) **PCC:** Community Resilience Guidance. Cllr A Wallbank suggested that although only a small community, it may be worth requesting information from PCC and OVW as to what they might suggest a small Council such as Caersws could put in place. Clerk to contact.
- b) **One Voice Wales:** Consultation on Planning Law in Wales. Cllrs agreed that some points should be made in relation to planning law. Clerk will draft a response to confirm at the next meeting prior to sending.
- c) **Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People:** Petition to Welsh Assembly for Access Certificate. Cllrs discussed this proposal and although they agreed that better access should be available for those that need it, the Access Certificate would be difficult to implement and may have a negative impact on smaller businesses/organisations that are unable to meet the standard to get attain the highest rating. Cllrs decided on this basis not to sign the petition as a Council but individuals may decide to sign.
- d) **Age Cymru:** Tackling Loneliness Amongst Older People, request for update. Clerk to respond to confirm that existing organisations/groups within the local area help to tackle loneliness. These are groups such as the Friendship Hour, Llanidloes Day Centre and the WI.
- e) **Powys Teaching Health Board:** Consultation on a proposal to develop a Major Trauma Network. Information noted, no action as this will not affect this community.
- f) **PCC:** Powys Draft Well-Being Plan. Information noted, no action.
- g) **PCC:** Proposal to vary the appointments of Severn Trent Water and Dee Valley Water contracts. Information noted.
- h) **One Voice Wales:** Consultation Document on Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities - Local Toilets Strategies. This may affect CCC. Clerk to add to next months' agenda to discuss matters which could affect CCC.
- i) **Network Rail:** Llanidloes Road level crossing (near Moat Lane in Caersws), risk assessment. A risk assessment was carried out recently at this location. Due to the short notice no members of the Council were able to attend. Cllrs discussed and agreed to forward the following concerns; visibility, speed limit is too high on this stretch of road and should be lowered from 50mph to 40mph. Clerk to forward to Network Rail.

- j) **PCC: Pontdolgoch to Clatter Enhancement Scheme – Consultation:** Councillors discussed the consultation for a proposed road improvement scheme and all Cllrs were in agreement that this was not necessary. Cllrs wondered what has prompted this consultation as there is not a requirement in this area to the extent that there is in others. Cllrs agreed that the area of the Weig Lane crossing was a much more hazardous stretch of road and the Caersws footbridge is also a more important safety issue to be looked at. The money going into this proposed road scheme would be better used elsewhere. Clerk to send reply and comments back to PCC.
- k) **CPRW Montgomeryshire:** Montgomeryshire Village Award 2018. Information noted, no action.
- l) **One Voice Wales:** Proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector. Information noted, no action.
- m) **One Voice Wales: Bee Friendly Scheme.** Information noted, no action.
- n) **Newtown & District Automobile Club:** Route maps and time schedule for daytime rally on 4th March. Information noted, Clerk to add details to the website and FB page.
- o) **British Ironwork Centre:** Request for feedback. Cllrs suggested passing this onto Maesmawr Farm and ask the British Ironwork Centre for a quote for a beacon. Clerk to action.
- p) **PCC: Village Hall Funding.** Funding is available for refurbishment projects such as Village Halls. This is not relevant to CCC at this time but is relevant to the Village Hall in Caersws and Community Centre in Clatter. It may also be something that the Recreation Association could apply for to help fund the new equipment at the site opposite The Buck Inn. Clerk to forward the details to the relevant people.
- q) **SARPA:** November 2017 newsletter. Information noted.
- r) **PCC:** General Dispensations. Information noted.
- s) **Pensions Regulator:** Declaration of Compliance. Clerk confirmed that although below the threshold for being put into a pension scheme information must still be confirmed by CCC with the Pensions Regulator. All Cllrs present agreed for Cllr A Wallbank to be the second contact for CCC as well as the Clerk.
- t) **Eisteddfod Powys Bro Hafren 2018:** Thank you received and request for donation. Information noted, request for donation to be added to March agenda when discussing S137 donations.
- u) **Russell George:** Calendar and door step surgery dates. Clerk to put details on noticeboards, website and Facebook page.

6. Reports: None

- 7. Risk Assessment: Cllr I Astley (December 2017)** a tree has fallen which members will remove when the weather improves but it is not causing any problems at present. Rubbish has been emptied and lagging around the water pipe was replaced.
- Cllr N Francis (January 2018)** The pot hole by the gate could do with being filled in. Clerk to contact PCC again.

8. Planning Applications

a) Application Ref: P/2017/0754

Response to objection received from C Wozencraft in relation to the above planning application.

Response sent prior to meeting to all Cllrs. Response was noted and Cllrs felt that still nothing has been done to reassure residents with concerns.

b) Application Ref: P/2017/0281

Local residents concerns and queries relating to the above application

Comments were noted, however the deadline for commenting on the application passed a long time ago and construction has started.

c) Application Ref: P/2017/1392

Local residents concerns and queries relating to the above application

Residents comments have been noted. Resident has sent comments to the Planning Dept for consideration.

9. Finances

Bills for payment

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary & expenses (Dec 17 & Jan 18)	£675.37
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at Caersws W/C (9 wks)	£432.00
Ian Jones	Electrical testing at Caersws W/C - Invoice not yet received	
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting (previous chq not withdrawn)	£264.00
Border Janitorial	Supplies for W/C	£49.20
One Voice Wales (training)	Amended chq due to previous incorrect amount	£20.00
P G Wainwright	Hedge cutting @ Llanwnog cemetery Jul-Sep17	£192.00

Bills to be paid were proposed by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr B O'Sullivan.

Revenue received

W/C revenue	Mid Nov – 04 Dec 17	= £150.15
W/C revenue	4 Dec 17 – 4 Jan 18	= £202.10
Leach & Son	Burial Fee	= £70.00
Mrs M D Jones	New Memorial	= £70.00
Mrs M F Green	New Cremation tablet	= £47.00
M Jones & Son	Burial Fee	= £140.00
NatWest	Account Interest	= £0.72

Revenue received was noted by all Cllrs present.

10. Caersws Public Convenience: No matters to discuss.

11. Bank balance

Current Account balance = £18,967.01 (as of 29 December 2017)

Reserve Account balance = £18,221.17 (as of 29 December 2017)

Balances noted by all Cllrs present.

12. Councillors Comments:

Clerk: Request has been made to publish the dates of the Community Council meetings in the Clatter Matters newsletter. All Cllrs present were in agreement to send the information.

Cllr B O'Sullivan: People are still complaining about dog fouling throughout the village. The pot holes are bad throughout Caersws also. Clerk to contact PCC.

Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas: There is a blocked drain between Severn Street and Chapel Street which has caused the water to build up across the street and people cannot walk through it. Other drains have been unblocked in the area but not here. Clerk to contact PCC.


Cllr A Wallbank: There is no salt on the road to Ty Gwyn and on the C2159. Clerk to contact PCC.

Cllr P Breese: There have been more issues with the trains and bus replacement services. There have been instances of information stating that trains are not running when they are. When there is a bus replacement service the bus often does not stop near the stations and it is not clear where to get the bus from so people have missed trains and therefore connections and sometimes flights. Clerk to contact Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales.

13. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Chairman Cllr I Astley thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.30pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)