

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

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

**In attendance:** Clerk, S Palmer. 3 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr D Collington

**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 3a.

Cllr N Francis declared an interest in agenda item 3a.

**3. Planning Applications:**

*Please note that Caersws Community Council is invited to make comments on planning applications as a consultee and is not a decision maker.*

**a) Application Reference: 18/0645/FUL** Grid Reference: **E:302745 N: 293634**

Proposal: Full: Erection of an agricultural building to house pullets, creation of vehicular access and all associated works. Site Address: Tynyrwtra, Llanwnnog, Caersws, Powys SY17 5JG

Cllrs L George and N Francis left the meeting due to declarations of interest.

Clerk read out an email from a local resident in relation to this application stating their objections

A local resident who was present addressed the council with the following points:

- Has lived in Llanwnnog village for 19 yrs and is a landowner
- All support letters except one were written after the refusal of the first application on 29.06.18, between 30.06.18 and 25.08.18. It appears that all have been canvassed into writing these letters and should therefore be given only minor consideration as they have mostly business interests.
- Concerned over health and the many detrimental environmental effects of this 'industrial' development and loss of amenity.
- Careful farmers know how intensive poultry units could affect humans, watercourses etc, just saying that it will be ok isn't good enough. This applies, in particular to the Parry's reports which make categorical statements without proper scientific back up.
- This community council should conclude that there are many issues on which the public need proof, before more farms are approved close to built-up areas.
- The risks are too great here, a moratorium on new poultry farms close to villages would be welcomed, there are already three in the area and no manure spreading yet.
- The damage to roads from heavy 44 tonnes vehicles will increase. Who pays for the road damage?
- The access/egress is on a tight corner bend.
- Airborne pollution (as evidenced by research in Holland), water borne pollution from concentrated manure spreading in areas of waterlogged sloping ground just hasn't been assessed to any level of detail.
- Welsh Government have increased concerns about the proliferation of these units and their cumulative effect, this too has not been addressed.
- Siting of this unit so close to a village needs much more careful consideration by learned bodies.

Applicant: Every box has been ticked and everything has been done that is required. There is nothing for anyone in the village to worry about. They believe they have done more in-depth surveys etc than other poultry farms in the area.

**Cllr I Astley:** Not the same impact on this as a rearing unit as there would be on a laying unit. Less muck and reduced number of HGV's.

**Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas:** How old are the hens when they arrive? Applicant confirmed that they are a day old when they go in and 16 weeks going out.

**Cllr A Wallbank:** Ideally would still like to see how existing units bed in prior to any further units being granted permission.

**Cllr B O'Sullivan:** Not against the unit but would like more details on the current situation and effects before an outright support

A vote was taken as to whether the Councillors were supporting, objecting or neutral to the application.

**Result:**

Votes for Support = 3

Votes for objection = 0

Votes for Neutral = 4

Clerk to send comments and response to PCC.

7.50pm: 3 members of public left the meeting.

Cllrs discussed the process for voting and a number of Cllrs stated that often they have voted by secret ballot and wish to set the procedure as such. Clerk suggested that this could be set out as a procedure within the Councils Standing Orders which are not currently up to date. Clerk will look at drafting some Standing Orders including the reviewed voting procedure.

4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr E Thomas and seconded by Cllr L George

5. **County Cllr L George: Report**

- Jobs at Caersws School nearly complete. Light outside still needs to be fixed.
- Cllr B O'Sullivan confirmed who owns the trailer parked by the school. Clerk to draft a letter asking him if it is possible for him to remove it so it isn't an obstruction to the school and play area as it has been there for a long time and could be a hazard to young children as it is parked close to the school and play park.
- **Station Car Park update:** Cllr L George has had a meeting with County Cllr Phyl Davies. An application has been put in but the issue of the Roman Fort keeps coming up due to expensive surveys etc. PCC are looking at alternatives nearby currently. Cllr A Wallbank asked why the Roman archaeology is a problem as long as soil is not disturbed. Cllr L George has suggested something similar previously and was still told it was not possible to have a car park on the fort.
- A tree will be planted in Clatter to replace the one which was removed by PCC in error. Cllr L George has received confirmation that a mature Cherry tree will be planted in October/November.
- Cllr L George stated that someone has been dumping bricks and rubbish at a patch of land in Sunnyside and is unsure who owns it.
- Meeting with manager of PCC Highways in Newtown he will go out with Cllr L George to see any areas that need repairing.
- A group in the village have got together and cleaned the memorial. They would also like to do a presentation for Kath Gethin on Remembrance Day as she has fund raised for years.  
Cllr B O'Sullivan the benches near the cenotaph have a lot of ivy growing around them. Cllr B O'Sullivan and Cllr L Gethin will take a look and cut back the ivy.
- Planning issue relating to poultry unit with an insufficient entrance. Clerk confirmed that PCC Planning Dept has responded to say that the planning officer is away but another officer will have a look this week and respond. Cllr L George stated that this unit was refused planning in 2010 for a 16,000 bird unit due to the insufficient nature

of the planning and legal documents. If there is an accident on that spot it will be the planning dept responsibility. There have been many crashes on that corner as well as 2 fatalities. Clerk to continue chasing.

6. **Council Vacancy:** Clerk confirmed that no requests for an election were sent to Powys County Council so Clerk will now put up a Notice of Co-option which will reach a deadline just prior to the next meeting in November. Councillors will then be able to discuss and vote.

7. **Projects:**

- a) **War Memorial Refurbishment:** Clerk has confirmed for the work to go ahead but not prior to Remembrance Day. There is still currently no confirmation of the ownership of the memorial. Clerk to chase.
- b) **WWI Commemoration:** Bonfire & benches. Bonfire will be lit at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November for Remembrance Day. Memorial bench has been put in place near the cenotaph by Cllr P Breese and Cllr B O'Sullivan. The second bench needs to be placed somewhere. Cllrs agreed for the second (plain) bench to be put in the cemetery.
- c) **Village Plan:** Clerk was sent details from a company who can produce a village map. Clerk confirmed the cost would be £500 for the map and 3 years of updates. Cllrs felt this was too much to pay for a map. Clerk has Ordnance survey map link which could maybe be added to the website. Cllr L George stated that TCT and other local groups put on good functions and events. TCT would like a closer association with CCC. Make a Village Plan to bring all local organisations together.
- d) **Toilets refurbishment:** Clerk went through the list of jobs which CCC would like quotations for to confirm the list was definitive. Cllrs made a few small changes. Clerk to try and get some quotations for discussion. Ladies coin machine not working at present so no one can get into the ladies. Clerk will look at getting someone to fix it.

8. **Matters Arising:**

- a) **Pavement widening between Spar and car park:** No updates at this time. Clerk to chase the landowner for a decision.
- b) **Planning issue: Entrance to poultry unit in Pontdolgoch:** Clerk has received a response from someone in Planning that they will visit the site this week and get back to her with an update as mentioned in agenda item 5.
- c) **Defib for Clatter:** 3 different costs received. Cllrs agreed unanimously to purchase a defibrillator via St John's ambulance. Clerk to action.
- d) **Powys CC:** Public Protection Orders. Clerk previously requested further details relating to the level of which have not yet been received. Clerk to chase.
- e) **Recreation Association:** Funding update. Clerk confirmed that the Association is currently around £30,000 short of the target they need to reach to receive the PCC funding of £10,000. CCC will look at adding an amount for the Recreation Association to the precept for next year.
- f) **Hedge cutting alongside chapel at playing field in Caersws:** Clerk to ask whether R Wainwright who cuts the hedge at the cemetery would be able to cut this hedge also. Clerk to action.
- g) **Welsh Government:** Consultation on Unadopted Roads in Wales. Clerk to forward further details of the unadopted road (New Road) in Caersws.
- h) **Dog Fouling:** Caersws. Clerk confirmed that PCC will be putting up extra signage around Caersws following issues with increased dog fouling not being collected by dog owners. Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas stated that attention should be drawn to the £75 fine for not collecting dog muck and that it is an offence.

9. **Correspondence:**

- a) **Independent Review Panel:** Final Report & Newsletter. Information noted.
- b) **Independent Remuneration Panel:** Draft Annual Report. Clerk confirmed the points that had altered from last year and what will need to be taken into account when setting the precept at the next meeting.
- c) **Powys Samaritans:** Support request for project. Cllrs agreed unanimously that they are in support of this project. Clerk to respond with a letter of support.

- d) **Request regarding Burial Plot:** A request has been made for permission to bury ashes within an existing burial plot from someone who wishes for their ashes to be buried within the existing double grave of their parents. Cllrs unanimously agreed to offer permission for this. Clerk to make relevant notes in burial documents and reply to the person who requested this.

**10. Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Cllr I Astley passed on some documents from the Graveyard Trust relating to the maintenance that CCC have agreed to take on.

**11. Risk Assessment, Llanwnnog Cemetery:** Cllr L George (October 2018). The roadway is still the main issue which CCC could look to re-surface in the spring. Otherwise it is looking tidy. Confirmed Cllr A Wallbank for November.

## 12. Finances

### 1. Bills for payment:

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary & expenses (October 2018)	£636.16
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk	£0
Second Life Products Wales Ltd	Commemorative & plain benches	£1,068.00
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at Caersws W/C	£144.00
Andrew Evans	Grass Cutting (October 18)	£264.00
K Gethin	Wreath for Remembrance	£17.00
Gwynne Woosnam	Grass cutting at Llanwnnog Cemetery	£2,418.00
Southern Electric	W/C Electricity (Direct Debit)	£31.12

*Not on agenda as received after agenda was posted but Clerk asked whether Cllrs would be willing to raise a cheque for Mr Carl Jones for covering the cleaning of the toilets in Caersws for 1 week in July. Cllrs were in unanimous agreement to draw a cheque.*

Carl Jones	Cleaning cover at Caersws W/C	£48.00
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### 2. Revenue Received

W/C revenue	29 Aug – 26 Sept 18	£288.31
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**3. Transfer request letter** to NatWest to transfer £10,000 from Reserve Account to Current Account signed. Clerk to send to NatWest for action.

**4. External Audit Report:** Clerk confirmed the conclusion of the external audit and went through the points raised by the auditors as follows:

- **Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors Rights:** The Council approved the accounts after the start of the notice period. Clerk stated that she was not aware of this and feels that the details within the paperwork did not make the full process clear enough.
- **Precept amount** was stated incorrectly as the amount subtracted from the precept for the election costs should have been included as precept amount with election costs detailed separately as expenditure. Clerk will restate the figures on next year's annual return.
- **Allocation of staff costs:** items of reimbursement for outlays to the council were incorrectly stated within expenses. Clerk confirmed she will state these items correctly in future. Figures will be restated on next year's annual return.
- **2015/2016 audited accounts:** auditors state that the process of presenting the audited accounts at a council meeting on 30 November 2016 were not minuted. Clerk however, has stated that this is not the case. Clerk to respond to auditors to confirm this information.
- **High level of reserves:** Auditors state that the council holds a high level of reserves. Clerk has stated that the reserves possibly seem high due to money being allocated for future projects. Clerk to ask auditors how this should be stated within the accounts.

Clerk will take all of the feedback on board for future audits.

**5. Accounts & Budget for Review.** As the meeting had been running late it was suggested that the accounts can be reviewed fully at the next meeting prior to setting the precept for 2019/20.

## 6. Bank Balances

Current Account	= £3,391.52
Reserve Account	= £37,095.28

## 13. Councillors Comments:

**Cllr P Breese:** new speed limit (50mph) has been implemented but it goes all the way to Caersws. The original information sent to CCC stated that it would end at the Llanwnog junction. Cllr A Wallbank suggested that Clerk asks the police for an accident report as the limit seems over the top possibly. There was also due to be some new signage and road markings near the Weig Lane junction but nothing has been done yet. Clerk to chase this up.

**Cllr I Astley:** A new entrance has been created on the C2158 at Bwlch y Garreg by the pumping station. Should this have had planning? Clerk to ask PCC.

**Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas:** The noticeboard should have a lock on it as it is a mess and people put up their own notices over the top of others and over the top of CCC notices although there is a note stating that anyone wishing to put up a notice should contact the Clerk. Clerk has never had a key but will look into whether one can be purchase or cut for it.

There is still an overgrown hedge as mentioned at the previous meeting and Cllr confirmed whose hedge it is.

There is ground near the school which could be cut back and used as a car park for the village.

**Cllr L Gethin:** the footbridge at Manthrig Lane is very slippery when wet. Clerk to contact PCC to ask whether some anti slip covering could be put on it.

**14. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)