

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

**Present:** Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan, Vice-chair Cllr D Collington, Cllr E Thomas, Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas, Cllr L George, Cllr M Harding, Cllr P Breese, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr R Davies, Cllr L Gethin.

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

**Members of the public present:** 4 local residents were present

**Not present:** Cllr N Francis

1. **Apologies:** Cllr A Wallbank. Cllr L George stated that he may have to leave the meeting early.
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 given**
3. **Minutes** of ordinary meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019: Cllr D Collington commented that the details he brought up during Cllrs comments needs rewording slightly. On the basis of the amendments discussed, the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr D Collington, and seconded Cllr E Thomas.
4. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)  
Four members of the public were present, two school children and their parents. Ellen and Lexi read out a letter which they sent to Cllr L George earlier in the month regarding the crossing at Caersws cross roads and their concerns over the safety of it after having trouble crossing the road due to drivers not stopping. They have suggested the following ideas:
  - Change speed limit to 15mph throughout the village;
  - Change the current zebra crossing to a pelican crossing;
  - Redraw the lines
  - Great village, excited about new park and the new shop etcCllrs thanked the girls for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council and continued to Cllr L George's report.
5. **County Cllr Les George:** Report:
  - **Caersws crossing:** Thanked Lexi and Ellen for their letter and for writing to him as County Councillor and showing an interest in village matters. Cllr L George suggested that this matter should be kept on the agenda and push for a pelican crossing to be installed in place of the current zebra crossing which is not sufficient. Cllr P Breese suggested that the letter from Ellen and Lexi be forwarded to the Trunk Road Agent for consideration. Cllr R Davies also suggested forwarding the letter to Russell George AM. More traffic from the by-pass and the new shop in Caersws has made the area much busier. A local resident reported to Cllr L George recently that he saw that two young people were on the crossing and one driver had seen them but the driver on the other side of the road didn't and there was nearly a very bad accident. All Cllrs present were in agreement that this matter should be pursued and a safer crossing pushed for. Clerk to contact PCC Highways and Trunk Road Agents about this matter.
  - **'Men's Shed Caersws':** Local resident has written to Cllr L George to suggest a proposal for a 'Caersws Men's Shed'. The suggestion is to use one of the units at Caersws Workshops. The idea was discussed by Cllrs. Cllr B O'Sullivan suggested that it requires a couple of enthusiastic people to get it started. Cllr L George suggested that we look into it and investigate others which have been set up. Clerk to contact Llanfilyn to find out how they went about setting theirs up and ask for some information and advice.
  - **Manthrig Brook:** Local residents have been in contact worried about the Manthrig Brook and that the water following the heavy rain has been coming further up than it has previously which raises concerns with the levels of flooding for local residents. Cllr D Collington asked whether PCC will clear the brook out as they have done previously (18 months/2 years ago). Cllr L George stated that this wouldn't help as the brook is lower than the River Severn so when the River Severn is full it pushes the water back up the Manthrig Brook which causes the flooding. Cllr L George suggested that the LDP may be reviewed sooner than previously stated due to some issues with the plan. Major consideration needs to be taken as to what happens further up the river as this issue will never alter if drastic action isn't taken. There are 7 areas in the LDP for developments and most are elevated but the development that is going through planning is on the flood plain. Information relating to the LDP and developments within the village should be added to the village plan. Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan asked whether we can ask whether PCC have any plans to develop any of the land which they own which is stated on the LDP and is more suitable and has the infrastructure required for this type of development. Add to the village plan where CCC feel developments should be rather than on the flood plain. Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan stated that when the by-pass was built attenuation tanks have been built to take the excess water away from the roadway. This cannot be done due to elevation and location of the river to the road. This would not work in the area of Caersws where the development is proposed as it is too flat and the water is on ground level. The issue will never be resolved as more and more tarmac/hard standing is going down and will only make the issue worse. Cllr L George stated that CCC need to be more assertive and take the issue more seriously.

- Entrance to the poultry unit has been started which was also confirmed to the Clerk by the Trunk Road Agent but further works are still required to allow for two HGV's to pass as only the immediate entrance onto the trunk road has been done. Clerk to chase up the remaining works with PCC Planning Dept.

## 6. Projects:

- War Memorial Refurbishment:** As confirmed at the last meeting the war memorial works have been completed. PCC have confirmed that the funding will be made available for the amount originally agreed. Clerk had a form that required a signature from Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan which was signed. Clerk to send signed form back to PCC and complete the Management and Maintenance Plan required to receive the funding.
- Village Plan:** The Clerk has added some further pages to the ongoing Village Plan document. She has asked that any information which can be offered by any Cllrs will be welcome as there is a wealth of knowledge available which should be utilised for the purposes of the plan.

## 7. Matters Arising:

- Pavement widening between Spar and car park:** Clerk has received a response from the Trunk Road Agent confirming that the request to widen the pavement is on the Welsh Governments radar but there may be no update for some time on this as these matters take a long time to go through the process. An email was also received from the Trunk Road Agent as an officer had visited the house by the Spar and spoke to the residents living there to ask them to cut the hedge as it has started to get overgrown over the pavement again. The resident stated that it is not on their contract to cut the hedge as they are tenants there. TRA asked whether CCC would be willing to cut the hedge again as done previously. Cllrs were not keen to cut the hedge again after complaints received last time. Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan stated that he will speak to the owner prior to the next meeting and ask whether she can arrange to get the hedge cut.
- Planning issue:** Entrance to poultry unit in Pontdolgoch: This was covered during Cllr L George's report.
- Defibrillators (Clatter & Llanwnog):** Cllr P Breese confirmed that the First Responders have been in touch and the ambulance services are looking to install more defibrillators in communities. They can make a defibrillator available for Clatter. We already have a defibrillator for Clatter but this could go to Llanwnog instead as has been discuss previously. Cllrs discussed where in Llanwnog a defibrillator would go and decided that the old school would be ideal. Clerk to contact the school that own the old school and ask about installing it there and using their electricity. Clerk to add payment for defib cabinet to next months agenda along with payment for new defibrillator pads as the spare ones for the defib at the Spar in Caersws are out of date.
- Standing Orders:** This item was left on the
- Change of use for Caersws Workshops:** This was discussed at the previous meeting and Cllr L George confirmed that PCC stated that those using the units can request a change of use. Clerk asked whether she needs to inform anyone of the outcome. Cllr L George will notify those that might be interested who are already at the workshops.
- Christmas tree Lights:** Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan and Cllr P Breese have trimmed the tree slightly but still need to cut the top of it to make the tree a bit shorter.
- Website:** The website does not have much foot fall so we don't need any more complexity than we have already. All in agreement to leave the website as it is and continue utilising Facebook as well along with maybe directing people to the website via Facebook for things such as agendas and minutes etc.

## 8. Correspondence:

- Cambrian Mountains Initiative:** Latest updates and projects regarding a signage project, a survey and query as to whether CCC would like to be on a reprint of the map in 2020. Cllrs are unsure what the Cambrian Mountains Initiative aim is and are concerned about the idea of the area changing to a National Park or something similar which could end with landowners being restricted as they are in Snowdonia National Park. No action at this time.
- Friendship Hour Club:** Thank you for donation. Content noted, no action.
- Recreation Association:** Thank you for donation. Content noted, no action.
- Local Resident:** 5G technology concerns forwarded onto Cllrs for consideration. Cllrs discussed this but feel that this is a complex issue to comment on. No action at this time.
- PCC & Powys Teaching Health Board:** North Powys Wellbeing Programme updates about the project. £2.5m to start the project which is currently in consultation. Information noted, this is an ongoing project and Clerk will continue to share updates and details of drop in events on the website and Facebook page.
- Woodland Trust:** Wales Tree of the Year Competition. Details noted, no action.
- On Behalf of PCC:** Public Path Orders for consultation. Cllrs discussed and confirmed that they have no objections. Clerk to confirm.

Delma Thomas has been in contact to ask whether CCC would like to have a table at the **Cofio Caersws** event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Clerk is not available but Cllr L George has stated that he will be there doing a surgery with Russell George. Other Cllrs will be there as well helping with other areas of the event. Clerk has some old minutes, maps and burials book which she will drop off with Cllr L George to take to the event.

Cllr L George left the meeting 8.46pm

## 9. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) **Refurbishment:** Clerk has not received any further quotations and has drafted a tender to send out to builders which Cllrs agreed they were happy to be sent out.
- b) **Drains affecting neighbouring property:** Cllrs noted that the road has been dug up again, Cllr L Gethin confirmed that he saw the resident living next door to the toilets and asked if Severn Trent have resolved the issue and she said no.

**Cllr L Gethin** went to empty the coin machines at the public conveniences the previous day and found that the machine on the gents door was jammed. Cllr L Gethin was able to release the jam but part of the machine inside was bent and is not working. Clerk stated that Healthmatic will probably need to be called out to fix this as it is quite a specific repair. The callout charge is high but Cllrs present were in unanimous agreement to get the repair done as soon as possible. Clerk to contact Healthmatic and also look into any alternative tradesmen for future.

## 10. Station:

- a) **Usage of waiting room:** Some time ago CCC asked Network Rail what was being done with the old waiting room at the station and has received a response to say that there may be funding available for certain projects and asking what the Community Council specifically has in mind. A specific project has not been discussed but following items earlier on the agenda it was suggested that this might be a possible venue for the Men's Shed Caersws. Clerk to forward this suggestion.

**Cllr E Thomas** reported at the previous meeting a resident living near to the crossing in Caersws has asked when the yellow lines will be painted as confirmed last year. Clerk confirmed that PCC have responded to say that they are waiting on the Welsh Government to confirm the funding and the work.

## 11. Cemeteries:

- a) **Llanwnog & Shiloh Clatter Cemetery Risk Assessments:** Cllr L George for June, confirm Cllr A Wallbank for July 2019. Cllr L George had left the meeting prior to this item but following the meeting he forwarded the risk assessment to the Clerk which stated that the roadway still needs to be resurfaced, the hedges need trimming and tree needs to be replaced. The weeds will be sprayed and the shed is due to be stained. Clerk to look into getting quotations through for these works.

## 12. Planning:

- a) **Application Reference: 19/0831/HH** Grid Reference: **E:303144 N: 292187.** Proposal: Erection of a rear conservatory and a first floor side extension. Site Address: 90 Llys Rhufain, Caersws, Powys, SY17 5HY

Clerk confirmed that PCC have stated that the above planning application has been withdrawn so no discussion was held.

**Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas** reported that a bungalow has been built near St Mary's Church. Clerk to ask PCC Planning Dept about this as it has not come through for consultation.

**Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan** mentioned that the car park at the new Costcutter has not yet been finished which is causing traffic issues at the garage. It has been reported that Cadw have stopped the build due to some pottery being found. The car park should be completed within the next week.

## 13. Finances

- a) **2018/19 Audit:** Completion of Internal Audit and accounts and audit to be approved by Full Council. The paperwork has been completed and emailed to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs went through all of the information and were in unanimous agreement to approve and sign off the documentation and send to the external auditor. Clerk to action.

### b) Bank Balances:

**Current Account** = £9,442.94  
**Reserve Account** = £26,560.43

### c) Bills for payment:

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary & expenses (June 2019)	£688.53
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk	£23.40
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at Caersws W/C	£192.00
Cwtch Caersws	S137 Donation	£100.00
Friends of Caersws School	S137 Donation	£100.00
St John's Ambulance	S137 Donation	£100.00
Border Janitorial Services	Cleaning supplies for W/C	£37.80
CAS	Council Insurance 2019/20	£399.14
Gwynne Woosnam Gen Services	Cemetery grass cutting (Llanwnog)	£2,418.00
Andrew Evans Landscape Ltd	Grass cutting (Caersws & Clatter)	£278.40
Southern Electric	W/C Electricity (Direct Debit)	£27.44
NatWest	Bank charges	£40.00

Bills to be paid were agreed and proposed for payment by Cllr D Collington and seconded by Cllr I Astley.

### d) Revenue Received

W/C revenue	25 Apr – 29 May 19	£299.45
M Jones & Son	Inscriptions x 3	£317.25

#### 14. Councillors Comments:

**Clerk:** confirmed that she had spoken to PCC regarding the dog fouling signs and bins which were requested some time ago. They have said they will look at putting more up but this has still not been done. Clerk has chased this up but will chase up again. **Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas** reported that the dog fouling issue has improved but there is still muck around and been seen near to St John's

**Clerk** also followed up on a matter raised by Cllr P Breese at the previous meeting regarding rights of way and that he was told that land owners must maintain fences/gates/stiles etc which are on their land. Clerk spoke to PCC officer who confirmed that this is the case but the council do look to get volunteer groups to help with some clearing and minor maintenance on public rights of way.

**Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas:** a resident has complained about the hedge cutting at the footpath over the small wooden bridge over the Manthrig Brook. The hedge has been cut but long nettles have been left. Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan said he will get a picture of it to send to the Clerk to forward to PCC Rights of Way.

**Cllr I Astley:** the mess from the large trailer which went up Bwlch y Garreg some time ago has not yet been cleared properly. Clerk to contact PCC regarding this.

**Cllr I Astley** also asked the Clerk about the meeting regarding EV chargers as Clatter Community Centre would like to look into getting one at the hall.

**Cllr P Breese:** The road through Llanwnog has been resurfaced but the roadway at the cemetery has not been done. Ask Cllr L George about this at the next meeting.

**Cllr E Thomas:** the benches throughout the wards have not yet been stained, when is this due to be done? Clerk had confirmed with the person who provided a quotation that CCC would like to go ahead but has recently been made aware that his email address was not working. Clerk now has a new email address and will chase this up.

**Cllr E Thomas** also asked whether a dog bin could be put at the pastures as there is not one there currently and there are often bags of dog mess thrown into the hedge. Clerk to request a bin for this area from PCC.

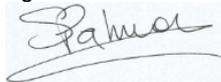
**Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan:** proposed that CCC should have a bench plan to replace the old benches for new recycled plastic ones and precept funds to do this each year. Cllrs agreed that this will be worth considering at the time of precept.

**Cllr R Davies:** mentioned that the email regarding PCC Planning Dept stating that Community Councils are not statutory consultees for planning was raised at the last One Voice Wales area meeting and One Voice Wales has confirmed and clarified that this is not the case and it is mandatory for Community Councils to be sent planning applications in order to be able to comment.

**Cllr M Harding:** gave apologies for the July meeting.

#### 15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall. This meeting is being brought forward due to the Clerks annual leave.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)