

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held remotely on Wednesday 26th August 2020

Present: Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan, Vice chair Cllr D Collington, Cllr P Breese, Cllr E Thomas, Cllr L George, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr M Harding (was present but lost connection near the start for the meeting).

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer

1. **Apologies:** Cllr R Davies, Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas, Cllr I Astley, Cllr A Wallbank.
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 and interest in agenda item
3. **Minutes** of decisions made on 22nd July 2020 were agreed and proposed by Cllr P Breese and seconded by Cllr D Collington.
4. **Cllr Les George Report:**
 - **Car park in Caersws:** funding for this could be available through the railway scheme, will forward the details to the Clerk.
 - **Poultry Units in Powys:** These are becoming a real issue and are being reported in the local and National news in relation to issues reportedly caused by the units such as the River Wye being polluted. Cllr L George stated that these applications are not being called in so they are being put straight through to approval. There may be a case also that the Welsh Government is promoting this and other forms of intensive farming. Cllr M Cheshire stated that it is undemocratic and more must be done to stop more going through in areas where there already are a number of these units. PCC should be asked whether Welsh Government are putting pressure on them to allow these developments. Shropshire had a moratorium stating that no further applications should be put through, Powys CC should do this also. Cllr P Breese suggested contact Russell George AM to get him on board with trying to stop any more of these developments in areas already flooded with them. Clerk to action.
 - **Voluntary Sector Recovery Fund:** This fund may help some organisations in the area. Details will be forwarded onto Clerk to send on to those who may benefit from it.
 - **Police & Crime Commissioner:** Elections are coming up for the Police Commissioner.
 - **PCC full Council Meetings:** Cllr L George attends these 2-3 times per year. CCC can pass questions on for him to raise at these meetings direct.
 - **Communication received from a holiday maker** who complained about the reception she received from local people when she visited Caersws from Essex recently. Cllr L George responded directly to her to say that he was sorry that she had such a bad experience and hope that she returns to Caersws some time in the future.

Cllr P Breese asked Cllr L George what is happening with the Caersws Footbridge. Cllr L George confirmed that the money has been allocated for this and it could be looked at in line with the potential road improvement scheme on Long Length.
5. **Councillor Vacancy** Notice of vacancy is displayed and will remain displayed until the September meeting. Interest has been received in writing from one member of the community and from one other verbally who will be asked to put his interest in writing.
6. **Highway Matters:**
 - a) **Pavement widening between Spar and car park** Clerk has received a response from the Trunk Rd Agent to say that they have been in communication with the owner of the Spar who is happy for the project to be taken forward. TRA is pushing Welsh Gov to bring this scheme forward. Clerk to chase up again prior to the next meeting.
 - b) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing** TRA have confirmed that following the change in speed limit on the Carno Road there should have been additional markings etc but they are unsure as to what happened with getting this done and funding etc. They will chase this up and let the Clerk know. Clerk to chase up prior to the next meeting.
 - c) **Dropped kerb outside Spar in Caersws** Highways have directed the Clerk to a different dept which is yet to respond.
 - d) **Logs blocking culvert, Main Street** A tree has been cut on some land near to a culvert on Main Street and the large logs have made their way to the culvert and are blocking the culvert. There is a concern over this creating a problem especially as we get towards Autumn and worse weather which could cause some major issues on Main Street. Clerk has forwarded pictures to Highways who have stated that they did not cut the tree down so it would not be their responsibility to remove the logs. *Following the meeting the Clerk contacted Highways to reiterate the concern over the effect these logs could have on the culvert and the roadway if left in situ. Highways responded to confirm that they removed the logs.*

7. Matters Arising:

- a) **Benches costs:** Clerk had sent through various costings for recycled plastic benches to Cllrs prior to the meeting and these were looked at and discussed at the meeting. Cllrs decided to leave on the agenda for the next meeting to make a decision.
- b) **Llandrindod Wells Town Council: Climate Change Questionnaire** Clerk confirmed that only 11 people responded to the Facebook poll asking whether CCC should officially declare a climate emergency. 55% answered 'yes' and 45% answered 'no'. Cllrs discussed and agreed that as the result was so close and so few residents answered the poll that they would not declare a climate emergency at this time.
- c) **Old School in Llanwnog** Previously mentioned that the old school is very scruffy and overgrown. Clerk has contacted the school who owns it. CCC is aware that the school wish to sell the property as they no longer use it. It has been reported to them that it could do with being tidied up. However, Cllr L George stated during the meeting that he is due to go around and spray the weeds around the village and is intending to spray weeds etc here too.
- d) **PCC Flood Consequences Assessment** This information has now been received from PCC and passed onto all Cllrs. This will be kept on file for information.

8. Correspondence:

All correspondence relating to COVID-19 has been forwarded to Cllrs and shared online where necessary

- a) **PCC: Virtual meeting with Town & Community Councils 15.10.2020** PCC will be holding another virtual meeting with Chair's and Clerks of Town & Community Councils. Clerk asked Cllrs whether they would like her to request any items to be added to the PCC agenda. The following were suggested:
 1. Flooding issues
 2. Poultry Units in Powys
- b) **St.Gwynog's Church: Costs etc regarding taking ownership of Caersws War Memorial.** Communication received asked whether CCC would cover all costs for transferring ownership of the war memorial. The costs to St Gwynog's Church would be around £500 then CCC would have to cover their own costs. Cllrs would like to confirm whose land the memorial is on as this could become an issue potentially. Clerk to request this information prior to the next meeting.
- c) **Russell George AM: Flooding issues.** Meeting with PCC and NRW regarding flooding issues with Manthrig Brook was delayed due to COVID but in the meantime PCC have agreed to look at this internally. Clerk to request an update from Russell George AM prior to the next meeting.
- d) **PCC: Removal of payphones, consultation** The phone kiosk on Main Street is on the list for removal. Cllrs discussed and are happy for that to be removed. Clerk to confirm this information with PCC.

9. Planning

a) Planning Applications:

1. **Application Reference: 20/0989/FUL** Grid Reference: **E:304112 N: 295536** Proposal: Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling, installation of sewage treatment plant and all associated works Site Address: Waen , Bwlch-Y-Ffridd, Newtown, SY16 3JF **Cllrs discussed the above application and have no objections.**
2. **Pre planning Consultation:** Holiday Park, Aberhafesp At the previous meeting Cllrs discussed and confirmed concerns over the entrance as it is on a very dangerous road. A response was received and forwarded to all Cllrs to confirm that the access has been considered and will be made very wide and the safety of those using the access and the road has been considered within the plans which they also attached for Cllrs info.
3. **Maesmawr Farm Resort consultation** No further information. CCC's comments were put forward last month to ask why the number of units has altered.

b) Issues/Queries:

1. **Gateway in Caersws (Unicorn)** This application has now been withdrawn, WG highways sent further comments at the end of July stating reasons why the permission should not be granted.
2. **Poultry Unit issues** – Perthairin expansion application & wider area. This is an ongoing application with a number of concerns raised by CCC and local residents. CPRW are working very hard to get to the issue of the number of units being applied for in Powys. Jill Kibble of CPRW would be happy to speak to Council either via remote meeting or face to face but a local resident who has been highlighting concerns over the application and challenging PCC Planning over many points is a member of CPRW as well. Clerk is also looking to get a contact at NRW to confirm CCC's concerns and ask what they are doing regarding the situation of the high concentration of poultry units. Clerk to also contact Russell George AM and local MP Craig Williams to highlight the issue and CCC concerns with them.
3. **Planning Dept:** Request for support & visit from Planning Officer. Clerk has spoken with a senior planning officer who has confirmed that there is no single document to refer to when responding to planning as each is potentially different depending on what and where it is. The officer did confirm that the LDP (Local Development Plan) is probably the main document used by officers when considering an application and there is also a document called 'Planning Policy Wales' which is obviously on a National level.

He suggested looking at the 'Delegated Reports' which are done following each planning application being considered as this will give an insight into the reasons why an application has been passed or refused.

10. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) **Blockage at men's toilets** MetroRod went out last week. The blockage was much worse than first thought and it took them a long time to move it. They managed to unblock it as far as the neighbours but they could not go any further at that point as the neighbour contacted Severn Trent due to the long-term issues she has had. Toilets were closed temporarily in order to ensure that the blockage did not get any worse prior to Severn Trent going out to the property. Severn Trent did go out and also took some time to clear the blockage which was blocked at the main sewer under the main road.
- I have suggested to the neighbour that we could draft a letter to someone senior at Severn Trent to try and force some action on this issue which has been an ongoing one for many years. Some information will be gathered by the neighbours who have been affected including dates when Severn Trent has had to come out and unblock the drains (these are numerous!). Clerk will print some more signs to put up in the toilets stating that nothing but toilet paper must be flushed down the toilets.
- The neighbour was very grateful that the toilets were closed whilst the issue was sorted. The toilets have reopened.

Cllr M Harding and Cllr E Thomas left the meeting at this point (9pm) due to poor connection.

- b) **No Parking notices** These have been gratefully received by the neighbour and put up, hopefully they will help.

11. Cemeteries:

- a) **Yr Ynys Island:** Improvement works to be carried out and weeding needed Clerk has not heard back from Mr Evans regarding when he will be able to carry out the works but in his last communication he confirmed that he was very busy at present.
- Cllr E Thomas contacted the Clerk prior to the meeting to report that someone had complained about the Yr Ynys Island in the cemetery as there are a lot of weeds and it is a contrast to the rest of the cemetery which is really neat and tidy. Cllr E Thomas confirmed that works are due to be completed to tidy this area up but she wondered whether Cllrs could join together to tidy it up. Cllrs are happy to help, nothing specific was arranged.
- Following the meeting Cllr E Thomas spent two days clearing the weeds from the island and took some of the bags of green waste away but was unable to take all of it as there was so much. Cllr M Harding removed the remainder of the bags from the cemetery. Thank you to Cllrs who have tidied this area.*
- b) **Shiloh, Clatter graveyard:** Transferring from Trust to CCC Clerk has contacted Hanratty solicitors as no updates have been received for some time but she has not received a response as yet.

12. Finances:

- a) **Bank Balances:**
Current Acc = £8,475.75
Reserve Acc = £27,841.27

b) **Bills to be Paid**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (August 2020)	£655.03
Sophie Palmer	Clerks expenses (August 2020)	£27.32
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (August 2020)	None to pay
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at W/C (Aug 20)	£192.00
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting at Caersws and Clatter (June/July)	£340.80
Metro Rod	WC unblocking drains	£300.00

Money received:

WC Revenue	02.07.20 – 20.08.2020	£267.60
I B Williams & Son	New Memorial	£157.50
Leach & Son	Cremation fee	£261.00

Bills to be paid were agreed and proposed by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr M Cheshire.

13. Items with no progress at this time:

- a) Defibrillator (Llanwnnog)
b) Caersws CC Logo
c) Electric Car Charging

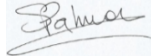
14. Councillor Comments:

None

15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th September 2020.

Chair Cllr B O'Sullivan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.28pm.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Palmer', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)