

# CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held at Clatter Community Centre on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Chair Cllr A Wallbank, Vice Chair Cllr M Harding, Cllr L George, Cllr D Collington, Cllr P Breese, Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas, Cllr R Davies, Cllr C Woosnam

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr E Thomas, Cllr I Astley, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr B O'Sullivan
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.*
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)  
No members of the public in attendance
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr D Collington.
5. **Cllr Les George Report:**
  - **Cllr L George** confirmed that he has been in contact with TCT regarding the funding that is available from PCC Rights of Way. Clerk to forward PCC ROW Officer's details to TCT to make contact regarding what is available.
  - **New road from Weig Lane for the wind farm:** Cllr L George has requested that the footpath is extended to extend the current footpath. A few requests have been made to create a cycle path but this is something that the land owner would need to agree to and be involved in as the new road would not be in ownership of the wind farm.
  - **Parking issues close to Caersws School:** this was raised at the previous School Governors meeting, the head teacher was not aware of an issue so will look into this further.
  - **Cllr L George** will be going to the Police meeting again soon. The Police are very accessible and happy to answer queries.
  - **Queen's Jubilee next year:** Clerk to ask PCC if any grants available for these celebrations. Clerk to look into this and report back.
  - **Crossing in Caersws:** Cllr L George's grandchildren had a near miss recently at the current crossing. Cllr L George will write to TRA to push for a commitment and date for a site meeting.
  - **Crematorium application:** Cllr L George has spoken to Chris Lloyd of PCC Highways in regards to the fact that the Crematorium applicant is open to the possibility of providing some more land in order to improve the cross roads at Foxes Pitch. PCC have confirmed that they would require something in writing confirming what their intentions are in relation to this. Cllr L George proposed writing to Welsh Government regarding the discussions that have been ongoing to ensure that improvements are a condition of the planning to be approved. Clerk to write to Julie James MS to inform of the discussions that have occurred.
  - **Highways:** Cllr L George has spoken to PCC Highways regarding the speed issues on Main Street. The reply received talks about changing of speed on Main St whereas CCC had asked for a flashing sign to show and remind drivers of the 30mph limit rather than changing the limit. Clerk to respond to PCC to confirm the request for a flashing sign.
  - **Manthrig Brook:** Resident wrote to Russell George regarding the state of the Brook and that the overgrowth is very bad. Russell George confirmed that the responsibility of the Brook and its upkeep/maintenance
  - **Resident near to the Church** has raised a query about the fence at the Church in Llanwnog. Cllr A Wallbank will look into this.
6. **Highway Matters:**
  - a) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** No further info, Clerk to chase for a site meeting, Cllr L George to write to TRA regarding a site meeting date.
  - b) **No Through Road Signs request:** this was dealt with prior to the last meeting
  - c) **Timber lorries through Caersws:** Clerk has now spoken with the owner who was very rude regarding this request and in short the answer is 'no'.
  - d) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** No date as yet for a site meeting, Clerk to push for a site meeting for this and agenda item 6a.
  - e) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** Still no update on this, Clerk is still chasing for this to be done.
  - f) **Hedges:** PCC has now spoken to everyone regarding hedges that need cutting back apart from over the Manthrig Brook as Rights of Way were not sure whose responsibility those were, this would be the responsibility of the riparian owners.  
The query regarding the hedges that back onto the car park at the toilets has been confirmed by PCC as the responsibility of the home owner. The tenants at one property were told previously by PCC that TRA would be asked and now the hedge is too high for them to cut themselves. I believe this is a misunderstanding in relation to the hedge at the other side by the road where previously CCC was in touch with TRA and CCC Cllrs offered to cut the hedge themselves, this was done as a one off 2/3 years ago but responsibility lies with the owner or tenant usually if

rented out. As PCC told the tenant that they would discuss with TRA and never came back to them Clerk has contacted PCC to ask if they can do something to help with this to bring the hedge to a manageable size as it is also difficult for the tenant with cars generally parked in the car park so hard to get to the hedge to cut it. Clerk to report back once a response is received from PCC.

- g) Cllr Andrew Wallbank's communication with Russell George regarding a bypass for Caersws:** This was a proposal made some time ago which Cllr A Wallbank raised with Russell George

## **7. Matters Arising:**

- a) Picnic Bench for Pastures:** This was delivered to Phil and he and Barry will be putting it in place at the pastures within the next few days hopefully. Cllr P Breese will then have two new benches and one old one to put somewhere. One of these is the bench that Nick Evans wanted to place at the cemetery.
- b) Defibrillators; Llanwnnog & Caersws:** Clerk has not yet confirmed whether he has installed the defib in the kiosk in Llanwnnog. Cllr C Woosnam confirmed that the Football Club have stated that they would like a defib and have asked whether CCC would buy it or contribute towards the cost. Cllrs agreed that CCC should purchase this defib as well and the one agreed for either the Village Hall or Doctors surgery.
- c) Dog Fouling:** PCC cannot do much more than they have already so anything further may need to be actioned by CCC. Clerk forwarded an email regarding stations which can be installed with notices and free dog poo bags for people to use. Cllrs suggested getting one of these stations to start with to see if it helps. The Pastures is a bad area for dog fouling and Clerk to also ask Cllr B O'Sullivan if Upper Lane footpath is a problem area as well. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
- d) Place Planning:** as discussed, this will be left on the agenda but look at nearer Sept time when it would be best to set up a specific committee in order to look into this project as it will be very involved and will need to be done right for PCC to agree to acknowledge it in line with planning processes.
- e) Electric Car Charging in Caersws:** Clerk is gathering details regarding EV chargers from different companies currently and will report back with information from which to make some decisions. Clerk also contacted Russell George to ask if he can point CCC in the right direction of who to contact regarding this.
- f) Speed Check Group:** Posters put up on noticeboards and Facebook which Cllr M Cheshire's contact details for those who are interested. Cllr P Breese has confirmed that he is waiting for a response from PC Mair who he is trying to contact in relation to a list of matters which are still due to be discussed.
- g) Caersws Bridge:** Clerk has not heard any more about this but will chase up the person she spoke with previously about the work they did which closed the bridge over night to find out when they will have the results.

## **8. Correspondence:** *All correspondence relating to COVID-19 has been forwarded to Cllrs and shared online where necessary*

- a) PCC: Covid Community Recovery Grant:** for information, not applicable to CCC but details have been sent on to local groups and committees.
- b) PCC: Woodland Investment Grant:** for information, not applicable to CCC, no action.
- c) Eco Green Communities:** Information regarding eco dog poo bins and bags. Discussed during agenda item 7c.
- d) One Voice Wales: Operation London Bridge:** for info, certain procedures to be implemented in the event of the death of the Queen. Information to be forwarded to hall committees as it may be relevant to them too.
- e) One Voice Wales:** New networking Group to discuss Environmental Issues. A networking group set up by One Voice Wales. Clerk to join this.
- f) One Voice Wales:** Seeking examples of good practise regarding dog fouling issues. For info, no action.
- g) Local Resident:** Request for information regarding Meals on Wheels. a local resident who visits an elderly gentleman once a week to walk his dog has requested this info as she is concerned about whether he has a healthy meal often enough. Clerk has passed some info on to her to pass on to the man and his family and copied Cllr L George into communication as well.
- h) Carno Community Council:** Letter to Vaughan Gething, Minister for Economy. Clerk was copied into a letter from Carno CC regarding A470 issues, Caersws to Cemmaes Road. Cllrs agreed with the issues raised in the letter. Clerk to confirm that CCC are in agreement with the points raised.
- i) Powys CC: Consultation on Qualifications for Clerks in Wales.** The deadline for comments is September so will have chance to discuss further in August. Cllrs discussed but will leave on the agenda for the August meeting to discuss further and make a decision on comments to put forward.
- j) Local resident:** concerns over Aberhafesp road following an accident. This was forwarded to Cllrs along with the responses received from PCC. For information, nothing further CCC can do.

## **9. Planning:** No new planning applications received.

**10. Caersws Public Conveniences:** Still issues with drains blocking here. Clerk has received reports recently regarding the toilets blocking again although it was fine when she went a couple of days later. The issue seems to be people putting things down the toilet that should not be flushed down the toilet. Clerk will contact PCC again to ask them to deal with the drainage issues. Cllrs still feel that the only way to resolve the issues here is to divert the drains. Cllr L George will be pushing for PCC to deal with the drainage pipes to be diverted directly to the main sewer under the main road.

**11. Cemeteries:**

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr A Wallbank to carry out Risk Assessment in July, Cllr I Astley to carry out for August.  
Cllrs discussed the cremation island and that a plan should be in place for spacing of plots as the segments of the island are filled so as to keep the spacing neat. Cllr A Wallbank to arrange a site meeting to discuss this and other issues such as the compost bin and graves which need some maintenance.
- b) **Llanwnog Cemetery:** Gwynne Woosnam is happy to carry out the hedge cutting here and this has been given the go-ahead following confirmation from Cllrs at the last meeting. Clerk has not yet put up the new sign asking people to take their own rubbish home but will do so before the next meeting.
- c) **Shiloh, Clatter graveyard:** Ian Hughes has not been able to get to the graveyard yet but assures the Clerk that he will do soon.

**12. Finances:**

a) **Bank Balances:**

Current Account = £2,267.85

Reserve Account = £50,598.36 (£10,000.00 was transferred into current account last month but not yet showing on statement)

**Bills to be Paid:**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (July 2021)	£767.15
Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (Pay rise back pay to Apr 21)	£233.19
Sophie Palmer	Total net pay for Clerk	£864.20
Sophie Palmer	Clerks expenses (July 2021)	£39.43
<i>(Breakdown of expenses: Home working allowance = £6.66, stationery &amp; postage = £9.95, mileage = £22.82 (50.7 miles))</i>		
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (July 2021)	£136.14
Hugh Jones	Cleaning at W/C (July 2021)	£192.00
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting – Caersws (May & June)	£681.60

Bills to be paid were proposed for payment by Cllr D Collington and seconded by Cllr P Breese.

**13. Councillor Comments:**

**Cllr C Woosnam:** asked whose responsibility the play area opposite the school is. Clerk confirmed that it is the responsibility of PCC.

**Cllr T P Calvin-Thomas:** Confirmed that the trees nearby which have been chased to be removed have now got dieback.

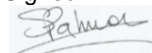
**Clerk:** Confirmed that the current regulations state that Community and Town Council meetings currently have to be run as hybrid meetings. This is something that One Voice Wales is pushing against as so many Councils do not have the facilities to provide this. Clerk suggested that should members of the public wish to join a meeting and are unable to attend meeting face to face at the hall, then the meeting should take place online so as to be able to make the meeting accessible for all which Cllrs agreed with.

**Cllr A Wallbank:** Met, along with Cllr L George, Janet Mackinnon who had requested a meeting previously. LDP was discussed along with Flood Management plans and that CCC would be happy to have more input here and would welcome any suggestions on how to get more involved. The issue of rubbish along the river was also raised. Ms Mackinnon and other regularly litter pick in the area and Cllrs agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to acknowledge their hard work.

**14. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre. This was later changed to a Teams remote meeting due to the availability of the Clerk.

Chair Cllr A Wallbank thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.55pm

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)