

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held at **Clatter Community Hall** on **Wednesday 24th August 2022** at 7.30pm.

Present: Chair Cllr P Breese, Vice Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr L George, Cllr D Lowe, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr C Knapp, Cllr D Collington, Cllr P Skitt (left at 8.55pm).

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer, local resident Dylan Jones.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr M Price gave apologies but also confirmed that he wished to stand down from his position on the Council as he does not feel that he has enough time to fully commit to the role.
- 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 10.
Cllr C Knapp declared an interest in agenda item 10c

3. Public Speaking Session (15 minutes maximum time allocated)

Local resident, Dylan Jones attended the meeting in order to go through his ideas and suggestion for a community space in Caersws. There is a plot of land available to buy which could provide a good space for nature and wellbeing for all in the community. There could be space for people to come together and take part in different activities which may not currently be available.

This would fit with the wellbeing plans for the county and Welsh Government and inline with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

There is also a shed which could be utilised for activities for the community.

Dylan also mentioned the Manthrig Brook which may be a feasible option to work on the idea that an area could be allowed to flood which may alleviate some flooding at other parts of the Brook.

Cllr C Brooks asked what involvement there might be from CCC. How would the land be managed? A group has to take the maintenance on. A public space would require 2 access points for emergencies etc. The area may encourage some people to misuse the area. There are old peoples' bungalows backing onto this which the residents may not welcome. There are some negative potential outcomes to consider as well as the positives.

Cllr A Wallbank asked about the access to the site which was confirmed as having none without permission of another land owner.

Cllr C Knapp raised concerns over whether the Community Council would be liable for any issues, also maintenance, insurance could become costly.

Chair Cllr P Breese thanked Mr Jones for attending and let him know that Cllrs would consider all the points raised.

Mr Dylan Jones left the meeting.

- 4. Minutes** of meeting held on 13th July 2022 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr D Lowe.

5. Cllr Les George Report

- Maes yr Dre: a few issues here which are in hand
- Powys CC has a shortage of staff currently which is causing some issues across various departments
- Complaint at Station Road which has been dealt with
- HOWPs has now been scrapped, hopefully things will now improve with Powys CC covering the property maintenance themselves.
- Cllr L George has the Police & Crime Commissioner Report if anyone would like to view it.
- Requested again for the Clerk to send all members contact details out

6. Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:

- a) Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** No further information received.
- b) Caersws bridge:** No further information regarding the footbridge. There will be further works carried out on the bridge which should be followed by removal of the lights.
- c) Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** No further information received.
- d) Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** No further information received.
- e) Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** Email received from PCC regarding the fact that landowners will be clearing overhanging trees from the brook. Cllrs stated that this will not be enough to solve the issue as the brook is completely full of and blocked by foliage. Clerk has pictures sent by Cllr M Cheshire which she has forwarded back to PCC to show the extent of the issue and that further clearing is required than the overhanging branches.
- f) Powys Decision Matrix for PCC:** PCC has responded to the points that are not related to TRA/Welsh Government and the point regarding the street light has now been completed.

7. Place Plan Committee Report

- a) **Community Survey:** Cllr C Brooks went through the survey and raised a number of issues and concerns with the questions and felt it was ambiguous and did not have a clear purpose. These points were discussed and Cllrs decided not to send the survey out and for the Place Plan committee to discuss further as to where to go with the plan. It was suggested that a Village Plan would be more
- b) **LDP update:** PCC have emailed confirming that they wish to engage with the public for the LDP consultation and involve the Town & Community Councils as much as possible. No details for the new LDP have been provided as yet for discussion.
- c) **Active Travel Plan:** Not available in this area currently.

8. Matters Arising:

- a) **Dog Fouling:** Station attached to the railings at the Village Hall with dog poo bags available for walkers to take.
- b) **Signal box at station:** Clerk is yet to receive any confirmation of work being completed. Clerk to chase up to confirm.
- c) **Street light by Caersws Village Hall:** This has been installed since the last meeting and placed on the same side as the village hall instead of opposite as stated originally. Local resident called to confirm it was in place and to thank the Community Council for getting it sorted.
- d) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** Chair Cllr P Breese confirmed that the car is still in situ. Clerk to chase this up with the Police.
- e) **New Clerks Laptop** New laptop received and working well so far. There is one issue with storage space for the emails which is running out. The only two options to deal with it are to have to remove emails to make space or use Office 365 which would be £9.40 + vat per month. Cllrs concerned about whether a single user license is appropriate and what other Councils do. Clerk to look into this for the next meeting.
- f) **Finance & Governance Toolkit:** No further update currently.
- g) **Statutory guidance relating to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021:** Clerk to look into helping get a draft annual report for the next meeting.
- h) **Caersws Workshops:** Clerk is awaiting a response from Cllr Berriman.
- i) **Christmas Tree Lights:** Clerk sent on details of lights which are the same as the ones already being used to replace the current set as they are not long enough now and have a number of faulty lights. Cllrs agreed on 30metres of lights listed as warm, white sparkle. Clerk to action.
- j) **Police meetings;** Clerk has invited pc\so Gemma Lewis to the Sept meeting which she will try to attend if possible.

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

- a) **Cemetery query:** Family of local people buried in Llanwnnog contacted CCC from Canada requesting details of the cemetery, grave and info re maintenance of the grave. The Clerk confirmed that she has sent all details requested. The question for Cllrs is whether they are happy for a trust to be set up for the perpetual maintenance of the grave. Cllrs agreed that they are happy with this as long as CCC would not be holding any funds and rather the trust would be looked after by someone who would be able to pay for any maintenance required through the fund set up. Clerk to confirm these requirements.
Cllr P Skitt left the meeting
- b) **Powys CC:** Powys Discretionary Fund for Cost of Living. Information noted, no action.
- c) **Caersws Recreation Association:** Thank you letter (donation for all weather area). Information noted, no action.
- d) **One Voice Wales:** Seeking Welsh Suppliers. Clerk asked for a list of businesses currently on the list and this was provided. This should be an ongoing exercise, no specific businesses to send on to them currently.
- e) **Brecon Advice Centre:** Request for funding. Cllrs agreed not to provide funding this time around as CCC would rather fund local groups.
- f) **Welsh Government:** A fairer council tax consultation. Information noted, no action.

10. Planning:

- a) **Application Reference: 22/1229/LBC** Grid Reference: E:303232 N: 291729 Proposal: Listed Building application for refurbishment, repairs and an interim intervention to strengthen the masonry spandrel walls and all associated works Site Address: Caersws Bridge , Caersws, SY17 5DX
Cllrs noted that this work has already been going on for some time. No objection.
- b) **Electricity Act 1989: Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.** Reference: 22/1272/ELE Grid Ref: E: 303883 N: 291039 Proposal: Electricity Act 1989: Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 to install an additional single wooden pole to support an existing overhead power line Site Address: Land At Moat Lane, Caersws, Powys SY17 5SB
Cllrs discussed and have no objections
- c) **Application Reference: 22/1069/HH** Grid Reference: E:303412 N: 291343 Proposal: Proposed erection of a single storey extension to existing dwelling. Site Address: Beudy Clyd , Maesmawr, Caersws, SY17 5SB

Cllrs discussed and have no objections

- d) Application Reference: 22/1215/FUL** Grid Reference: E:302642 N: 295088 Proposal: Extension of residential curtilage to form wild flower meadow garden, fruit orchard & replacement of existing static caravan with timber clad garden room annex building. Site Address: Llwyngwyn , Llanwnog, Caersws, SY17 5NZ
Cllrs discussed and have no objections
- e) Application Reference: 22/1141/FUL** Grid Reference: E:302150 N: 293868 Proposal: Erection of 2 no dwellings incl. change of use. Site Address: Erection Of Two Dwellings At Post Office Field Adjacent To Yew Tree Barn, Llanwnog, Caersws, Powys SY17 5JG
Cllrs discussed and have no objections

11. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) Lights repair:** The Clerk is chasing up when this will be done as the days will be getting shorter soon.
- b) New doors / hinges:** Waiting for a quote for composite doors from someone local and also heavy metal doors from Healthmatic
- c) Beeping of coin boxes:** The Clerk hasn't managed to do this yet but will look into muffling the beeping noise with something on the CPU.
- d) Leaking toilets and blockages:** Waiting for a quote for fixing the toilet pans which are loose
- e) Repair and maintenance:** Waiting for quotation from Healthmatic for maintaining the toilets overall to assess whether this would be a viable option.

12. Cemeteries:

- a) Risk Assessments:** Cllr A Wallbank completed the risk assessment in July following the previous meeting. The weeds have come up on Yr Ynys. Clerk confirmed that she pulled some weeds up when she was last at the cemetery. Cllr L George sprays the weeds every now and then.
- b) LLanwnog Cemetery:**
1) Gates and roadway repairs: Waiting for quotes to come through that Les has requested. None received at this time. Cllr L George is chasing up. He has requested quotes from 4 people and received 2, one of which is not broken down to be able to make a decision on it.
Nigel Price provided a quote which Cllr D Lowe proposed CCC should accept. Cllr A Wallbank seconded this decision. Clerk to action.
- c) Shiloh, Clatter graveyard:** Clerk has chased up the solicitor but not had a response as yet.

13. Finances:

- a) Account balances:**
Current Account = £18,656.13
Reserve Account = £41,959.28
- b) Full Audit information:** CCC has a 'FULL' audit this year (each council will have a full audit every 3 years) I therefore need to collate more detailed information to send to the auditor as well as the normal audit which has already been completed.
- c) Bills to be paid:**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (Aug 22)	£774.26
Sophie Palmer	Clerks expenses (Aug 2022)	£52.47
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (July 2022)	£12.66
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Hugh Jones	Cleaning at W/C (Aug 2022)	£144.00
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting (Caersws & Clatter)	£912.00
Satch Norton	New logo added to website	£140.00
Jack Holley	Drain unblocking at WC	£285.00
PC-Q	New Clerks laptop	£810.00
Zurich Municipal	Council Insurance	£646.78
Border Janitorial	WC supplies	£84.00

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

Cllr D Lowe asked about the income, Clerk confirmed she will add to the agenda each month from September.

14. Councillor Comments:

Clerk: Cllr co-option, there is now 2 vacancies on the council which will need advertising. Clerk will put a notice of co-option notice up tomorrow with a deadline prior to the next meeting and will see what interest there is to hopefully be able to co-opt new members at the next meeting.

Cllr P Breese: The Air Ambulance is in the news a lot currently due to the mention that there is a review on whether the helicopter will be relocated away from Welshpool. Cllr D Collington confirmed that nothing is agreed or decided as yet and the facts need to be looked at by the Community Health Council to make the right decision. Clerk to add to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Cllr P Breese also mentioned that drivers using Google are accessing the farm track. He asked whether a 'No Through Road' sign could be requested from Powys CC. Cllrs agreed this should be requested. Clerk to request from PCC Highways.

Cllr A Wallbank suggested that the information boards around the area may need to be re-sited.

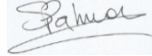
Cllr D Lowe: cleans the information boards around the area.

Cllr C Knapp gave her apologies for the Sept meeting.

Chair Cllr P Breese gave his apologies for the Oct meeting which Vice Chair Cllr C Woosnam will Chair the meeting in his absence.

15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Signed:

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

Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)