

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held at **Clatter Community Centre** on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Chair Cllr P Breese, Vice Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Cllr D Lowe, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr L George, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr P Skitt.

**In attendance:** Clerk, Mrs S Palmer, 1 local resident

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr S Sargent, Cllr D Collington, Cllr C Knapp
- 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 12.

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

A local resident was in attendance in order to speak to Cllrs regarding her objections towards planning application covered at agenda item 12f.

Intrusion of privacy, the implications will not be negligible to neighbours as suggested within the planning application. Issues will be noise and lack of privacy, light nuisance. Resident feels that they will be trapped in the middle as the application will surround her property.

Entrance is on a bad road which already has issues of safety so this could create more accidents.

Pods are on the edge of the flood zone, the water has come higher up this year for the first time so this is a concern as the flooding could be getting closer to where the pods are planned to be sited.

Cllr M Cheshire thought that this application will reduce the amenity of neighbours, noise and privacy issues. Traffic on this dangerous road will be increased. Environmental issues due to increased chance of flooding etc.

The following comments were sent to Planning:

*Cllrs discussed this application at length and feel that there are a number of issues with the application to be raised with planning officers.*

*The image in para 3.2 of the Planning Statement with the application shows the Proposed site as being in field parcel SO0592 1499 whilst the Location plan shows the pods to be located in field parcel SO 0592 2796. It further advises that this land is unmowable". This aerial image attached clearly shows that SO 0592 2796 has been mowed for silage or hay and the presence of a large stack of round silage bales currently adjacent the roadside at the site indicates that the field was used for a silage harvest in the 2022 season. The Planning Statement appears to be incorrect / misleading in this respect.*

*It could be assumed that the field parcel SO 0592 2796 is either Grade 2 or 3A.*

*The access road to the proposed Pod location divides an adjacent field (SO 0592 1499) which again has been consistently been used for hay or silage. The access is shown to cross a stream which approximately 75m further south flows directly into the Severn. There is no mention in the application as to how the stream will be crossed either by a culvert or bridge.*

*There is no electricity supply at the site currently and no mention of how electricity or other power supplies will be provisioned in the application.*

*The design and layout of the pods indicates couples only due to them only being double beds (2 person occupancy) within. In this case it would be expected that each pod would have a degree of seclusion, screened from other pods etc and further away from other pods than indicated in the application. This application doesn't appear to support this concept as the pods are relatively close together which may in turn encourage families or groups hiring more than one or all of the pods resulting in families/parties being at the site which changes the use of the site significantly and would lead to more noise for neighbours. With very little amenity ground around the pods and no on-site management or guidance it may be inevitable that visitor "groups" will migrate off the pod enclosure into the surround fields and particularly the rivers edge and shingle bar some 100m south.*

*The development is on the edge of the flood zone. Local knowledge confirms that in 2022 and following periods of heavy rainfall the theoretical flood zone upper limit was breached in this area.*

*Whilst Cllrs are generally supportive of tourist development, they thought this application to be poorly conceived and in an inappropriate location and could not therefore be supported.*

- 4. Minutes** of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr M Cheshire and seconded by Cllr L George.
- 5. Councillor Co-option:** One vacancy remains on the council so notices will stay on the noticeboards and on the website.
- 6. Cllr Les George Report:**
  - S137 donations:** Cllr L George has been asked about the donation by the Village Club. Clerk to contact them to let them know about the funding request form.
  - Baptist Church:** The new owner has been in touch with Cllr L George to confirm his purchase.

- Report of meeting for **Kings Coronation Celebration meeting** was held last night. It was proposed that a tree be planted and a memorial bench purchased and located in the centre of Caersws in order to mark the occasion. There was no appetite for a street party.
- **Ty Gwyn allotments:** all taken but the plots have not been paid for (to Powys CC) since 2019.
- **Bench opposite the church,** the previous bench had an engraving on the timber but has since been removed. CCC has been asked whether it is possible to provide a plaque with the same wording to go onto the new bench. Cllrs present agreed to organise this plaque and attached to the new bench.
- **Trees and benches** purchased for the Queen's Jubilee will all be planted and put in place soon.
- Local resident has complained about a bench which is due to be placed near to his house, however the bench will be put in place as suggested. Cllr L George will sort it out and ensure that the bench is situated as agreed.
- **New Street, Caersws:** Cllr L George has made a suggestion that maybe PCC could pay half and CCC could pay half to bring the road up to standard. It is unadopted. Clerk to add to future agenda for further discussion.
- **Cemetery report:** Thank you to Chair Cllr P Breese for the hedges, removing all of the rubbish and for adding pegs to allow the gates to be held back. Shiloh looks ok apart from the usual concerns.

**Items carried over from previous meeting to prioritise for discussion:**

**14b2: Shiloh Clatter Graveyard**

Cllr C Brooks visited the site and put together a report for CCC.

There is a concern over headstones in the graveyard. In order to put the graveyard into a safe position it may be prudent to lay some stones flat, some filling to do, flip stones which have fallen face down, rendering, mortaring etc. There could be around 2 weeks work and potentially around £4,000 to £5,000 but this would need to be sent out to quote.

There is a decaying ash tree at the back northwest corner, not in the graveyard but on the bank on the other side in the field; if it came down it may take some of the bank out but no graves.

Cllr L George has been approached by neighbours to purchase a small part of the graveyard in order to widen their entrance. The graveyard is not owned by CCC. The land is owned by the Charity Commission, so this is not something within the powers of CCC.

All Cllrs present unanimously in favour to take on the graveyard. Cllr C Brooks proposed some Cllrs to get together to go through works to be completed.

**13a: Caersws WC Doors**

CCC has had 2 quotes received from EOM and Healthmatic.

Cllr C Brooks stated that he feels that the door and frames need to be replaced but better quotations are required, also request a quote for renovating the current doors to see if they can continue to be used. CCTV should be included to ensure new doors are not vandalised or any other part of the toilets.

Cllr C Brooks will send the Clerk some information regarding suppliers for this.

Cllr C Brooks can confirm some details regarding CCTV for the toilets. Retrospective installation with recording equipment for the cameras to be in the roof space out of the way. Live feed would not be needed. This work should be around £3,000 to £5,000 to install roughly. 3 quotes for CCTV should be sought. Clerk to action.

**11a: S137 funding application**

A form has been drafted between the Clerk and a small number of Cllrs. Cllrs discussed the forms and agreed the form they wanted CCC to use. The form is to be altered to be named as a funding form rather than specifying S137 donations as it can then be used for other funding requests. Clerk to publish the form on the website and send out to those who have received funding previously from CCC.

- 7. Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:** Follow up meeting to update and follow up on below points requested with Russell George SM prior to March meeting, Clerk will chase this up.
  - a) Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws
  - b) Caersws bridge & Roundabout scheme: Information in the County Times suggests this scheme will go ahead.
  - c) Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park
  - d) Road markings at Weig Lane crossing
  - e) Manthrig Brook Flooding issues
- 8. Place Plan Committee**
  - a) **LDP:** No further details or updates received at this time.
  - b) **Active Travel Plan:** Cllr C Brooks suggested that Russell George SM needs to be pushed on how CCC can help push this so that it doesn't slip and Caersws don't lose out.

## 9. Matters Arising:

- a) **Signal box at station:** Works completed on the signal box at the station which is a big improvement. This item can be removed from the agenda.
- b) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** no updates received.
- c) **Finance & Governance Toolkit:** Clerk, Cllr A Wallbank and Cllr D Collington are working through the document and producing a plan of actions to be completed.
- d) **Annual Report:** Completed and forwarded to all Cllrs by Cllr A Wallbank. Cllrs discussed and the majority were in agreement to publish, Clerk to action.
- e) **Training Plan:** sent to all following the January meeting, priority for the March meeting to be discussed.
- f) **Christmas Tree Lights:** 40m of lights to be purchased as agreed at the previous meeting. Clerk to action.
- g) **Air Ambulance – possible move from Welshpool:** Announced that the air ambulance will remain until 2026. Item to be removed from the agenda.
- h) **Plan in case Clerk is unavailable:** This is yet to be drafted by the Clerk.
- i) **Alternative bank account options:** To utilise a free version of Bankline with NatWest CCC would need to switch our account to a community account rather than a Business account. Cllrs decided to discuss further at the March meeting.
- j) **Farm Watch:** Cllr C Brooks confirmed that the Facebook page and website almost complete and will be launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Will then look to get people interested and signed up.
- k) **Urdd Community Meeting:** A meeting was held in Caersws, Next year will be the first time that the Urdd Eisteddfod has been held in the area since 1988. Caersws Community Area are expected to raise £8,500. May to June 2024. The Committee want to know whether CCC will donate towards this. Clerk to forward the funding application form.
- l) **Bus shelter; cleaning:** Clerk is waiting for a quote from window cleaner
- m) **Website:** Clerk is putting together a site plan of what is required on a Council website and requesting quotations from website builders.
- n) **Drain blocked up the Bwlch y Garreg road overlooking the lake:** Not yet unblocked, Clerk to chase up.
- o) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** PCC will take a look and see what can be done to make it brighter from the lighting that is currently there. Clerk to follow up for the outcome.
- p) **King Charles III Coronation Celebrations:** Meeting held in Caersws last night. The decision was made to donate a tree and a bench but not arrange an event for the coronation.

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

- a) **Local residents:** Concerns over another accident at Foxes Pitch. Information noted, no action at this time.
- b) **Dyfed Powys Police:** Policing by Consent – 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Information noted, Cllr L George will be in attendance.
- c) **Powys CC:** Powys Public Service Board Well-being Plan Consultation Launched. Information noted, no action.
- d) **One Voice Wales:** Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion - further amendments. Information noted, no action.
- e) **Local Resident:** Manure on road through Llanwnog. This has been resolved, the manure was washed off the road.
- f) **PAVO:** Vigil to be held in Newtown to mark 12months since start of Ukraine conflict (24<sup>th</sup> Feb 4pm). Information noted, no action.
- g) **Local Resident:** Request for internment of ashes at Shiloh in the future; query received to discuss. Cllrs confirmed that although they have no issue with this in principle, CCC do not yet have authority to grant this. Clerk to respond and let them know the situation.
- h) **One Voice Wales:** Biodiversity Report. To be added to the agenda for the March meeting.
- i) **One Voice Wales:** People's Practice Peer-to-Peer Network. Information noted, no action.

## 11. S137 Donations

- a) **S137 Funding Form:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.

## 12. Planning:

- a) **Application Reference: 23/0143/REM** Grid Reference: E:298406 N: 293747 Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition no. 7 (amend to 3 passing places) and remove condition no's 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 & 15 attached to planning approval 22/0057/FUL Site Address: 1 - 3 Garthpwt Farm, Clatter, Caersws, Powys SY17 5NR
- b) **Application Reference: 23/0144/REM** Grid Reference: E:298406 N: 293747 Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition no. 7 (amend to 3 passing bays) and remove condition no's 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 & 16 attached to planning approval 22/0058/FUL Site Address: 4 - 11 Garthpwt Farm, Clatter, Caersws, Powys SY17 5NR

**Cllrs discussed the above applications together and feel that the passing places should not be reduced. HGVs utilise this roadway frequently so the passing places are required to allow safe passing.**

**c) Application Reference: 22/2177/FUL** Grid Reference: E:303792 N: 294666 Proposal: Siting of a holiday unit (hobbit home), installation of sewage treatment plant, improvements to access and all associated works Site Address: Land At Pen Y Coed , Llanwnnog, Caersws, SY17 5PA

**Cllrs discussed and had no objections regarding this application.**

**d) Application Reference: 22/2217/FUL** Grid Ref: E: 301339 N: 301311 Proposal: Lateral extension of the quarry extraction area and waste stone tipping area, deepening of the base of the quarry by two additional benches and progressive restoration to grassland, landscaped lake and woodland with biodiversity and geodiversity interest Location: Tan Y Foel Quarry, Cefn Coch, Welshpool Powys SY21 0AN

**Cllrs discussed the above application and have no objections regarding this application.**

**e) Application Reference: 23/0117/FUL** Grid Reference: E:305275 N: 293145 Proposal: Proposed holiday-let development, to include 6 holiday units, formation of a new access and associated works Site Address: Land At Tregastell, Aberhafesp, Newtown, Powys SY16 3HR

**The above application was discussed earlier in the meeting following the public speaking. Comments made to be forwarded to planning by the Clerk.**

### 13. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) Doors:** This was discussed. A proposal needs to be put together of precisely what work is required on the doors. Cllr C Brooks to assist the Clerk with this information.
- b) Blockages/vandalism:** Need to be reported as and when it occurs. Cllr C Brooks made suggestions regarding security cameras at the toilets to discourage vandalism and have recordings of when there is vandalism.
- c) Electricity Bills:** The meter readings are being sent to SSE and some paperwork has been received regarding discounts applied to unit rates.

### 14. Cemeteries:

- a) Risk Assessments**
- b) LLanwnnog Cemetery:**
  - 1) Gate repairs/maintenance:** As mentioned the gates are now able to be held back. Item to be removed from agenda.
  - 2) Shiloh, Clatter graveyard:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.

### 15. Finances:

- a) Account balances:**

Current account = £35,422.78  
Reserve account = £42,039.45

- b) Bills to be paid:**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (Feb 23)	£810.55
Sophie Palmer	Clerks expenses (Feb 23)	£35.57
M Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (Feb 2022)	£53.42
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning (Feb 23)	£178.00
Gwynne Woosnam	Grass cutting at Llanwnnog cemetery	£2,418.00
Powys CC	Election cost (2022)	£769.27
Sophie Palmer	Christmas Tree Lights (reimbursement)	£147.99

**Direct Debits:**

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (Feb 2023)	£172.75
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection	£16.95

Bills to be paid were agreed and proposed for payment by Cllr A Wallbank and seconded by Cllr C Woosnam.

- a) Income received:**

WC revenue	Not collected since last meeting	
Leach & Son	New burial	£236.25
Powys CC	Precept (final payment for 2022/23)	£13,028.57

### 16. Councillor Comments:

**Cllr A Wallbank:** Rail committees are merging and have a fee of £10 annually. Cllr A Wallbank receives the information and acts as CCC's representative. Cllrs present agreed to pay the £10 annually. Cllr A Wallbank to action.

**Cllr A Wallbank:** Bob from Clatter Community Centre Committee would like to attend the next meeting to present to the council. Cllrs in agreement with this.

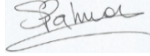
**Cllr C Woosnam:** has been added as a governor at Caersws Primary School as a representative for CCC.

**Cllr M Cheshire:** Suggested that the minutes be added to the noticeboard as well as the agenda and the annual report. Clerk to action.

- 17. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Chair Cllr P Breese thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.34pm.

Signed:

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

Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)