

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held at **Clatter Community Centre** on **Wednesday 28th June 2023** at 7.30pm.

Present: Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Vice Chair Cllr D Lowe, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr L George, Cllr P Skitt, Cllr S Sargent, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr D Collington. Cllr P Breese, Cllr C Knapp (arrived 7.33pm).

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer

1. **Apologies:** Cllr M Cheshire.
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 S Sargent and Cllr A Wallbank declared an interest in agenda item 11.
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)
No members of the public were present at the meeting.
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 24th May 2023 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr D Collington and seconded by Cllr L George.
5. **Councillor Co-option:** No one has come forward as yet to fill the vacancy. Cllr D Lowe said there is a Caersws resident who might be interested and Cllr C Knapp is also aware of someone who may be interested. Clerk to repost the notice confirming that there is a vacancy.
6. **Cllr Les George Report:**
 - New Road opposite the Unicorn. The road is unadopted so Powys CC won't resurface it. Cllr L George suggested previously whether Caersws CC could part fund .to have it resurfaced. There may be a grant available to fund this.
Cllr L George suggested for CCC to contact Alistair Knox to ask whether Powys CC can apply for the grant to bring this roadway to standard. Cllr C Brooks stated that a case needs to be put forward with all of the details, benefits, pitfalls, who benefits from having the road brought to standard. How many residents, what the issues are and who is affected in a negative way. Cllr L George will make contact with Powys CC and put some information together.
 - Minor works have been completed at Maes yr Dre on the kerbs.
 - Foxes Pitch has been very bad for a while. Some money will be spent to build up the sides, put in new manhole covers and bring the sides of the road back to standard.
 - Llanwnog Hall – sited a large mobile home in the car park and have an application in to remove some trees.
 - Cllr L George has recently attended a meeting in Carno. They are having issues with their public conveniences and want to change the doors. Cllr L George to put them in contact with Cllr C Brooks
 - Residents have asked whether an empty flat has council tax paid for it. Cllr L George stated that this is a matter for Powys CC to sort out.
 - On Friday 7th July, there will be a surgery in Caersws with Craig Williams MP if anyone would like to attend. Cllr P Breese asked whether it would be worth asking to meet with them half an hour prior the surgery to raise matters of concern. Craig Williams MP can only effect matters that are not devolved so it would be best to find out whether Russell George SM will be at the surgery and see if he may be able to meet slightly earlier to confirm the progress of the long-term agenda items.
7. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**

There have been no updates on the following items, Clerk to chase these up individually and request a meeting with Russell George before the surgery to help progress these matters.

 - a) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** Preferably this would be done as a joint project with the pavement widening project.
 - b) **Caersws bridge & roundabout scheme:** This is going ahead as far as CCC has been told but there has been no information as to when this may occur.
 - c) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** Clerk to contact TRA
 - d) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** There are still no road markings at all since the resurfacing was done some time ago. Clerk to contact TRA again to push the need for markings here.
 - e) **Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** Clerk to contact PCC Highways again to ask whether the stretch of brook not being cleared can be cleared by Powys or for them to contact the owners responsible to push them to clear it. Cllr C Brooks stated that flooding can cause huge problems and damage. There are reports of orders being placed on owners to do their duty to clear the relevant area. Clerk to attempt to contact Powys Officer Graham Astley to confirm that CCC are still awaiting a response from many months ago. Clerk to co

8. Place Plan Committee

- a) **LDP:** No LDP information or updates have been received.
- b) **Active Travel Plan:** No information or updates received regarding this.

9. Matters Arising:

- a) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** The Clerk has chased but still waiting for a response from housing. Clerk to chase this up.
- b) **Alternative bank account options:** Clerk has confirmed that CCC cannot utilise a free account with Bankline option. Cllrs discussed whether an account with single authorisation would be sufficient if agreement was provided in writing (email) for the payments to be made. Cllr D Lowe proposed that CCC switch to a Unity Trust account which has a fee of £72 across the year but allows for 2 authorisations in order to make payment and Clerk has full administrative permissions but no option to authorise. Clerk to make the switch to a Unity Trust account.
- c) **Farm Watch:** No updates to report.
- d) **Website:** Clerk to send info to Cllr D Colington and Cllr C Brooks and arrange a meeting to go through the options to move this along.
- e) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** Not sure that this has made a difference. Clerk to ask local resident who mentioned the lighting here, whether she has noticed a difference in the level of lighting.
- f) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** Flowering cherry suggested by Cllrs and bench for play area opposite the Buck Inn as the previous suggestion of near to the river was rejected by the Recreation Association. Clerk to contact the Recreation Association to ask where they would be happy for them to go in the play area and if so where.
- g) **Council insurance:** Quote for this years insurance = £697.94. Cllrs discussed and agreed the insurance for this year and to add the war memorial in Caersws to the insurance to ensure it is covered. Cllr A Wallbank will contact the Church to make them aware that this will be covered by CCC from July 2023.
- h) **Littering; campaign to get people to take rubbish home:** Raised at the last meeting for discussion. This was discussed in full alongside the next item.
- i) **Overflowing bins:** Waiting for Powys to respond. Premier Shop have been putting their wheelie bin outside the shop but there is no rubbish bin here currently. It may be worth removing the bin completely to prevent rubbish overflowing and the bin causing obstruction to the pavement.
- j) **Signage for accident spots regarding speeding / dangerous driving:** More signage or a campaign to help prevent speeding should be looked at. Cllr C Knapp will speak to some young people who have lost
- k) Additional bin or more frequent collection for bin near Premier Shop: same as point 9i.

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

- a) **Local Resident:** River Action. Cllr A Wallbank stated that River Action are a group that the Council would not be able to join as a local authority. CCC should make some contribution to the issue but not via a group or organisation such as this.
- b) **PAVO:** Social Value Forum Development Fund. Information noted, no action.
- c) **Calon Hearts:** Heart screening for all 11-35 year olds who play sport. Information noted, no action.
- d) **Powys CC:** Powys County Council Climate Stakeholder Group invitation. Information noted, no action.
- e) **Local Resident:** Open Gardens, Caersws. Information noted, no action.

11. S137 Donation Requests: Clatter Community Centre have provided further information to support their funding application. Cllrs discussed the request and it's details and agreed to cover the cost of the project in full. Clerk to confirm this with Clatter but make clear that CCC must receive and pay the invoice direct in order to pay the net amount as VAT can be reclaimed.

12. Planning:

Cllr L George confirmed that he is no longer on the Powys CC Planning Committee and so is able to comment on applications.

- a) **Application Reference: 23/0654/FUL** Grid Reference: E:302642 N: 295088 Proposal: The proposed development of five compact, one bedroom, self-catered treehouse style holiday accommodation lodges, including one accessible unit. Site Address: Llwyngwyn , Llanwnog, Caersws, SY17 5NZ
Cllr L George confirmed that a resident has made a complaint about this application and were told that their complaint would need to be addressed to Powys Planning Dept.
Cllrs discussed the above application and have no comments.
- b) **Application Ref: 23/0903/TRE** Grid Ref: E: 302259 N: 293782 Proposal: Works to Conifer trees within a conservation area. Location: The Old School House, Llanwnog, Caersws Powys SY17 5JG
Cllrs discussed the above application and have no comments.

- c) **Application Reference: 23/0647/FUL** Grid Reference: E:302266 N: 293787 Proposal: Change of use from commercial property to a residential dwelling (C3 use) Site Address: Old Church School And School House, Llanwnnog, Caersws, Powys SY17 5JG
Cllrs discussed and have no comments.

13. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) **Doors & CCTV works:** Cllr C Brooks confirmed some details regarding the doors which the builders are looking to install which Cllrs were in agreement with. CCTV installer will be looking into getting started. The CCTV will be installed prior to the doors being installed.
- b) **Cleaner – holiday cover:** The cleaner is on holiday between 29th July and 13th August. The person who usually covers the cleaning is not willing/able to do it this time. The Clerk mentioned that the person who cleans the toilets in Llanidloes has been asked previously but CCC did not use them. Clerk to contact the person who services Llanidloes WC and arrange the cover if available.

14. Cemeteries:

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Completed by Cllr L George. The sunken graves need filling in and there is a head stone which may need to be laid flat as it is loose and relatives of a grave next to it are concerned. There are no family members around now. Clerk to chase getting the graves filled in. Clerk to add to the next agenda to discuss the cemetery regulations.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Email received from Robert Hanratty, passed onto Cllrs with a resolution regarding taking over the graveyard which he has asked to be agreed and he will then proceed. Cllrs discussed the information received. Cllr A Wallbank proposed CCC agree to this and ask Mr Hanratty to proceed. Cllr L George seconded the proposal. Clerk to instruct Robert Hanratty to proceed.

15. Finances:

- a) **Account balances:**
Current Account = £34,621.13
Reserve Account = £42,175.60

b) Reserves breakdown:

RESERVES HELD	
PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Public Convenience	£20,000.00
Unforeseen Maintenance costs for Cemetery	£8,000.00
Precepted amount for new website	£2,500.00
Training costs	£550.00
Precepted amount for village halls	£10,000.00
Reserves for any extra costs unplanned at the time of precept	£8,000.00
Cllr Remuneration	£1,800.00
Care Costs in case required/requested from Cllrs	£4,500.00
TOTAL RESERVES HELD	£55,350.00

Cllr A Wallbank mentioned that Clatter have now found a way to get Wi-Fi into the hall for a reasonable cost. CCC need to be looking at how to provide hybrid meetings. Clerk to look into the equipment required.

- c) **Internal audit 2022/23:** Audit not yet returned. The Clerk will post a notice to confirm that the accounts will not be approved by the deadline and chase the internal auditor for their completion.

d) Bills to be paid:

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (June 23)	£830.15
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (June 23)	£44.09
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (June 23)	£33.82
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£240.00
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning previously unrepresented chqs)	£480.00
EOM	WC retainer (June 23)	£60.00
Andrew Evans Landscape Ltd	Grass cutting, Caersws & Clatter	£478.80
Audit Wales	External audit fee (2019/20)	£200.00
One Voice Wales	Cllr Training (x1 Cllr)	£38.00
EOM	WC drain unblocking	£224.51
Zurich	Council Insurance (2023/24)	£697.94

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

Direct Debits:

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (June 2023)	£81.56
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365	£28.23

a) Income received:

WC revenue

16. Councillor Comments:

Cllr P Breese: Post box at Clatter has gone. Royal Mail has stated that it has been removed but will be replaced. It will be reduced to one collection per day rather than two.

Cllr S Sargent also received an email about the post box

Cllr C Brooks had a request about when the hedge would be cut at a junction. Cllr P Breese has done it this morning`

17. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

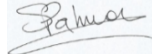
Closed meeting, confidential matters Council will go into closed session for discussion of confidential matters.

The Council has deemed that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

The closed meeting will start for Cllrs to discuss further the Clerks pay review, following the last meeting.

Chair Cllr C Woosnam thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.08pm

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)