

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting held at **Clatter Community Centre Village Hall** on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023** at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr S Sargent, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr L George, Cllr M Cheshire.

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr D Lowe, Cllr P Skitt, Cllr P Breese, 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.*  
None given
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)  
None present
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr A Wallbank.
5. **Councillor Co-option:** The Clerk confirmed that she has not received any interest for co-option.
6. **Cllr Les George Report:**
  - Les attended a property flood resilience group – Powys. There is a grant available to protect people from flooding but the overall amount is low to cover anything substantial. There was no advice provided when asked regarding ensuring that riparian dwellers clear their stretch of waterways.
  - New Road – poor roadway. There may be more grants available in the future. Cllr L George has registered an interest in this to be utilised at New Road.
  - Local resident in Caersws at the top of Manthrig Lane mentioned that the signage along the Manthrig Road is all blocked by overgrown foliage. Cllr L George has reported this to PCC to get this cleared. There have been some cars going the wrong way as the sign is not visible currently. Some signs will be replaced for new ones in Caersws where drivers can only turn one way or if it is a one-way road.
  - There was a surgery with Craig Williams MP and Russell George MS. Cllr L George was there and Chair Cllr C Woosnam also attended and put some questions to Russell George MS. The surgeries were well attended.
  - Broadway Broadband were looking to help with internet for local communities. The company has now gone bust.
7. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:** An update was received from Russell George MS relating to some of the below which has been sent on to Cllrs prior to the meeting.
  - a) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** No update currently. Will the change to 20mph create an issue with the issues of the pedestrian crossing?
  - b) **Caersws bridge & roundabout scheme:** This scheme is still on the cards, but the question is when it will happen.
  - c) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** Clerk has asked TRA whether they have had recent contact with the owner of the Premier shop as the residents / owner have removed most of the hedge/fencing near the pavement and it may be a good time to make contact and ensure they are still happy for the pavement to be widened and whether or not the Welsh Government has earmarked funds and / or confirmed that they will carry out the project. No response received as yet.
  - d) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** The markings have been done but they are the same as before with a broken white line where CCC had requested a solid white line on the Eastbound side to ensure no overtaking near the Weig Lane junction. Clerk has contacted TRA about this but have had no response as yet.
  - e) **Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** No update currently. Cllr C Brooks mentioned the NRW sustainable drainage scheme which had been forwarded by the Clerk. Cllr C Brooks checked this to see if this would be useful for Manthrig Brook but it would not be worth pursuing as it wouldn't be classed as a sustainable drainage.
8. **Place Plan Committee**
  - a) **LDP:** No further information or updates received.
  - b) **Active Travel Plan:** No further information or updates received.
9. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** Nothing received from Housing, Clerk is chasing this up for a response.
  - b) **Alternative bank account options:** The process has been started to switch the accounts; a partial switch has been requested in case there is any delay in the new account being set up so

that payments can still be made from the NatWest account. Clerk needs some paperwork to be signed but has also been asked for a business plan which she will put something together for.

- c) **Website:** Clerk has passed some information / quotes / estimates onto Cllr D Collington and Cllr C Brooks to have a look at. Cllr C Brooks proposed to go with the proposal from OnTrac which all Cllrs were in agreement with. Cllr C Brooks will contact Cllr D Collington to confirm this decision and arrange to discuss putting together a proposal of what is needed for the council website.
- d) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** The lighting has been altered but Clerk has received no feedback as to whether this has made a difference.
- e) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** CCC proposing for the bench and tree to go into the play area opposite the Buck Inn.

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

- a) **Local Resident:** Quarry activity. This item refers to the emails received from a local resident who is concerned about quarry activity relating to a poultry unit. Cllrs discussed and confirmed that the application for the development does show that it is a substantial development which would require substantial excavation due to the elevation. There is no mention in the application about the dispersal of the material. Cllrs stated that this is outside the Caersws ward and within the Trefeglwys ward. Clerk to respond to thank him for his correspondence which has been passed on to Cllrs for their information and confirm that it is welcome and that it may be of more interest to Trefeglwys Community Council as it is within the Trefeglwys ward.
- b) **Clatter Community Centre:** Hall hire cost increase. The hall hire fee will rise to £30 per session to allow for the increase in costs to the hall. Cllrs were in agreement with the increase. Clerk to confirm with Clatter Hall that the Council is happy to utilise the small meeting room rather than have the hall available as well to allow other groups to use the hall.
- c) **Powys CC:** Powys Leisure Review. Information noted, no action.
- d) **Powys CC:** 20mph changes. 30mph areas to change to 20mph have been published.

Chair Cllr C Woosnam forwarded anonymous correspondence he received to the Clerk who sent it on to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The information was not received in time to add to the agenda but at the Chairs discretions it was decided to discuss this. Cllrs agreed that the information provided should be forwarded on to Planning as there is a concern about conditions not being met and contraventions to the planning conditions. Clerk will go through the relevant process with Powys Planning department to raise the queries.

- 11. S137 Donation Requests:** Donation request from Caersws Village Club. Cllrs discussed and as it is retrospective and the works have already been carried out the Community Council cannot provide funding this time but would be happy to consider any future projects prior to completion and at the early stages as the Council may be able to provide some guidance. Clerk to action.

**12. Planning:**

- a) **Electricity Act 1989: Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Reference: 23/1063/ELE** Grid Ref: E: 302751 N: 294480 Proposal: Section 37 application under the Electricity Act 1989 Overhead Lines (exemption)(England and Wales) Regulations 2009 to divert an existing overhead line Site Address: Gwastadcoed, Llanwnnog, Caersws Powys SY17 5NZ

Cllrs discussed the above application and have no objections.

- b) **Application Reference: 23/0671/REM** Grid Reference: E:301333 N: 296077 Proposal: Application under Section 73 to vary condition 2 attached to permission P/2009/0838, to allow amendments to approved plans Site Address: Capel Bach, Llanwnnog, Caersws, SY17 5NE

Cllrs discussed the above application and have no objections.

**13. Caersws Public Conveniences:**

- a) **Doors & CCTV:** Cllr C Brooks confirmed that the CCTV will be going in next week and the doors may be the following week. When the CCTV is installed, the cleaner will be able to check that the cameras are all working. If any problems, they will need to contact the Clerk and/or Cllr C Brooks. Cllr C Brooks confirmed that there will be signage up confirming that there is CCTV and people will be able to scan a QR code in order to request footage of them on the CCTV. CCC to consider signage relating to the council maintaining the toilets and who to contact for any complaints or thanks. Cllr C Brooks
- b) **Cleaner – holiday cover:** The Clerk is struggling to find anyone interested in providing cover for the cleaner who will be away between 29<sup>th</sup> July until 8<sup>th</sup> August. Clerk to waiting on someone from Llanidloes to get back to her and if not a couple of Cllrs may know of local people who may be worth asking.

**14. Cemeteries:**

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr A Wallbank completed the risk assessment. The gates could do with being painted. Owen Pryce-Higgs, stone needs to be looked at. 3 Cllrs will go to the cemetery and lay the stone flat.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Clerk has asked R Hanratty to go ahead with the proposal and Cllrs are in agreement with the paperwork sent on. No response received as yet.

Clerk will be going on holiday. Chair Cllr C Woosnam confirmed that he will be able to be the point of contact for funeral directors in order to provide confirmation for any burials/internments requested. Clerk will pass Cllr C Woosnam's details onto the funeral directors.

#### 15. Finances:

a) **Account balances:** *To be confirmed*

b) **Internal audit 2022/23:** The audit has been returned and scanned and emailed to everyone. There are no comments made by the auditor and no changes made by him to the finances. However, it is noted that he has marked 'Not covered' for two points within the audit report but with no comment. Clerk to ask for a comment on these points as they will likely be noted by the external audit. Cllrs agreed that CCC should look into finding a new internal auditor as the current auditor seems mainly to be focussing on the accounts and not the wider audit and has also been extremely hard to contact and therefore the audit was not received back in time for the Council to approve it by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June.

c) **Bills to be paid:**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (July 23)	£830.15
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (July 23)	£83.36
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (July 23)	£33.82
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£144.00
EOM	WC retainer (July 23)	£60.00
Andrew Evans Landscape Ltd	Grass cutting, Caersws & Clatter	£478.80
Gwynne Woosnam	Llanwnog grass cutting (1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2023)	£2,418.00

**Direct Debits:**

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (July 2023)	£79.52
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365	£28.23

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

d) **Income received:**

WC revenue	£241.65
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e) **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
<b>TOTAL RESERVES HELD</b>	<b>£55,350.00</b>

#### 16. Councillor Comments:

**Cllr C Brooks:** The reserves are a concern as they are too high. There needs to be a concerted effort by the council to bring these reserves down and make people / groups aware of the funding options available from the council.

**Cllr S Sargent:** Brought up again about Cllr remuneration. Clerk apologised as this should have been on the agenda for this month and she has a breakdown to provide for Cllrs to see what remuneration is available to them. Clerk will ensure that this is on the next agenda.

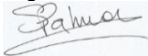
**17. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

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.

Signed:

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

Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)

DRAFT