

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Agenda for meeting Wednesday 30 August 2023 at **Caersws Village Hall** at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer. 3 members of the community.

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.*
None given

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

3 members of the public were in attendance.

3 members of the public were in attendance following an anonymous complaint received and discussed at the previous meeting on 19th July 2023.

Cllr L George went to see one of the members of the public regarding the anonymous email received last month regarding concerns about planning breaches.

Local resident 1: has had trouble with one resident and Police have been involved in the past.

Local resident 2: has had numerous issues with the person assumed to have written the anonymous complaint last month.

Cllr L George stated that the community council is open to all residents and they are able to attend and make comments to the council openly.

Cllr C Brooks asked the Clerk whether CCC are within the timescale to comment on any of the planning applications mentioned. The Clerk confirmed that the deadlines to comment have all passed but CCC has previously commented within the time requested. CCC will comment on any new applications as usual.

Local resident 3: will be putting in again for planning as redesigns to the application had to be made.

The residents were thanked for attending and speaking to Cllrs and told that they were welcome to stay at the meeting. The residents left the meeting.

4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 19th July 2023 were agreed and approved as an accurate record by Cllr A Wallbank and seconded by Cllr L George.

5. **Councillor Co-option:** There is still one place on the council. There has been no interest in co-option at this time.

6. **Cllr Les George Report:**

- Cllr L George has been in touch with PCC regarding the untaxed cars. He will send the registration numbers to the Clerk to pass on to Housing as they asked for the owners contact information but we do not have this.
- Cllr L George suggested that an extended pavement from bus shelter in Pontdolgoch up to the next junction – Cefyn y Wern. Can CCC request this from TRA? Clerk to start this process by contacting TRA. There is a need for this as it is dangerous as people have to walk on the main trunk road due to lack of pavement. Clerk to contact TRA and ask them to contact Cllr L George who will show them onsite.
- PCC Highways contacted the Clerk asking for CCC's thoughts on the 20mph change in Llanwnnog, due to time constraints the Clerk asked Cllrs whether they wanted to meet to discuss this but Cllrs were all in agreement that this was a positive thing and had no objections.
- Carno Station committee: they have tried for many years to have the train station reinstated and are still keen to push this. They have requested CCC to support their application for a new station. A station in Carno would not be detrimental for Caersws and may help with the parking issues in Caersws.

Cllr D Lowe thinks a station in Carno is too close to Caersws.

Cllr P Skitt confirmed that Carno is not within the Caersws wards and CCC should focus on our immediate area. CCC must ensure that Caersws station is kept open for our community and another station in Carno could be detrimental to Caersws station staying open.

Cllr L George will go back to the committee and confirm that CCC are not in support of Carno station reopening.

7. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**

- a) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** No updates at this time.
- b) **Caersws bridge & roundabout scheme:** there has been no further information regarding this scheme.

- c) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** Clerk has found out that the current owner is selling next year to the person currently leasing the property. She has not passed on details of the pavement widening project but will do when he returns from abroad. Clerk to ask the owner whether the piece of land in question, could be part of the deed of sale, in order for it will to be available to Welsh Government for widening the pavement. Cllr C Brooks suggested that CCC purchases the land required and sell it to Welsh Government or complete the work required. Clerk to ask the owner whether they would be open to discussing this.

Cllr D Lowe mentioned that the information boards need replacing that are around the village. Clerk to add to a future agenda.

- d) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** No reply from TRA, Clerk to chase up.
- e) **Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** No updates

8. Place Plan Committee: *no information or updates received regarding either of the below items:*

- a) LDP
- b) Active Travel Plan

9. Matters Arising:

- a) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** property services at Powys CC are looking into this. Cllr L George to send the Clerk to registration numbers of the cars concerned for the Clerk to pass on to PCC.
- b) **New Bank Account:** paperwork for signing at the meeting was signed for the Clerk to send on to Unity Trust.
- c) **Website:** Clerk and Cllrs D Collington and C Brooks to set a date to meet with Ontrac and discuss the proposal. Cllr C Brooks suggested that there is a need for a clear brief to take to Ontrac. Clerk to forward the brief out to Cllrs to agree.
- d) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** It has not been confirmed that the changes made to the lighting have had a positive impact. Clerk to leave on the agenda until it can be checked.
- e) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** Recreation Committee will discuss where they are happy for the bench and tree to go and let the Clerk know. Clerk to purchase the bench and have it delivered to Cllr P Breese as previously. Cllr D Lowe suggested that a bench be sited at Shiloh which was agreed with all Cllrs present. Clerk to order 2 benches.
- f) **Hall Hire costs:** Clerk has emailed Clatter to confirm that CCC is happy to use the meeting room for all meetings (unless otherwise requested) and that the large hall should not be kept free for CCC meetings.
- g) **Chairs Annual Report:** Cllr P Breese has completed this and sent it to the Clerk to review. This will be sent on to Cllrs to review prior to Sept meeting.

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

- a) **Powys Highways:** speed limit change in Llanwnnog. Cllrs have no objections to the proposed changes.
- b) **Powys Planning:** Response to local resident regarding poultry unit development. Information noted, no action.
- c) **One Voice Wales:** Wye Valley AONB Partnership Consultations. Information noted, no action.
- d) **Local Resident:** Comments to Russell George MS regarding 20mph speed limit changes. Information noted, no action.
- e) **Saint Gwynog's Church, Llanwnnog:** Ownership of War Memorial, Caersws. Email received asking whether CCC would be willing to take over ownership of the memorial as CCC are covering the insurance. Cllrs discussed and are happy to look into this. Clerk to look into solicitor fees.

11. S137 Donation Requests: Clerk has contacted the Village Club to confirm that as the request for funds was retrospective CCC would not be funding for that but would welcome them to make contact about any future projects for help, guidance and support, financially or otherwise.

Cllr A Wallbank has been asked whether CCC can provide a donation towards the Urdd. Clerk to email the person who requested it to ask for a form to be completed for funding. Check whether CCC have donated to Urdd in the past.

12. Planning:

- a) **Application Reference: 23/1012/REM** Grid Reference: E:302133 N: 293813 Proposal: Application under Section 73 to vary condition 2 attached to permission 20/1512/RES, to allow amendments to approved design Site Address: Plot 4 At Church House Farm , Llanwnnog, Caersws, SY17 5JG
Cllrs discussed the above and have no objections.
- b) **Application Reference: 23/1201/LBC** Grid Reference: E:303668 N: 292385 Proposal: Listed building consent for the replacement of existing windows Site Address: Plas Maldwyn , Ty Gwyn Road, Caersws, SY17 5HA
Cllrs discussed the above application and have no objections.

13. Caersws Public Conveniences:

- a) **Doors & CCTV:** CCTV has been installed and new doors are imminent for installation. The toilets are free to use and open 24/7. Cllrs discussed donation boxes and thought this would be a good idea. This is to be looked into once the toilets are in a good state. More CCTV signage will be put up in the toilets.
- b) **Vandalism/anti-social behaviour:** There has been some anti-social behaviour following the installation of the CCTV cameras which was able to be reviewed and dealt with. Cllrs agreed the procedure for any incidents of vandalism / anti-social behaviour.

14. Cemeteries:

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr D Lowe completed the risk assessments for the cemetery in Llanwnog and the graveyard at Shiloh. There is some concrete breaking up under the yew tree in Shiloh. Suggest banning plastic flowers and pots. Cllrs to discuss further at a future meeting.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** No response from the solicitor in regards to moving forward the transfer of ownership. Clerk to chase this up.

15. Finances:

- a) **Account balances:**
Current account = £30,500.41
Reserve account = £42,175.60
- b) **Internal audit 2022/23:** Clerk confirmed the reply from the internal auditor. Cllrs in agreement to sign off the accounts. Clerk and Chair Cllr C Woosnam signed and Clerk to send the relevant paperwork to the external auditor.
- c) **Cllr Remuneration:** Breakdown forwarded to Cllrs prior to meeting and printed copies handed out to Cllrs at the meeting. Cllrs to provide payment details for the Clerk or opt out in writing.

d) **Bills to be paid**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (August 23)	£801.35
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (August 23)	£35.41
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (August 23)	£62.62
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£192.00
EOM	WC retainer (August 23)	£60.00
Andrew Evans Landscape Ltd	Grass cutting, Caersws & Clatter	£478.80
Westhere Ltd	CCTV at WC	£1,080.00
Border Janitorial	WC supplies	£50.16
Rhys Llewlyn Sheppard	WC cleaning (holiday cover)	£240.00
Caersws Community Council	Opening deposit for new account	£500.00

List the payments as net, as vat is claimed back. Clerk to action this on future agendas.

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

Direct Debits:

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (August 2023)	£79.95
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365	£29.31

e) **Income received:**

IB Williams & Son	New memorial inscription	£158.63
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f) **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	£512.00
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	£55,312.00

16. Councillor Comments:

Cllr A Wallbank: Apologies for the next meeting

Cllr D Lowe: Mentioned that there will be a defibrillator training session next month in Caersws. It is at the same time as CCC's meeting.

Cllr L George: has been asked about the use of a cremation plot on the old cremation island. It was confirmed that the plot cannot be reserved but Cllrs are happy for this plot to be used if it is empty at such a time when they wish for ashes to be buried there.

Cllr S Sargent: Llyn Mawr, there has been lots of activity near the water – Sarah to email wildlife trust. People have been paddle boarding etc. Some new signs have gone up regarding taking dog mess away.

Clerk: a letter was received from TRA regarding the ownership of a piece of land in Caersws. Cllrs were unsure but confirmed the name of the property where the previous owner used the piece of ground in question. Clerk to pass this on to TRA.

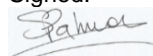
17. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Closed meeting, confidential matters Council went 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 took place for Cllrs to discuss the Clerks pay review, following the last meeting.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)