

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at **Caersws Village Hall** at 7.30pm

**Present:** Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Vice Chair Cllr D Lowe, Cllr P Skitt, Cllr C Knapp, Cllr P Breese, Cllr A Wallbank

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr S Sargent, Cllr P Skitt
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 A Wallbank declared an interest in agenda item 8g.
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)  
No members of the public present.
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr D Lowe. This was agreed following some amendments to be made which will be made prior to publication.
5. **Councillor Co-option:** Local resident who put himself forward as interested in co-opting is unable to attend the meeting but is available and will attend on 31<sup>st</sup> January. No further interest in co-option has been sent to the Clerk.
6. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:** Clerk has requested a meeting with Russell George MS in January and is hoping for a meeting one Thursday in January with him and Cllrs to go through and acquire updates available.
  - a) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** No updates received.
  - b) **Caersws bridge & roundabout scheme:** Cllrs have seen that around £18 million has been allocated for this scheme. Cllr C Brooks stated that safe pavements/pathways are required if a footbridge is built. Crossings and footways are integral to this scheme.  
**Cllr P Breese** stated that there was an email from Russell George asking for CCC's thoughts on the footbridge. Clerk to respond to Russell George to confirm that Cllrs feel the footbridge is very important and has been needed for many years in Caersws to allow safe pedestrian travel in and out of the village.
  - c) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** Cllr L George said that the lease holder, soon to be new owner has been in contact with him asking whether he can have a dropped kerb at the pavement which has been widened. CCC are not able to comment on this as it would need to be something which would have to be requested via planning.  
Cllr C Brooks confirmed that he has been in touch with SPEN regarding the stay for the electrical cable. This is in hand and Cllr C Brooks will chase this up.  
The pavement still requires to be made good, tarmacked etc. When this is done the road sign can be moved back nearer to the fence. Cllrs agreed that CCC should do the works on the pavement to make it good. Clerk to get quotes for the tarmacking.
  - d) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** No updates received.
  - e) **Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** No updates received.
7. **Place Plan Committee:** No information on either of the below points has been received for some time.
  - a) LDP
  - b) Active Travel Plan
8. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **Maesawelon car parked long term:** Cllr P Breese has checked and reported that the cars are no longer there. Clerk to remove this item.
  - b) **New Bank Account** Clerk is waiting to hear back. Signatories may need to verify some information. Clerk to chase this up.
  - c) **Website:** Cllr C Brooks is waiting for confirmation of which company Cllrs are happy to go ahead with. This needs to be actioned to get the new website progressing as soon as possible. Cllrs discussed and agreed to go ahead with the proposal from Toby Lloyd, this was proposed by Cllr D Lowe and seconded by Cllr P Breese. Cllr C Brooks to action this and set up a meeting with him and Clerk to attend as well.
  - d) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** Clerk has requested that this is made brighter, no response received as yet from Powys CC Lighting.
  - e) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** The benches were delivered to Cllr P Breese who will be placing it in the play area. Cllr P Breese suggested a plaque to be purchased stating 'Donated by Caersws Community Council for the Coronation of King Charles, 2023'.  
Bench for Shiloh Graveyard will be placed, location to be confirmed following the next cemetery inspection.
  - f) **Request for pavement in Pontdolgoch:** Clerk has not received a response. Cllr L George has not heard anything back.

- g) **Information boards in need of updating:** Cllr A Wallbank confirmed that his son who did the original artwork for the information boards and confirmed that the original scans would have been given to TCT at the time they were produced. Cllr C Brooks found out who printed the original boards. Cllr C Brooks contacted him to ask if he has the original information. Cllr C Brooks has looked through the information boards and has not seen any out-of-date information. This is to be confirmed. Cllr C Brooks has stated that the information that he has been given is the same as what is shown on the TCT tab on the CCC website.
- h) **Llyn Mawr reserve issues:** Cllr S Sargent has confirmed that the reserve has now been closed. Cllr D Lowe confirmed that he went to the Wildlife Trust AGM but was unable to ask a question about this. He found out that the reserve is owned by a landowner and the Trust only owns the lake. Cllr P Breese stated that the CEO of Montgomery Wildlife Trust could not confirm whether or not there was evidence of any foul play in the area. Cllr C Brooks stated that he had heard that there were a handful of incidents. There's not much more for CCC to do with this item. Cllrs agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda for the time being.
- i) **Post Box removal:** The post box has been replaced/returned. Cllr C Brooks has reported that the post box has been set 2 metres back with 2metres of grass to walk over to get to the post box. Cllr C Brooks has suggested that he removes a section of the grass and put something down so people don't have to walk over wet/slippy/muddy ground. Cllr P Breese has offered to help with this. Item to be removed from the agenda.
- j) **Ownership of war memorial:** Clerk has received a rough estimate of £1500 to cover the legal costs for both sides which CCC has confirmed it will cover. Cllrs feel this is a high cost for what needs to be done. Clerk to get another 1 or 2 quotes.
- k) **Long term road closure on A470, Talerddig:** A470 Talerddig – has reopened now but caused a great deal of problems when it was closed. Item to be removed from the agenda.

**Highways updates from Cllr L George:**

- Salt bins will be topped up over the next week or two by Highways.
- Foxes Pitch works were due to be completed this year which is unlikely now but should be soon into the New Year.
- Potholes should be repaired in the next fortnight.

9. **Correspondence:** *All correspondence relating to COVID-19 has been forwarded to Cllrs and shared online where necessary*
- a) **Powys CC:** Day opportunities Review. Information noted, no action.
  - b) **PAVO:** Shopping bus service. Information noted. Clerk to share the information locally.
  - c) **Smart Towns Wales:** Smart Towns Programme. Cllr A Wallbank attended this. This is more relevant to a larger town or area. Information noted, no action.
  - d) **One Voice Wales:** NALC National Salary Agreement for Clerks pay agreement. This was agreed previously that the salary would continue in line with the recommendations provided by NALC. Cllr A Wallbank has detailed the new increase in a letter which was passed on to the Clerk.
  - e) **Local resident:** query relating to Active Travel. Active Travel Plan is not available in this area currently so there is nothing CCC can do until this is available
  - f) **Rhiwlas Green Energy Consultation:** Cllr C Brooks confirmed that this relates to two new wind farms that have been proposed in Llangurig. These will need to be connected at a new substation at Cefn Coch and would be over ground for most of this connection route. This route would partly go through Caersws ward, in the Carno area. It has been stated that these wires will be carried on wooden poles. These would be very large to allow for the high voltage. This is a private company rather than the National Grid. Cllr C Brooks will be attending the upcoming meeting in Llangurig to challenge the suggested proposal for overhead cables as opposed to underground. Cllr C Brooks will be attending the meeting in a personal capacity.
  - g) **Welsh Government:** Road Safety Strategy consultation. Information noted, no action.
10. **S137 Donation Requests:** The next opportunity for organisations to apply is by 30th April 2024 for consideration at the May meeting.
11. **Planning:**
- a) **Application Reference: 23/1453/HH** Grid Reference: E:301756 N: 292084 Proposal: Construction of 2 story side extension to dwelling and improvements to access Site Address: Maes Gwasted , Trefeglwys Road, Caersws, SY17 5HT  
Cllrs discussed the above application and would like to state that they believe that the visibility splay to the West should not prejudice the application as suggested by Highways. Clerk to forward.
  - b) **Application Reference: 23/1699/FUL** Grid Reference: E:304154 N: 294078 Proposal: Conversion and extension of former cowhouse (agricultural building) into holiday accommodation together with formation of vehicular access and installation of package treatment plant (includes demolition of adjoining agricultural building) Site Address: Building At Castle Wood, Llanwnog, Caersws, Powys SY17 5QP  
Cllrs discussed the above application and have no comments.

## 12. Caersws Public Conveniences:

Clerk confirmed that the cleaner has said that he will be away for a few days at the end of December. Clerk to request Mr Sheppard to cover if possible.

## 13. Cemeteries:

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Completed by Cllr A Wallbank, who has confirmed the same issues as previously. One more headstone starting to get wobbly, but doesn't need immediate attention. Andrew Evans who does the grass cutting is going to look at the filling in of the graves and get back to the Clerk.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** The solicitor has confirmed that a letter was sent to the Charity Commission a couple of weeks ago but hasn't received a response yet.
- c) **Grass cutting at Llanwnog 2024:** Waiting on quotes, Clerk to chase for this to be decided at the January meeting.
- d) **Cemetery Committee review** No one currently available to join the committee. The three current members are happy to carry on as it is for now.

## 14. Finances:

### a) Account balances:

Current account = £30,546.69

Reserve account = £42,394.12

### b) Bills to be paid:

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (November)	£879.89 (net)	
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (November)	£38.62	
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (November)	£31.58	
Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (December) Incl backpay of £513.36	£1,489.00 Total	
(PAYE to be deducted from January 2024 pay) <i>Chq to be dated 27.12.23</i>			
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£192.00	
EOM	WC retainer (November & December)	£100.00 (net)	[£120 total]
Second Life Products Wales	Recycled plastic benches	£442.56 (net)	[£553.20 total]
<i>(previous chq covered only one bench)</i>			
EOM	Replacement lights at WC	£130.61 (net)	[£156.73 total]
Cambrian Line	Annual Membership	£10.00	
Caersws Village Hall	Meeting room hire	£75.00	
Rhys Llwellyn Sheppard	WC cleaning cover	£15.00	
Gwynne Woosnam	Llanwnog Cemetery grass/hedge cutting	£2,075.00 (net)	[£2490 total]
Colin Woosnam	Cllr Remuneration 2023/24	£208.00	

### Direct Debits:

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (November 2023)	£85.43
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365	£29.31

Cllrs discussed the bills to be paid which were proposed for payment by Cllr P Breese and seconded by Cllr L George.

### c) Income received: None

### d) Reserves breakdown:

RESERVES HELD	
PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Public Convenience	£14,690.00
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	£1,592.00
Care Costs in case required/requested from Cllrs	£4,500.00
<b>TOTAL RESERVES HELD</b>	<b>£54,232.00</b>

## 15. Councillor Comments:

**Cllr P Breese:** Trecastell Corner in Aberhafesp has water across the road and does not drain away. Clerk to report to Highways and request sufficient drainage.

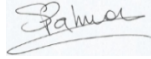
**Cllr A Wallbank:** Suggested there should be a committee to check items looked after by CCC such as the benches and information boards. The checks could be quarterly. Clerk to add this to the next agenda for discussion.

**Cllr D Lowe:** Raised whether Cllrs should have received the emergency information from the Clerk. It was confirmed that this information would go to the Chair and Vice Chair rather than all Cllrs. Clerk to forward the information onto Chair Cllr C Woosnam and Vice Chair Cllr D Lowe.

- 16. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Chair Cllr C Woosnam thanked everyone for attending and wished all a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.21pm.

Signed:

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

Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)