

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 31st January 2024 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, Cllr L George, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr S Sargent.

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs S Palmer

1. **Apologies:** No apologies given
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.*
3. **Public Speaking Session (15 minutes maximum time allocated)**
No one present
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 29th November 2023 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr M Cheshire and seconded by Cllr S Sargent.
5. **Councillor Co-option:** A local resident was expected to attend following showing an interest in joining the council but he was unable to attend last minute. The Clerk has forwarded the details of the next meeting and asked whether he will be able to attend.
6. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**
 - a) **Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws:** Cllr C Brooks raised the point that the road is being resurfaced through Caersws. Will the pedestrian crossing be re-marked the same as it is now? Clerk to contact TRA to ask about this.
 - b) **Caersws bridge & roundabout scheme:** Clerk to ask Russell George MS whether he has any updates regarding this project.
 - c) **Pavement widening between Premier Shop and car park:** Clerk has been looking to get quotations for this, but Cllr C Brooks suggested a specification should be drawn up and provided to those quoting. Cllr C Brooks has confirmed that he will help the Clerk with this specification to send out.
 - d) **Road markings at Weig Lane crossing:** No updates regarding this.
 - e) **Manthrig Brook Flooding issues:** No further updates to report.
7. **Place Plan Committee:**
 - a) **LDP:** An extraordinary meeting was held in order for Cllrs to discuss the latest LDP survey and construct a response which was sent off prior to the deadline by the Clerk.
 - b) **Active Travel Plan:** No new information received for the Active Travel Plan
8. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **New Bank Account:** Confirmation not received as yet but all paperwork requested has been sent. Signatories should receive log in details for the online account shortly.
 - b) **Website:** Cllr C Brooks has sent on a link from Toby Lloyd for a progress page for the website. Cllrs have looked at this and are very happy with how it looks so far. Cllr C Brooks has asked Cllrs to respond to him within 14 days with feedback of the progress page.
 - c) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** The Clerk has chased up whether the light can be made as bright as possible but no confirmation of this has been received. Clerk to copy Cllr L George into correspondence so that he can try and push for a response also. Clerk to ask for clarification as to why PCC will not put a light in the bus stop.
 - d) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** Clerk is chasing up the plaque which was requested but no response received.
 - e) **Request for pavement in Pontdolgoch;** The Clerk has not received a response. Cllr L George has forwarded a suggestion to PCC of a cost-effective solution and is waiting for a response.
 - f) **Information boards in need of updating:** Cllr D Lowe has provided details of the boards.
 - g) **Ownership of war memorial:** Clerk is yet to get further quotes for this. These are to be obtained for the next meeting.
 - h) **Defibrillator – Pontdolgoch:** Cllr P Skitt is happy for a defibrillator to be installed on the outside of his house in Pontdolgoch. A written agreement needs to be drawn up in case of him moving from the property. Clerk to look into this. Cllr P Breese has a defibrillator from St Johns' Ambulance. Clerk to order a heated cabinet for the defib and contact local electrician regarding installation.
9. **Correspondence:** *All correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs and shared online where necessary*
 - a) **One Voice Wales:** Wales Air Ambulance Review. Cllrs suggested raising this with Russell George MS when CCC meets with him.
 - b) **Welsh Government:** Sustainable Farming Scheme – Information Events. Information noted, no action.

- c) **Member of the public:** Freedom of Information Request. This relates to a request about meetings with CPRW, all Cllrs confirmed that they have not had any meetings in the capacity as Cllr. The Clerk has confirmed that CCC has not had any meetings with CPRW and will confirm this to the person who sent the FOI request.
- d) **Local Resident:** Request for information about the Strategic Flood Case Assessment. Clerk has received an email response from PCC with where this information can be found. Clerk to forward on to Cllrs and the resident who requested the information.
- e) **One Voice Wales:** New National Park Proposal. Information noted, no action.
- f) **One Voice Wales:** D-Day 80 – 6th June. Cllrs discussed whether a beacon could be arranged. Cllr C Brooks confirmed that he is happy to put together a beacon. Clerk to add to next agenda to discuss if there is a good place to put a beacon.
- g) **Local Resident:** One-way system in Caersws request. Cllrs discussed this local residents request and were not in agreement. This was raised some years ago and Powys and Welsh Government confirmed that traffic would not be able to come out onto the Carno Road from Manthrig Lane and the suggestion would not be appropriate.

10. S137 Donation Requests

11. **Planning:** The below were discussed during an extraordinary meeting held at the start of January. No other planning applications received:

- a) **Asbri Planning:** Pre-planning Consultation: land to the west of Plas Maldwyn - Proposed development of 22 social housing units.
Cllr L George stated that the plans for this site have taken into account the tree on the boundary with the school. There is concern over the tree which is very old and parts of it are dying and is hollow in places. The head teacher of Caersws School asked Cllr L George to assess the tree which he did with someone else and came to the conclusion that the tree is dangerous and should be felled. The felling would be expensive for the school to carry out so Cllr L George has suggested that the developer should be approached to fell the tree as part of the development.

Cllr S Sargent left the meeting at 9.07pm.

- b) **Etchells Architecture Ltd:** Pre-Planning Application Consultation: Penybortha, Carno Road, Caersws.
The pre-planning consultation was discussed at an extraordinary meeting. Points were raised by Cllrs which were collated and forwarded to the developer.
- c) **Rhiwlas Green Energy:** Energy Lines consultation.
This consultation was discussed at the extraordinary meeting and comments were returned prior to the deadline.

12. Caersws Public Conveniences

- a) **Repairs and Maintenance:** Some damage was caused recently, and repairs have had to be made. CCTV was observed and it was deemed that the damage was unintentional. The information gathered has been passed to the police for their information.
As and when a refit is done, taps which turn off would be useful and the pipework would be enclosed.

13. Cemeteries:

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr D Lowe carried out the risk assessment and confirmed that the main issue is the sunken graves at Llanwnnog. Clerk to redo and send out the cemetery rota with just 3 committee members for now.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Clerk to continue to chase a response from solicitor regarding changing the ownership of the graveyard from the trustees.
- c) **Grass cutting at Llanwnnog cemetery 2024:** The Clerk has received a quote from Jeff Pughe who has been recommended by Gwynne Woosnam who did the maintenance previously and has also received a quote from Andrew Evans who has been cutting the grass in Caersws and Clatter. Cllr C Brooks proposed that a spec for the grass cutting is put together to ensure those providing quotations have a clear guide of what is required. Clerk to action.

14. Finances:

- a) **Account balances:**
Current account = £31,187.56
Reserve account = £42,547.56

- b) **Bills to be paid:**

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sophie Palmer | Clerks salary (January) | £848.31 (net) [£911.47] |
| Sophie Palmer | Clerks Expenses (December) | £15.99 |
| Sophie Palmer | Clerks Expenses (January) | £55.65 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | PAYE Tax for Clerk (December) | £31.58 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | PAYE Tax for Clerk (January) | £31.58 |
| Hugh Jones | WC Cleaning | £ |
| Rhys Llewelyn Sheppard | WC Cleaning (cover) | £150.00 |
| EOM | WC retainer (January) | £50.00 (net) [£60 total] |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| EOM total] | Repairs to pipework & unblocking drains | £297.91 (net) [£357.49 |
| Clatter Community Centre Ltd | Hall hire | £150.00 |
| Audit Wales | 2020/21 external audit fees | £300.00 |
| Audit Wales | 2021/22 external audit fees | £1,650.00 |
| Satch Norton (M B Norton) | Domain Name transfer (website) | £15.00 |
| Anthony Richards | Internal Audit | £110.00 |
| Toby Lloyd | Website invoice (50%) | £2,250.00 |

Cllrs discussed the bills to be paid which were agreed and proposed for payment by Cllr P Breese and seconded by Cllr M Cheshire.

Direct Debits:

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------|
| Southern Electric | Caersws WC Electricity (December 2023) | £110.65 |
| PC-Q Solutions | Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365 | £29.31 |
| PC-Q Solutions | Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365 | £29.31 |

a) Income received:

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Powys CC | Precept (final payment for 2023/24) | £13,001.00 |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------------|

b) Reserves breakdown:

| RESERVES HELD | |
|---|-------------------|
| PURPOSE | AMOUNT |
| Public Convenience | £14,559.39 |
| 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 |
| TOTAL RESERVES HELD | £54,232.00 |

15. Councillor Comments:

Cllr A Wallbank: asked if external items such as benches be added to the next agenda for discussion. Clerk to add to the next agenda.

Cllr A Wallbank: Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr L George and Cllr D Lowe to meet at the cemetery to look at the sunken graves.

Cllr C Knapp: There is a large puddle outside her property, it is dangerous, and repairs are being held up by Network Rail. Cllr L George confirmed that TRA has set a date to repair.

Cllr M Cheshire: Stated that the Penybortha application should be on the planning portal. CCC will need to meet to ensure not to miss the deadline for commenting. Clerk to inform Cllrs as soon as any details of the application is received and confirm a date for an extraordinary meeting if required.

Cllr P Breese: Batteries are needed for the defib in Clatter which he will order and CCC will reimburse.

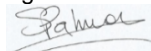
Cllr P Breese: The URDD concert will be held in Caersws on Feb 10th. Tickets are £10.

Cllr P Breese: Confirmed that he will be stepping down from the Council at the AGM,

16. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Chair Cllr C Davies thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.36pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)