

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at **Clatter Community Centre** at 7.30pm

**Present:** Chair Cllr C Woosnam, 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, local resident

1. **Apologies:** Cllr D Lowe
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 P Skitt declared an interest in agenda item
3. **Public Speaking Session** (15 minutes maximum time allocated)  
No one present
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 were agreed and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr L George and seconded by Cllr P Breese.
5. **Councillor Co-option:** Local resident Malcolm Carroll attended the meeting following showing an interest in co-opting onto the council. Mr Carroll spoke to Cllrs about his background and life in Caersws and why he would like to join the council. Cllr M Cheshire proposed to co-opt Mr Carroll and Cllr L George seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in agreement. Clerk confirmed that she will forward relevant documents to Mr Carroll and that he will be officially co-opted onto the council at the next meeting.
6. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**  
Apart from the pavement widening there are no updates on any of the below. A meeting is scheduled with Russell George MS next week and these issues are on the agenda:
  - a) Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws
  - b) Caersws bridge
  - c) Roundabout scheme
  - d) **Pavement widening on corner of Premier Shop:** this was not completed with the recent road resurfacing. Cllr L George has been in contact with TRA and they have confirmed that they will make the pavement good once the stay has been moved. Cllrs confirmed that this has been done. Cllr L George to confirm this and ask for timing of when the pavement will be complete.
  - e) Road markings at Weig Lane crossing
  - f) Manthrig Brook Flooding issues
7. **Place Plan Committee:** No updates on either of the below agenda items at this time.
  - a) LDP
  - b) Active Travel Plan
8. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **New Bank Account:** There has been a delay on this due to Clerk not being a signatory. The account will need to be transferred manually. The Clerk has confirmed this with Unity Trust and will make any arrangements as and when required.
  - b) **Website:** Cllrs have not returned any further feedback to Cllr C Brooks. Cllrs have requested for Cllr C Brooks to continue the process on the basis of what has been produced so far by Toby Lloyd.
  - c) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** PCC will check the wattage for the light nearest the bus stop and stated that they will also check the wattage of the light opposite. Clerk stated that there is no light opposite which is part of the issue. Clerk to request if a light can be attached to the pole opposite the bus stop.
  - d) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** The plaque will be collected by the Clerk and Cllr P Breese will attach it to the bench once received.
  - e) **Request for pavement in Pontdolgoch:** Cllr L George has stated that he has no update on this at present.
  - f) **Information boards in need of updating:** Cllrs discussed this at the previous meeting and concluded that the boards are outdated and would be costly to replace. Cllrs agreed that QR codes put onto signs and placed around the Caersws wards would be a more up to date way to get up to date information to those who want it. This will be left on the agenda and will be looked into in more detail once the new website is up and running.
  - g) **Ownership of war memorial:** Clerk is waiting for some quotations for the legal costs for transferring the ownership of the memorial to CCC. Clerk has spoken with some solicitors who have suggested that they can complete the legalities for both sides but the Church may want to use their own legal team.
  - h) **Defibrillator – Pontdolgoch:** A new heated defib cabinet will be £550 plus £9 delivery. Cllrs agreed to purchase this in order for the donated defibrillator to be installed in Pontdolgoch. Clerk

to order the cabinet. Clerk has not yet heard back from the local electrician who installed the Llanwnog defib so will chase up about installation of the cabinet.

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

- a) **Powys CC:** Review of Polling Districts. Information noted, no action.
- b) **Older Peoples' Commissioner for Wales:** Report 'Access Denied'. Information noted, no action.
- c) **One Voice Wales:** Joint Event between OVW and Planning Aid Wales. Information noted, no action.
- d) **Powys CC:** Various Roads, Tregynon and Llanwnog – Speed Limit Review. Information noted, no comments to forward.

**10. S137 Donation Requests.** The next funding round will be May.

**11. Planning:**

- a) **Application Reference: 24/0105/FUL** Grid Reference: E:304153 N: 294077 Proposal: Erection of a rural enterprise dwelling and garage, installation of package treatment plant and all associated works Site Address: Land Adjacent To Castle Wood , Llanwnog, Caersws, SY17 5PD

Cllrs discussed the above application. Cllrs agreed to support the application and have no comments to submit.

- b) **Application Reference: 23/1935/FUL** Grid Reference: E:304480 N: 293393 Proposal: Retrospective approval for erection of detached activity building, access, parking and pond on land approved for holiday park amenity under approval 20/1719/FUL Site Address: Cwm Hafren Holiday Park, Aberhafesp, Newtown, SY16 3HR

Cllrs discussed the above planning application and have no objections or comments to make.

*The below was received following the agenda being posted but was discussed at the discretion of the Chair Cllr C Woosnam:*

- c) **Application Reference: 24/0192/FUL** Grid Reference: E:303578 N: 292370 Proposal: Residential development comprising 22 dwellings (terrace house type) and all associated works Site Address: Land At Plas Maldwyn, Caersws, SY17 5HG

Councillors discussed this application and support the application but require more information relating to contaminated waste. The developer must ensure that contaminated waste is removed properly and currently there is not enough information to show that this will be the case.

Cllr L George confirmed that he put forward the call-in for the Penyborfa within the time scale required. He has received communication stating that the deadline was missed, however this is not the case and Cllr L George will be disputing this.

**12. Caersws Public Conveniences**

**a) Repairs and Maintenance:**

- 1) Repairs made in Ladies toilets to pan and flush. This has been an ongoing issue which is hopefully now resolved.
- 2) The cleaner will be going away between 23<sup>rd</sup> March until 7<sup>th</sup> April. Clerk has emailed the person who usually covers to ask if he is able to cover these dates.

**13. Cemeteries:**

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr A Wallbank completed the February risk assessment. Not much has changed. The sunken graves are an issue which is ongoing. An oak tree that was planted and in a sleeve has been trimmed by the hedge cutter. Some trees at the back are being strangled by the ties on them and need cutting.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Clerk has chased up the solicitor and they have confirmed that another letter has been sent to the Charity Commission. Clerk to ask the solicitor to call the Charity Commission as the Trustees are very anxious to have the legalities sorted as soon as possible.
- c) **Grass cutting at Llanwnog cemetery 2024:** Cllrs agreed Jeff Pughe to carry out the grass cutting at Llanwnog Cemetery following quotations being received. Specification to be put together and confirmed in order to send out for quotations for next years grass cutting contract.
- d) **Llanwnog sunken graves:** Cllr C Brooks has compiled a specification for the sunken graves. Clerk to forward this to those who have provided quotations and request them to re-quote in line with the specification.
- e) **Llanwnog cemetery mapping:** Burial plans for Llanwnog are mainly on paper. A plan of the cemetery and graves which relates to the layout of the cemetery and is not paper based should be created at some point. The Clerk has looked into companies which do this and have received one quote of £950 +vat which gives an idea of what this may cost to outsource. Cllr C Brooks stated that he knows a topographer who may be interested in looking at how he may be able to help with this. Cllr C Brooks to contact this person and report back at the next meeting.

#### 14. Finances:

##### a) Account balances:

Current Account = £30,015.67

Reserve Account = £42,547.56

##### b) Bills to be paid:

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (February)	£879.89 (net) [£911.47]
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (February)	£42.92
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (February)	£31.58
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£192.00
EOM	WC retainer (February)	£50.00 (net) [£60 total]
EOM	Repairs to ladies toilets – pan and flush	£247.96 (net) [£297.55 total]
Border Janitorial	WC Supplies	£65.94 (net) [£79.13 total]
Calon Hearts	Defibrillator heated cabinet (Incl delivery)	£559.00 (no vat)
CP and MA Breese	Defibrillator batteries	£88.74
Second Life Products	Benches	£551.00 (net) [£661.20]

*Cheque did not arrive with them so has to be resent. There is a cost to cancelling the cheque – Cllrs agreed that the cheque should be cancelled. Clerk to action.*

Cllrs agreed bills which were proposed for payment by Cllr P Breese and seconded by Cllr L George.

##### Direct Debits:

Southern Electric	Caersws WC Electricity (January 2024)	£249.26
PC-Q Solutions	Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365	£29.31

##### a) Income received:

M Jones & Son	New memorial	£236.25
I B Williams	New memorial	£472.50
T a Hughes	Burial Fee	£236.25

##### 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	£250.00
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 Skitt:** The bus shelter in Pontdolgoch was removed today by Griffiths contractor. Cllr P Skitt spoke to them to explain that the bus shelter belongs to CCC who have not been contacted about the removal of the shelter. The contractors checked but was told to continue. CCC has not been contacted at all about this and they have removed and destroyed an asset of CCC. Clerk has also been in contact with Powys regarding this but is yet to receive a response. Cllrs suggested that Traws Cymru could add a shelter on the other side of the road in Pontdolgoch as people wait there for the buses too. Clerk to action.

**Clerk:** Clerk will be away over Easter and will confirm the exact dates to Cllrs via email.

**Cllr C Brooks:** At the last meeting Cllr L George stated that the Chair of the Planning Committee had stated that Community Councils are not statutory consultees for planning. Cllr C Brooks has located a document which seems to suggest otherwise.

**Cllr S Sargent:** stated that she found recent meetings difficult and at times attendees did not come across as professional. **Cllr P Skitt** stated that residents he spoke to said that the recent planning meeting felt open and honest and was well organised.

**Cllr L George:** said that he will take the Chair of the Planning Committee to task for providing incorrect information regarding statutory planning consultees.

**Cllr L George:** will be is on the panel with the Police and Crime Commissioner and asked whether anyone has anything for him to raise at the next meeting:

- Cllr P Breese said that he has not seen any rural crime officers around at all
- Cllr C Brooks confirmed that he has taken the police and crime commissioner to task over the issue of rural crime and the lack of support for rural/farm schemes. He was told

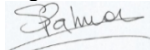
that the police have no capacity to be able to support this. Cllr C Brooks will be setting up the farm watch by the Winter with no support from the Police. The statistics are high for Caersws.

- Cllr L George confirmed that the trailer which was parked near the school for a long time was moved by PCC when they tarmacked recently. It was moved to outside a residents property and is now attracting rubbish etc. Clerk to contact Highways.
- There is an area of land where the soil is running off the land due to the way the land is farmed. Clerk to contact highways as the soil is running onto the road and should be the landowners responsibility to clean the roads. Cllr L George has confirmed that he has also reported this.

**16. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm at Caersws Village Hall.

Chair Cllr C Woosnam thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.46pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk & RFO)