

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at **Caersws Village Hall** at 7.30pm

**Present:** Chair Cllr C Woosnam, Vice Chair Cllr D Lowe, Cllr C Knapp, Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr L George, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr S Sargent, Cllr M Carroll.

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Skitt, Cllr P Breese.
2. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** Mr Malcolm Carroll agreed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk as a witness.
3. **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.*  
No declarations of interest were made.
4. **Public Speaking Session (15 minutes maximum time allocated)**  
No one present
5. **Minutes** of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed on the basis of a couple of minor alterations being made. Clerk to action and resend minutes to all and publish on the website.

Cllr L George raised the point that was brought up at the Feb meeting that whether Community Councils are statutory consultees for planning. Cllr L George felt that he was accused of providing an incorrect statement, so he has since had a meeting with the lead planning Cllr who then also went with Cllr L George to request clarification from Peter Morris who confirmed that Community Councils are not statutory consultees.

Cllr C Brooks thanked Cllr L George for confirming this information and wanted to confirm that he was looking for clarification of the planning consultee situation and had not stated that Cllr L George was wrong.

Cllr C Brooks feels that CCC must conduct its meetings in a professional manner and there have been negative comments made towards Powys officers which he feels is inappropriate.

6. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**  
CC Cllrs met with Russell George MS recently to discuss the below points. See minutes for this meeting published from 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024
  - a) Pedestrian crossing in centre of Caersws
  - b) Caersws bridge
  - c) Roundabout scheme
  - d) Pavement widening on corner of Premier Shop
  - e) Road markings at Weig Lane crossing
  - f) Manthrig Brook Flooding issues

Cllr L George requested an additional agenda heading named 'Priority Projects' which should currently show the Caersws footbridge and car parking for the station. Clerk to action

7. **Place Plan Committee:** There has been no update on either of the below items for some time.
  - a) LDP
  - b) Active Travel Plan
8. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **New Bank Account:** Clerk is yet to receive the login details required for the online account although the account seems to have been set up. Clerk to chase this up if still not received. Clerk has also suggested writing a cheque of £10,000.00 to move into the new account as everything needs to be moved manually but it would be best not to move all monies from the NatWest account until the new one is set up and everyone can login.
  - b) **Website:** Clerk has had a meeting with the developer of the new website and he now needs to get in touch with PC-Q regarding the Clerks emails as they are tied to the website. He should get the info he needs soon and be able to push forward with the new site.
  - c) **Lighting at Caersws Bus Stop (opposite Buck Inn):** Powys Lighting Dept has confirmed that they will tilt the light which is on the opposite side of the street upwards so that it shines more light at the bus stop.  
Cllr D Lowe reported that the touch screen at the bus stop is not working. Clerk to report to Traws Cymru.
  - d) **Bench for the Kings Coronation:** The plaque is ready, and the Clerk will collect it and send on to Cllr P Breese.
  - e) **Request for pavement in Pontdolgoch:** Cllr L George confirmed that he has no update on this but will chase up for a response.

- f) **Information boards:** It was decided at the previous meeting that the boards would not be renewed and instead QR codes would be created that could be put up in larger numbers around the wards. Cllrs agreed that the new website should be prioritised and then the QR codes can be looked at as they may also link to the website.
- g) **Ownership of war memorial:** The Church has confirmed that they will use their own legal team and cover their own legal fees for the transfer of ownership of the memorial. Clerk to contact Harrisons and ask them to start the process.
- h) **Defibrillator – Pontdolgoch:** The defib cabinet will be dispatched soon and sent direct to Cllr P Skitt. Electrician L Reynolds is willing to install the cabinet and will contact Cllr P Skitt direct.
- i) **Removal of bus shelters:** The Clerk is yet to receive a response from the person at Powys CC as promised. Clerk to chase this up.
- j) **External items e.g. benches to be discussed:** Clerk to ensure the benches are on the asset list. Cllrs to discuss some time about setting a regular check for the benches in the same way the cemetery is checked but less frequent.
- k) **CCC Logo:** The current logo was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Some Cllrs feel a logo is not needed but some feel it is needed but the current one should be changed. Cllrs agreed to wait until the new website is up and running and then discuss again.
- l) **Soil/dirt on road between Foxes Pitch and Llanwnog:** Highways have stated that the landowners have been asked to clean the road.
- m) **Trailer parked in Caersws:** Highways are going to speak to the owner to request that the trailer is moved.

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

- a) **Caersws Urdd Committee:** Thank you for funding and helping them reach their target
- b) **D-Day Commemoration:** beacon, flag etc (June 2024)
- c) **Caersws Concerned Residents Group:** Email regarding planning meeting.

10. **S137 Donation Requests:** The next deadline for funding requests is 30<sup>th</sup> April to be decided at the May meeting. Clerk to promote the funding on the website and Facebook page.

11. **Planning:** *No planning applications received at the time of posting the agenda*

- a) Planning meeting held in February, points to be raised following the meeting to be acknowledged and recorded.

12. **Caersws Public Conveniences:**

- a) The cleaners holiday days will be covered by Rhys who has covered previously.

13. **Cemeteries:**

- a) **Risk Assessments:** Cllr D Lowe carried out the March risk assessment. The main issue is still the sunken graves.
- b) **Shiloh Clatter Graveyard:** Clerk has spoken to one of the trustees and assured her that CCC is trying to chase this up and that the matter is currently with the Charity Commission. Clerk has called the Charity Commission who have confirmed that the letter from R Hanratty has been received but the Commission is working through a high volume and currently working through cases going back to November. They were unable to give any idea on time scale.
- c) **Llanwnog sunken graves:** Clerk has sent the specification for the filling of the graves to those who quoted previously and have asked if they could re-quote in line with the specification provided.
- d) **Llanwnog cemetery mapping:** Chris has sent on an email from the person he mentioned at the last meeting who has suggested a cost of around £900. The cemetery mapping company the Clerk contacted stated a cost of £950. Cllrs discussed and were happy for Cllr C Brooks to contact the topographer he knows of for more detail.

14. **Finances:**

a) **Account balances:**

Current Account = £24,737.68  
Reserve Account = £42,547.56

b) **Bills to be paid:**

Sophie Palmer	Clerks salary (March)	£879.89 (net) [£911.47 total]
Sophie Palmer	Clerks Expenses (March)	<i>Not compiled, add to April bills</i>
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax for Clerk (March)	£31.58
Hugh Jones	WC Cleaning	£148.00
EOM	WC retainer (February)	£50.00 (net) [£60 total]
Border Janitorial	WC Supplies	£13.92
Caersws Community Council	Transfer of funds from Natwest to Unity	£10,000.00

Bills were approved and proposed for payment by Cllr A Wallbank and seconded by Cllr L George.

**Direct Debits:**Southern Electric  
PC-Q SolutionsCaersws WC Electricity (February 2024)  
Laptop security, maintenance, virus protection, Office 365Bill not yet received  
£29.31**c) Income received:**

Mr Corfield	Additional inscription (Cemetery)	£158.63
Mrs Jones	New memorial (cemetery)	£236.25
Carl Lewis	Cemetery fees	£158.63
Parry Jones	Cemetery fees	£158.63

**d) 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**

**Clerk:** confirmed that she will be away between 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March and again between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Cllr A Wallbank:** It has been reported to him that on the way out of Clatter, towards Carno, there is a post sticking out the ground which is leaning towards the road. Cllr A Wallbank to gather more information for the Clerk to pass on to Highways.

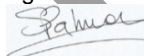
**Cllr D Lowe:** asked if the minutes can be received sooner. Clerk confirmed that a draft copy of the minutes should be available within a week of the meeting. Clerk apologised for not meeting this deadline recently and confirmed that she will aim to get the minutes finalised as soon after the meeting as possible.

**Cllr S Sargent:** reported that there is water coming off a driveway and the road has been damaged as the water did not go into the dyke. Clerk to report to highways.

**16. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm at Clatter Community Centre.

Chair Cllr C Woosnam thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.24pm.

Signed:



Sophie Palmer (Clerk &amp; RFO)