

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**DRAFT** Minutes for Meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at **Caersws Village Hall** at 7pm

**Present:** Vice Chair Cllr M Carroll, Chair Cllr D Lowe, Cllr P Skitt, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr A Wallbank, Cty Cllr Les George, Cllr C Woosnam

1. **Apologies:** Cllr C Houghton , Cllr C Knapp, Cllr A Vaughan
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  
DL welcomed everyone and thanked MC for attending the meeting with PCC (JB) on his behalf
3. **Public Speaking Session** *(15 minutes maximum time allocated)*
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were proposed as an accurate record. Proposed LG seconded CW
5. **Priority Projects:**
  - a. **Caersws Footbridge:** Emails received with positive news and CC are pleased with the progress by Ken Skates, Steve Witherden and Russell George on our behalf. Concern that it is being aligned with road works on Moat Lane, would prefer Footbridge to be a separate project. Meeting end of Feb/March with all stake holders where timescales will be set. CC would like to be a part of this project group.
  - b. **Active Travel Plan :** Footpath Caersws to Llanwnog (follows Manthrig Brook) needs some maintenance work and this would need funding, some of which may be available from walking groups.
  - c. **Travel Hub :** Email received asking for a drawing of the land required outlined in red to be sent 22<sup>nd</sup> January for SAB meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Clerk to supply drawing.
6. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**
  - a) **Manthrig Brook Flooding Issues:** Positive on-site meeting with PCC, Severn Trent, residents and other stakeholders. Possible three courses of action 1) Dredge Manthrig Brook in the village (PCC willing for this to take place) following visit from hydrologist, permission would need to be sought from landowners 2) Pen Y Borfa – some PCC attendees are higher ranking than Planning Officers and although the planning may look to be okay on paper, attendees could see it is not a viable option and a catchment-based approach is required. 3) SVWMS consultation on Upper Severn plans 28th January in Presbyterian Church, Caersws, presenting draft plans for flooding intervention - opportunity to lobby for green interventions along the catchment. RESOLVED to engage hydrologist - MCC
7. **Matters Arising:**
  - a) **Website hits and news, Website news officer, Logo, Photographs** – Statistics reviewed, DL suggested CH to post news on website and facebook page – agreed if CH willing to take on this role. Need better picture of Caersws Train Station, add pictures of MWA statues in News
  - b) **Email Addresses** – Clerk to source other quotes to review at next meeting. RESOLVED to move to gov.uk emails for clerk and all Councillors
  - c) **Ownership of War Memorial** – MC chasing weekly, DL completed risk assessment on it in December
  - d) **Letter Regarding bus timetable** – MCC would like to reply when the service to Shrewsbury would be re-instated - AGREED
  - e) **Defibrillator Fault** –Llanwnog defibrillator flashing, MC emailed and chased, MC will say this one is defective in the meantime
  - f) **Co-Option** – No applicants at present
  - g) **Poverty Funding** – Bank account now opened by the Walking Group, Constitution also received. £800 to Walking Group paid by CC on behalf of LG, and £700 for CC to buy benches (recycled plastic). Clerk to source quotes for benches. Suggest Walking Group advertises more but excluding social media.
  - h) **IT Training for residents** - Proposed Village Club, early summer, agreed Toby to supply this (£40 per hour). Clerk to Contact Neil at Village Club. Will need leaflet drop, posted to houses possibly by Walking Group
  - i) **Training Plan, Policy and Opportunities** – Training Policy adopted
  - j) **Noticeboard by Church** – DL will arrange painting in spring
  - k) **Level Crossing (double yellow lines)** – CH suggested TRO for road near station, RESOLVED wait until after Travel Hub is created

I) **Adoption of Station** – RESOLVED not to adopt Station  
 m) **OVW Access for Councillors** – Supplied to Councillors. Clerk to send OVW regional meeting info to PS

8. **S137 Grant Requests** any funding applications received will be sent to Cllrs to consider at the October meeting.  
 None

9. **Planning:**  
 Application Reference: 25/1913/FUL Grid Reference: E:300240 N: 294004 Proposal: Demolition of existing barn and stables and erection of replacement barn and holiday let Site Address: Graig Farm , Pontdolgoch, Caersws, SY17 5NJ - Approved

Application Reference: 25/1693/REM Grid Reference: E:305272 N: 293735 Proposal: Section 73 application for the removal of condition 9 of planning approval M/2007/0344 (occupancy restriction) Site Address: Solitude , Newtown, SY16 3HS - Approved

10. **Caersws Public Conveniences:**

- a) **Refurbishment and Adjustment of hours** – Recent further blockage, written to Powys to request repair to drains and roof. PCC responded to say working out who is responsible. RESOLVED to keep hours as they are now and to sign opt-out EU working time agreement. Possible DBS check. Clerk to check on COSSH and bodily spillage training.
- b) **Drains**- PCC checking who is responsible for building maintenance

11. **Cemeteries:**

- a. **Risk Assessments:** December DL, January LG. Removing shed Llanwnog cemetery and rubbish. Billy Wainwright to complete this – DL to arrange. Request Andrew Evans to trim hedge where tractor couldn't reach, remove debris. Price to reduce hedge along drive by two feet – clerk to chase.
- b. **Llanwnog Cemetery** : Mapping underway.

12. **Finances:**

- a) Account balances and reconciliation  
 Unity Reserve £28,936.94  
 Unity Current £26,114.94  
 Natwest as at 23rd June 2025 £21,997.20 and £17,425.59
- b) Bills to be paid  
 Clerk £813.87 Dec  
 Clerk (phone) £28 Dec  
 Clerk (WfH) £26 Dec  
 Rhys £364.83 Dec  
 HMRC £390.72 Dec  
 Clerk £813.87 Jan  
 Clerk (phone) £28 Jan  
 Clerk (WfH) £26 Jan  
 Clerk £150 Defib pads  
 Rhys £407.13 Jan  
 Lowri 6 hrs £90  
 HMRC £408.80 Jan  
 Unity £6.00 and £6.00 = £12.00  
 Scribe £28.80 and £28.80 and £28.80 = £86.40  
 Huws Gray £27.38  
 Metrorod £114.00  
 Clatter Village Hall £150.00  
 OVW £42.00 and £42.00 and £42.00= £126.00  
 EOM £60.00 and £587.00 and £60.00 and £573.19 = £1,280.19  
 Morgan Griffiths £900.00  
 Caersws Wellbeing and Support £800  
 Councillors Remuneration £208 each MC, DL (2025), DL, CW, MCC, AW £208 CH, AV – forms needed in February  
 CK, PS opted out

DD  
 SSE £167.27 and £141.69

PCQ £29.31 and £29.31  
Scribe £42.00 and £42.00  
Hafren Dyfrdwy £23.69

Income received Interest £158.60, Precept £18,663.00

Payments approved CW, PS

- c) Update on Natwest – Felicia Atta-Krufi (Natwest) looking into our complaint and taking ownership of the issues
- d) Precept – Following the budget meeting in November it was RESOLVED to cap the increase to the precept of 2025 £55,990 by 4.9% inline with Powys CC increase. Total precept 2026-27 £58,733

#### Reserves breakdown

| RESERVES HELD   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| PURPOSE   | AMOUNT            |
| Public Convenience  | £14,559.39        |
| Unforeseen Maintenance costs for Cemetery (awaiting VAT refund)                               | -£160.00          |
| Precepted amount for new website  | £2,500.00         |
| Training costs  | £512.00           |
| Precepted amount for village halls  | £6,231.00         |
| Reserves for any extra costs unplanned at the time of precept/Donations (Awaiting VAT Refund) | -£1,841.83        |
| Cllr Remuneration   | £1,592.00         |
| Care Costs in case required/requested from Cllrs  | £4,500.00         |
| <b>TOTAL RESERVES HELD (update to include precept 2025-26)</b>                                | <b>£27,892.56</b> |

#### 13. Councillor Comments

DL – Football Club complaint regarding safety. LG suggestion to make entrance from Llanidloes Road. Clerk to write to Network rail regarding concerns – following attendance at next meeting by Cllr. Clerk to arrange. CW will ask MOP to let CC know when next meeting is.  
DL - Clerk to check if CC are able to sponsor a football match  
AW – Clatter to apply for funding to repair doors on shed  
CW – Salt replenishment and recycling issues

#### 14. Items for next agenda

Bio-diversity Plan – check if we have one  
OVW Child Poverty – should a Cllr attend  
Speedwatch Group – could add as News item on website – Clerk to do poster  
Saltbin replenishment and Recycling  
AW – apologies February and March meeting

#### 15. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm at Clatter Village Hall

Meeting closed at 20.52