

CYNGOR CYMUNED CAERSWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes for Meeting Wednesday 18th February 2026 at **Caersws Village Hall** at 7pm

Present: Vice Chair Cllr M Carroll, Chair Cllr D Lowe, Cllr A Vaughan, Cty Cllr Les George, Cllr C Houghton

1. **Apologies:** Cllr A Wallbank, Cllr C Knapp, Cllr P Skitt, Cllr M Cheshire, Cllr C Woosnam
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
3. **Public Speaking Session (15 minutes maximum time allocated)**
 - a) New overhead line, GreenGen requested access to land for survey, they will be using lattice poles not pylons. Asked if CCC had received notification and CCC view on how residents should respond to request for access. . LG shared views regarding underground cables and sites. Consultation 11th February to 11th March to make comments, Open evening 26th February Elephant and Castle. Email forwarded to Cllrs on 12th February. Flood Action Group and Maesmawr Farmers working together and CCC will continue to support them.
 - b) Flooding – requested information on current actions. Concern regarding Pen Y Borfa when Manthrig Brook issues have not been resolved. MCC advised MOP pulling people together to work towards a solution. Engaged Ecologist and have permissions from Powys CC and landowners to 'tidy up'. CC will fund this and review to see if it makes an improvement.
4. **Minutes** of meeting held on 21st January 2026 were proposed as an accurate record. Proposed LG seconded MCC with two small changes to 6a and 7g.
5. **Priority Projects:**
 - a. **Caersws Footbridge:** Follow up email from LG to Powys CC requesting response to queries regarding progress and plans. Awaiting response. CH requested that Footbridge is split from other two projects. MCC advised that the combination of projects could be beneficial in light of the Active Travel Plan.
 - b. **Active Travel Plan :** Used to be 75 bus Caersws to Shrewsbury Hospital. MCC trialed new journey, one hours wait in Welshpool and whole journey took three hours. MCC to respond regarding issues with this journey.
 - c. **Travel Hub :** Next SAB meeting 23rd February 2026. Clerk will request response following this.
6. **Long Term Agenda Items and Projects:**
 - a) **Manthrig Brook Flooding Issues:** Permit agreed, Ecologist engaged. Quote agreed for work £420 plus VAT. RESOLVED to carry out work.
7. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Website hits and news, Website news officer** – Statistics reviewed, CH to take over News section on Website and CCC Facebook page and Caersws Village Facebook page. All items to be reviewed by Clerk and/or Chair/Vice Chair before posting.
Email Addresses – Hugo Fox cheapest at £17.49 per month for up to 10 – RESOLVED Clerk to arrange.
 - b) **Ownership of War Memorial** – queries from Estate Management and Transactions Manager at Church in Wales. Awaiting answers from Rev Gwalchmai and Leyland to respond. Will also request a timescale. Benches to be replaced at approximately £295 each x 2. Deliver to CH.
 - c) **Defibrillator Fault** –Llanwnnog defibrillator flashing, MC emailed and chased, MC will say this one is defective in the meantime
 - d) **Co-Option** – No applicants at present. Could hold a Parish Meeting May and invite residents to talk to Councillors.
 - e) **Training Plan, Policy and Opportunities** – Training Policy adopted and added to website. Cllrs will let Clerk know of training courses they would like to attend.
 - f) **Noticeboard by Church** – DL will arrange painting in spring
 - g) **Level Crossing (double yellow lines)** – CH suggested TRO for road near station, RESOLVED wait until after Travel Hub is created
 - h) **Football Field Access** – Children crossing railway line as underpass floods. MCC made contact with Football Club, who are trying to find out who is responsible. Different specialisms and areas have different managers. Previously pumped out and this did help for twelve months. Cllrs discussed land ownership. Network rail could help with this issue. AV provided contact to MCC who along with AV will continue to assist with this.

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

9. **Planning:**
None

10. **Caersws Public Conveniences:**

- a) **Refurbishment and Maintenance** – No further blockages. EOM calling to repair urinals. COSSH and Bodily Spillage training to be arranged for Rhys (checking what training he has received)
- b) **Drains-** Agreement and Drains plan received from PCC. Manholes are on PCC land, Agreement eludes to building only. CH written response email, Clerk to send response to Cllr Charlton. Roof – CH to contact builder regarding roof quotation. CH – Hafren Dwyfry exploring sewers along A470

11. **Cemeteries:**

- a. **Risk Assessments:** February AW. Mary Brenda Marchant headstone unstable and dangerous. Sign to be added to headstone to advise will be laid flat (14 days) – option to contact Clerk. Hedge (driveway) – To lower by two feet, current contractor difficulty assigning work. LG to arrange for next year and provide invoice. Request current contractor clears up at additional cost. Keep top as Wildflower Meadow. Clerk to arrange meeting with Andrew Evans to clarify work for 2026. Add to Biodiversity Plan.
- b. **Llanwnog Cemetery** : Mapping underway.

12. **Finances:**

- a. Account balances and reconciliation
Unity £19,361.17 and £28,936.94
Natwest £21,997.20 and £17,425.59 as at 23rd June
- b. Bills to be paid
Clerk £26
Phone £28
Clerk £813.87
Rhys £364.83
HMRC £390.72
Lowri £30
Border £69.05
EOM £60.00
Scribe £28.80
Hafren Dyfrdwy £23.69
Powys CC £50 (Permit)
Ecologist £182.05

DD
Scribe £42
PCQ £29.95
Unity £6 (soon to be increased to £7)
- c. Income received - £236.25 cqe, £250 compensation
- d. Update on Natwest – new signatories added, now trying to gain online access and change address. £250 compensation. Letter for Natwest requesting transfer of funds, cheque to transfer to Unity and request to change address and provide statements

Councillors Remuneration £208 each CH, AV

Payments approved CH, AW

13. HR – Annual Review. Clerk to arrange for appraisals with DL and AW April 2026

- a) Gritting – PCC reducing gritting service, saltbin map is inaccurate – CH has reported problems with 3 saltbins and will review results. Other bins need adding to map and we can then report other issues. PCC not supplying any further saltbins.
- b) Biodiversity Plan – Send template and Cllrs will feedback. MCC more about nature and climate crisis. DL suggested nature reserve.
- c) OVW Child Poverty – 11th February. MCC should be a priority.
- d) Speedwatch – Need volunteers, add to website
- e) Storage – Ask Rhys to help

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
TOTAL RESERVES HELD (update to include precept 2025-26)	£27,892.56

14. Items for next agenda

Annual Parish Meeting – Meet your Councillors.
Add Councillors Comments to Agenda from March
Battery collection point
Sewers/Drains

15. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7pm at Caersws Village Hall

Meeting closed at 21.05