

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Judy Evans, Peter Davies, Phil Hughes, Fiona Warburton, Colin Jenkins, Rob Breakwell and Sarah Davies.

GC welcomed Sarah Davies to the council and introduced her to the other council members.

2141 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor David Corfield, Nicola Dyson and Amanda Jenner.

2142 Minutes of the Meeting from 18th March for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 18th March to now be approved and signed by GC.

Proposed by PH and seconded by CJ

2143 Declarations of Interest – Blanket dispensations have been received for matters relating to wind farms, renewable energy, membership of voluntary organisations, school governors, school modernisation and school transport.

GC declared an interest in Middletown Village Hall. FW and SD declared an interest in the update on Planning Application 24/1839/FUL.

2144 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2145 Playgrounds

Bus Shelters Repairs/Painting

It was agreed that Dan Jones Carpentry will carry out the repair to the bus shelter roof. AE will contact him to confirm when the work can be done. GC had previously asked Scott to carry out the bus shelter repairs as soon as possible. GC will follow up to confirm the current status.

ACTION: AE/GC

Bench repair, Middletown

Everyone happy for Dan Jones Carpentry to carry out the repair to the bench in Middletown. AE will get in touch with him to confirm a suitable time for the work to be completed.

ACTION: AE

Signs/plaques

AE obtained two quotes from Welshpool printing company in regards to the signs to indicate maintenance of the area by Trewern Community Council, it was agreed to proceed with the aluminium sign option in silver. The cost for two plaques is £32.00 (excluding VAT). AE will request an email proof of the design and seek clarification on the available text colour options. The sign will read: "This area is maintained by Trewern Community Council".

ACTION: AE

Trewern Play area

AE confirmed that the number of insured play area items had been updated with Zurich; however, Zurich were unable to provide a breakdown of the premium across the different types of cover, such as public liability.

Ideas for the Green Area, Middletown

Prior to the June meeting, members are invited to meet on site at 7.15pm to view the green area adjacent to the Breidden Car Park/End of Golfa Close. This will allow for further discussion regarding potential improvements.

2146 Highways

Hope Road - an email from Dave Gardner of Powys County Council was shared with the Council, confirming the inclusion of Hope Road in the resurfacing programme for the 2025-2026 financial year, with £150,000 allocated for the work. CCAJ will seek further details regarding the extent of the works and provide an update to the Council.

ACTION: CCAJ

A large vehicle believed to be monitoring cracks in the road surface and measuring the depth of the tarmac, was observed passing the Breidden Pub and heading towards the Green Dragon Pub. The purpose of its visit is currently unclear.

2147 County Councillors' Report

None.

2148 Planning

Update on Planning Application 24/1839/FUL

It was noted that the developers have submitted a proposal to widen parts of Criggion Lane, including the removal of the green area on the right-hand side as you turn off the A458. Concerns were raised that these changes will not resolve the bottleneck at the entrance to Criggion Lane. Further concerns were expressed regarding the junction's safety due to poor visibility when vehicles are turning in and out. Despite the proposal to remove the grass verge, it was agreed that this would not address the fundamental issues with the junction layout and the congestion along Criggion Lane, where vehicles are required to stop to pass each other.

Additionally, the developers have requested the installation of a drop curb for a pedestrian crossing at the junction.

It was agreed to seek CCAJ's thoughts on the proposal and request that she arrange a site meeting with the planning officer to assess the plans and their potential impact. AE will liaise with CCAJ and request the site meeting regarding planning application 24/1839/FUL.

ACTION: AE

The proposed development outside the school will be discussed at the next meeting, as it was received too late to be added to the current agenda.

25/0337/FUL | Erection of an agricultural storage shed | Tenements Yard Brunant Buttington Powys SY21 8TF

The council reviewed the plans for the proposed building, which showed both the existing buildings and the new proposal. There is a need to double-check that the building is classified as agricultural. The council is aware of other buildings in the area and previous issues with neighbouring properties, particularly regarding land slip concerns. It was agreed to request an extension of time to review the application until the next meeting, as the council is concerned about the potential impact and would like to conduct further investigations.

ACTION: AE

Dingle Farm Planning Enforcement

We received a response to our previous email from Ross O'Neil, Public Protection Officer at Shropshire Council, which clarified details regarding the application for the distillery at Dingle Farm.

The license application is for off-sales only, Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 17:00, with tastings limited to samples of less than 5ml (with a note that the specific sample size might be 2ml, as referenced in Henstones distillery's description). The description of the premises indicated that the distillery is housed in a temporary facility at Dingle Farm, with no allowance for on-site consumption, except for small samples. All off-sale suppliers must be removed from the site before consumption. At the moment, it was agreed to monitor the situation if any local residents report any issues with increased traffic or other concerns. The council agreed that, in general, many breweries and distilleries hold open days for tastings before purchase, which may be a similar practice here.

2149 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £39,752.63 in the accounts at the end of March 2025.

Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by FW and seconded by PD

Payments

Clerk Salary - £268.95 (March payment) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Middletown Village Hall - £25 (Hall hire for April) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Trewern Community Centre - £75 (Hall hire for 2024/25) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

CA Bowen - £699 under L.G.A 1972 s111.

Proposed by PD and seconded by CJ

2150 Correspondence

None.

2151 Any Other Business

Reviewing TCC's Policies and Procedures

As part of our commitment to reviewing our policies and procedures annually, we agreed to continue reviewing a few each month. This month, the following policies and procedures were reviewed and updated:

- **Risk Management**
Proposed by FW and seconded by CJ
- **Freedom of Information**
Proposed by FW and seconded by CJ

It was agreed that we would defer the approval of the updated Constitution and Model Standing Orders until the next meeting. AE to re-send these policies to all Councillors.

ACTION: AE

Co-option of new councillor

SD signed the Declaration of Office.

Training Plan

AE explained the statutory Training Plan to the Council and requested that Councillors complete the Self-Assessment Training Plan. This will help AE identify the training needs of each Councillor and arrange the appropriate sessions. Most Councillors felt competent in their roles, as many have work or outside commitments that provide transferable skills.

AE will contact One Voice Wales to confirm whether each Councillor needs to be competent in all areas or if skills can be shared among Councillors. For example, if two or three Councillors have expertise in planning, while others are more knowledgeable in health and safety, etc.

It was agreed that every new Councillor should complete the New Councillor Induction module. SD should undertake the New Councillor Induction, and all members were in agreement with this. AE will liaise with SD to book the induction through One Voice Wales.

ACTION: AE/SD

2152 Date of Next Meetings

20 May 2025 at Trewern Community Centre and via MS Teams.