

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), David Corfield, Fiona Warburton, Judy Evans, Sarah Davies, Amanda Jenner, Nicola Czerwionka, Rob Breakwell and Peter Davies.

2293 Apologies

Apologies received from Colin Jenkins and Phil Hughes.

2294 Minutes of the Meetings from 19th May for approval

Minutes from the meetings held on 19th May to now be approved and signed by GC.

Proposed by SD and seconded by DC

2295 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.

FW and SD declared an interest in the Gate Farm planning update. DC and GC declared an interest in planning application P/26/0410/HH due to a close family connection to the applicant. GC also declared an interest in the Defibrillators in Middletown and Trewern item.

2296 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2297 Playgrounds

Play Area Lease, Trewern

The map relating to the renewal of the play area lease has now been received. Councillors confirmed they remain happy with the proposed terms of £50 per annum for a 25-year lease. It was proposed by SD and seconded by ND that AE respond to PCC confirming the Council is content with the terms and will monitor progress to ensure the full lease is issued.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Report

AE has contacted Playdale regarding the Air Glider to request their comments on the RoSPA findings. Playdale have not yet provided a response, and AE will chase this.

ACTION: AE

Play area quotes

Quotes have been received for replacement seesaw seats. The supplier confirmed that the existing fibreglass seats can be replaced with the newer rubber style, although this will require drilling new holes into the beam and fixing them with self-tapping screws.

The prices are as follows:

- Supply only: £378.60
- Supply and fit: £835.75

Councillors discussed the option of repairing the existing seats but felt this would likely look untidy. It was proposed by SD to purchase the replacement seats on a supply-only basis. DC and PD advised they would be able to fit the new seats themselves. PD also noted he has four rubber seat buffers available and will bring them.

ACTION: DC/PD

DC has cut back the hedge around the gateway and inside the play area, and has removed ivy from the trees.

A chip was noted on the bench in the play area. Councillors discussed options for repair, and it was agreed to obtain suitable materials to attempt a tidy fix using a plastic filler that matches the existing finish. PD advised he may have the appropriate plastic repair product and will take a look at the bench.

The noticeboard in Middletown is now back in place. Members noted their thanks to GC and DC for the work completed, and GC apologised for the delay.

Bus Shelter, Middletown

A response has been received from PCC regarding the concerns raised about the new bus shelter. PCC advised that no further improvements will be made, stating that the shelter installed is the standard size being used across the County within the available budget.

2298 Highways

AE reported that she had spoken to a resident involved in the recent incident at Severn Sisters. The resident advised that the company undertaking the works was Core Highways. AE has sent a further email to Andrew Jones (NMWTRA) to follow up. CCAJ confirmed she has not received any update. It was agreed that AE will email both Shropshire Council and NMWTRA, and will also contact Core Highways directly to ask who contracted them for the works.

ACTION: AE

GC read out the email received from Cllr Jackie Charlton. It was agreed that AE would email her to request an in-person visit.

Councillors discussed revisiting the Highways spreadsheet once the work on the A458 through Trewern is complete. AE, GC and CCAJ will meet in person to go through the spreadsheet together and drive around the Ward. It was agreed to focus on one key issue per month.

Updates were noted on several ongoing highways issues:

- Moel y Gofa: Some pothole repairs have been carried out, but the road has not been fully completed.
- Heldre Lane: Partial repairs have been undertaken, but significant defects remain.
- Lower Heldre junction (after going under the bridge): The potholes are very severe and have been reported.
- CCAJ has also been contacted by a resident regarding the condition of Heldre Lane from Middle Heldre to the junction, and further along towards Lower Heldre.

It was also noted that the 20mph signs on Cefn Bridge have been removed, meaning there is currently no 20mph signage in that location.

The 40mph sign when entering Trewern is becoming obscured by hedges and needs attention before summer due to increased traffic and visibility concerns. Councillors further noted that ditches have not been cut, particularly in the local area, contributing to overgrowth around signage. It was suggested that AE send an email to Adam Christie-Rees to request that, while resurfacing works are taking place along the A458 through Trewern, the team also tidy up the vegetation around the road signs and reinstate the missing 20mph sign on Cefn Bridge.

ACTION: AE

Councillors discussed the continuing number of serious accidents occurring on the A458, including within restricted speed areas and on double white lines. It was noted that these incidents place residents at risk and frequently cause significant inconvenience, with people stranded on one side of the village and forced to take long diversions, with councillors noting that incidents are now too frequent, including two serious accidents within the last two weeks. Councillors previously agreed to wait until after the Senedd elections before raising the matter again with Welsh Government, particularly regarding the installation of CCTV, which had previously been declined. CCAJ suggested that the Council should now seek an update and write to all Members of the Senedd who represent the area. Councillors noted that because the road sits on the England–Wales border, emergency responses often result in duplicate dispatches from Dyfed-Powys Police, West Mercia Police, and both ambulance services, depending on which control room receives the call. Councillors agreed that the Council should request a joint meeting involving Powys County Council, Dyfed-Powys Police, West Mercia Police, Welsh Ambulance Service, and West Midlands Ambulance Service to discuss coordination, communication, and shared situational awareness.

It was agreed that the Council should write to the six Members of the Senedd for the region, setting out:

- The Council's concerns relating to recent increase in serious accidents
- The need for CCTV and improved monitoring
- The need for a clear timeframe for action
- A request for a meeting to discuss cross-border synchronisation and emergency response
- Whether agencies are aware of what is happening on each side of the border

CCAJ will review previous correspondence from Russell George to assist with drafting the letter. Councillors noted that there have been at least half a dozen serious accidents since the fatal incident involving a local resident. The Council is still awaiting the Coroner's report, and GC will follow this up. AE will draft the letter to the Senedd Members.

ACTION: AE/GC/CCAJ

2299 County Councillors' Report

CCAJ reported that she has dealt with a couple of planning enforcement matters. One concern raised was about an individual operating a mechanic business at Parc Caradog. CCAJ has forwarded the information to the Planning Enforcement Team, as some residents have felt intimidated.

CCAJ reported that she has been contacted by the Planning Officer regarding application 25/1169/FUL (Offa's Dyke Business Park). The application had previously been called in due to concerns about lighting, overhang and height. The Planning Officer advised CCAJ yesterday that these concerns have now been addressed and asked whether she would be willing to withdraw the call-in.

PD raised concerns about rubbish being dropped in a layby along Leighton Road between Hope Road and the Green Dragon. CCAJ advised that fly-tipping can be reported directly via the appropriate Powys County Council channels.

2300 Planning

Update on Gate Farm planning application

No update.

P/26/0410/HH, The Stables, Llwyn Melyn, 3, Trewern, Welshpool, SY21 8EG

We have not received any objections, therefore we not oppose this application.

Powys Street naming & Numbering SNN/2026/1014

Councillors have considered the suggested name Breidden Fields / Meysydd Breidden and are happy with the proposal. We have no objections to the name put forward.

2301 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £52,461.40 in the accounts at the end of May 2026. Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by SD and seconded by ND

Payments

Clerk Salary - £297.05 (May payment) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

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

Angela Evans - £107.88 (Shade Sails) under L. G (M.P) Act 1976 s19.

Gloversure Ltd - £174 (Website hosting) under L.G.A 1972 s142.

Proposed by RB and seconded by GC

Councillors Allowance

Councillors were reminded that the £156 annual allowance must be offered to all councillors in line with the IRPW determinations. Councillors may choose to receive the payment or complete an opt-out form if they do not wish to claim it. The optional £52 annual allowance for printing, telephone and office consumables was discussed. This payment is discretionary and can only be claimed if the Council adopts it. Councillors agreed that Trewern Community Council will adopt the optional £52 allowance. Proposed by SD and seconded by GC.

Annual Audit

AE went through audit paperwork and it was sent to the Internal Auditor. GC and AE to now date and sign audit forms. Audit and Government statement discussed and checked. Proposed by JE and seconded by DC to accept the annual return for yearend 2025/26 and confirm it has been audited by internal auditor as of 7th June 2026. AE to post audit paperwork before 1st August 2026 and also put up audit notice on Noticeboards and websites.

ACTION: AE

AE reported that she and the Internal Auditor, Ruth, reviewed the Fixed Asset Register as part of the annual internal audit. The only issue identified related to the two older laptops that are no longer in regular use. Following Ruth's advice, both laptops have now been listed at a nominal value of £0.01 each until one is securely destroyed and the other is no longer required as a contingency device.

Once certificates of secure disposal are received, the laptops will be removed from the register entirely. AE to speak to One Voice Wales to see if a certificates of CPU destruction is required for the disposal of the older laptop.

ACTION: AE

Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137

AE provided clarification from One Voice Wales regarding the £4,600 grant to the Village Hall. OVW confirmed that Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 is the correct power for supporting village halls, and this grant should be recorded under s145, not s137. Past use of s19(3) LG(MP) Act 1976 was acceptable, but s145 is the more accurate power going forward. The £4,600 grant does not form part of the Council's s.137 expenditure.

Accounting Software

Councillors discussed the option of moving from spreadsheets to a cloud-based accounting system such as QuickBooks, which would automate reconciliations and invoice processing. Councillors agreed that they are happy to keep the current system as it is.

2302 Correspondence

None.

2303 Any Other Business

Trewern Community Centre

SD reported that her husband is now the Chair of the Community Centre Committee, and SD is the Vice-Chair. A meeting took place on the 10th June with Angela Plethroe to go through the compliance requirements for the new lease. Angela outlined what is required for the lease and asked for confirmation that TCC is content for the Community Centre to enter into it. Councillors were happy for SD to confirm that the Committee may proceed with signing the lease. The proposed lease term is 30 years, with the ability to exit earlier if needed. The areas included are the main hall, stage and committee room. The former bottom classroom is being transferred back to the school under a separate tenancy. The porch remains PCC's responsibility. Parking arrangements are still being discussed, including a proposal to extend parking at the front. It was noted that the Community Centre is not liable for the car park, and no external areas are included in the draft lease. JE and GC will compare the new draft lease against the previous version once received. A copy of the Centre's liability insurance is required, and PCC inspections (PAT testing, roller shutters etc.) are awaited. SD will email the draft lease to JE for review. The Community Centre Committee will sign the lease, with councillors noting it may be helpful for TCC to support the process alongside them.

Policies and procedures

Councillors reviewed the draft Reserves Policy, noting the Internal Auditor's comments regarding the need to clearly justify reserve levels, planned use of funds, and links to precept-setting. Councillors agreed the policy provides the necessary clarity. FW highlighted the importance of demonstrating active use of reserves and suggested exploring small improvements such as new equipment or benches in Trewern and Middletown. Councillors agreed to look at options, including asking Ray Parry to assess potential additions. The Reserves Policy was adopted. Proposed by GC and seconded by FW.

Defibrators, Middletown and Trewern

Councillors noted that although the defibrillators have rarely been used since installation (2012/2014), both the Middletown and Trewern units were activated two weeks ago, requiring replacement pads. The Trewern pads cost approximately £250. The defibrillators are currently managed through a separate community account, with Mike Bates and GC as signatories. Around £900–£1,000 has been raised over the years through fundraising events, including Linda Hughes' charity ball. A further £3.5k remains in the Show account, which may also be transferred to support ongoing defibrillator costs. Councillors discussed future governance, noting that if anything happened to the current signatories, the arrangements would be unclear. It was agreed that TCC should adopt the defibrillators as a community asset, enabling VAT recovery and ensuring long-term management. Proposed by RB and seconded by FW.

Councillors also suggested that, if surplus funds allow, the Council may explore installing an additional defibrillator in Buttington in future. This item will be added to the next agenda for formalisation of arrangements and fundraising processes.

Concerns and Complaints

None.

Issues on Y Wern, Trewern

Councillors discussed concerns raised by residents regarding cannabis use, abusive behaviour and threatening behaviour towards minors in the Y Wern estate. These matters have been reported to the police and are considered primarily a police issue, particularly given the proximity to the primary school. The school has also expressed concern after an incident involving several youths being asked to leave school land. CCAJ noted that she had previously raised the matter with Housing but had not received a response; she will follow up again. Councillors agreed that TCC should also contact the local police to express concern and to make them aware that residents have approached the Council.

ACTION: AE/CAJ

2304 Date of Next Meetings

21 July 2026 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.