

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026

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

2245 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Colin Jenkins, Phil Hughes and Amanda Jenner.

2246 Minutes of the Meetings from 20th January for approval

Minutes from the meetings held on 20th January to now be approved and signed by GC.

Proposed by ND and seconded by SD

2247 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.

2248 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2249 Playgrounds

Play Area Lease, Trewern

The lease for the play area in Trewern has now ended. AE to continue chasing Richard Probert, Senior Valuation Manager for PCC, for lease renewal.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Report

Outstanding actions from the RoSPA report have not yet progressed, as the weather has not been suitable for carrying out the required work. Once conditions begin to dry out, DC and PD will arrange to meet on site to complete the remaining tasks, including the minor repairs to the seesaw, tightening of the runway nylon nut, surface repairs under the toddler swings, and reviewing the basket swing seat height.

ACTION: DC/PD

2250 Highways

Several drainage and surface-water issues were raised, these include ongoing problems on U2553 Road (requested update from CCAJ), County Roads and multiple locations along the A458 between Buttington and Middletown where water is pooling on the carriageway due to blocked drains. Concerns were raised that these issues pose safety risks, particularly in freezing conditions, and may undermine recent resurfacing work. Locations discussed included:

- Fox Lane entrance (Garreg Bank, SY21 8EH): Blocked drains on both sides of the entrance causing water to run across the road.
- Gate Farm towards The Sycamores, Middletown (SY21 8EN): Drains blocked where new tarmac has been laid, resulting in water pooling on the surface.
- Corner below Maesfron, Trewern (SY21 8EA): Standing water on the bend causing vehicles to swerve into the opposite lane.

- Ham and Eggs / Heldre Lane junction (SY21 8SX): Significant water build-up due to blocked drains, hazardous in icy weather.
- Between Border Hardcore (SY21 8SZ) and Cefn Bridge: Blocked drains on the bend with a risk of aquaplaning during heavy rain.
- Bacheldre Lane (off A458, SY21 8DD, past Llwyn Melyn): Water running down the road rather than draining away, with concern it may damage the recently resurfaced section.
- Cefn Lane (near Cefn Chapel and before the bridge by the bungalow): Large puddles forming during wet weather.
- End of Cefn Wood (Trewern side): Water accumulation on the corner, with potential for aquaplaning.

AE to email both Dave Gardener (Highways, PCC) and Andrew Jones (Trunk Road Agency) with list of issues, requesting inspection and action.

ACTION: AE

Salt bins are currently full following checks up Middletown Hill and across the Ward. The only exception was the bin up Station Road (just passed Middletown Residential Park), which was found to be empty, this has already been reported. It was noted that this bin does not appear on the Council's salt bin map. AE will contact PCC to request that it is added and formally registered as an approved salt bin location.

ACTION: AE

2251 County Councillors' Report

None.

2252 Planning

Update on Gate Farm planning application

Councillors noted that the Gate Farm planning application remains on the agenda for ongoing monitoring. CCAJ has recently carried out a speed survey in the area, and discussions are continuing regarding the installation of a dropped-kerb tactile crossing. Councillors agreed to keep an eye on parking behaviour along the roadside, as persistent parking issues may justify a future request for double yellow lines to improve safety and visibility. This item will remain on the next agenda.

26/0102/FUL|Erection of a new dormer bungalow, detached double garage, formation of a new access drive and all ancillary works|Land Adjacent To Fairfields Middletown Welshpool

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

The ongoing parking problems at Pentre Gwyn was also discussed, including continued caravan parking on the concrete pad at the top-end car park and increasing issues with vehicles parking anywhere and everywhere throughout the estate, including across private driveways. Large vehicles in particular are causing obstruction, and potholes in the area were also noted as a concern. A site meeting has now been arranged by PCC Housing. Ffion Williams (Housing Officer) has confirmed that formal estate visits will take place. Councillors SD and JE confirmed they are available to attend, and RB will also raise any issues he observes around Pleasant Estate. GC advised residents to take photographs of any parking problems and provide a list so these can be presented to Housing during the visit.

ACTION: JE/SD/RB

2253 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £50,285.13 in the accounts at the end of January 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 FW

Councillors discussed the need to review the interest arrangements on the Council's bank accounts. AE will look into the current interest rates applied to both the Current Account and the Money Manager Account, and will contact the bank to explore whether improved interest options are available. AE will also review the Council's existing Policies and Procedures to check for any guidance on how much money should be retained in the Current Account and when funds should be transferred into the Money Manager Account. As this information does not currently appear to be documented, AE will seek advice from One Voice Wales on best practice for holding reserves and whether the Council should adopt a formal Reserves Policy.

ACTION: AE

Payments

Clerk Salary - £296.85 (January payment) under L.G.A 1972 s112.

GloverSure - £48 (Domain name renewal) under L.G.A 1972 s111.

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

Trewern Community Centre - £140 (Hall Hire) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).

Angela Evans - £499 (Laptop purchase) under L.G.A 1972 s111.

Proposed by DC and seconded by FW

RB confirmed that he is able to arrange for the Council's old laptops to be securely disposed of and professionally hard-wiped. This item will be added to the next agenda for formal approval and to record the updated asset position.

ACTION: AE/RB

The locations of the Council-owned benches were discussed, so the Asset Register can be updated accurately. The benches are believed to be located as follows:

- Two benches in Middletown
- Two benches in the Trewern Play Area
- One bench by the Hope Noticeboard
- One bench near Cefn Chapel
- Possibly one bench by The Smithy, Buttington

PD will confirm the status of the bench at the Smithy. Once all locations are verified, AE will amend the Asset Register accordingly.

ACTION: PD/AE

2254 Correspondence

An update was received regarding the proposed cross-border healthcare discussions. A Zoom meeting has now been arranged for 16th March 2026, following interest from several councils in working together to address ongoing issues with cross-border healthcare provision and the current funding formula. The agenda is being prepared and will be circulated nearer the time. Clerks have been invited to attend on behalf of their councils or to nominate a member to join the meeting. AE confirmed she is happy to attend the meeting and take notes on behalf of Trewern Community Council.

ACTION: AE

2255 Any Other Business

Trewern Community Centre

There was no update on the Community Centre Committee. The next Committee meeting has not

yet been rearranged, and no further information has been received regarding discussions about the lease or the proposed public meeting.

Policies and procedures

Deferred until next month

Shade Sail Replacement / Sensory Garden

It was discussed that the School had shared several links to possible funding opportunities connected to the shade sail replacement and wider improvements around the sensory garden. FW noted the option of applying for free fruit trees and will also look into the offer of a polytunnel. As the sensory garden is already established, it may not meet the criteria for some schemes, and any larger project could involve significant work. This item will remain on the agenda.

ACTION: FW/AE

Trewern Mission Church,

It was noted that further gravel has been put down at the unauthorised access point at Trewern Mission Church, and the entrance is still being used for vehicles pulling directly on and off the A458. Members agreed this remains extremely dangerous, particularly given the speed of traffic on that stretch of road. AE to request an update from CCAJ regarding the ongoing investigation by the Trunk Road Agency and PCC Planning Enforcement.

ACTION: AE

2256 Date of Next Meetings

17 March 2026 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.