

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

Present: Councillors Phil Hughes (Chair), David Corfield, Fiona Warburton, Judy Evans, Peter Davies. Colin Jenkins and Amanda Jenner

2257 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Gill Corfield, Sarah Davies, Rob Breakwell and Nicola Dyson.

2258 Minutes of the Meetings from 17th February for approval

Minutes from the meetings held on 17th February to now be approved and signed by PH.

Proposed by FW and seconded by PD

2259 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.

None.

2260 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2261 Playgrounds

Play Area Lease, Trewern

The lease for the play area in Trewern has now expired. AE has been unable to make contact with Richard Probert, Senior Valuation Manager for PCC since January. However, AE has spoken with David Thompson, School Estates Lead for PCC, who has agreed to chase this matter with the relevant team.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Report

Outstanding actions from the RoSPA report remain incomplete due to recent unsuitable weather conditions. DC and PD will aim to complete the remaining tasks before the next meeting, 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

Tree Survey

The school has recently had a tree survey completed for all trees within the school grounds. Five trees are within the play area at Trewern (for which TCC is responsible), require the ivy to be removed before the next inspection, which is due within three years. It may be useful for PD and DC to review these trees whilst on site at the play area.

A separate issue was noted regarding the large oak tree located halfway up the school playing field (not the responsibility of TCC). The tree has been taped off due to safety concerns. Although remedial work was carried out following the previous inspection, the tree remains potentially dangerous. One of the problematic boughs was removed three years ago, but the risk of further failure remains, particularly in the event of lightning. The landowner does not intend to remove the tree due to its status as an ancient oak. The school is required to install fencing around the tree with immediate effect.

2262 Highways

Members noted multiple ongoing highways issues across the community. Numerous potholes have been reported, including on Cefn Bridge, where temporary traffic lights remain in place and along Middletown Hill, which is in particularly poor condition. Middletown Hill will require capital investment rather than short-term patching. PCC has advised that recent wet weather has prevented repair teams from carrying out works.

Hope Road was expected to be resurfaced this week; however, the contractor has delayed the work until April due to weather conditions.

A temporary measure remains in place on U2253 road (just off Bacheldre Lane) following a landslip. Although the slip is not currently affecting the carriageway, further movement higher up the bank has occurred. CCAJ has referred this to Matt Perry, PCC who attended the site promptly.

Several residents have reported vehicle damage; CCAJ will share information on how to submit claims via Facebook.

Sale Lane resurfacing was completed to a high standard, but significant water is now flowing under the bridge and pooling along the road due to blocked drains. Similar drainage issues were noted on Criggion Lane, Bacheldre Lane, Station Road, and the A458, where water is running across the carriageway.

The "SLOW/ARAF" markings previously requested for Cefn Bridge are still missing.

JE reported potholes near the Station Road and A458 Junction in Middletown.

A response has been received from Russell George MS regarding road safety concerns on the A458, including the update from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport. Design work for additional signage and road markings is ongoing, with delivery expected in the new financial year, subject to funding. CCTV will not be progressed at this stage, though the effectiveness of the new measures will be monitored. Members expressed disappointment with the update and noted that concerns raised in the original petition remain. CCAJ will write back to Russell George to express the Council's dissatisfaction and to ask how the matter will be taken forward after the election.

2263 County Councillors' Report

It was noted that Council Tax and water rates are increasing. A meeting with the PCC Housing Team regarding parking issues on Pentre Gwyn is scheduled for April. Waste collections have now moved to Mondays; however, some bins along Hope Road have not been collected, and recycling was also missed last week.

2264 Planning

Update on Gate Farm planning application

There was no update this month. Councillors noted that the application remains on the agenda for ongoing monitoring, including the recent speed survey carried out by CCAJ and ongoing discussions regarding a potential dropped-kerb tactile crossing. Parking behaviour along the roadside will continue to be observed, as persistent issues may justify a future request for double yellow lines. This item will remain on the next agenda.

26/0191/HH, Proposed garage and storage building, Little Hope Hope Road Hope Leighton SY21 8HF
Councillors reviewed the application. It was noted that two garages already exist on the site and that the proposal appears to be a single-storey extension of similar height to the existing structures. While members acknowledged potential concerns about height and the impact on neighbouring properties, no specific objections were identified. Councillors agreed to make no comments.

26/0210/HH Erection of a single garage and associated works (retrospective), 9 Long Mountain View Trewern Welshpool Powys SY21 8FH

Councillors reviewed the retrospective application. As this forms part of the new development on Criggion Lane and is not considered to have any impact on neighbouring properties, members agreed they had no comments to make.

2265 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £47,465.26 in the accounts at the end of February 2026.

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

PH to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by FW and seconded by CJ

Payments

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

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

R W Jones & Son - £86.40 under L.G.A 1972 s111.

PAYE - £222.60 under L.G.A 1972 s112.

Proposed by PD and seconded by DC

Councillors noted an administrative error on the RW Jones invoice, which had been issued to D. Corfield instead of TCC. This occurred because DC had arranged the work on behalf of the Council. This is the final invoice relating to work carried out three years ago.

The One Voice Wales membership renewal (£269) was received; however, payment has not been made as One Voice Wales has since advised that there was an error in the calculation of this year's membership fee, having used last year's dwelling numbers by mistake. A revised invoice is awaited.

Bank Account Update

AE provided an update to councillors following last month's discussion, confirming that HSBC Business Current Accounts do not earn interest, that the Council's Money Manager Account currently offers 1.2% interest, and that fixed-term accounts are available but would lock funds in for a set period. Advice from the internal auditor indicated there is no set requirement for the Current Account balance, but that holding no more than necessary in a non-interest-bearing account is good practice. AE also confirmed that the updated Financial Regulations allow transfers between accounts as needed. Following this update, PH proposed that £20,000 be transferred from the Current Account into the Money Manager Account, and JE seconded. Councillors approved the transfer.

ACTION: AE

2266 Correspondence

The cross-border healthcare meeting scheduled for 16th March has been postponed and will now take place on Tuesday 24th. AE will attend on behalf of TCC and take notes.

ACTION: AE

2267 Any Other Business

Trewern Community Centre

There was no update from the Community Centre Committee, and TCC has not yet received any lease paperwork to sign. The Committee has received a draft lease, but some inaccuracies have been identified. The new lease is expected to cover the main hall, kitchen and hallways, with the former bottom classroom now excluded as it forms part of the school site. Further clarification is needed on responsibilities such as car parking and utilities. The proposed term is 30 years.

PH reported that new volunteers have taken on the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, with Anna Griggs continuing as Treasurer. The Centre remains in a good financial position. A revised lease is awaited, and PH will update the Council when further information is available.

Policies and procedures

Councillors reviewed the updated Financial Regulations and were satisfied with them overall, subject to further consideration of section 2.6. This section requires an annual verification of bank reconciliations by a member who is not the Chair or a cheque signatory. TCC does not currently follow this process, although RB and GC review the bank reconciliations each month, with GC signing them. As GC is the Chair, an additional signature would be required either monthly or annually to comply with the new requirement. It was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting when more councillors are present.

Shade Sail Replacement / Sensory Garden

FW provided an update on the shade sail and sensory garden work. The school confirmed that all six shade sails will need replacing and the cost is expected to be around £17 each. It was suggested that a list of plants and materials be shared locally to invite donations. FW reported that her husband will build a compost bin. Although the deadline for one grant was missed, another funding opportunity for plants has been identified. Offers of a polytunnel and fruit trees are available, but space may be limited. This item will remain on the agenda.

ACTION: FW/AE

Laptop disposal

As RB was not in attendance, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

ACTION: AE/RB

Concerns and complaints

None.

Mission Church, Trewern

It was noted that notice has been served on the Mission Church, but no response has been received and no action appears to have been taken.

2268 Date of Next Meetings

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