

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025

Present: Councillors Phil Hughes (Chair), Judy Evans, Rob Breakwell, Peter Davies, Sarah Davies, David Corfield, Nicola Dyson, Colin Jenkins and Amanda Jenner.

2165 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillors Fiona Warburton and Gill Corfield

2166 Minutes of the Meeting from 20th May for approval

Minutes from the meeting held on 20th May to now be approved and signed by PH.

Proposed by PD and seconded by SD

2167 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.

SD declared an interest in Planning Application 24/1839/FUL.

2168 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2169 Playgrounds

Bus Shelters Repairs/Painting

A quote has been received from CA Bowen for further work on the bus shelters. The quote was approved and agreed to request that CA Bowen also remove the accumulated rubbish from the Middletown shelter, with instructions to invoice the Council separately for the additional work. AE to email CA Bowen. GC to inform Scott Jones Painting and Decorating that the Council is proceeding with the removal of ivy and that addressing the graffiti at the Middletown shelter remains a priority.

ACTION: GC/AE

Grounds Maintenance Contracts

The Council reviewed two quotes for grounds maintenance services. It was noted that the quote from CA Bowen was more competitive. Members agreed that CA Bowen provides reliable service and offers consistency, referencing a less satisfactory experience with a previous contractor. It was proposed by JE and seconded by ND that the contract be awarded to CA Bowen. All agreed. AE to let CA Bowen know.

ACTION: AE

Bench repair, Middletown

It was noted that the second damaged slat on the bench in Middletown has not yet been replaced. AE to follow up with Dan Jones Carpentry for an update on the outstanding repair work.

ACTION: AE

Signs/plaques

AE confirmed that the order for the aluminium plaques is progressing and we will have the plaques ready by the next meeting.

ACTION: AE

Ideas for the Green Area, Middletown

Following the site visit prior to the meeting, members discussed initial maintenance needs for the green area. It was agreed to request a quote from CA Bowen for pruning and clearing the ivy and dead ferns, along with an indication of cost. AE to also obtain a separate quote for the pruning and shaping of the trees. PH or DC may be available to meet CA Bowen on site if needed to discuss the scope of the work.

ACTION: AE

2170 Highways

CCAJ reported that the petition regarding road safety concerns outside Bank Farm was presented to the Senedd's Petitions Committee. CCAJ has forwarded supporting materials, including CCTV footage and newspaper articles quoting police concerns about ongoing dangerous driving. The committee met yesterday, but a decision has not yet been communicated. Initial feedback has been positive, and it was noted that a feasibility study has already been completed.

Highways have raised concerns about a conifer tree in Parc Caradog that is obstructing visibility. It was noted that trimming is possible, but the issue will be reviewed again in the autumn. CCAJ to visit the site and assess whether removal might be necessary.

It was noted that the condition of Nelly Andrews Green remains poor.

Although the Bacheldre Lane (U2252) has been awarded capital funding for resurfacing during this financial year, members noted that previously patched potholes have deteriorated again, and new problem areas are developing. There are now 8-inch-deep holes on the corner, which CJ has reported to PCC on three separate occasions. The situation is deteriorating and considered dangerous. Of particular concern is a worsening section near Crofters Barn, where rainwater appears to be undermining the road surface. A drain beneath the carriageway is reportedly causing the road to cave in, presenting a serious hazard. It was agreed there is the need for urgent attention, especially as temporary repairs have proven ineffective. CCAJ confirmed that the road remains on the list for capital works, and that permanent resurfacing should resolve the underlying issues more effectively than previous short-term fixes. It was noted that a resident's vehicle has recently sustained damage, likely due to the road condition. CCAJ advised that affected individuals can submit a claim to PCC via the online pothole damage claims form (available by searching "Powys pothole damage claim").

Hope Road has been allocated capital funding for resurfacing within the current financial year. The planned works include resurfacing approximately 2km of road and repairing two large patches. Members noted that the road is heavily used by cyclists and remains in poor condition. The work has gone out to tender and will not be carried out directly by PCC.

2171 County Councillors' Report

CCAJ reported that £5,000 has been allocated to the Ward for initiatives aimed at tackling poverty. The funding is to be split between Trewern and Leighton, with discussions ongoing to ensure it benefits those most in need. CCAJ has consulted with both schools. Leighton is supportive of directing the funds toward the school, while in Trewern, discussions with Anna have focused on supporting extracurricular activities. The funding is intended to help not only those eligible for free school meals but also families who may be just above the threshold. It is proposed that Trewern School could receive approximately £3,500, with the remainder allocated to Leighton School.

CCAJ has a Full Council meeting scheduled for 5th July, where she hopes her submitted motion will be discussed. She raised safety concerns regarding recent changes at Potters Recycling Centre.

Additionally, CCAJ advised that the Welsh Government is introducing changes to livestock movement regulations between England and Wales in response to the threat of Bluetongue virus. There are approximately 500 farms along the Welsh border that could be affected, and at present, it remains unclear how the changes will be implemented or enforced. Residents or farmers with concerns are encouraged to contact CCAJ, who can signpost them to the appropriate agencies for further information and guidance.

2172 Planning

Gate Farm Site Visit

JE, GC, AE, Lorraine Jenkin, and Paul Wozencraft attended the Gate Farm site visit. Concerns were raised about active travel; developers acknowledged it's less applicable in rural areas but must still be considered. Plans include two additional entrances onto Criggion Lane not previously shown. Proposed build-outs would restrict passage to one vehicle at a time—JE raised concerns about access for larger vehicles. A 12ft noise barrier is planned near the factory, which is not yet operational. Significant safety concerns were raised regarding the A458 junction and proposed pedestrian crossing. A site visit by Highways has been requested. The possible need to reduce the speed limit was discussed, though this lies outside the TCCs remit. JE questioned the housing mix, particularly the lack of bungalows. Inconsistencies in housing numbers were noted, and concerns about red roof colours on nearby houses were flagged—planners agreed to review. CCAJ, unable to attend the meeting, submitted comments and has since written to Planning requesting a pause on the application. AE has contacted Russell George MS, Steve Witherden MP, Adam Christie-Rees, and Andrew Jones (Highways), and will send a follow-up email to Steve Witherden MP further requesting a site visit and support in escalating safety concerns to the Welsh Government.

ACTION: AE

2173 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £45,918.18 in the accounts at the end of May 2025. Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

PH to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by RB and seconded by SD

Payments

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

GloverSure - £174 (Website Hosting) under L.G.A 1972 s111.

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

Welshpool Printing Group - £38.40 under L.G.A 1972 s111.

Proposed by PD and seconded by ND

Chairs' Allowance/Councillors Allowance

Councillors Allowance form to be completed if you do or do not wish to receive the £156 Councillors Allowance. The guidelines state that the £156 for all Councillors MUST be paid (unless Councillors complete an Opt out form).

Chair allowance

The Chair's allowance was reviewed. The previous amount of £700 was noted, and it was agreed to keep the allowance at the same level. Members felt this was appropriate. Proposed by JE and seconded by ND.

Clerks Pay Review

It was agreed to increase the Clerk's pay rate to £16.50 per hour.

Annual Audit

AE went through audit paperwork and it was sent to the Internal Auditor. PH 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 2024/25 and confirm it has been audited by internal auditor as of 17th June 2025. AE to post audit paperwork before 1st July 2025 and also put up audit notice on Noticeboards and websites.

2174 Correspondence

None.

2175 Any Other Business

Reviewing TCC's Policies and Procedures

As part of the Council's annual commitment to reviewing policies and procedures, it was agreed to continue reviewing a selection each month. This month, the following policies and procedures were reviewed and updated:

- **Concerns and Complaints Policy** – It was agreed that access to the dedicated Trewern email address should be shared with another member of the council and that Concerns and Complaints should be included on the agenda every quarter for review. Proposed by JE and seconded by PD.
- **Asset Risk Assessment** – Reviewed and approved.
- **Equality Policy** – Reviewed and approved.

Condolences

The Council noted with sadness the passing of our former Councillor, Cllr Rex Turner. It was agreed to send a sympathy card and make a donation in his memory. AE will write a cheque once the purpose is known; a provisional sum of £25 was suggested. It was agreed to organise the cheque by 4th July.

ACTION: AE

It was confirmed that the Community Council's appointed representative to the school governing body holds the position of a full voting governor. This appointment and the role were formally noted in the minutes.

The noticeboard at the school is currently broken. DC believes he has the necessary materials to carry out the repair.

ACTION: DC

A temporary latch was installed on the noticeboards at the bottom of Hope some time ago, but it has been ineffective. PD agreed to source a replacement latch and carry out the repair.

ACTION: PD

An enquiry was received about the existence of a right of way between Burnt Lane and Watery Lane. It was clarified that no formal right of way exists; however, the local farmer has expressed willingness to allow passage provided that his land is respected. There is one gate on the route.

Bins at Trewern School have been reported as overflowing. AE to email Susan Davies to request regular emptying and it was agreed to add a payment review for this service to our next agenda.

ACTION: AE

2176 Date of Next Meetings

15 July 2025 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.