

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Judy Evans, David Corfield, Peter Davies, Nicola Dyson, Phil Hughes, Councillor Amanda Jenner, Fiona Warburton and Rob Breakwell.

2129 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Colin Jenkins.

2130 Minutes of the Meeting from 18th February for approval

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

Proposed by RB and seconded by PD

2131 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.

2132 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2133 Playgrounds

ROSPA Inspection

It was noted that the minor tasks identified in the ROSPA report are yet to be completed. As DC is kindly volunteering his time, the work will be carried out when availability allows. The Council agreed to wait until the repairs can be undertaken.

ACTION: DC/PD

Bus Shelters

It was noted that the roofing felt on the Bus Shelter on Pentre Gwyn side may have been ripped, and ivy is growing up both shelters in Trewern, with the issue being more significant on Pentre Gwyn side. FW will inspect the shelters in daylight and update GC accordingly.

ACTION: FW/GC

Quotes were received for the painting of the bus shelters (one in Middletown and two in Trewern), covering the supply of materials and labour. A quote of £500 was provided by Scott Jones Painting and Decorating Services, who has previously carried out work for TCC. The agreed work includes painting the inside, frames, and necessary filling/rubbing down of the Middletown shelter.

It was agreed to proceed with Scott Jones's quote, with a request for the Middletown shelter to be completed as soon as possible.

Proposed by PD and seconded by JE.

Middletown Play Area

The signed settlement agreement for the Middletown Play area equipment has been received from Mr Harris's solicitors. The Council confirmed that they are satisfied the matter is now fully resolved.

It was agreed that the sign removed from Middletown play area, which states that the play area is owned by Trewern Community Council, will be relocated to Trewern Play Area.

Trewern Play area

Insurance Update – The insurance for the play area has been adjusted to cover 7 pieces of equipment, down from 13. The total insured value remains at £100,000, as AE obtained quotes for the equipment, installation, and wet pour, totalling £90,000. This includes more than just the equipment cost, which was previously considered. AE will update the insured items accordingly and will also enquire about the premium breakdown for each item.

ACTION: AE

CA Bowen has cleared the green area next to the Briedden Car Park/End of Golfa Close, cutting back bushes and overgrown vegetation. The conifer trees are very large, overpowering the area, and are considered unattractive. It was suggested that we could plant some rhododendron shrubs, although they may not last long. The area would benefit from rejuvenation and now is the ideal time to consider improvements. All members are encouraged to look at the area and bring ideas to the next meeting.

ACTION: GC/PD/DC/PH/ND/JE/RB/FW

Additionally, it was agreed that we should install signs to indicate that the area is owned and maintained by Trewern Community Council. One sign will be placed near the post box and another near the green area. AE will obtain quotes for the signs, which may be metal plates mounted on stakes or attached to the benches (possibly one on each bench). These signs should be fixed securely to prevent removal. AE will get quotes for the signs and present them at the next meeting.

ACTION: AE

Bench in Middletown

The bench in Middletown is rotten, with one slat across the front needing replacement. Everyone agreed to replace the slat, and GC will arrange for the work to be carried out.

ACTION: GC

2134 Highways

As previously noted, AE drafted a letter of opposition regarding the potential introduction of the Potters booking and paying system. However, no response has been received to date.

As noted in previous minutes, the last bus from Newtown to Shrewsbury may be departing at 4:30pm, potentially affecting workers and students. Celtic Bus Company might reduce services, with another company possibly taking over the route. The full bus route is changing, which doesn't affect passengers boarding in Middletown heading to Shrewsbury, but those travelling from Newtown may need to change in Welshpool.

The work on Road U2253 has been completed. CJ has sent photos, and it appears the work has been properly done rather than just a temporary fix.

Jake Evans, a Highways Inspector for Powys County Council, has been inspecting and addressing potholes on Moel y Golfa. He has also visited Nelly Andrews Green and will focus on repairing the worst potholes in the area.

We are still waiting for an update on whether Sale Lane and Hope Road will make it onto the capital funding list this time. In previous years, they have not made the cut. CCAJ has chased Dave Gardener for an update, but he has not yet received the finalised list.

Additional salt has been provided, and a couple of extra bins have been placed in the area.

2135 County Councillors' Report

Road Speed and Safety of the A458

A follow-up request will be made to clarify the timeframe for the commissioned study and to obtain the findings. A response from Ken Skates AS/MS dated 21st February 2025 confirmed the following:

- The CCTV survey has been completed, and the data now supports the anecdotal evidence from the petition. The initial CCTV footage was inconclusive, which led to a re-evaluation of the situation.
- A study will be commissioned to explore appropriate measures to prevent overtaking.
- The data will be shared with Dyfed-Powys Police and GoSafe for consideration of additional enforcement actions.

Potters Booking/Paying System

CCAJ raised an urgent motion under the Constitution to bring this matter back to the Council. However, the motion was declined. By the time the issue is addressed at the next meeting, the booking and payment system will likely already be in place.

2136 Planning

The issue regarding the Dingle Farm planning enforcement and the siting of containers for the distillery remains ongoing. The Planning Enforcement Officer has provided the contact details for Shropshire Licensing for further enquiries. AE is to send an email to Shropshire Council to request more information on the planning application.

ACTION: AE

Gate Farm Planning Application - awaiting comments from Highways, keep an eye on the Planning Portal for updates. The land in question lies outside of the LDP (Local Development Plan), but it may be considered as infill. Development has occurred both beyond and opposite this plot, so it is unlikely to be classified as open countryside.

Concerns have been raised about the noise from the Middletown quarry. The quarry has been operational again for the last 10 days or so, and the noise might seem louder now due to thwm quarrying higher up the hill. It's worth raising the noise issue again with PCC. CCAJ will inform the resident to contact Powys County Council Environmental Health directly and will ask to be copied in on any communication.

ACTION: CCAJ

The planning issue at The Sycamores was once again brought to the attention of the Community Council. The planning concerns were previously addressed by earlier councils, and there is no further action the council can take at this point.

2137 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £40,257.58 in the accounts at the end of February 2025. Bank reconciliation and bank statements checked to confirm that it is all in order.

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by PH and seconded by ND

Payments

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

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

One Voice Wales Membership Renewal - £257 under L.G.A 1972 s143.

Proposed by RB and seconded by ND

2138 Correspondence

An email was received from the Planning Policy Officer regarding the review of the Open Space Assessment and record-keeping on Green Infrastructure. This was discussed at the meeting. AE to draft a response.

ACTION: AE

2139 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:

- **Constitution** - It was agreed to consult One Voice Wales (OVW) to find out if the number of voting councillors on a community council is determined by the number of voters in the village. Additionally, we should consider whether the Constitution should specify the number of councillors for each area (currently 7 in Trewern and 3 in Middletown). An updated copy of the Constitution should also be requested from OVW.
- **Risk Management** - Deferred until the next meeting, depending on the outcome of the Constitution review.
- **Freedom of Information** - Discussion took place regarding the length of the document. It was noted that the asset register changes daily, so it was suggested to keep only the first couple of pages with key details such as costs and contact information. All members agreed this would be sufficient.
- **Standing Orders** - To be reviewed at the next meeting.

ACTION: AE

Co-option of new councillor

An email was received from Sarah Davies expressing interest in joining the council. As no other applications were received, it was agreed by all members to co-opt Sarah Davies as a new councillor.

The sails in the sensory garden at Trewern School were taken down due to high winds. Some were ripped, and the remaining ones have been stored. FW will speak to Anna about replacing the damaged sails.

ACTION: FW

2140 Date of Next Meetings

8 April 2025 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.