

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2026

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

2281 Apologies

Apologies received from Colin Jenkins, Nicola Czerwionka, Rob Breakwell and Peter Davies.

2282 Minutes of the Meetings from 21st April March for approval

Minutes from the meetings held on 21st April to now be approved and signed by GC.

Proposed by DC and seconded by PH

2283 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 Gate Farm planning update.

2284 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2285 Playgrounds

Play Area Lease, Trewern

The Heads of Terms for the renewal of the play area lease have now been received. The proposed tenure is £50 per annum for a 25-year term, which Councillors were happy to accept. The accompanying map has not yet been provided. AE will chase Richard Probert, PCC for a copy of the map and, once received, circulate it to all Councillors for confirmation before the agreement is finalised. There is no need to add this item to the agenda again unless further issues arise.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Report

DC and PD have reviewed the outstanding RoSPA actions. The Basket swing seat, previously flagged with a high score, was measured and confirmed to be at the correct height, and no further action is required. The chain links were also checked and found to be satisfactory.

The bolts on the Air Glider were identified as loose; DC is tightening these and will change the bolt. Although the Air Glider met regulations at the time of installation, standards have since changed, it was agreed to contact the manufacturer for comment. The item was also noted as noisy in operation, and DC has oiled it.

Vegetation encroaching near the hedge has been cut back by DC.

A chip on the seesaw seat was noted. AE will obtain a price from G. L Jones for replacement seats for both sides.

The wet pour surface under the cradle swing requires a very minor repair; due to its size, no action will be taken at this time.

Council expressed thanks to DC for completing the majority of the work.

ACTION: DC/AE

It was reported that the temporary fencing around the oak tree in the playing field behind the school was accidentally knocked down. Contact has been made with the tree owner, who has accepted

responsibility for the tree itself but not for any fencing required on the sports field. Responsibility for resolving the fencing issue therefore remains with PCC. Members noted that installing permanent green security fencing would not be desirable as it would obstruct use of the field.

Bus Shelter, Middletown

Last year, concerns were raised that graffiti markings were still visible on the bus shelter after it had been repainted. It was agreed to monitor the condition over the winter and bring the item back for review. Members confirmed that there are now no issues with this shelter.

However, concerns were raised regarding the new bus shelter recently installed by PCC on the opposite side of the road to replace the older structure. Members felt the shelter is very small, with a narrow bench, minimal side panels and limited protection from the weather. The roof overhang is also considered insufficient. Feedback from residents, including elderly users, has been largely negative, with reports of people still getting wet during poor weather. Members expressed disappointment given the amount of space available at the location and noted that shelters in Welshpool provide significantly better cover. It was agreed that AE will submit comments reflecting these concerns.

ACTION: AE

It was reported that the noticeboard has now been returned. Replacement Perspex has been ordered at a cost of approximately £38–£40, and new hinges will also be purchased. The noticeboard is expected to be fully reinstated within the next 2–3 weeks.

ACTION: DC/GC

2286 Highways

At the previous meeting, concerns were raised regarding the emergency road closure at Severn Sisters following the appearance of a sinkhole on the A458, including the lack of lighting, advance warning signs and diversion routes. AE was asked to confirm the appropriate Highways contact before a letter was drafted. AE reported that an email has since been received from Andrew Jones (NWTRA), who has forwarded the Council's concerns to National Highways and requested that the relevant team respond directly to TCC. Members noted that no response has yet been received. AE will reply to Andrew Jones to confirm that the Council is still awaiting a reply.

ACTION: AE

At the previous meeting, Members raised concerns about how Highways manages issues reported by the Community Council, particularly where cases appear to be closed automatically when a resident has already submitted the same report. This results in updates being sent to the resident rather than the Council, causing a lack of transparency and making it difficult for the Council to monitor and follow up on outstanding matters. AE was asked to seek clarification from CCAJ on the correct Highways contacts and to send a letter outlining the Council's concerns once confirmed. AE reported that no response has been received from any of the officers contacted. CCAJ confirmed she will now escalate the matter with senior officers.

ACTION: CCAJ

It was noted that the pothole repairs and jetting work on Moel y Golfa and Shepherds Lane have now been completed. Members also noted that ditching and drainage works in this area were carried out some time ago.

Members noted that Highways have not yet attended Bacheldre Lane. The road is currently covered in water, despite the recent resurfacing works. Councillors expressed disappointment, as the tarmacing was completed to a high standard and there is concern that ongoing drainage issues may undermine the improvements.

AE will circulate the updated Highways spreadsheet to all Councillors. Members are asked to review the list and remove any items that have already been completed. A full version of the spreadsheet will be retained internally for reference. It was agreed that, going forward, the Council will identify one priority issue each month on County roads and one on Trunk roads, to ensure focused and coordinated follow-up. Councillors will review the spreadsheet before the next meeting in preparation for selecting the monthly priorities. The version circulated to Councillors will exclude items already completed.

ACTION: AE/ALL COUNCILLORS

Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the surface on Fox Lane. It was agreed that photographs are needed to support a report to Highways. DC will obtain the photos.

ACTION: DC

CCAJ confirmed that she will send the Council's priority areas directly to Jake Evans for attention.

The verge at the entrance to the new estate opposite the school is overgrown, making visibility difficult when exiting the estate. CCAJ has reported the issue and requested a date for when it will be cut.

Mission Church, Trewern

AE reported that Planning Enforcement Officer Adam Nickson has confirmed that a temporary fence has now been put in place while the landowners work with their agent to identify a suitable long-term solution to the access issue onto the A458 at the Mission Church, Trewern.

SD reported a resident complaint about a van parked on the pavement on Pentre Gwyn, which caused an Asda van to narrowly avoid a collision. CCAJ asked for photos so she can forward them to the police. Members noted that unsafe parking is becoming increasingly common across the estate. Visibility issues should be reported directly to the police, with other concerns passed to Housing. Councillors will begin building an evidence bank of dated, location-marked photos to support a future request for double yellow lines along Criggion Lane.

2287 County Councillors' Report

CCAJ reported that she has been voted back in as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

2288 Planning

CCAJ reported that she attended the Planning Committee meeting for the proposed agricultural shed extension at Tenements Yard, Brunant. The applicant's website suggests commercial activity, and members noted that the application should accurately reflect the nature of the business.

Planning Officers could not confirm whether the activities fall under agricultural use.

Concerns were raised that a commercial use would normally require a more detailed traffic assessment, but the Committee relied on the applicant's statement that traffic would not increase.

Members stressed the need for accuracy and transparency. Any future issues will need to be reported by residents for potential enforcement. CCAJ will keep the Council updated.

Update on Gate Farm planning application

CCAJ will contact Steve Bowen to ask when work is expected to begin on the development. It was noted that the start date is unclear, including how many of the properties will be affordable homes. No work can commence until the site entrance has been completed. CCAJ will request an indicative timeframe and report back.

ACTION: CCAJ

2289 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £53,928.99 in the accounts at the end of April 2026. 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 SD

Payments

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

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

Proposed by FW and seconded by PH

Insurance renewal/quotes

Members noted that the Zurich renewal premium of £1,145.54 was acceptable, and agreed to proceed with the renewal. It was suggested that the Council begin reviewing insurance options around three months in advance next year, and consider longer-term arrangements where appropriate.

2290 Correspondence

Rodney's Pillar Letter of Support Request

Members considered the request for a letter of support for the Rodney's Pillar restoration. It was agreed that the Council should send a letter, noting its heritage value and visual significance. AE will prepare and send it.

ACTION: AE

2291 Any Other Business

Trewern Community Centre

A meeting is scheduled at the Community Centre for tomorrow to go through compliance requirements, and more information will be available after that.

Policies and procedures

AE circulated the Financial Regulations for approval. Members agreed to continue with the current version. Proposed by FW and seconded by SD.

Audit Terms of Reference

AE presented the draft Internal Audit Terms of Reference required by Audit Wales. The Internal Auditor has confirmed she is happy with the draft. Members approved the document. Proposed by GC and seconded by FW.

Shade Sail Replacement / Sensory Garden

AE confirmed that the shade sails have been purchased at a cost of £107.88 and will submit the invoice at the next meeting. Members discussed encouraging community involvement to help tidy and improve the sensory garden area. Suggestions included refreshing the bark and shrubs, adding a planter by the door, and creating a list of plants for possible donations. Additional plants are being grown locally, and a wooden compost bin will be built. An inventory of required items will be prepared, and a post will be added to the Facebook page to invite support. Some repainting of the planters has begun, and matching paint will be sourced.

2292 Date of Next Meetings

16 June 2026 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.