

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2026

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

2269 Apologies

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

2270 Minutes of the Meetings from 17th March for approval

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

Proposed by PD and seconded by FW

2271 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.

2272 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2273 Playgrounds

Play Area Lease, Trewern

AE reported that there has still been no update from PCC regarding the renewal of the play area lease. It was agreed that AE will continue to chase this matter and copy CCAJ into all future correspondence.

ACTION: AE

RoSPA Report

DC and PD confirmed they have looked at the outstanding RoSPA actions but have not yet been able to complete any of the remaining tasks due to availability and weather. A date now needs to be arranged for PD to carry out the work.

ACTION: DC/PD

Temporary fencing remains in place around the oak tree located in the playing field behind the school. Members noted that a few years ago one bough had been removed and another braced, further clarity is needed on the remaining level of risk. Concerns were raised about the impact of installing permanent fencing on the field and the responsibility of the landowner for the condition of the tree. FW will speak with the school and follow this up with David Thompson, School Estates Lead, PCC.

ACTION: FW

2274 Highways

Members discussed the emergency road closure at Severn Sisters on Friday 10th April at approximately 11.10pm, following the appearance of a sinkhole on the A458. Concerns were raised about an unlit barrier placed on the Welsh side of the border around a blind bend, which resulted in a vehicle striking it due to lack of visibility. Members noted that there were no advance warning signs, lighting or diversion routes in place, and that residents were unable to access their homes

from either direction. AE will ask CCAJ to confirm the appropriate contact within Highways before a letter is drafted.

ACTION: AE

It was noted that the drains from Middletown down into Trewern have recently been jetted.

A drain on the A458 in Trewern, located on the bend between Pentre Gwyn and Chapman's Farm when travelling towards the school, has dropped around the edges. Although the grid is intact, the surrounding surface has sunk, creating a pothole-like hazard that vehicles must steer around. AE will report this to Highways.

ACTION: AE

Members noted that the potholes on the road up Moel y Golfa remain in a very poor condition. It was agreed that these should continue to be reported as they worsen.

Concerns were raised regarding how Highways manages issues reported by the Community Council, particularly where reports appear to be closed automatically when a resident has already submitted the same issue, resulting in updates being sent to the resident rather than the Council. At present, councillors feel that the work being undertaken to monitor, report and follow up on highways issues is being undermined by the lack of updates and transparency. Without regular communication, it is difficult for the Council to fulfil its role effectively, and this is causing increasing frustration for both councillors and residents. It was agreed that AE would seek clarification from CCAJ on who the appropriate Highways contacts are for these matters, and whether the current list of officers is correct. It was further agreed that AE would send an email outlining the Council's concerns and attaching the spreadsheet of outstanding highways issues to John Forsey (Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling) and Matt Perry (Chief Officer, PCC), Jackie Charlton, Russell George MS and Steve Witherden MP, subject to CCAJ confirming that these are the correct people to include.

ACTION: AE

Concerns were raised regarding the access arrangements at the former Mission Church at the bottom of Garreg Bank. The property has no direct access from the highway, and historic access via parking near the old school is no longer available. Members noted that visibility at the location is extremely limited, parking is restricted by road markings, and gravel from the site is being dragged onto the road, creating an additional hazard. Councillors expressed concern that little progress appears to have been made to date and agreed that the matter should be raised formally. AE will send an official email outlining the Council's concerns to Andrew Jones (Highways), CCAJ and Adam Nickson (Planning Enforcement Officer), attaching a photograph showing a vehicle parked outside the property as supporting evidence.

ACTION: AE

2275 County Councillors' Report

None.

2276 Planning

Update on Gate Farm planning application

There was no formal update available at this time. A check of the planning portal shows that the applicant is currently working through the required conditions. One condition relating to red kite activity has not been accepted, and a full ecological survey of the quarry area has been requested as part of the planning process. It was also noted that the applicant has stated the land is being used only for livestock and that no fertiliser has been applied. The issue concerning the lane has not yet

been considered. The process appears likely to be lengthy, and Planning Officers seem to be carrying out a thorough review. This item will remain on the next agenda.

26/0332/FUL | Construction of a silage clamp and all associated works | Lower Heldre Heldre Lane Buttington Welshpool SY21 8TD

The application for the construction of a silage clamp and all associated works at Lower Heldre was considered. No comment made.

Committee meeting: 25/1726/FUL | Proposed agricultural shed extension | Tenements Yard Brunant Buttington Powys SY21 8TF

An update was provided following the Planning Committee meeting for this application. The meeting included discussion around the purpose of the proposed shed extension, with clarification sought on whether it would be used for machinery storage rather than livestock. Planning Officers confirmed that a site visit had taken place and that the structure would not be permitted for the housing of animals. Questions were raised regarding the type and quantity of machinery to be stored, although no detailed list was available at the meeting. It was noted that the property operates on a commercial basis and that no objections had been received from local residents. Concerns previously raised by residents living below the site related to potential land stability were acknowledged, and Planning Officers advised that they had assessed the site and subsequently approved the application.

2277 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £46,873.87 in the accounts at the end of March 2026.

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

GC to now sign bank statements.

Proposed by PD and seconded by SD

Payments

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

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

One Voice Wales - £271 (Membership Renewal) under L.G.A 1972 s143

CA Bowen - £348 under L.G.A 1972 s111

Proposed by NC and seconded by FW

Zurich Insurance - £1,225.42 - The renewal premium from Zurich Insurance was noted to be significantly higher than in previous years. AE will contact Zurich to obtain clarification on the increase and to gather comparative prices from alternative insurance companies. The payment will be placed on hold pending further information

The VAT return for the 2025/26 period has been completed, with a reclaim amount of £149.17.

Bank Account Update

It was noted that the transfer of £20,000 from the Current Account to the Money Manager Account, as approved at the previous meeting, has been completed successfully.

2278 Correspondence

Cross-border Healthcare Meeting

Since the last TCC meeting, AE has attended two cross-border healthcare meetings. It was noted that organisers plan to invite one representative from each political party, as well as independent candidates, to attend the next online meeting scheduled for 29th April.

Pentre Gwyn Parking/Highways Issues

GC, JE and SD attended a meeting with Housing to discuss ongoing parking and highways issues affecting the Pentre Gwyn estate, Trewern.

During the meeting, the following concerns were raised:

- the surface condition of the parking area, which is uneven and unlit during winter months
- the proposed walkway passing one of the supported accommodation properties, and whether this is appropriate given the likely increase in footfall
- the location of the post box in the middle of the car park
- the absence of bins in the area
- potential cost implications for residents, noting that previous estimates for tarmacking the car park surface were significant and that residents on Pentre Gwyn may be asked to contribute.

It was noted that solicitors are currently involved in matters relating to one of the residents with a caravan, and that legal work is ongoing to address wider issues including inappropriate parking and the presence of caravans on communal land. The “No Parking” signs put up by residents on the estate are not legally valid and are currently being reviewed by solicitors. Housing Officers are also considering whether the garages on the estate are still required, but no decision has yet been made. Since the meeting, a letter from PCC was issued to residents on the estate regarding parking arrangements and responsibilities. It was noted that the letter was clear and well written.

Further concerns were raised regarding parking on Criggion Lane. FW has been monitoring the situation and noted occasions where up to four vehicles were parked along the lane. While it is possible for vehicles to pass, this becomes difficult when there is oncoming traffic. An incident was reported where two tankers met on the lane and were unable to pass, resulting in one vehicle having to reverse back onto the main road.

It was noted that parking on the pavement is a police matter, even where no road markings are present. The recent PCC letter suggests that parking may be acceptable if sufficient space is left for pedestrians to pass safely.

Additional concerns were raised about traffic being diverted along the lane, with vehicles travelling at speed and parking occurring on the footpath. It was noted that such matters should be reported directly to the police at the time. Police officers attended the meeting with Housing and were made aware of the concerns.

2279 Any Other Business

Trewern Community Centre

An update was provided on the recent Trewern Community Centre committee meeting. SD’s husband has taken on the role of Chair, with SD appointed as Vice Chair. It was noted that without new volunteers stepping forward, the Community Centre would have been at risk of closing, and councillors expressed appreciation for those now involved. The new Chair has already been assisting with practical tasks, including painting, with the smaller room being prioritised first. A local resident has also offered support with administrative tasks. A number of matters are currently being discussed by the committee, including the terms and length of the lease, which remains an area of concern. PH has offered guidance to support the committee as it moves forward. Several new ideas are being explored as part of efforts to strengthen the Community Centre’s future.

Policies and procedures

Councillors revisited the updated Financial Regulations following last month's discussion regarding section 2.6. Councillors expressed a preference to retain the current Financial Regulations rather than adopt the new model version. AE will circulate the current regulations for councillors to review ahead of the next meeting, when a final decision will be made.

Shade Sail Replacement / Sensory Garden

FW provided an update on the shade sail replacements. The colour options currently available for purchase have changed, and the bright colours previously used are no longer available, so natural-coloured sails will be required. Five or six sails will be needed. Prices were found to be cheaper on Amazon than through the original supplier, at approximately £20 each.

It was agreed to use the remaining funds from the Border Gossip donation towards the purchase of the new sails. Councillors approved the expenditure, and AE was authorised to purchase the required sails.

ACTION: FW/AE

Laptop disposal

The old laptop will be brought to the next meeting for RB. RB confirmed he is happy to dispose of the laptop.

ACTION: AE/RB

2280 Date of Next Meetings

19 May 2026 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.