

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

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), David Corfield, Judy Evans, Sarah Davies, Amanda Jenner, Nicola Czerwionka, Rob Breakwell and Phil Hughes.

2305 Apologies

Apologies received from Peter Davies, Colin Jenkins and Fiona Warburton.

2306 Minutes of the Meetings from 16th June for approval

Minutes from the meetings held on 16th June to now be approved and signed by GC.

Proposed by SD and seconded by RB

2307 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 the Gate Farm planning update.

2308 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

None.

2309 Playgrounds

Play area equipment

GC presented quotations received from Ray Parry Playgrounds following their recent site visit. Members discussed the various options and agreed that the Whirlybob Rotator, complete with rubber wetpour safer surfacing (£7,973.00 + VAT) offered the best play value, as it can accommodate a larger number of children at once compared with the other items quoted. Members noted that the bench located near the entrance would need to be moved to allow installation. The quotation included £200.00 for moving the existing bench. GC will confirm with the contractor that this price includes re-positioning the bench, not just removal. The quotation also included optional costs for welfare facilities (£200.00) and Heras security fencing and signage (£200.00). GC will speak with the Headmistress at the school to request that the door to the Community Centre be left open for the duration of the works, allowing the contractors access to toilet facilities. If agreed, the welfare cost can be removed from the quotation. Members agreed to proceed with the Whirlybob Rotator option and to instruct Ray Parry Playgrounds accordingly, subject to confirmation of the bench re-positioning and welfare arrangements. Proposed by SD and seconded by DC.

ACTION: GC

During the site visit with Ray Parry Playgrounds, Ray also inspected the Air Glider in the play area. Members noted that the recent RoSPA report advised the Community Council to refer the compliance points directly to the manufacturer. Ray confirmed that he could not see any structural or safety issues with the equipment. He advised that the stickiness on the handles appears to be caused by sap from the nearby tree, and that the equipment simply needs to be cleaned at some stage. Ray did not identify any further action required. Members noted the advice and agreed to arrange cleaning of the Air Glider.

A resident had raised concerns regarding the trees located in the play area at the school. GC met onsite with Wooton Tree Services, who inspected the trees and advised that the oak tree is encroaching into both the resident's garden and the play area. Wooton Tree Services will provide a quotation to cut back the oak tree accordingly.

Members noted ongoing issues with litter around the school and overflowing bins. GC reported concerns that the bins are not being emptied regularly. Members discussed the possibility of the School taking over responsibility for emptying the play area bin, in place of Susan Davies, given the continuing problems. GC will discuss this with the School, and if they are happy to take this on, AE will inform Susan Davies of the change.

ACTION: GC/AE

Members noted that the defibrillator is not currently being checked regularly. JE confirmed that she had carried out a recent check. GC will speak to Anna Griggs regarding the defibrillator checks, as the Council needs someone to take on responsibility for carrying out and recording the defib inspections. GC may also speak to Mike Bates, Health & Safety Governor at the school, to see whether he would be willing to assist. SD also offered to help if needed.

ACTION: GC

Members noted that it is unclear whether PD has completed the repair to the bench. AE will check with PD and report back.

ACTION: AE

Play Area Lease, Trewern

Members discussed the proposed lease terms of £50 per annum for a 25-year term, as previously outlined by PCC. Councillors noted that the terms appear consistent with the former lease and did not identify any immediate concerns. Members agreed that obtaining a solicitor's review at this stage would likely be costly and unnecessary. Once the full lease document is received, the Council will check the details and then decide whether any legal advice is required. It was also noted that the Council's insurance cover will need to exceed £2 million to meet the lease requirements. Members agreed to await the full lease before considering any further action. AE to chase PCC for full lease.

ACTION: AE

Members noted that CA Bowen had carried out work at the green area in Middletown, by the Breidden car park, including cutting back the trees, pruning bushes and removing ivy. JE and GC also assisted with clearing the site. Members agreed that the area now looks much improved.

2310 Highways

AE reported that National Highways had responded to the Council's enquiries. They confirmed that emergency traffic management was deployed on 10 April, but they have been unable to establish full details of the incident. Core Highways have no record of the incident, and any vehicle camera footage has since been deleted under their retention policy. Witness statements have not yet been obtained. Before replying further, AE has contacted the resident involved to request additional information, including who they spoke to on the night. AE will respond to National Highways once this information is received.

ACTION: AE

Members noted that resurfacing works in Trewern are still ongoing. GC read out Adam's email update regarding the 20mph signs at Cefn Bridge. Adam confirmed that the previous VMS ARAF/SLOW signs with supplementary 20 plates were removed as they were not compliant with TSRGD requirements and were obstructing visibility of the hazard and chevrons. These have now

been replaced with fixed plate signs set further back to ensure compliance. Adam also advised that any hedge-cutting would require bird-nesting checks if undertaken during nesting season. Members noted the update.

ACTION: AE

Senedd Members responses regarding Safety Concerns on the A458 at Middletown

AE reported that all six Senedd Members had been contacted regarding the Council's concerns about continuing accidents on the A458. Members discussed the previous outcome two years ago, when CCTV was declined, and noted that CCTV remains a priority. Responses have been received from Elwyn Vaughan MS and Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, both confirming that they have written to the Deputy Minister for Transport, Mark Hooper AS/MS, on behalf of the Community Council. Members noted that some actions have been promised but not yet completed. It was agreed that AE will respond to Mark Hooper, stating that the Council is pleased to hear progress is being made but remains keen to secure CCTV and a clear timescale for delivery. AE will also confirm that the Council will keep him updated when further incidents occur. AE will copy in Elwyn Vaughan MS and Mabon ap Gwynfor MS. GC confirmed she had contacted the Coroner again but has still not received an update.

It was agreed that AE will send a polite reminder to Lyn Parry to request a meeting with PCC Highways.

ACTION: AE

AE, GC and CCAJ will arrange a drive-around of the ward in September. This will be added to the agenda for that meeting.

ACTION: AE

A resident reported that the give-way lines at the junction on Station Road, just past the residential caravan park, are now almost completely worn away. CCAJ confirmed she had emailed Chris Lloyd (PCC), who advised that he will add the issue to his to-do list.

2311 County Councillors' Report

See 'Highways'

2312 Planning

Update on Gate Farm planning application

There was no formal update available. It was noted that the development is unlikely to begin this year. SD reported that the planning portal shows a split decision on one of the discharge of conditions, with a requirement for a further red kite survey as the appropriate quarry area has not yet been assessed.

P/26/0497/VAR, Discharge of S52 attached to permission M18171 - relating to an occupancy restriction, Pob Ceiniog, Brunant, Buttington, Welshpool, SY21 8TF

Application P/26/0497/VAR, Discharge of S52 attached to permission M18171 relating to an occupancy restriction, was considered. Councillors agreed no comment.

Planning Committee meeting: 25/1169/FUL, Erection of a 4 storey building - Headquarters, Research & Development Centre including substation, new access and all associated works, Unit C - Offas Dyke Business Park, Fisher Road, Buttington, Welshpool SY21 8JF

Application 25/1169/FUL for the erection of a four-storey Headquarters and Research & Development Centre at Unit C, Offa's Dyke Business Park, has been granted. Councillors noted that the height of the building had been increased due to limited space on the site and a floor plan that

could not accommodate expansion at ground level. Members acknowledged that, given the scale of the development and the creation of approximately 300 jobs, there was little scope to object. CCAJ was unable to attend the Planning Committee meeting; however, the Planning Officer read out her statement. The Officer subsequently emailed CCAJ directly to confirm that the concerns raised by the Council had been addressed, including the introduction of lighting restrictions and amendments to reduce the amount of glazing.

2313 Finance

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation shows that there is £50,426.12 in the accounts at the end of June 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 - £319.74 (June payment) under LGA 1972 s112.

Middletown Village Hall - £25 (Hall Hire) under LGA 1972 s133.

Gill Corfield - £560 (Chairs Allowance) under LGA 1972 s15(5).

Sue Davies - £125 (Bins, Trewern) - Deferred to next meeting.

PAYE - £410.85 under LGA 1972 s112.

Audit Wales - £252.05 (2024/25 Audit fees) under Audit Commission Act 1998 / Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014.

Time Release - £225 under LGA 1972 s111.

CA BOWEN - £604 (Grounds maintenance/tree works) under LG(MP) Act 1976 s19.

Proposed by PH and seconded by RB

Councillors noted that the cheque for the donation in memory of Cllr Rex Turner had not been processed. All cheques issued at that time were not banked and have since been returned. AE will amend the bank reconciliation accordingly.

ACTION: AE

As reported last month, the Internal Auditor advised that the two older laptops should remain on the Fixed Asset Register at a nominal value of £0.01 each until one is securely destroyed and the other is no longer required as a contingency device. Once written evidence of secure disposal is obtained, the laptops can be removed from the register entirely. It was agreed that AE will email RB to obtain written confirmation that the older laptop was disposed of correctly, so that the Council has appropriate evidence for audit purposes.

ACTION: AE

2314 Correspondence

None.

2315 Any Other Business

Trewern Community Centre

Councillors noted that, as discussed last month, the draft lease will ultimately need to come to TCC for approval as the custodial trustees. SD will forward any documents relating to the trustees to TCC once received.

Policies and procedures

Deferred until next month.

Defibrators, Middletown and Trewern

Councillors recalled that last month it was agreed TCC would adopt the defibrillators as a community asset to ensure clear governance and long-term management, with existing funds from the community account and Show account supporting ongoing costs. SD reported that the process of closing the current community defibrillator accounts is underway. This has taken some time due to banking requirements, but progress is being made. This item will remain on the agenda until the transfer arrangements are completed.

ACTION: GC

Issues on Y Wern, Trewern

Councillors recalled that last month residents had raised concerns regarding cannabis use, abusive behaviour and threatening behaviour towards minors in the Y Wern estate, with the matter primarily sitting with the police and Housing. CCAJ confirmed that she has spoken to Housing regarding the issues and AE has forwarded the emails received from residents onto Police.

2317 Date of Next Meetings

15 September 2026 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.