# MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT TREWERN COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

Present: Councillors Gill Corfield (Chair), Judy Evans, David Corfield, Peter Davies, Fiona Warburton, Phil Hughes, Amanda Jenner, Colin Jenkins, Nicola Dyson and Rex Turner.

**2069 Apologies**
Apologies received from Councillor Rob Breakwell.

**2070 Minutes of the Meeting from 16th July for approval**
Minutes from the meeting held on 16th July to now be approved and signed by GC.
Proposed by FW and seconded by CJ
Private minutes from the meeting held on 16th July to now be approved and signed by GC.
Proposed by PD and seconded by FW

**2071 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.**
DC and GC declared an interest in Play area Lease, Middletown and 24/1228/LBC planning application.

**2072 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda**
None.

**2073 Playgrounds**
Play area lease, Middletown
Council have agreed to discuss the play area lease confidentially due to the ongoing legal nature of the situation.

Risk Assessment
AE made minor amendments and re-sent to Councillors for approval. Thank you to FW for assisting AE with this. Everyone happy with Play Area Risk Assessment.
Proposed by JE and seconded by ND

It was agreed that we should start reviewing our other Policies and Procedures, AE to add a couple to the next agenda.
**ACTION: AE**

GC ordered a sign to be put up in the play area in Trewern and will get DC to erect it at some point.
**ACTION: GC/DC**

DC will speak to Anna Griggs about cutting the hedge inside the play area (other side of the D, outside school).
**ACTION: DC**

**2074 Highways**

Llwyn Melyn Lane has been improved. However, the water drainage issues aren't completely resolved. It seems they haven't fully jetted the drains—possibly just one or two. Even on a dry day, water was still running down the road.

Potholes have been repaired on Firs Lane.

The footpath in Middletown is being repaired again, as the last job collapsed into the field.

A lorry driver reported issues on the far side of Middletown, the hedge there is hanging over again. We'll monitor it until we receive an official complaint. It was cut in the spring, so let's keep an eye on it.

Criggion Lane is much improved after the hedges were cut. However, vans continue to park along here. Criggion Lane is closed completely from Llandrinio Way towards Criggion Quarry, likely due to Severn Trent work.

Regarding the A458, they plan to install CCTV. CCAJ enquired about the timeline with the Highways. A resident asked why the white lines haven't been extended; the highways department has only done a like-for-like replacement.

**2075 County Councillors' Report**
CCAJ has a few council meetings coming up. See 'Highways' for further updates.

**2076 Planning**
<u>24/1228/LBC|Renovation of roof including second hand Welsh Slate (regularisation of works) | Llwyn Melyn, Trewern, Welshpool SY218EG</u>
DC and GC declared an interest in this application and left the room. Trewern Community Council has reviewed the above planning application. We would like to note that this is yet another retrospective planning application, and we would appreciate clarification on what measures are being taken by Powys County Council Planning Department to address and prevent the increasing frequency of such applications. It is our understanding that steps are being implemented to rectify this ongoing issue.

TCC has not yet received a response to the Enforcement Complaint Form submitted regarding Priors Cottage. However, CCAJ has heard back from the PCC Enforcement Planning Officer, who conducted a site visit last week. They found that the developer has installed the correct entrance according to the plans. However, the Priors Cottage homeowner has removed the fence/hedge adjacent to the highway, allowing direct access to the front of their property. The Enforcement Planning Officer has spoken with the street works department at PCC, which stated that the owners need to apply for a Street Works Licence to legally drive off their property onto the highway; this approval is not guaranteed. The Enforcement Planning Officer will be writing to the property owner to inform them that they should have installed a fence/hedge in front of their property as per the approved development plans and that they are currently in breach of planning regulations.

**2077 Finance**
<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>
The bank reconciliation shows that there is £45,495.53 in the accounts at the end of August 2024.
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 RT

GC and PH have had difficulty logging onto HSBC Online Bank Account, whilst AE was on holiday. AE to check the log on details.
**ACTION: AE**

Payments
Clerk Salary - £888.84 (July and August payment, plus overtime from June) under L.G.A 1972 s112.
Angela Evans - £41.65 (Audit Postage and Ink Cartridges) under L.G.A 1972 s111.
Middletown Village Hall - £25 under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).
Chair Allowance - £560 under L.G.A 1972 s112.
Councillors Allowance - £312 under L.G.A 1972 s112.
Time release - £239 under L.G.A 1972 s111.
Trewern CC - £2,300 (annual donation) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).
Middletown Village Hall - £2,300 (annual donation) under L.G (M.P) Act 1976 s19 (3).
CA Bowen - £609 under L.G.A 1972 s111.
Proposed by FW and seconded by CJ

**2078 Correspondence**
Border Gossip
TCC received an email from Border Gossip confirming their generous offer to donate the surplus funds from their bank account (£3,619.89) to Trewern Community Council, preferably for tangible items and/or their upkeep. Firstly, TCC would like to express our gratitude to Border Gossip for this kind donation. While we currently do not have any ongoing community projects, we would be happy to accept the full amount to assist in winding up Border Gossip. Once the funds are transferred, we will ensure they are used for tangible items or their maintenance, as requested, and we will keep the Border Gossip team updated on how the money is spent. It was previously discussed that £600 would be allocated to the Defibrillator Account. However, we have agreed to retain the full amount for now, with the possibility of allocating funds to that account later if necessary. This is important as batteries need to be replaced every three years, and pads must be replaced after use. By keeping the funds together for the time being, we can maintain flexibility in supporting future community needs. Additionally, we discussed that if anyone wishes to restart Border Gossip in the future, we could consider donating funds to help facilitate that effort.

**2079 Any Other Business**
Currently, our Community Council representatives for the Burgess Land Trust are Fiona Warburton and Peter Davies. FW would like to request the removal of her name as a representative, as she is unable to attend meetings. AE to let Anthony Harvey know.
**ACTION: AE**

The Minor Injury Unit at Welshpool is planning to reduce staffing by half while maintaining the same operating hours—8pm to 8pm, seven days a week. Under Powys Teaching Health Board consultation, cuts are being made across various services, but there has been no mention of the cuts at Welshpool. Given the limited services available in our area, it's crucial that we take action. CCAJ believes this issue should be raised with Russell George. FW has signed up for all relevant emails and will keep us updated on any developments.

Regarding the ongoing Wales Air Ambulance Service situation, CCAJ has been involved in the campaign and has submitted an application for a review due to concerns about flawed consultations.

Annual Report
AE drafted an Annual Report 2023/24 and sent to Councillors for approval. It was agreed for AE to upload this onto the TCC website and share the link on Facebook.

**ACTION: AE**

Middletown Village Hall

The village hall applied for a grant but initially received notice that they were unsuccessful. However, unexpectedly, they were awarded £27,000 in funding. The wood flooring is deteriorating; there is tunneling beneath the parquet floor, and Rentokil has been involved, but their treatments cannot guarantee a solution. The only viable option is to remove the existing flooring and replace it entirely, as no damp proof course was originally installed. Several quotes have been obtained for this work, which must be completed by November.

Significant effort has gone into this project, particularly from JE. The plan includes reinstalling the wood parquet and applying a liquid membrane to waterproof and seal the cracks. The hall will be closed from September 29th for two weeks to facilitate the renovations.

After we reached out to Diane Reynolds with a letter of complaint regarding the lack of support, she has agreed to attend our meeting in October to discuss the issue with us.

**2080 Date of Next Meetings**

15 October 2024 at Middletown Village Hall and via MS Teams.