

MINUTES OF TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HALL ON 17 JANUARY 2017

Present: Councillors David Morrell (Chair), John Evans, Judy Evans, Tim Hilditch, Phillip Hughes, Colin Jenkins and Fred Mountford

1702 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Gill Corfield, Ida Hughes, Peter Davies and County Councillor Dawn Bailey.

1702 Minutes of Meetings from 15 November and 13 December 2016

Agreed and signed.

1703 Declarations of Interest

Blanket dispensations have been received from all Councillors in matters related to Wind Farms, School Modernisation and School Transport.

Noted that School Governors and Trustees have to declare an interest unless they are the Council's appointed representative.

1704 Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere on Agenda

Criggion Lane

Nothing further had been heard regarding the weight limit. (Chairman's note – PCC have since decided to implement an 18 tonne limit.

In order for a 30mph speed limit to be applied down Criggion Lane, a further light would be required and County Councillor Dawn Bailey had asked whether the Community Council would be prepared to pay for this. It is believed that the existing lights near the most populated area are never on and that even with the extra light, a 30mph speed limit is not guaranteed. Further investigation is required.

ACTION - DM

Willow Tree, Middletown

The Willow Tree in Middletown has now been removed.

There are additional trees near the phone box that need pruning. Woottens will be contacted for a quote and this will be reported back at the next meeting. Ideally the work should be completed by mid March at the latest.

ACTION - TH/JohnE

Pot Holes in Hope Lane

DM had contacted PCC Highways.

Light Outside Buttington Church

DM reported that he had made contact with the church but they have no funds available to contribute towards a light. It was decided to hold off making a decision regarding this until we have received further clarification on Criggion Lane.

Planning

All responses sent.

Code of Conduct

Although the Community Council has adopted the new Code of Conduct, our decision needs to be published. It was decided to do this through the Border Gossip which is distributed to every house in the area.

Register of Electors

Now received in readiness for the May 2017 election.

1705 Playgrounds

The matting at both playgrounds still needs to be sorted. Charlie Bowen to be asked if he can make the necessary repairs.

ACTION - TH

1706 Highways

Sale Lane

It is believed that a telephone wire was brought down in the recent high winds. It is currently laying in the hedge near the railway bridge and concerns were raised that should the hedge be cut it could result in properties losing use of their telephones. TH/FM to contact Open Reach.

ACTION – TH/FM

1707 Burgess Land Trust

A meeting was held in January.

There is a new window of opportunity for groups and clubs apply for a grant up to a maximum £500. Just under £4,500 is available and applications should be made for specific projects not just for general use. The application form is available to download from the Welshpool Town website. A report and accounts must be submitted with the application form. The closing date for this is the end of March 2017. Applications received after this date will be considered when further funding is available.

1708 County Councillors' Report

County Councillors' report is attached as an Addendum to the Minutes.

1709 Communications Not Covered Elsewhere in Agenda

Letter received for Clerk Training for the upcoming elections. DM and KW to attend on 02 March 2017

There is a presentation to be held on 09 March 2017 regarding the electoral review.

1710 Finance

Budget 2016/17

Following payment of all the anticipated/outstanding bills, approximately £20,000 will be left in the bank account at the year end.

The Clerk requested supporting documentation for payments already made where this is missing.

Bank statements were checked and signed by DM and JudyE.

Budget 2017/18

DM provided a budget forecast for payments anticipated in 2017/18. This compared 2017/18 with 2016/17 and commented on areas where variations were expected. This included:

Maintenance of the playgrounds/cemeteries has been increased slightly. The contract for this is up for tender next year.

Insurance has been increased inline with normal increases in insurance rates.

Village Hall donations have been increased as funding from Powys County Council has been cut. A provision has been made for £5,200 for the year.

A decision needs to be made by the Community Council as to whether they continue being a member of One Voice Wales.

Precept 2017/18

The precept for the last three years has remained at £26.00. No concurrent function grants will be received as these have now been phased out.

It was suggested that the Precept be increased from £26.00 to £26.91 per year on an average Band D property. This increase took account of the cutting of funding from Powys County Council for village halls, cemeteries and playgrounds. Proposed PH. Seconded John D.

ACTION – DM to send off Precept form to PCC Finance

Invoices

The following invoices were agreed. Proposed JohnE, seconded by TH:

Enterprise Inns	£225.00
Wales Audit Office	£186.00
Donation for Gill Wood	£50.00 (cheque raised in May, has now been presented/cleared)

Woottons – Willow Tree	£150.00
HMRC	£116.60
Karen Weaver	£33.99

1711 Planning

Removal of Public Telephone Boxes

PCC have asked BT to retain the telephone box in Middletown but not those in Trewern and Buttington. BT have not yet responded.

Buttington Quarry

Is it expected that the planning application will be submitted in March preceded by a pre application consultation and until this time nothing further can be done. However, DM is trying to get up to speed with planning and policy papers. A couple of articles have been in local papers.

1712 Border Gossip

DM read out his proposed report and this was agreed.

1713 Community Matters

Dead Fir Tree, Prior Cottage, Middletown

There is a dead fir tree in the grounds of Prior Cottage, directly above Highfield which is hanging over Station Lane. The property is currently unoccupied but it is believed that if a letter was sent to the property it would either be forwarded to the owner or to her representative. Letter to be sent expressing concerns regarding potential safety issues.

ACTION – DM

Development by the School

Nothing further heard.

Fence by the School

Bryn Pryce is putting pressure on the owner to make the necessary planning application.

DM to chase up.

ACTION – DM

1714 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 21 February 2017 at Trewern Community Centre

County Councillors' Report for Trewern Community Council – 17-01-17

1. Criggion Lane 18 tonne amenity weight – decision to be taken by Montgomeryshire Committee.
2. Criggion Lane 30 mph – to be explored further.
3. A458 trunk road:
 - (a) Following emergency repairs to Buttington level crossing on 12th January, Network Rail plan to carry out urgent necessary work within next 1-3 weeks which will necessitate closure of the crossing to all traffic for 72 hours. Local diversions will be set up.
 - (b) In addition, as widely advertised, overnight closures to the A458 from Middletown to Buttington roundabout between the hours of 20.00 to 06.00 to allow for re-surfacing works will come into force from 23rd January. Works will be undertaken under full closure and continue to 6th February. There will then be a short break to allow Highways England to undertake street lighting works at Pant which require the A458 to be the diverted route for that scheme. Work on the A458 will then re-commence from 11th February to 20th February at the very latest. Local diversions will be in operation and these will also take into account the unforeseen closure of Buttington crossing due to proposed Network Rail work.
 - (c) A number of issues have been raised with me recently relating to A458 including noisy 'dropped' manhole covers and problems with the vehicle activated signs on Cefn Bridge. These matters have been reported to the trunk road agency for attention.
4. Mount Pleasant Estate, Middletown – demolition of the two end garages and repairs to the roofs of the others to commence w/c 23rd January.
5. Condition of oak trees fronting first row of Mount Pleasant to once again be reviewed following damage to neighbouring properties over Xmas.
6. Little Chef, Trewern – general state of site including broken window panes reported to Halls for urgent action by owners.
7. Fox Lane flooding issues – temporary works by adjacent landowners in conjunction with discussions with the councils land drainage engineer Graham Astley will help address short term issues whilst permanent long term solution is sought. Request by residents for repairs to eroded highway edges forwarded to Ken Llewellyn (Highways) for action.
8. Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate – Ivy House, Middletown Hearing to be held on 15th February 2017 in Neaudd Maldwyn, Welshpool.
9. Important meeting dates of Powys County Council:
23rd February 2017 – Budget