Minutes-Castle Caereinion Community Council

Minutes	Date: Feb 26th, 2025 - 7.30pm Venue: Castle Caereinion Community Centre To join this meeting via Teams: Community Council | Microsoft Teams | Meet-up-Join Meeting ID: 931 798 291 206 4 Passcode: vD2zV2

Participants		Apologies
Chairman: Cllr Nigel Bowen (NB) **Clerk**: Lucy Mason (LM)	Cllr Clive Jones (CJ); Cllr Gary Human (GH); Cllr Paul Roberts (PR); Cllr Kate Hamer (KH); Cllr Robert Nash (RN); Cllr Carys Evans (CE); Cllr Adrian Jones (AJ)	

Agenda 118: Ten minutes for members of the public: Darren Oakley attended the meeting, a resident from Castle Caereinion who had expressed his interest in the Vacancy. He was Co-opted by the Council and completed the 'Declaration of Office' form. Clerk to send to Darren the 'Code of Conduct' and advise of the requirement to set up a Councillor email address.

David Parker, a Planning Consultant for Primesave Properties attended the meeting. Two members of the public were also in attendance. David gave a brief resume of the Pre-Planning application.

Agenda 119: Declarations of interest: Cllr NB declared an interest in Agenda item 125 and abstained from any discussion.

Agenda 120: Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed as a true record of the meeting, proposed Cllr PR, seconded Cllr GH with all in favour.

Agenda 121: Matters arising

1. Defibrillator - Clerk confirms that the site check is up to date.
2. Phone Box and bench – Cllr NB has been in touch with someone regarding the existing line.
3. Unkept area at Swallows Field – Ongoing plans with Gareth from I T Jerman continues.
4. Multi Location meetings – Clerk would like to thank Cllr PR for testing the Teams meeting which is now in place for future meetings.
5. Dog Fouling within Village – Clerk has reported the overflowing bins to the Waste Management Team at PCC who have confirmed that the bins will be emptied twice a week.
6. Parking at new development – Planning enforcement end date 5th March.
7. Councillor vacancy – See Agenda item 118.
8. Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster – The Council discussed the Invitation but due to the ongoing support provided by One Voice Wales and the information exchange facilitated by the regular attendance of Cllr Adrian Jones, the Council decided not to join.
9. OVW and Planning Aid Wales - Clerk to book Cllr RN onto the meeting.

Agenda 122: Playground

Nothing to report.

Agenda 123: Finance

1. Balance Treasurers Account £10231.16, Balance of Playground £1098.98 - Clerk provided Bank Statements for Internal verification purposes.
2. Expenditure for Approval from Treasurers Account:
   Clerk wages Feb 2025 £300.00
   HMRC PAYE Feb 2025 £75.00
   IT Jerman £457.20
   Microsoft Office Subscription £84.99
   OVW and Planning Aid Wales £50.00
   Bank Balance after all expenditure debited £9263.97, All requests for payment approved, proposed Cllr CE, seconded Cllr CJ with all in favour.
3. Model Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment – Clerk is currently working on the Risk Assessment for the Council and would like to thank Cllr RN for his ongoing help and guidance.

Agenda 124: Highway Matters

To discuss any update of the following reported issues:

1. Highway Drains/Flooding at Chapel House - Clerk has not heard back from Diane Reynolds regarding any updates.
2. Manhole Cover in between traffic calming – Identified as a loose 'Stop Tap,' Clerk has chased the report to Severn Trent for an update Ref: 2006810593
3. Culvert at Cefn Crin – Jake Evans at PCC has said that the job is next on the list to be done.
4. Gelli Lane Sign – Graham Astley has informed the Clerk that the sign is due to be manufactured and will be installed when the resources are available.
5. Potholes between Penybryn and Ty Mawr – Clerk has reported to PCC Ref; 0317-4364-8786-2478.
6. Loose Manhole cover Swallows Meadow Entrance – Clerk confirms that this has been Completed, Issue fixed on site 14th Feb.

Agenda 125: PCC planning notices

To discuss the following application received:
Application Reference: 24/1746/FUL Grid Reference: E:316091 N: 304411 Proposal: Construction of slurry store and associated works Site Address: Lower Berwydd , Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys SY21 9AU
The Council discussed this and decided to support the application. Cllr NB abstained from making any comment due to the declaration of Interest, Agenda item 119.

Agenda 126: Correspondence (emailed to Councillors)

1. Powys Planning Decision Notices – None received.
2. One Voice Wales - News Bulletins, training sessions and updates – Free Training places available
3. Play Wales - e-bulletins
4. Powys CHC newsletter & updates
5. NHS updates - bulletins
6. Corporate communications – Powys County council
7. PCC notice of meetings: Quarterly PCC & Towns Council meeting –
8. Citizens Advice Powys update
9. Dyfed-Powys Police –
10. Local PCSO Monthly Check in – Speeding through Village reported
11. Vyrnwy Frankton Project – Consultation open until 16th April.
12. Russell George Newsletter
13. Shrewsbury & Telford hospitals
14. Powys Training Health Board
15. Welshpool, Montgomery & Llanfair Caereinion Locality Network Meeting – Wed's 12th Mar 10.30-12pm online.
16. Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster – Invitation from Phil Bettley, Vice-Chair – Annual Subscription £250.00.
17. One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting – Online 11/3/25 4-6pm
18. One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales Joint Event – 27/3/25 10-1.30 via Zoom
19. Montgomeryshire Area Committee minutes 27/1/25, next meeting Pont Robert Community Hall 8/4/25 7.30

Agenda 127: Attendance at Meetings

Cllr RN and Cllr CJ attended the latest meeting of the OVW Montgomery Area Committee, via Zoom.

Cllr RN said that several of our neighbouring Parishes have lost their Clerk, this has arisen because one person was undertaking the role for several of these Communities, and they have resigned leaving them in various states of financial disarray.

The wider issue is that the elected Councillors had placed the Clerk in a position of unmonitored trust and in relation to Financial Management had not followed the usual safeguards.

For all member Councils OVW is re-emphasising the importance of Councillors attending training sessions to stay on top of issues and to ensure appropriate safeguarding of public money.

Agenda 128: Update from County Councillor

Cllr AJ updated the Council that at the latest budget meeting the 8.9% increase to Council Tax looks to be approved at the next Full Council meeting.

The Highways budget has been cut once more, some good news that the council will receive more money from the Welsh Government, this increase will bring in an extra 1.2 million to the Council, which is to be allocated to Highways. Lyn Parry was asked how the 1.2million will be spent, the response being towards gully Jettering and Ditch Clearing.
The Budget for Highways is heavily dependent on Grants and one Welsh Government Grant for 4/5 million will be directly for Unclassified minor road maintenance.

Cllr AJ also spoke about the online reporting of Potholes and how this method is working well.
If you would like to report a Pothole or a problem with a road you can do so using the following link:
Report a problem with a road or pavement - Powys County Council

Agenda 129: **Any other business**

1. Cllr CJ has received an invitation from PAVO for the 'Welshpool Funding & Governance Fair 2025', due to be held at the COWSHACC on Tuesday 4th March, 10.30 - 12.30. Cllr CJ asked if any other Councillors could attend as he is unavailable. Clerk will ask PAVO if the Council can receive the invitation email so that all Councillors can consider the date.

2. A member of the public has raised concerns of the speeding through the Village, particularly around by the park and especially when Coppice Lane is used as a diversion. Clerk to report to the local PCSO.

3. Cllr CE asked Cllr AJ if the upcoming road closure of Cwm Lane 13th - 15th May was to do with the drainage problems, Cllr AJ said that the road closure was for Duct Laying by BT OpenReach. Cllr CE requested that the drainage problems on Cwm Lane to be reported, Clerk to action.

4. Cllr NB has been invited along with Graham Astley and the site manager of the potential development site at Maes-Castell, to discuss Flooding issues and problems experienced within the Village. Cllr NB asked Cllr AJ if he would like to attend, and whether any decisions had been made regarding the riparian ownership costs towards the flooding issue at Chapel House, no figure is available yet.

5. Cllr RN asked Cllr AJ if at the meeting of PCC Cabinet, a report on the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) for the County had been adopted. Cllr AJ was not aware of the outcome of the Cabinet discussion but confirmed that developer obligation toward the provision of affordable housing was a part of the consideration of applications coming before the Planning Authority.

Agenda 130: Date of next meeting

Next meeting Wednesday March 26th, 2025, at 7.30pm. Meeting closed: 8.30