Castle Caereinion Community Council Minutes
Clerk: Mrs Lucy Mason, 4 Swallows Meadow, Castle Caereinion, SY21 9DZ.
Phone: 07729435588, Email: castleclerk1@gmail.com

Draft Minutes	**Date: 25th March 2026 - 7.00pm** **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 Kate Hamer (KH); Cllr Darren Oakley (DO); Cllr Robert Nash (RN); Cllr Tim Robinson (TR)	Cllr Paul Roberts (PR)
Also, in Attendance	County Councillor A. Jones (AJ)	

Agenda 139: Ten minutes for members of the public: A local resident attended the meeting to ask for a contact within the Village Hall Committee to thank them for the events including the summer fete and to discuss other matters including grass cutting. They would like to enquire if a grass collector would be considered for areas such as the play area and around the Village Hall. Cllr KP and the Clerk will pass on the message to the Recreation Association regarding grass cutting around the Village Hall and the resident was advised that GLM services is the point of contact for the other areas.

Agenda 140: Declarations of interest: Cllr RN declared an interest in Agenda item 142.3

Agenda 141: Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr CJ, seconded Cllr GH with all in favour.

Agenda 142: Matters arising

1. Defibrillator - Site checks are up to date with the next one due 24th April.
2. Phone Box refurbishment – The refurbishment is progressing.
3. Water Trough – Cllr RN left the room whilst the Council discussed the matter, The folder which documents the flooding of 2000 which is part of the Recreation archives was reviewed briefly, and Cllr NB will look into further.
4. Replacement Bins within the village – The Clerk asked James Thompson from PCC whether one of the bins at the bottom of Swallows Meadow could be moved opposite the green, the reply being that they would prefer not to move the bins around, but he will chase highways. Cllr TR asked The Clerk to point out that the bin on Coppice Lane has developed a nasty sharp edge which could be very dangerous to the public.
5. Code of Conduct recording – The Clerk has checked with Cllr PR that the big screen in the hall is suitable for all Councillors to watch the recording. Those available will be able to watch the recording at 6pm before the April meeting which will convene at 7pm.
6. Area behind and around Maesgarmon Garages/Local places for Nature grants available – The Clerk has met with Ben Mullen at PCC regarding the tree behind the garages at Maesgarmon. There is a grant available for the cost of pollarding the tree and The Clerk will look to apply for this grant.

Agenda 143: Playground

25/0938/FUL Land Adjacent Maes Castell/Community Council Play Area Contribution – The reply from OM architects regarding the £2500 per year over 10 years, rather than a lump sum of £10,000 was that 'We have discussed this with the applicant, and they are happy to agree to this in order to obtain the support of the community council'. As the planning application has been withdrawn, the Council will discuss this when the application has been re submitted.

The Clerk reports that the Playground reports for July 26 – Mar 26 have been received from GLM Services.

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Agenda 144: Finance

1. Balance Treasurers Account £10765.65
   Balance of Playground £1107.27
2. Expenditure for Approval from Treasurers Account:
   Clerk wages Mar 2026 £320.00
   HMRC PAYE Mar 2026 £80.00
   OVW Membership 26/27 £134.00
   GLM Services - £135.00 Playground reports 25/26
   Members Expenses (Cllr PR & Cllr CJ) £312.00
   For Info:
   Bank Charges £4.25
   Balance after expenditure £9780.40
   All requests for payment approved, proposed Cllr RN, seconded Cllr GH, with all in favour.

Agenda 145: Highway Matters

To discuss any update of the following reported issues:

1. Highway Drains/Flooding at Chapel House
2. Gelli Lane Sign - Cllr RN would like to raise the point that this has been requested and chased since Oct 2024. The reply from PCC being that they hadn't won any money from the tidy town's initiative. The initiative criteria is about improving environmental and street scene items, mainly within towns and Villages. Cllr RN would like to propose that The Clerk write back to PCC to state that the Council is very disappointed that we have had to wait 18 months for a name sign to serve a rural road which has some businesses up it, when what we are waiting for is them to send a team and place the sign which they already have. Seconded Cllr DO with all in favour.
3. Drainage on Cwm Lane
4. Pothole/damage to surface road on the left toward the Castle Caereinion Station
5. Condition of the B4385, the entire road to the Welshpool Junction - Cllr RN has written to Dave Gardner at PCC to ask what the criteria was for repairing urgent matters, such as the potholes at the Ffridd, which were measuring so deep at 90mm in depth. Cllr RN also escalated the reported condition of the B4385 and the reply is that 'The section of the B4385 from the junction with the A495T has been included in the Capital Programme for resurfacing during the 2026–2027 financial year. These works will cover the length of highway from the A495T junction through to the junction at Dolarddyn Road bridge', The remainder of the B4385 is not currently included within the future capital programme. This section will therefore continue to be inspected and monitored in accordance with the Council's Highway Safety Inspection Regime, which requires a 3-monthly inspection frequency for this classification of road.
   The Clerk is requested to write to Lyn Parry and ask why they are stopping at the bridge and why they are not focussing on the rest of the road.
6. Condition of the road, to the first cattle grid, towards Welshpool Golf Club.
7. Nantfford bank – The Clerk is requested to escalate the reported potholes to Lyn Parry.

Agenda 146: PCC planning notices

None received.

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Agenda 147: Correspondence

1. Powys Planning Decision Notices; 19th Jan – 13th March
2. One Voice Wales - News Bulletins, training sessions, and updates, Access to OVW members area for Councillors
3. Play Wales - e-bulletins
4. PAVO – Local Growth Fund, Health & Wellbeing
5. Powys teaching health board; Better Together
6. Russell George Newsletter
7. Welshpool, Llanfair & Montgomery Locality Network – 9 April at 10.30am - 12pm, Welshpool Community Haven, Ann Holloway Centre – Cllr CJ to attend.
8. Expression of Interest: Town & Community Councils Focus Group – Panel Performance Assessment - Thu 23 April, 10:00–10:50 via Teams

Agenda 148: Attendance at Meetings

The Clerk has attended the Planning Aid Wales/One Voice Wales training. The introduction to Planning Aid Wales was most useful.

Agenda 149: Update from County Councillor

- The B4385 between Castle Caereinion and Berriew, that County Councillor A. Jones has been pushing for a long time, is on the Capital list and getting some works done this year. As the reply from Dave Gardner to Cllr RN doesn't suggest the same information, The Clerk is requested to write and ask for confirmation of the future works.
- Correspondence has been received from a resident regarding the state of the road as you travel off the Castle Road, past Bank farm, across to Gibet. The top of Llanfair, absolute awful, plus a big hole on Berwydd which a cone has been placed in. And, the road from Berriew to Manafon is awful. The Clerk is requested to report.
- An increase of 4.9% for Council Tax has been set for the financial year 2026/27
- Salt bin locations suggested by residents have been put forward, The Clerk asked if the Salt bin in the old school ground could be relocated within the Village and was advised to speak to Welshpool depot, as a suggestion up the top of Swallows Meadow if possible.
- The 6 monthly survey of the Household Recycling Centre booking system received over 6000 respondents which showed strong support across Powys. The results for Welshpool were slightly negative due to the introduction of steps to the skips and the DIY waste charges.
- A £2.5 million grant for potholes and structural maintenance including the purchase of specialist machinery, has been announced.

Agenda 150: Any other business

- Cllr RN spoke about St Garmon's Church and Reordering and improvement works.
  The Church Finance Committee is now working on planning a scheme of works to ensure that the Church is able to meet the needs and aspirations of the Community at Castle. Over the coming months we will therefore be rolling out a consultation exercise to give everyone the opportunity to have their say. This applies to everyone in the Village and the Parish whether they are a worshiper, have attended the Church, or not. We will be publishing a questionnaire widely throughout the community and would encourage everyone to take a few moments to read it and take part in this important project.
- Thanks are extended to John Lomas for cutting the grassed area along the newly turfed area.

Agenda 151: Date of next meeting

Next meeting Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7pm, Code of Conduct recording for Councillors at 6pm. Meeting closed: 19.47