

# Cyngor Cymuned Llywel Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30.

1. Members Present :

Bernard Attkins (chairman), Lynn White , Janice Williams, Dave Howells, Gareth Davies (vice chairman), Mrs J Davies (clerk)

2. Apologies:

Cllr Edwin Roderick, Sheila Davies, Wynne Pugh.

3. Approval of minutes: The minutes for the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting were accepted as a true record of the business of the meeting and were therefore signed by the vice chairman. Proposed by Lynn White and seconded by Gareth Davies.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

a . Buses – Lee Waters (26.11.21) -This is a standard acknowledgement confirming receipt of your correspondence to the Welsh Government dated 26/11/2021, your reference . You will receive a substantive response in due course. Our reference for this correspondence is TO/LW/12296/21.

Welsh Government ref TO-LW-12296-21

Dear Jo Davies

Thank you for your email of 22 November to the Deputy Minister for Climate Changes, Lee Waters MS, regarding bus service links to Trecastle. I have been asked to provide a response. We have discussed the issue with Powys County Council who have assured us that they have tried to reinstate the taxi bus service to Trecastle, but have been unable to find an operator to run the service at a sustainable price. They have assured us that they will endeavour to try once more to source a local supplier to run the service in the New Year. Any new service will be advertised by Powys County Council in the local community and using social media channels.

Yours sincerely,  
Public Transport Division

Letter following meeting with James Evans from Lee Waters MS

10 January 2022

Dear James,

Thank you for your email of 3 November regarding bus service links to Trecastle. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The absence of bus services to settlements in Wales such as Trecastle, is the result of the historical deregulation of bus services by the UK Government. We are developing proposals to bring forward legislation to introduce a more regulated system for bus services in Wales with more investment in public transport to support it. In June, I also announced a review of road schemes, and as part of this, all future schemes will be reviewed to ensure that they allow people and goods to move more easily from door to door by sustainable forms of transport.

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Cllr Bernard Attkins

Chairman

In the meantime, my officials have discussed the issue with Powys County Council who have advised that they have tried to reinstate the taxi bus service to Trecastle, but have been unable to find an operator to run the service at a sustainable price. The Council have assured my officials that they will endeavour to try once more to source a local supplier to run the service in the New Year. Any new service will be advertised by Powys County Council in the local community and using social media channels.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

And Follow up from John Forsey (Powys 11.1.22)  
Thank you for your time yesterday.

I've trawled through my computer and found a draft timetable between Carmarthen and Brecon (Service X80) that we produced and presented to WG colleagues back in 2011/12 when we re-tendered out local bus network (please see attached). Unfortunately it was never implemented due to lack of financial backing from WG. Essentially we proposed that we add an extra bus to the Carmarthen to Llandovery service (to go from 2 buses to 3) and operate across Llandovery, to Brecon via Trecastle and Sennybridge every two hours.

At this time the T6 was not in existence but it is now and the contract is due to be re-tendered later this year, so maybe this is the opportunity to 'reshuffle' the resources available to try and make a better East / West service. Essentially the most cost effective way to do this would be to reduce the frequency between Brecon and Ystradgynlais to every two hours (instead of hourly) but maintain an hourly service between Ystradgynlais and Swansea where the peak demand is. This reduces the overall vehicle requirement on this service from 4 to 3 buses.

Then, we co-ordinate our services with Carmarthenshire to extend the Llandovery service to Brecon as described above, which would travel between Sennybridge and Brecon on the opposite hour to the Brecon to Swansea service making an hourly service between Sennybridge and Brecon with the Llandovery bus connecting in Brecon with services to Hereford and Cardiff. The extra bus resource needed to provide this is basically the 4th bus that is no longer required on the T6 service if we reduced the frequency.

At this time it is really difficult to predict what 'extra' cost this would be given that we tendered our services in 2018 and lots have changed in the world since then, but this is probably the most cost effective way of delivering the 'missing link' along the trunk road network in Mid Wales. My best guess estimate at this time is this may require an additional £130 - £150k in revenue support to provide the service in today's market (with minimum wages increases plus NI contributions along with much higher fuel prices currently).

I would also caveat all of this with it clearly needs the co-operation of colleagues in Carmarthenshire to deliver this, which we had in 2011, plus we don't really fully understand what the 'post covid' recovery of bus services will look like just yet as services are still not back to where they were pre February 2020.

We are looking to augment and amend other services in Powys to try and improve our service offer, manage costs and tie in with WG / TfW aspirations, and I am feeding my

thoughts and suggestions into Transport for Wales but understandably this is taking time. However, any assistance to expedite this would be welcomed.

Happy to discuss further if so desired,

Regards

John Forsey

b. Park – basket swing leg damage – Playdale advised (29.11.21) You could replace the timbers and replace with steel ground fixed timbers which would be guaranteed for 20 years, this would obviously be a cost but now the existing timbers have been damaged they are open to rotting, we would need a photo of the whole swing and we can send you a quote for you to think about. All agreed for Wood u Believe it to have a look when they install new play equipment.

c. Speed in village - Traffic Wales (23.11.21) –

Good morning Ms Davies,

Thank you for your enquiry relating to signage along the A40 in Llywel.

Traffic Wales is the information service delivered on behalf of the Welsh Government to provide general information on the conditions, operation and maintenance of the strategic road network across Wales.

Issues considered to be operational in nature are responded to directly by the Trunk Road Agent. Issues considered to relate to Policy or the prioritization of work will be referred to Welsh Government for their consideration and response.

In this instance your enquiry is considered as being Policy/Programming in nature and has therefore been forwarded to Welsh Government who will respond to you directly in due course. The Welsh Government state they aim to reply within 15 working days.

Kind regards,

Ewan - Traffic Wales Team.

December 2021

Dear Ms Davies

Thank you for your email enquiry of the 22 November which has been forwarded to the Welsh Government for response by Traffic Wales.

The Welsh Government and its Ministers are responsible for the Motorways and Trunk Roads network in Wales and its associated assets. The A40 at Trecastle is a trunk road.

Road safety is a matter taken very seriously by the Welsh Government and it routinely reviews speed data to inform the need for additional signing or road markings to improve the compliance with the speed limit.

The assessment on the need for Speed Indicator Devices on the trunk road network is undertaken in line with Welsh Government guidance:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-10/use-of-vehicle-activated-signs-and-speed-indicator-devices-on-trunk-roads.pdf>

This states all other measures should be introduced prior to these electronic signs being used. The Welsh Government plan to enhance the signing and road markings in Trecastle to improve compliance with the limit later this financial year.

The guidance also outlines the Welsh Government does not permit the installation of any signs owned or part owned by community councils or local groups.

The Welsh Government would encourage you and other concerned local residents to address their concerns to Go Safe, the Road Safety Partnership, who are responsible for speed limit enforcement. They can do so via the following webpage:

<https://gosafe.org/contact-us/community-concern/>

Yours sincerely

Alan Brandon

Lynn White asked how other communities have had solar panel speed signs.

d. Western Power (14.12.21) – Ground mounted substation – Powys have noted we have a lease for 30 years so should make the decision. To be put in the corner of the park above the fence where previously proposed. All present agreed proposal and couldn't for see a problem with the lease renewal.

e. Woodland Davies (8.12.21) – copy of the final lease agreement dated 9th March 2018.

f. Wood u believe it - Playground equipment - £2000 deposit paid. Work to commence 3rd February on platform and canopy. Clerk noted that we needed to sort safety matting. All present agreed to install the climbing platform and then purchase safety grass matting to put around it.

Clerk had found some quotes for safety surfacing all agreed to look at safety matting that the grass will grow up through.

g. BBNP (20.12.21) –

Hello Joanne – apologies for not having responded sooner.

The SDF programme supports projects that help improve quality of life, and protect and enhance the local environment, helping people to live healthy and fulfilled lives. It wouldn't normally be able to contribute solely to the cost of play equipment itself, but may be able to support a wider play area project that also contributes to nature recovery – enhancing biodiversity and peoples' understanding. It would be good to know a bit more about what you have planned. Does the CC own and manage the play equipment and the park it's in? You might want to consider applying for an Awards for All grant if the Council hasn't recently had one – it's really easy to apply and decisions are made fairly quickly. If you haven't already talked to them, PAVO will also be able to advise on potential funders. Most funders will be looking for evidence that the issues listed below have been taken into account.

I'd be very happy to have a chat about the SDF and what you have planned – let me know if that would be useful.

Best wishes,

Barbara

Best practice guidance published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Play Safety Department has been followed and fully taken into account

Quotes have been obtained from suppliers who are registered with the Association of Play Industries

A risk assessment has taken place for the installation

The needs of children and young people with disabilities have been considered and taken into account

RoSPA post-installation inspection and sign-off will take place (costs could be included in an application)

Plans to undertake regular inspection and maintenance are in place – along with the resources needed to carry them out

An annual independent inspection will take place and resources are in place to enable this to happen

Clerk to chase up a meeting at site and ask Cllr Edwin Roderick for help in arranging.

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Cllr Bernard Attkins

Chairman

5. Planning :

- a. Planning (13.12.21) – Dwr Cymru – Existing storage building Cwmwysg ~ prior approval in pursuant for single storey portal frame, steel clad, timer and steel building with a double pitched roof.
- b. BBNP - approved satellite antenna 1.8m x 1.8m x 1.2m land East of Usk Reservoir, Crai (19.1.22)

6. Highways:

- a. Lynn White noted that the bikes were now using the pedestrian bridge if the Ford is flooded to go around. Clerk to let Cllr Edwin Roderick know and see what can be done.
- b. Lynn White noted that Bwysfa road was still untouched.

7. Cooption of Traianmawr Ward –none

8. Correspondence –

- a. Caru Cymru (22.11.21) - dog fouling campaign posters – clerk to print out and laminate for the playing field and hall area.
- b. One Voice Wales (24.11.21) - Consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets
- c. One Voice Wales (24.11.21) - Tawe Uchaf Community Council has been involved in discussion with Powys Highways and our AS James Evans to try and find solutions to reduce traffic speeds on the A4067 through the Community from Ynyswen to Craig y Nos.  
The initial site meeting on 10th September was very positive with a detailed 5 point plan of action agreed. However, following a response from Powys Highways the initial positivity has now become frustration. It is apparent that the costs of providing cameras will fall on the Community Council. There will undoubtedly be additional costs involved for maintenance. Powys Highways have been asked to liaise with Go Safe to provide hard standing areas at Penycae and Ynyswen for the Go Safe van. The Council would appreciate any information of experiences of other Community Councils in Powys with similar speeding problems.  
Specifically, if they have purchased speed indicator devices and the costs involved from purchase to installation.
- d. Powys (1.12.21) – Futre plans for Ysgol Calon.
- e. Wales NHS (1.12.21) - Powys Community Health Council (CHC) has published a Report about ‘Mental Health of Young People During COVID-19 Pandemic’.
- f. Urdd Gobaith Cymru (12.12.21) – seeking donations for forthcoming eisteddfod in Denbigh.
- g. Heritage Fund (17.12.21) – help to spread the word of heritage funding.

- h. Welsh Government (17.12.21) - Please find attached link to the consultation The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils. Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils statutory guidance | GOV.WALES
- i. Powys (6.1.22) - The Powys Local Development Plan (LDP) – Review Report and Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement. The Powys LDP was adopted on the 17th of April 2018. Following the findings from the latest Annual Monitoring Report (2021), the Powys Local Planning Authority is now required to commence work on reviewing the LDP and preparing a Replacement LDP (RLDP). - Cllr Edwin Roderick asked if all members could look at this and Clerk to meet with senior members of the YFC to discuss.
- j. Pavo (10.1.22) - Energy used to heat our homes is one of the highest contributors[1] to CO2 emissions in Powys. In addition it causes residents to spend more of their disposable income on this than would be necessary if their homes were more efficient, especially in the current climate of rising energy bills. Better insulated homes also lead to better health outcomes, so improving our homes leads to multiple benefits. We (Powys Action on the Climate Emergency) have received funding through the Community Renewal Fund to offer 50 subsidised Home Energy Audits across 3 Powys communities by the end of June. [JT1] This is part of the Localities Network project being run by PAVO. We are working with the charity Lightfoot Enterprises <https://lightfootenterprises.org/> to deliver these audits, Lightfoot have over 10 years of experience delivering home energy advice to homeowners. Lightfoot would work with community volunteers to deliver this advice. The role of the volunteers would be to visit homeowners who request a home audit and complete a questionnaire, with the homeowner, covering the details of the property. Lightfoot would take all volunteers through a free half day training session teaching them how to gather the information that Lightfoot need. This completed questionnaire would then be returned to domestic energy experts at Lightfoot who would write up a report and recommendations including details of local suppliers and installers and potential funding options based on the data gathered. The volunteer would then deliver this to the homeowner, with the option of follow up advice and questions. Although the audits are subsidised we would recommend communities applying a nominal fee to the homeowner (suggested £10 - £30 based on ability to pay) to ensure that those who have the audits are likely to follow through on the recommendations. This money would be retained by you and could then be used to cover the volunteers out-of-pocket expenses or other local costs. We can work with either a community council or any volunteer-based constituted group based in Powys. If you would like your community to be considered for this project, please could you reply to this email by 8th February confirming: Community council or organisation applying for this project Main contact (phone and email) Confirmation that there would be a minimum of 3 volunteers available and willing to undertake the ½ day training and carry out the home visits (each home visit would be about 2 hours work). We apologise for the tight deadline on getting a reply, this is forced by

the conditions of the funding which requires that all funds must be spent by the end of June 2022. We have funding for 50 subsidised audits across Powys so if we work with 3 communities this would be approx. 16 – 17 in each, but we may wish to spread this across more communities if we get more communities expressing interest. Thank you Diana Allen

- k. Powys (17.1.22) – dates for forthcoming meetings for PCC to catch up with CC and TC. Clerk to forward dates to those interested.

13. Any other Business:

- a. Lynn White had been contacted by William Prosser with regards to grass cutting the playing field. All present agreed he had done a fantastic job, Dave Howells proposed to ask William for the forth coming season, Gareth Davies seconded the proposal and all present agreed. Lynn White asked whether William should keep on top of the hedge on the wall, all present agreed as there was much more light coming through the windows into the hall.
- b. Members had been contacted with regards to toys and some rubbish starting to acclimate in the park. Parents have complained about the smell coming from the houses when on the basket swing. Lynn White and Janice Williams to keep an eye on the park. Clerk to write to West Wales Housing.
- c. Lynn White asked if the Community Council were going to give the children in the area a commemorative gift to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Janice Williams proposed buying a commemorative 50p for those under 18. All members to help find out numbers.

14. Next meeting: The meeting ended at 8.45pm. The next meeting Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022.