

# Trefeglwys Community Council

Annual Report April 2025 – March 2026

website [www.trefeglwyscc.com](http://www.trefeglwyscc.com)



Following elections in April and May 2025 Trefeglwys Community Council (the Council) now has its full complement of ten councillors, six representing Trefeglwys, two Llawryglyn and two Staylitttle. Their contact details are available on the council website. All councillors are unpaid and currently waive their right to annual allowances. The Council owns no property and employs only the Community Council Clerk.

A new Clerk was appointed in April 2025 and we are grateful for her service to the council over the subsequent six months. Following her resignation in December, Jennifer Turner was appointed as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026. She is the Clerk to 5 other Community Councils in mid Wales and the Council is looking forward to benefitting from her considerable experience in this role.

The hiatus in the Council's ability to access banking facilities due to the resignation of a number of councillors in 2024-25 took several months to resolve. During this time Councillors Beryl Crone and Councillor Derrick Pugh loaned the Council over five thousand pounds from their personal finances so that vital bills could be paid. Now, thanks to the tenacity of Councillor Crone, the Council has a very efficient banking system in place with four councillors able to authorise payments. The Council is now represented on a number of committees:

Councillor Derrick Pugh represents the Council on the Executive Committee of One Voice Wales and is an elected member of the Policy Committee of this organisation which supports Community and Town Councils in Wales;

Councillor Stuart Manson represents the Council on the Llawryglyn Village Community Association Committee;

Councillor David Ashton represents the Council on the Staylitttle Community Hall Committee;

Councillor Ed Pugh represents the Council on the Trefeglwys Memorial Hall Committee;

Councillor Joanna Manson represents the Council on the Governing Body of Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon and was elected as Vice Chair of the Governing Body in March 2026.

Councillor Derrick Pugh is also the press officer for the Council and is registered with the National Police Chiefs' Council as a bona fide newsgatherer.

## **The Council Website**

Early in the year Councillors Sammy Lloyd and Joanna Manson were trained to maintain the website, thus saving the Council money and enabling the Council to provide up to date and timely information for the community in a way that complies with recent accessibility legislation. Details of your Community Council Councillors are available on the website, together with Council minutes and a wealth of local information including several informative and historical films relevant to the area produced by Councillor Derrick Pugh. The Council welcomes comments and suggestions from the community about the website which not only aims to keep residents informed but enables communication through the “contact us” page.

## **The Precept**

Community Councils raise money by a precept (a mandatory demand) on Powys County Council. The precept is billed by Powys County Council to residents with their Council Tax and the County Council then makes payments to Community Councils in 3 equal instalments in April, August and December.

In December, the Council carried out a budgeting process to identify the total amount of money needed to be raised to cover forecasted expenditure becoming the precept. It became clear that increasing costs to cover insurance, the Clerk’s salary and the additional cost of the recent Community Council elections meant that the precept would have to increase to £9,000.

## **Wind farm Grants**

The Council administers a small charitable fund fed by the Carno wind farm company. This fund can only be used to benefit members of the community. A new addition to the main menu of the Council’s website, “beneficiaries”, enables members of the community and local organisations to access an application form for grant funding. You can also find out in the case studies how this funding benefits our community through a wide range of projects.

- A bid for funding by the Llawryglyn Village Community Association for a new marquee was granted by the Council in time for their annual summer party in 2025.
- The Trefeglwys Memorial Hall and the Staylittle Village Hall have benefitted from increased grant funding in 2026 to cover ever increasing costs of insurance, maintenance and heating fuel. Llawryglyn Village Community Association also received funding towards the hire costs of their meeting venue.
- Llawryglyn Village Community Association has recently benefitted from a grant to cover the cost of an information board to mark the site of the Llawryglyn smithy, a nationally important vernacular building which was carefully relocated to St. Fagan’s National Museum of History in 1972 and contributes to the rich heritage and culture of Wales.
- The Council has always supported the Trefeglwys Eisteddford through Wind farm Grant funding and was pleased to be able to increase the level of funding to cover rising costs.

- Trefeglwys Memorial Hall volunteers received a grant towards the replanting and landscaping of the gardens around the Hall and school car park.
- An exciting new initiative whereby students from Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon plan and design community projects and pitch their ideas to the Council is underway. This will enable the students to develop a range of skills through delivering benefits to their community. The outcomes will be reported in next year's Annual Report and on the Council website.

### **Local services, facilities and concerns**

A significant amount of Council business concerns the state of the roads, street lighting and planning applications with the Clerk liaising with relevant Powys County Council departments to relay the concerns and opinions of the community and the Council. As a result of a number of organisations working together the long term aim for the provision of local bus services was finally realised in 2025. The service is well used by the community and the Council recently responded to a request for more visible information for residents and visitors about the bus service. Community concerns about wind farm pylons and a new proposed wind farm in Staylitle are also a focus of the Council. The maintenance of the three defibrillators, dog fouling and footpaths are regularly reviewed.

Councillor Derrick Pugh responded to a request from Llanidloes Town Council for media support to highlight their concerns about the proposed merger of Sylfaen, a Powys County Council run adult day centre, with Maes Y Wennol to create a new, unified "Llanidloes Day Opportunities" service. Councillor Pugh filmed a well attended public meeting. Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council, expressed his appreciation of the careful work done in filming the meeting and emphasised the importance of managing public meetings sensitively.

It is vital that Councillors keep abreast of legislation and policy changes with respect to Community Councils and the responsibilities of Community Councillors and the Clerk. At a cost to the Council, Councillors and the Clerk have access to a wealth of excellent on-line training programmes provided by One Voice Wales. The Council Training Plan is available on the Council website.

Trefeglwys Community Council meets at the Trefeglwys Memorial Hall on the fourth Tuesday of each Month at 7pm. All members of the community are very welcome to attend, or with five working days notice remote aural access can be arranged. Agendas & Minutes are posted on the website and on community noticeboards.

We are your local representatives, and you should feel free to contact us about any local concerns you have. Contact details are on the website for Clerk and Councillors.

Would you like to be a Community Councillor when a vacancy or election arises?

For more information on the role of Community Councillors or becoming a Councillor visit <https://www.onevoicewales.wales/about/what-is-a-community-or-town-council/> or contact us.