

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT KNUCKLAS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Cllrs. W. O'Leary (Acting Chair), E. Harris, Ms. A. Hoyle, Ms. A. Jones, K. Jones, M. Morgan, P. Swancott, C.Thomas and A. Tippett (elected as Chair at this meeting).

Apologies: County Councillor Brunt

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price (Clerk) members of the public.

Declarations of Interest. Members were requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order) (Wales) Order 2008.

Personal None

Personal and Prejudicial None

Before the meeting began Cllr. O'Leary apologised for omitting to allow the usual ten minutes for the public to address the Council at the October Meeting.

The meeting commenced with ten minutes for the public to address Members with any concerns. Mr. J. Bowen had a number of matters of concern including the change of action regarding Mr. Duthie's query (Min 4811), the inclusion of an item on the November Agenda under confidential business and the fact that copies of reports to be discussed had not been received with his Agenda. Although it was usual to delay replying to public questions until the next meeting the Clerk agreed to reply immediately to clear up these issues.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Thomas had on reflection changed his mind about agreeing to draft the letter to Mr. Duthie. The matter was not discussed and the Minute merely recorded a statement made by the Councillor. The clerk in addition confirmed her decision as proper officer of the Council to discuss Agenda item 14 in the November Agenda as confidential business together with the compilation of the draft letter concerned. This decision had not been taken lightly, and was based on the behaviour and general demeanour of the public at the previous three meetings. It was the clerk's conclusion that it would be impossible for the Council to debate the issue, without interruption, with the public present. She added that the item would be considered in public session at the next meeting where final approval would be granted. The Clerk reminded members of the public that they must not interrupt or otherwise disrupt Council meetings, and that the Council had the right to exclude those who failed to do this.

With regard to the supply of reports she stated that these were not normally included unless specifically requested, primarily for reasons of cost. She added that more copies of the Agenda/Minutes were sent to non Members of the Council than to actual Members. That said she confirmed that it would obviously be much more cost effective to send items via email. Members were concerned to learn of the amount of documentation sent out each month and following a suggestion by Cllr. Harris all agreed that they were happy to receive the summons to Meetings and Minutes by email. It was also agreed that the Clerk include a note in the next month's despatch asking if anyone currently receiving paper copies would agree to in future receiving documents via email. The Clerk agreed that in future she would forward copies of reports to Mr. Bowen via email as he was already receiving other Council documents in this way.

MIN 4812 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Two candidates were proposed and seconded.
Cllr. Tippett proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Thomas

Cllr. Jones proposed by Cllr. Ms. Hoyle and seconded by Cllr. Tippett

A vote was conducted by show of hands and Cllr. Tippett was formally elected as Chairman. It was not necessary to elect a Vice Chair as Cllr. O'Leary had not vacated that position by becoming Chairman.

Cllr. Tippett then assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

MIN 4813 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 14th October were approved without change and duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 4814 MATTERS ARISING

1) **Street Lighting** – The Clerk informed Members that Cty. Cllr. Brunt had been in discussion with Powys County Council and that amendments should be made shortly. It was confirmed that an inspection had been made of the lights in Knucklas as discussed at the last meeting.

2) **Notice Board for Beguildy** – The Clerk had asked Cty. Cllr. Brunt about this and he was looking into the availability of funding.

MIN 4815 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cty. Cllr. Brunt was unable to attend but had sent a written report. Details had already been discussed under matters arising.

MIN 4816 FINANCE

1) Payments -

The following payments were agreed

T.A. Price (Clerks Salary)	£236.27
HM Inspector of Taxes	£59.07
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	£481.75
Royal British Legion	£16.50

2) Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment -

The Clerk explained how she had drawn up the regulations and in particular the limits for individual sections. Members agreed to approve the regulations without amendment.

The Clerk confirmed that the risk assessment was required and a copy could be requested by the External Auditors. Cllr. Tippett then read out the Risk Assessment section by section and a number of minor amendments were made. The Clerk agreed to amend these details and bring the Assessment back to the December meeting for formal approval.

3) External Audit 2007/08 -

The Auditors report was read to the meeting. It was noted that it concerned the Heyope Recreation Ground and that no matters were raised regarding the Council's accounts. The details are therefore included under the Recreation Ground Section of the Minutes.

Members formally approved the Annual Return.

4) Election Account – Members were pleased to hear that Powys County Council had agreed to delay payment of this account until the 2009/10 financial year.

5) Internet Banking – The Clerk explained that she was suggesting the Council registered for internet banking to allow for closer monitoring of the bank accounts and to ease transfers between accounts. The facility to make payments from the accounts would not be included. Members were happy to approve this and the necessary form was duly signed by the four signatories.

6) Transfer of Money Between Accounts – The transfer of £400 from the Money Manager account to the Treasurer account was formally approved and the form drawn up by the Clerk was signed to allow this to take place.

MIN 4817 PLANNING

1) Planning Applications –

P2008 1547 Outline, erection of affordable needs dwelling, new access and installation of septic tank at **Agricultural Land opposite The Cote, Lloyney**. No objections were raised.

P2008 1548 Full, erection of ground floor extension at **34 Glyndwr, Knucklas**. No objections were raised.

2) Community Benefits from Wind Turbine Developments – Members heard that a formal request for comments had now been received from Powys County Council. Cllr. Thomas read extracts from the document. Cllr. Tippett commented that given the large sums of money potentially involved he felt Community Councils would need specialist help to manage any funding received. Cllr. O’Leary pointed out that the amounts mentioned were not enough, given that in Scotland the sums received were much more than this. In addition Members wanted to know how a ‘community’ would be defined when benefits were apportioned. Members were pleased to learn that safeguards were in place to protect such benefits if the company concerned were to go bust.

3) Information Items – These items were duly noted.

MIN 4818 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1) Tidy Towns Initiative – Cllr. O’Leary informed Members that he had made contact with the officer involved but had not yet received any details. He had raised the possibility of litter bins in Knucklas and also the litter problem in Beguildy.

2) Removal of Payphones – The Clerk outlined the costs of the adopting or sponsoring a kiosk. Cllr. Harris confirmed that the payphone at Beguildy was not working, the actual phone had been removed. The Clerk agreed to report this to British Telecom.

3) Speeding through Lloyney and Beguildy Villages – The Clerk confirmed that the police were looking into this and had requested information about the most recent traffic survey in Beguildy.

MIN 4819 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1) Dyfed Powys Police Authority – Members agreed that the Clerk should submit the following priorities – access to police and anti social behaviour. Members mentioned the fact that Knighton Police Station was not manned regularly and so members of the public found it difficult to contact the police face to face. This was added as an additional point.

2) Powys Regeneration Partnership Launch Event Details – Cllr. O’Leary took this invitation.

3) Standards Community Sub-Committee – Result of election – Noted.

- 4) **Radnorshire Liaison Meeting September 2008** – Cllr. Jones made a full and interesting report on the recent liaison committee meeting and the main issues raised which included street lighting, planning changes, the new development plan for Powys and election processes.
- 5) **Powys County Council Response to Planning Modernisation Consultation** – Noted.
- 6) **Review of Community Council Election Results by Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales** – Noted.
- 7) **One Voice Wales Conference Report** – This was deferred until the December meeting.
- 8) **Articles for Parish Magazine** – It was considered important that reports on Council meetings were included in 'The Beacon'. The Clerk stated that whilst she was happy to do this she would not be willing to do so until each month's Minutes were formally approved. It was suggested that to avoid this delay the Chairman would submit a short article which he would draw up in consultation with the Clerk. At this point it was stressed that if Members wished to put in their own articles it was of course their right to do so but that they must make it clear they were doing so from a personal point of view and not on behalf of Beguildy Community Council.
- 9) **Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales** – Workshops Dec. 2008 – No one was able to attend these workshops.
- 10) **Letter from Mr. J. Bowen re boundary hedge/fence Knucklas** – Some heated debate ensued on this item. Cllr. Ms. Hoyle felt very strongly that an article should be placed in the parish magazine apologising for the comments made previously relating to the removal of the hedge and fence. Cllr. Thomas produced the plan referred to in the original magazine article and allowed Members to inspect it briefly before retaining it. Cllr. Tippett stated that he felt it best that he gave the situation his full consideration and looked at all the documentation. He would then report his conclusions to the December meeting. This was agreed by everyone except for Cllr. Thomas.

MIN 4820 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND

External Auditors Report – Two of the issues raised had already been resolved, decisions relating to the Trust were now dealt with under a clearly separate Agenda item and the annual return had been made to the Charity Commission. Members discussed the best way to comply with the Auditors other recommendations. It was suggested that Recreation Ground business be dealt with as presently, under a clear and separate Agenda Item but that the Minutes from each month be entered not only in the Community Council Minutes but also transferred into a separate Minute Book which the Clerk would create for Recreation Ground matters only. The Clerk agreed to write to the Auditors outlining this proposed course of action and asking for their further comments.

MIN 4821 INFORMATION ITEMS

The items listed for information were noted.

MIN 4822 URGENT BUSINESS

There was just one item of urgent business. Forums were to be held by the police authority, the most local being in Llandrindod Wells and Newtown. In response to a question by Cllr. Thomas the Clerk confirmed that as three clear days notice of Agenda Items needed to be given to Members it was not lawful for the Council to make decisions under Urgent Business. It would however be ridiculous not to allow notification of events, reporting of problems etc. to be submitted and noted. It was for this purpose that the heading was included on the Agenda.

At this point the public and press were excluded.

MIN 4823 DRAFT RESPONSE TO QUERIES RAISED BY LOCAL ELECTOR

Members briefly discussed the draft document circulated by the Clerk. The letter was agreed with the addition of one sentence and the Clerk agreed to place the final document on the Agenda in December for final approval.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.