

2) Risk Assessment -

The amended risk assessment was approved and signed by the Chairman.

3) Grants to Village Halls 2009/10 – Some general discussion ensued on the Powys County Council system for the awarding of grants to Village Halls and the possibility of this scheme being reviewed in the future. It was felt that the setting of the grant should be discussed in conjunction with the draft precept which was the next item on the Agenda. It was noted that the amount given by the Community Council directly affected the grant paid to the Halls by Powys County Council.

4) Draft Precept – Members examined each item in turn and made adjustments as follows – the budget for the hire of rooms for meetings was increased to £120, a donation for LLINK of £50 was added and the sum of £250 was set aside to meet future election costs. The Clerk informed Members that to cover the expenses as detailed the precept would need to rise to at least £21 per household. Cllr. Swancott commended the previous Council for maintaining such a low precept for so many years and was concerned that such a large increase was projected. The possibility of increasing the grant to the Village Halls to £500 each was given consideration although some Members felt that given the probable rise in precept there should be no increase in the grants at present. It was agreed that Members should make their final decisions at the January meeting.

5) VAT Refund – The receipt of a VAT refund of £95.19 was noted.

MIN 4828 PLANNING

1) Planning Applications – No applications or decisions had been received this month.

2) Community Benefits from Wind Turbine Developments – Cllr. Ms. Hoyle gave a detailed report on the recent meeting organised by One Voice Wales at Llandewi Parish Hall. Both Cllr. Ms Hoyle and Cllr. O'Leary had attended. Cllr. Ms Hoyle stressed that any developers were not bound by law to make community benefit payments and that the opinion had been strongly voiced that the amounts offered in the Powys area were too little compared with similar developments in other parts of the country. A website containing information was due to be developed and another meeting would be held in a few months time. Cllr. Brunt was invited to comment and stressed that planning gain and community benefits separate. He added that the Westminster government currently recommended two to five thousand pounds per installed megawatt as a community benefit payment. He added that Powys County Council would possess more negotiating power than individual small councils trying to act alone. In response to concerns he confirmed that Powys County Council would not be able to use any part of the Powys wide fund to pay for services it was already obliged to provide. Cllr. Tippett stated that he felt separate trusts would need to set up to administer any such benefits to the local community and Cllr. Brunt agreed that this would be strongly recommended. Following a vote it was unanimously agreed that Powys County Council should continue to negotiate on behalf of Town and Community Councils.

3) Planning Liaison Meetings – No one had been able to attend the Builth meeting and no one was available to attend the Welshpool meeting the next evening.

MIN 4829 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1) Tidy Towns Initiative – Cllr. O'Leary informed Members that he was hoping to meet with the Teme Valley Environmental Group some time in January.

2) Removal of Payphones – The Clerk confirmed that the kiosk in Beguildy had been the subject to a burglary and that replacement parts were awaited. It was confirmed that the kiosk in Lloyney was now working and the one at Knucklas Station was working for emergency calls only.

3) Speeding through Lloyney and Beguildy Villages – The Clerk confirmed that the police were still looking into this and were hoping to have traffic monitoring strips placed in Lloyney. In addition it was hoped that the traffic car would visit the area in the near future.

4) Street Lighting – Members discussed the present situation and confirmed their earlier comments on Felindre, Beguildy and Lloyney. A list had been drawn up by the Knucklas Members relating to the village and the Clerk agreed to pass this information on to Cty. Cllr. Brunt in time for his meeting on the 12th December. Members confirmed they were happy for the light outside the school in Beguildy to be turned off and noted the Cty. Cllr. Brunt was intending to request the light near to the Castle Inn be turned on. They supported Cty. Cllr. Brunt's suggestion that part night lighting would be a good solution for the future. A request had been received from a resident in Knucklas for the light outside his property to be turned off and this request was incorporated into the review of the lights in that area.

5) General Highway Matters – A number of general highway matters were submitted including bad surface water and ice due to blocked drains, potholes between Lower House and the railway bridge in Knucklas and the work at Hendy Bridge. Cllr. O'Leary pointed out that the gritter did not always pass through Knucklas village and that this was necessary because of the school buses. Cllr. Swancott was also concerned that at the junctions of minor roads no gritting was carried out, making it difficult for vehicles to give way onto main roads. Cty. Cllr. Brunt confirmed that salt piles could be placed for use but that County Council gritting policy did not include minor roads.

MIN 4830 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1) Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme – Copies of the model scheme and the draft 'Guide to Information' document had been circulated. Members agreed to adopt the Model Scheme with effect from 1st January 2009. The Clerk advised Members that they were allowed to make a reasonable charge to cover the costs of supplying information under the Act and after some discussion it was agreed to charge £5 as a minimum charge to cover the Clerk's time, paper, ink etc for half an hour.

2) National Assembly for Wales, Independent Panel on Members Pay and Allowances – Comments were requested by the panel. Cllr. O'Leary agreed to look on the Assembly website for details and if necessary make appropriate comments.

3) Notification of PACT Meeting Dyfed Powys Police – It was confirmed that this meeting would take place on 20th January at Knucklas and District Community Centre.

4) Powys County Council Community Welcome Scheme – This item was noted.

5) Article for Parish Magazine – The draft article for inclusion in the December Magazine had been circulated to Members. This article concerned the removal of a fence and hedge in Knucklas. Cllr. Tippett had read the documentation on the subject, including the original article included in the parish magazine in March 2007. He stated that the letter from Powys County Council Legal Department was quite clear in accepting the blame for the hedge being planted on the wrong side of the fence and that it accepted that it needed to correct this. Cllr. Tippett read this letter to the meeting. During the reading of the letter Cllr. Thomas repeatedly interrupted and objected strongly to the draft article. Cllr. Jones suggested that the last sentence be removed and the inclusion of the article as amended was then subject to a vote for approval. Four Members voted for the article to be included in the December issue of the Parish Magazine, three abstained and one, Cllr. Thomas, voted against. It was therefore agreed that the article should be submitted with the one amendment.

6) Reply to Elector's Query raised 29th September – Members had received a copy of this letter which responded to queries raised in the public session of the 29th September and it was agreed by all except Cllr. Thomas that the letter should be sent with no alterations.

7) Freedom of Information Requests – The Clerk had responded to these two requests with as much information as was available.

8) One Voice Wales Meeting – No one had been able to attend.

Cllrs. Harris and Thomas left the room at this point, having declared an interest in the next item.

9) Atmos Consulting -

The Clerk informed Members that an exhibition was to be held on the proposed wind energy development. Members would be invited to attend.

Cllrs. Harris and Thomas rejoined the meeting.

MIN 4831 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND

1) Minutes – The Clerk confirmed that she had extracted the sections of the Community Council Minutes which related to the Recreation Ground and that these would be numbered and kept in a separate Minute Book. The Chairman duly signed the entries for September, October and November.

2) Annual Rent – It was agreed that there would be no increase in rent for 2009/10.

MIN 4832 INFORMATION ITEMS

The items listed for information were noted.

MIN 4833 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.