

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2009 AT BEGUILDY SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. A. Tippet (Chair), W. O'Leary (Vice Chair), E. Harris, Ms. A. Hoyle, Ms. A. Jones, K. Jones, M. Morgan, P. Swancott, and C. Thomas.

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price (Clerk) County Councillor J. Brunt, 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

Cllr. Thomas Agenda Item 7a, P/2008/0785 Garreg Llwyd Hill Wind Farm, Indicative Grid Route Connection Route Assessment

Cllr. Tippet Agenda Item 8e Lloyney Filling Station.

Personal and Prejudicial

Cllr. Harris Agenda Item 7b, Atmos Consulting, wind energy scheme, Bryngydfa.
Agenda Item 7a, P/2008/0785 Garreg Llwyd Hill Wind Farm, Indicative Grid Route Connection Route Assessment

Cllr. Morgan Agenda Item 7a, P/2008/0785 Garreg Llwyd Hill Wind Farm, Indicative Grid Route Connection Route Assessment

Cllr. Swancott Agenda Item 7b, Atmos Consulting, wind energy scheme, Bryngydfa.

Cllr. Thomas Agenda Item 7b, Atmos Consulting, wind energy scheme, Bryngydfa.

Cllr. Swancott had confirmed that following the public exhibition he was now aware of an interest due to a 'close personal association' with one of the land owners.

The public were then invited to submit any concerns.

Mr. Duthie asked that the Community Council obtain a copy of a document entitled – Powys Wind Farms Access Routes Study, dated September 2008. He asked that all Members read this document and discuss it at a future Community Council meeting. He expressed concern that Powys County Council had not circulated this document to all Community and Town Councils.

No other matters were submitted.

MIN 4844 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 13th January, 2009 were approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 4845 MATTERS ARISING

- 1) Beacon Parish Magazine – Cllr. Jones confirmed that a note was now included in the Parish Magazine referring anyone interested in the Council's Minutes to the LLINK website.
- 2) Plaque, Knucklas Viaduct – Cllr Jones informed Members that this was being incorporated into a larger scheme and was progressing.

MIN 4846 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cty. Cllr. John Brunt updated Members on matters raised the previous month and on other general issues. He stated that planning applications on Wind Energy Developments were currently being held in abeyance while Powys County Council consults with the Welsh Assembly Government about the necessary infrastructure. He added that the issue of who would pay for the changes needed was also an issue.

Cllr. Tippett declared an interest in the next matter as he lived near to the site. He declined to vote for the same reason.

As requested he reported on the present situation at the Beacon Garage, Lloyney, confirming that a meeting was soon to take place to discuss the options available. He asked the Community Council to consider the action they would like Powys County Council to take and if they would be in favour of Powys County Council taking direct action to clear the site. He reminded them that the cost would then be recharged to Mr. Moss. Members considered the implications of this but on balance felt that direct action should be taken as the matter had been continuing for some considerable time. A vote was taken to confirm this and support for County Council direct action was agreed with six votes for, none against and two abstentions.

Cllr. Brunt then detailed the various road works that had been carried out and also listed those for which he was still pressing for action. He added that full details were with the Clerk if any Member wished to have them.

Finally he was pleased to be able to hand over a cheque for £225 towards the purchase and installation of a Notice Board. This money had kindly been donated by Knighton and District Local Community Forum. Members thanked Cllr. Brunt for his efforts in obtaining this grant.

Cllr. O'Leary asked Cllr. Brunt for more detail on the issue of gritting through Knucklas and Cllr. Brunt confirmed that there was no legal requirement to grit school routes. He confirmed that to get the route gritted would require a change to the Winter Maintenance programme and that at the very least the support of the bus operator would be needed to achieve this.

MIN 4847 FINANCE

1) Payments: The following payments were agreed -

T.A. Price	(Clerks Salary)	£227.23
HM Inspector of Taxes		£56.81
I. Lloyd		£117.16
	(Payment of Hon. Clerk's Expenses)	

Members discussed the request by the former Honorary Clerk for payment for storage at £10 per year for the 42 years he had been Clerk. A number of suggestions were put forward but agreement could not be reached and the Clerk was asked to record that no payment could be made as Council could not reach a decision.

2) **Receipts:** Receipt of the final precept instalment of £828.45 was noted.

3) **Donations:** The Clerk reported that four requests had been received from Wales Air Ambulance, Kidney Foundation Wales, Victim Support and Powys CAB. It was agreed that no donations could be made either during this or the following financial year and the Clerk be authorised to reply to organisations to this effect. Consideration would be given to the introduction of an amount for donations in 2010/11 when the precept for that year was set in January 2010.

MIN 4848 PLANNING

At this point Cllrs. Harris and Morgan left the room having declared an interest in this item. Cllr. Swancott also left as he had declared an interest in item 7B.

Cllr. Thomas declared a personal interest only. He disputed the advice given that if he was declaring a personal interest only he could remain at the table, speak and vote and disagreed with the Clerk's advice that in her opinion his interest was prejudicial. He took no part in the discussion but did not leave the room and sat with the public.

1) P/2008/0785 Garreg Llwyd Hill Wind Farm, Indicative Grid Route Connection Route Assessment –

Cllr. Tippett explained that this item was again on the Agenda as he was now aware of further information relating to the upgrading of the Newtown substation to take more power and felt that the Community Council should be informed of this and have the opportunity to comment further. Members noted this information and as a result agreed that the Clerk should submit further comments to Powys County Council. These were 'that the Beguildy Community Council is against the route down the valley and wished to recommend that any connection be made to the Newtown sub station as this would be much closer. In the event of the route being approved then the Council wishes its original comments regarding underground routing, types of poles, liaison with other routes etc to be taken into account.'

The Clerk was also asked to enquire if Powys County Council were aware of any reason for the route along the Teme Valley to have been chosen.

At this point Cllr. Thomas left the room.

2) Atmos Consulting Wind Energy Scheme, Bryngydfa -

Cllr. Tippett informed Members that one letter of objection had been received and reminded them that they were invited to a presentation hosted by the developers the next evening at Knucklas and District Community Centre.

Cllrs. Harris, Swancott, Morgan and Thomas returned to the room.

MIN 4849 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1) Tidy Towns Initiative – Cllr. O'Leary reported on the current situation and asked if Members had any issues they wished him to raise at the next meeting. Cllr. Harris reminded Cllr. Leary about the litter problem previously raised. No other concerns were put forward.

2) Other Highway Concerns – A number of general concerns were raised. Cllr. Ms. Jones reported that the two Knucklas Estates had no name plates and that this was a concern when ambulances needed to find properties. Cllr. Morgan reported potholes and particular problems with a drain near The Farm. Other Members reported similar matters and Cllr. Brunt noted these for action.

MIN 4850 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1) Powys County Council – A letter had been received re. the telephone kiosk in Beguildy confirming that it had now been converted to a cashless service.

2) PACT Meeting, Knucklas – Cllr. O'Leary reported on this meeting. He informed members that the next one would be held on 5th May at 7pm, Knucklas Community Centre. Cllr. Ms. Jones reminded Members that it was important for crimes to be reported otherwise a false impression of crime numbers would be given.

3) Telegraph Poles/Wires – It was noted that these matters had been formally reported. Cllr. O'Leary added a request for the wires opposite Upper House to be looked at as trees were growing around them and this meant that high vehicles passing caused the trees to hit the wires. The Clerk agreed to report this additional matter.

4) Register of Electors – The Clerk outlined the present system and time scales for production of the Register. She added the Powys County Council were willing to investigate any inaccuracies in the Register submitted by the Community Council.

5) Lloyney Filling Station – Please see County Councillor's Report.

6) Letter of thanks from Knucklas and District Community Centre – This letter was noted.

7) Code of Conduct Issue – Cllr. Tippett read the statement prepared by the Clerk in response to the query raised at the January Meeting. The Clerk agreed to forward a copy of the statement to the elector concerned.

8) Precept Query - Cllr. Tippett read the statement prepared by the Clerk in response to the query raised at the January Meeting. The Clerk stated she would email the response to the elector concerned.

9) Old Word Processor – The Clerk confirmed that this had no real value and that it was unlikely that any future Clerk would find it of use. Members agreed that Mr. Lloyd could retain this item.

MIN 4851 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND

No business this month.

MIN 4852 INFORMATION ITEMS

These items were noted.

MIN 4853 URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Thomas returned to the Code of Conduct and its interpretation. Cllr. Tippett responded by explaining the rules regarding prejudicial interests in more detail. He confirmed the need for the Code to be adhered to and added that the Community Council must endeavour be transparent and open about its business. This would, he felt, avoid Councillors being reported by the public to the Ombudsman unnecessarily.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.