

# BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2009 AT KNUCKLAS AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present:** Cllrs. A. Tippet (Chair), E. Harris, Ms. A. Hoyle, Ms. A. Jones, K. Jones, M. Morgan, P. Swancott, and C. Thomas.

**Apologies:** W. O'Leary (Vice Chair).

**In Attendance:** Mrs T. Price (Clerk) County Councillor J. Brunt (who left early due to other commitments), 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. Swancott                      Agenda Item 9a Parish Magazine

### *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. Thomas                      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

In addition Cllr. Swancott pointed out that as he was not yet aware of the identities of the persons responsible for or indeed the exact location of, the site for the Bryngydfa application he could not be certain whether he had an interest in the matter. The Clerk advised him that he could only make his decision based on the facts of which he was currently aware but that if as more information became available he became aware of an interest he should then declare it.

The public were then invited to submit any concerns. Two concerns were submitted. The first involved a code of conduct query, in particular the presence of two Members known to have interests in a Wind Energy Development who nonetheless participated in an earlier Council discussion on wind farm benefits in general. The second was a concern about the proposed increase in precept, together with a suggestion for the use of the Felindre Village Hall as an alternative to the Beguildy School. In detail this question asked for more detail on the Council's expenditure over the current year and why funds were not available to pay the election account from Powys County Council when the precept had supposedly been raised for that purpose. These issues would receive a full response at the next meeting.

### **MIN 4834            APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December were approved subject to the comments of Cllr. Thomas on Minute 4830 being included in the Minutes of the present meeting. These are included below. The Minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

Cllr. Thomas objected to the inclusion of the sentence referring to his interruptions at the December meeting. He also felt that no mention had been made of the public interruptions or to his statement that the Ombudsman's decision was not to investigate the complaints made against both himself and the former Clerk. He did however agree that following the inclusion of these comments in the January Minutes he felt this should be an end to the matter.

### **MIN 4835            MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising.**

## MIN 4836 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cty. Cllr. John Brunt updated Members matters which had progressed over the last month. In particular he mentioned the meeting to review street lighting which had been satisfactorily completed and was due to happen on the ground shortly, the drains on the B4355 which had now been cleared, the fact some of the potholes identified in December had now been filled and the reply from Powys County Council on the gritting system. Members heard that the present gritting schedule did not include the route through Knucklas and Cllr. Brunt referred them to the Council's Winter Maintenance Programme if they wanted more details. On request by the Chairman a member of the public who worked in the sector was able to clarify some matters about this programme. Cllr. Brunt said that if the length of road was to be included then the Community Council would need a good case for this and also the support of the school bus company involved.

Members reminded Cllr. Brunt that the rubbish on the common that had been reported some twelve months ago had still not been cleared and more had now been dumped.

## MIN 4837 FINANCE

### 1) Payments -

The following payments were agreed

<b>T.A. Price (Clerks Salary)</b>	<b>£227.23</b>
<b>HM Inspector of Taxes</b>	<b>£56.81</b>
<b>Supplies Team</b>	<b>£44.73 (inc VAT)</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>£25.00</b>

It was agreed not to subscribe to Play Wales for the forthcoming year.

**2) Grants to Village Halls 2009/10** – Members discussed this in some detail. It was felt by some Members that as the precept would need to rise considerably for 2009/10 it was not appropriate to increase the grants to the two Halls at the moment. Others however, stated that the Halls were facing increased costs themselves and that as the grant from Powys County Council was linked to the Community Council grant then it was vital to increase the amount to £500. The Clerk was able to confirm that due to earlier changes in the Powys County Council system the Halls were now receiving much less in grant income than several years ago. Cllr. Harris stated that whilst he agreed with supporting the Halls an increase to £500 was too high. It was finally agreed that the grants to the Halls for 2009/10 should be £400 each.

**3) Setting of Precept** – Members examined each item in turn and made adjustments as follows – the training/conference budget of £150 was removed, the Village Hall grants were set at £400 not £500 as listed and the contingency allowance was cut from £500 to £250. Members were very concerned at having to increase the precept by this amount in just one year. It was accepted that some increase was inevitable as there would have been a need to employ a Clerk by 2009/10 even if the former Clerk had remained in post. Nonetheless they made every effort to keep the increase as low as possible.

These adjustments resulted in a final budget for 2009/10 of £6875 and thus the precept was set at £19.50 for 2009/10. This decision was carried on a vote with one abstention. The Chairman did not cast his vote as it was not necessary.

## MIN 4838 PLANNING

### 1) Planning Applications –

At this point Cllrs. Harris and Morgan left the room having declared an interest in this item. Cllr. Thomas, although having declared an interest and stating that he had been approached about poles crossing his land, refused to leave the room but left the table and sat with members of the public. He took no part in the discussion.

**RE. P/2008/0785 Garreg Llwyd Hill Wind Farm, Indicative Grid Route Connection Route Assessment** – Comments on this application had been requested by Powys County Council and Members had received copies of the accompanying document together with one of the maps (black and white) prior to the meeting.

On invitation from the Chairman, Cllr. Brunt gave Members details of the recent meeting held in Kerry to discuss this type of issue. After listening to these comments and after some discussion generally the Clerk was asked to make the following observations to Powys County Council –

The Community Council asks that any cabling be routed underground to avoid spoiling the landscape.

If this is not possible then all poles should be wooden not metal.

Any connection route should be the route for all potential wind energy developments in the area so that only one line is necessary.

Cllrs. Harris and Morgan returned to the room and Cllr. Thomas returned to the table.

## 2) **Information Items -**

The Clerk confirmed that the planning application regarding the Brookhouse Bridge development had been withdrawn.

Members were informed that the public exhibition on the proposed Bryngydfa Wind Energy development was to be held that Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> January) at Felindre Village Hall.

## **MIN 4839 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

1) **Tidy Towns Initiative** – Cllr. Tippett informed the meeting that Cllr. O’Leary would be attending a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in Knighton. A newsletter was also available by email if Members wished.

2) **Street Lighting** – See County Councillor’s Report. Members also noted that if there were still problems after the completion of the changes then Cllr. Brunt would take up their concerns with Powys County Council.

3) **General Highway Matters from December 2008** – See County Councillors Report.

4) **Other Highway Concerns** – The Clerk was asked to report two problems to BT, the leaning telegraph pole near to the Whitterleys drive and the untidy wires at Lower House.

Members also asked that the Clerk contact Cllr. Brunt to see what the current situation was at Lloyney Filling Station.

## **MIN 4840 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

1) **Article for Parish Magazine** – Cllr. Tippett confirmed that the Parish Magazine had not included the article from the Community Council that had been approved at the December Meeting. He added that he felt that under the circumstances the Magazine was not an appropriate place for the Community Council to make comments and that in future the public should be directed to the website or local Notice Boards for the full Minutes. He agreed to place a copy of each month’s Minutes and Agenda on the Lloyney Notice Board and the Clerk confirmed that copies were sent for display in Knucklas, Beguildy and Felindre.

2) **Code of Conduct Training** – The Clerk informed Members of the forthcoming dates for free training on the Code of Conduct. Cllr. Ms. Hoyle agreed to attend and Cllr. Tippett stated he would attend if possible.

## **MIN 4841 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND**

1) **Minutes** – The Chairman duly signed the entry for December.

## **MIN 4842 INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items listed for information were noted. With regard to the Register of Electors Members noted that at one time draft Registers had been sent out for the Council to check but that this no longer happened. The Clerk confirmed that the system had been changed although she did not have the full details.

## **MIN 4843 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was one additional item – Cllr. Thomas reminded Members that the possibility of a plaque for the viaduct at Knucklas had been mentioned some time ago but that nothing further had happened. Cllrs. Thomas and Jones agreed to look into this further.

The Clerk agreed to contact Felindre Village Hall to ask about the possibility of holding Council meetings there in future.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.