

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2009 AT KNUCKLAS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Cllrs. A. Tippet (Chair), M. Morgan (Vice Chair), E. Harris, Ms. A. Hoyle, Ms. A. Jones, K. Jones, W. O'Leary, P. Swancott, 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. Ms Hoyle
Member of Knucklas and District Community Centre Committee (Heyope Recreation Ground Matters)

Cllr. K. Jones
Member of Knucklas and District Community Centre Committee (Heyope Recreation Ground Matters)

Personal and Prejudicial

Cllr. C. Thomas
Director of Bryngydfa Wind Farm Company (Planning Application P2009 0384)

Cllr. E. Harris
Director of Bryngydfa Wind Farm Company (Planning Application P2009 0384)

Cllr. M. Morgan
Friend of the Directors of Bryngydfa Wind Farm Company (Planning Application P2009 0384)

Dispensation

Cllr. P. Swancott
Dispensation granted re. Bryngydfa Wind Farm Company (Planning Application P2009 0384), Access Routes Study Powys Wind Farms.

Cllr. Tippet welcomed Suzy Davies, prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Brecon and Radnor to the meeting.

The public were then invited to submit any concerns. Mr. Duthie read a statement from Andrea Williams regarding the Bryngydfa planning application highlighting particular concerns. No other issues were raised. Cllr. Swancott asked that it be noted that he had received a call from a Steve Holland concerning wind farms but had referred him to the Clerk or the Chair.

MIN 4875 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Following a proposal by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Ms. Hoyle, Cllr. Tippet was re-elected as Chair for the forthcoming year.

MIN 4876 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr. O'Leary indicated he did not wish to be considered for the forthcoming year. Cllr. Harris nominated Cllr. Morgan. This was seconded by Cllr. Ms. Hoyle and Cllr. Morgan was duly elected.

MIN 4877 ELECTION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

The following Members were elected -

One Voice Wales	Proposed Cllr. Jones, Seconded Cllr. Thomas	Cllr. O'Leary
Knucklas Community Centre Management Committee	Proposed Cllr. Morgan, Seconded Cllr. Ms Hoyle	Cllr. Jones
East Radnor and the Borders Health Focus Group	Proposed Cllr. Thomas, Seconded Cllr. Jones	Cllr. Ms Jones

MIN 4878 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 14th April, 2009 were approved with no amendments and these were duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 4879 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

At this point in the meeting however it was agreed that the Planning Application for Bryngydfa Wind Farm and the discussion on the Powys Wind Farms Access Routes Study be moved to the end of the meeting. This was agreed by all.

MIN 4880 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr. Brunt updated Members on notable matters over the last month. In particular he drew Members attention to the damaged cattle grid onto the common which he had asked to be repaired. Cllr. Harris confirmed that this work was in progress. He also outlined the current situation on the station access at Knucklas and briefly indicated that he was happy to be consulted about the item on Community Wind Farm benefits at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

MIN 4881 FINANCE

1) **Payments:** The following payments were agreed -

T.A. Price	(Clerks Salary)	£236.93
HM Inspector of Taxes	(Tax due on above)	£59.23
Lyreco		£15.21
Office Supplies		

2) **Internal Audit:** The Clerk confirmed that this was in hand but had not yet been carried out.

3) **Employers End of Year Return to HMRC** – Members noted that this had been completed and that a tax free payment of £75 was now due (for filing the return online) and should be received shortly.

4) **Annual Insurance Policy:** Members had received the Clerks report detailing the action taken in obtaining quotations for the forthcoming year. It was agreed not to renew the current policy on 1st June but to set up a new policy with Zurich Tennyson. This was proposed by Cllr. Ms. Hoyle and seconded by Cllr. Harris. This quotation was £74 less than the renewal price quoted by Allianz although it included additional cover for officials indemnity and also an increased fidelity guarantee limit.

Zurich Insurance	£215.25
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5) **Precept Receipt:** **£1444.96**

This represented the first instalment of the annual precept less payment of the two election accounts from 2008/09 totalling £848.59. The small discrepancy of 30 pence had been clarified with Powys County Council and would be corrected at a future precept payment.

MIN 4882 PLANNING

1) The following **applications** were considered :-

P2009 0384 Full: Construction of a twelve turbine windfarm and associated ancillary infrastructure including new and upgraded tracks and underground electrical cables, two control buildings, two anemometer masts, two temporary construction compounds, borrow pits and upgrading existing culverts at **Bryngydfa Wind Farm** (Northern Area SO135809, Southern Area SO149787) Felindre, Knighton. – This application was deferred to the end of the Agenda.

P2009 0417 Full: Erection of a semi detached dwelling and provision of garden shed (SO 27 SE) at **8 Castle Green, Knucklas.**

P2009 0416 Full: Erection of a semi detached dwelling and provision of garden shed (SO27 SE) at **7 Castle Green, Knucklas.**

P2009 0418 Full: Erection of one terrace of 6 local needs houses and provision of 6 garden sheds at **Plots 13-18 Castle Green, Knucklas.**

Members had no objections to application numbers 417,416 and 418 but noted that the properties were already complete and the Clerk agreed to note this on her reply to the Planning Department.

2) **Community Benefits from Wind Farms** – Cllr. Tippett reminded Members that when this matter was originally discussed they had agreed it would be best to allow Powys County Council to conduct negotiations with developers. On invitation by the Chair, County Councillor Brunt gave Members further information on the current situation, including the fact that the document had now been withdrawn and would not now be submitted to the Board until 16th June. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Powys County Council expressing disappointment with the document generally, asking to see the revised document when it is available and also asking why the details of the split between the types of Fund no longer appear to be included. Members also accepted the opportunity to meet with Cllr. Wynne Jones to discuss the matter in more detail and Cllr. Brunt agreed to speak to Cllr. Wynne Jones to arrange this.

MIN 4883 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1) **Missing Name Signs, Knucklas Estates** – Members heard that these were now in place.

2) **Powys Wind Farms Access Routes Study** – This item was deferred to the end of the Agenda.

3) **Castle Green Development** – Cllr. Ms Jones reported that the developer was hoping to have funds in place to complete the development and this would be confirmed in the next few weeks.

4) **Damaged Road Surface, Castle Inn** – No action had been taken with regard to this and the Clerk agreed to follow it up with Powys County Council.

5) **Street Lighting, Knucklas** – Details regarding the lights on the roadside had been circulated to the Knucklas Members and no further comments were made. The Clerk informed the meeting that several additional concerns had been raised by Mr. Bowen and as Mr. Bowen was present at the meeting he was asked to review his comments and let the Clerk have details of any further concerns.

6) **Overgrown Trees, Knighton to Knucklas Road** – The Clerk reported that George Lloyd of Powys County Council had visited and felt there was no particular problem at present. He had agreed to look at specific trees if details were provided and Cllr. Harris agreed to speak to Mr. Lloyd about this.

7) **Traffic Speeds through Dutlas** – A reply had been received from Powys County Council on this issue, indicating that monitoring had previously taken place and that given that traffic was largely travelling within the speed limit no additional measures were considered necessary.

8) **PACT Meeting** – Cllr. Ms. Jones reported on the recent meeting.

9) **Various Highway Matters** – Cllr. Ms. Jones reported on a sunken drain on the B4355. The hill gate at Beacon Lodge was reported as needing replacement and the Clerk agreed to speak to Carlton Parry about this.

to transport, build and maintain the turbines more than removes any possible benefit. In addition it is understood that during the periods the turbines are not operating they actually draw power from the grid;

if passed, serious consideration should be given to ensuring those nearest to the site be suitably compensated;

that the County Council carefully consider the evidence (readily available) of the effects turbines have on those living nearby;

the implications for nearby residents of the noise, flicker effect and vibrations;

concern was expressed at the ability of the road system to cope, the disruption the large vehicles would cause and the effect that any alterations to the existing road system would have on the community.

Two Members were broadly in favour of the development and felt that the turbines were necessary although appreciating that they did have adverse effects, these including effects on the environment, visibility and the implications for local people.

Cllr. O'Leary read a statement to the meeting giving his opinions on wind energy developments generally and stressing his concern that such developments tended to divide communities and cause lasting physical and emotional damage to an area.

Members were pleased to learn of the briefing offered by Powys County Council's Steve Packer and agreed to accept the kind offer of a briefing prior to the application. The Clerk was asked to confirm that the Community Council would like to meet at a time to be agreed.

Given that this briefing will take place Members asked that the right be reserved for them to make further comment at a later time.

Members agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Tippett draw up the necessary letter to Powys County Council.

MIN 4888 POWYS WIND FARMS ACCESS ROUTES STUDY

Members listed their concerns on the implications of the above study –

It was felt that the whole process had not been properly thought through and that the changes that would be needed would be on a massive scale. Full consideration of this needed to be given prior to determining any planning applications for turbines.

Members wished to stress that any costs incurred for either changes to road structure or repairs caused by the vehicles used should be met in full by the developers and that if a direct relationship to specific developments is not apparent then the cost should be shared proportionately between all.

Whilst appreciating that in some instances road improvements were desirable Members also wished to raise the concern that the introduction of wider, straighter roads would lead to increased traffic speeds in the area.

These comments to be submitted to Powys County Council.

The Clerk was also asked to include a request that the Community Council be kept informed of any developments in this area.

Members again agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Tippett draw up the necessary letter to Powys County Council.

MIN 4889 URGENT BUSINESS

None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.