

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2009 AT FELINDRE VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies: None

In Attendance: County Councillor Wynne Jones, County Councillor J. Brunt, Cllr Gwynne Price, Llanbadarn Fynydd Community Council, and members of the public.

Secretary: It was agreed that in the absence of a clerk Cllr K. Jones would act as minute secretary for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING:

A statement from Mr Geoff Duthie was read to the meeting, stating that he regretted that the previous minutes had said so little in respect of his complaint to the Omdudsmen, and that the cost of the complaint was not an important matter.

Ms A Williams expressed regret at the resignation of the Clerk, who had been doing a very good job as Clerk; noted that at the previous meeting some councillors had spoken on a subject in which they had declared an interest; and requested that public comments should be minuted.

PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING COUNTY COUNCILLOR WYNNE JONES ADDRESSED THE MEETING ON THE MATTER OF THE WIND FARM BENEFIT PROPOSALS

He referred members to the Strategic Document that is available to the public, and that is still being developed.

He stated that:

The strategy will follow DTI guidance, but each developer may offer differing amounts because of their differing costs. The benefits are separate from any planning issues and are not taken into account in assessing planning applications.

PCC have proposed minimum and indicative values of benefit expected for up-front payments.

The developers have no obligation to provide any monetary benefits, but are under a general planning obligation to offer some "benefit". In practice they are happy to offer monetary benefits. The British Wind Energy Association is supportive of benefits.

The new Infrastructure Planning Commission will apply to Powys wind farms. This could allow the county to charge costs to the applicants.

It is intended that there will be two Trusts set up for Area C: one for the areas around the wind farms and another for the areas affected by, for instance, the road and transmission line developments. The proposal is for 70% of the money raised going to the directly affected areas Trust and 30% to the other Trust. It is possible for each Trust to apply for funding from the other. The definition of the area can be expanded to include peripheral communities that are not inside the Area C, including English areas.

PCC get no money from these funds; but are happy to assist communities in negotiations with the developers, by helping in setting up a negotiating committee if this is what the communities want.

Continuing payments are not affected by the level of the initial payments.

The Newtown bypass is being given priority in the county transport planning, but no funding can be required from the developers. The Pant/Llanymynech bypass is also being considered, but the developers may look at alternative routes, e.g from the south.

Householders whose house value is affected by developments area not able to claim compensation, but may be able to negotiate with the developers.

Communities should work together in setting up the Trusts, and they should do this soon.

Cllr Gwynne Price stated that his council are talking to a developer who is happy to pay £5000 per installed MW, and believes others will follow. He noted that a council can operate quite independently.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jones for his very useful descriptions of the benefits scheme.

(Cllr. Wynne Jones left the meeting.)

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING:

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. K. Jones, Cllr Hoyle: Heyope Charity matters, being members of the Knucklas Community Centre Management Committee.

Cllr. O'Leary Agenda item 10 b: School transport: has child at school and wife is governor.

Cllr. Harris Agenda item 10 b: School transport: has child at school.

Personal and Prejudicial

Cllr. Harris Agenda Item 8b - wind farm benefits: Atmos Consulting, wind energy scheme Bryngydfa.

Cllr. Swancott Agenda item 10 b: School transport: is a governor, son is at school, wife is on Friends Committee.

MIN 4933 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 6th October 2009 were approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 4934 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that are not included below.

MIN 4935 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County. Cllr. John Brunt is to meet Steve Packer to get update information on road planning for wind farm transportation.

He thanked this Council and the other two in his ward for the support they have given him in obtaining improvements in the Strategic Documents described by Cllr. Wynne Jones.

MIN 4936 FINANCE

1) Payments: The following payments were agreed -

T.A. Price	(Clerks Salary)	£88.05
HM Inspector of Taxes		£22.00

MIN 4937 PLANNING

- 1) No planning applications had been received this month.
- 2) Beguildy Lakes – owner is appealing against decision.

MIN 4938 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1) PCC have responded to our letter re: white lining along B4355, stating that the markings are as required by highway standards, and that in future no cats eyes are to be installed due to cost. IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Harris would draft a letter expressing concern at loss of cats eyes, particularly along the open land on the Dolfor road, which is liable to bad visibility.

2) Speeding in Beguildy/Felindre: the police have been checking speeds and have issued warnings and tickets.

3) Cllr K Jones reported an accident between Whitterleys and the Knucklas rail bridge on the B4355 and asked if trees could be trimmed to reduce leaf fall. Cllr. Brunt pointed out that this is the responsibility of landowners.

MIN 4939 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1) Community notice board: Mrs Brick expects the board to be installed within three weeks. (Cllrs. Swancott and Harris leave the meeting)

2) School transport: Roger Williams MP has responded to our letter, and is intending to raise the matter with PCC, who will be discussing the matter at Board in December.

(Cllrs. Swancott and Harris return.)

3) Council minutes: Cllr. Thomas reported that the local newspapers were including reports of public comments as part of our minutes. IT WAS AGREED that the Chairman would write to the papers expressing our concern. Cllr Swancott reported that he had spoken to Wynne Richards about reporting names of members of the public in reporting their comments. Mr Richards' view was that the public can request that their names be withheld.

- 4) Letter from Ombudsman: the Ombudsmans office reported that they do not keep records of the costs of individual cases.
- 5) Boundary Commission report: a review of county boundaries is to be considered.
- 6) Consultation on Licensing Principles on gambling licenses – document received.
- 7) Village Hall funding: an information meeting is to be held on 10th November; Cllr. K Jones would attend.
- 8) BT Connections Grant: an application form has been received. It was felt that the village halls/community centres may have an interest.
- 9) One Voice Wales: documents to be reviewed by Cllr O'Leary.
- 10) Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 Consultation: noted.
- 11) Cllr. K Jones declared a personal interest: Ramblers' Association officer.
Circular Trails: letter from PCC "People & well being" suggesting provision of some circular walks in the council area. IT WAS AGREED that this could be worthwhile exploring further.
- 12) Policing plan consultation: questionnaire completed.

MIN 4940 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND

No business this month.

MIN 4941 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1) Cllr K Jones tabled a written report of a meeting of the Welshpool Community Council Forum that he and Cllr Hoyle attended. The main item of discussion was the proposal to set up a Forum of Montgomeryshire Community Councils.
- 2) Swine flu: a pamphlet for display has been received.
- 3) Upland Powys Conservation: document received.

MIN 4942 COUNCIL CLERK

It was reported that the Clerk had resigned and that an advertisement needs to be placed to start the process of finding a replacement.

Cllr Hoyle expressed her dismay at reports that some councillors had been making disparaging remarks about the clerk in a public place within hearing of members of the public, and that this was the main reason for her resignation. Cllrs. Swancott and Harris agreed that there were two members of the public within hearing. Cllr Hoyle expressed that as Councillors we have a Code of Conduct, and she felt that this behaviour was certainly inappropriate. Cllr Thomas believed in the right of free speech.

Cllr Hoyle expressed her disgust and left the meeting.

Cllr. A Jones said that Tracey would be much missed because she was very good at her job.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr K Jones and the Chairman would prepare an advertisement to go into the Mid Wales Journal and the Shropshire Star. Details would be available on www.llink.org.uk also. The deadline for applications would be two weeks after the advertisement, and interviews would be on 1st December.

MIN 4943 AOB

Crug-y-Byddr churchyard: it was felt that there was nothing the council could usefully do, as it was a matter for the Church in Wales.

The meeting ended at 10:10pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8TH DECEMBER, AT KNUCKLAS COMMUNITY CENTRE

UNCONFIRMED