

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2009 AT KNUCKLAS AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Apologies: W. O'Leary.

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)

Cllr. E. Harris
Director of Wind Farm (Community Benefits from Wind Energy Developments)

Cllr. C. Thomas
Director of Wind Farm (Community Benefits from Wind Energy Developments)

Personal and Prejudicial

None

Please note the following section in italics relates to the public session and is not part of the formal meeting or necessarily representative of the Council's views.

The public were then invited to submit any concerns. Mr. Duthie raised several issues relating to past Community Council business and also requested that Cllr. Swancott provide details of those members of the community that had contacted him regarding concern over the lack of representation for Beguildy Ward when wind farm matters were discussed. He also referred to the recent conclusion of the Ombudsman's investigation into a complaint against three Members of the Council.

MIN 4922 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 8th September, 2009 were approved with no amendments to the content but following representations by Cllr. Thomas it was agreed that it be noted on the Minutes that the comments of the public were not part of the formal meeting. The Minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk agreed to place an item on the Agenda for the November Meeting to discuss the issue of the inclusion of public comments within the Minutes.

MIN 4923 MATTERS ARISING

None were raised.

MIN 4924 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cty. Cllr. Brunt reported on three matters –

Beacon Garage, Lloyney – He informed Members that the Planning Committee of Powys County Council had agreed that direct action be taken to clear the site of vehicles, trailers and related parts and a charge made against the land for the costs. He confirmed that he would monitor the issue and advised that matters would take time.

School Transport Policy – He assured Members that the letters from members of the community had been handed in to Powys County Council.

Community Benefits from Wind Energy Developments, Draft Policy – He regretted that he had no further information on the views of Llanbister and Llanbadarn Fynydd Councils. He gave his assurance that he would see that the Community Council's views were taken into account and that he would let the Clerk know the date of the Board Meeting.

Rubbish - Cllr. Harris asked that Cty. Cllr Brunt ask for action to be taken to clear away some tyres dumped on the common, near to the pond and a quantity of rubbish near to the scenic point/parking area.

MIN 4925 FINANCE

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

T.A. Price (Clerks Salary October) **£236.23**

HM Inspector of Taxes (Tax due on above) **£59.06**

Royal British Legion **£20.00**

Cllr. Tippett agreed to make arrangements for the Remembrance Service and the Clerk agreed to forward the cheque to the usual person at the Royal British Legion.

Lyreco (office stationery) **£28.31**
(24.62 plus VAT)

It was agreed to amend the payee for the donation to LLINK, approved at the September meeting to Everest Hall as LLINK did not have its own bank account.

(2) **Donations** – The letters of thanks from Felindre Village Hall and Knucklas and District Community Centre were noted as was the Clerk's reply to Bobath Children's Centre.

(3) **Financial Report and Budget Update** – The Clerk briefly outlined the contents of the report and confirmed that expenditure to date was either in line with or below budget for the year.

MIN 4926 PLANNING

(1) The following **application** was considered :-

P2009 0957 Full, Erection of domestic workshop and storage extension (2 storey) at **Butterwell, Dolfor, Nr. Newtown** – The Clerk confirmed that she had checked and the Planning Department had confirmed the application was within the Beguildy area. No objections were raised to the application.

(2) **Community Benefits from Wind Farms** :- It was agreed that the following comments be made –

It would appear that the comments submitted in a joint letter to Powys County Council by Beguildy, Llanbister and Llanbadarn Fynydd Community Councils have not been incorporated and Members are extremely concerned that this has not been done. Given that the three Councils submitting that letter covered areas very affected by wind energy developments it would seem fair that the comments receive full consideration;

To re-iterate the comments made in that letter and ask that the proposals therein be incorporated into the draft policy;

To note that there appeared to be very little consultation with members of the general public and to ask that such consultation takes place, in the areas particularly affected at the very least. Such public support was felt to be essential if the policy is to work in practice;

To state this Council wishes to have the support and backing of Powys County Council but feels that if its wishes are not to be included it will have to seriously consider conducting negotiations independently.

(3) **Kerry Community Council** – Notes from the meeting made by the Clerk had been circulated as had the official Minutes circulated by Kerry Community Council. It was noted that the primary purpose had been to discuss transport into proposed wind farms and power lines out from them. A detailed presentation had been made by Robert Robinson the Town Clerk for Welshpool. He had reported that the National Grid had now confirmed that there would be one main power line with spurs out to individual farms.

(4) **Welshpool Town Council Liaison Meeting 30th October** – It was agreed that two representatives attend this meeting – Cllr. Ms Hoyle and Cllr. Jones. Cllr. Ms. Jones would also attend if possible.

(5) **Powys Wind Farm Applications** – Members had received a copy of the letter written by Kerry Community Council asking for a co-ordinated approach not only to wind turbine planning applications but also to the installation of grid connections to serve these sites. It was agreed that the Clerk produce a similar letter for distribution to Roger Williams MP, Lembit Opik MP for Montgomery, Kirsty Williams AM for Powys and the four Regional Assembly Members.

MIN 4927 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) **Appointment of Rural Housing Enabler** – The new appointment was noted but Members did not wish to invite Miss Hobby to give a presentation to the Council.

(2) **Radon and Gamma Radiation** – Cllr. Jones had researched some useful figures on this issue and in addition the information provided by Powys County Council had been circulated to all Members and any interested Members of the public. Cllr. Jones reported that the Beguildy background figures for July 2009 are typically 0.13-0.14 microSieverts per week; this is 7.28 per year. To put this into context, he explained that the dosage is 4.7% of the allowed dosage near a nuclear power plant (150 sv per year) and is 0.3% of the naturally occurring radiation of 2200 Sv per year. To receive the level at which serious health risks occur over a lifetime you would have to live 142,857 years. He added that Powys County Council were shortly due to hand over the monitoring to the Health Protection Agency. Members agreed that no further action was required.

(3) **Adopt a Kiosk Scheme** – The Clerk informed Members that four kiosks in the Council area were affected, one each at Beguildy, Dutlas, Lloyney and Felindre. She advised that adoption of a kiosk would result in the phone service being removed and reminded Members that in the last consultation they had written asking that phone services be retained. It was agreed that representations be made to BT and Powys County Council asking that the telephone service be retained in all the boxes listed.

(4) **Outstanding Highway Matters** – Cllr. Ms. Jones had made a list of items outstanding in Knucklas and a number of other matters were supplied verbally by other Members. The Clerk agreed to pass these on to Powys County Council.

(5) **Any Other Highway Issues** – The Clerk reported that she had received a reply about the mobile flashing speed signs. The cost was £3650 each but Powys County Council were presently not installing any more of the signs even if Community Councils were willing to pay. It had confirmed that the Beguildy valley would be included on the list of sites requested for further consideration in the future.

MIN 4928 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

(1) **Community Notice Board** – There was nothing further to report and Cllr. Harris agreed to speak to Mrs Brick before the next meeting.

(2) **School Transport Policy** – Cllrs. Harris and Swancott had attend the recent meeting at County Hall. They reported that the meeting had been very well attended and that there was a lot of very strong feeling against the policy. The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the Community Council's letter written in July to both the MP and the AM's for the area. Concerns were also raised regarding the increased journey times and distances making the school day longer for children and leading to problems in bad weather.

(3) **One Voice Wales** – Motions to be considered at AGM were noted and the Clerk pointed out that one related to wind energy matters.

(4) **One Voice Wales** – Details of the training programme were noted.

(5) **One Voice Wales** – The agenda for next Area Meeting was noted.

(6) **Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales Annual Report and Workshops** – Noted.

(7) **Ombudsman's Investigation Final Report and Conclusion** – Members noted the report and conclusions. The Clerk was asked to enquire what the investigation had cost to conduct and she agreed to do this.

MIN 4929 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND

(1) The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September were approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman.

(2) There were no other items of business.

MIN 4930 INFORMATION ITEMS

These items were noted.

MIN 4931 URGENT BUSINESS/INFORMATION

Cllr. Ms. Jones reported that bus passes were now valid on the local railway.

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There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.