

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KNUCKLAS

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

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 this meeting in accordance with the terms of the Model Code of Conduct Order 2001 issues under Section 51 Local Government Act 2002.

Personal

Cllr. W. O'Leary – Tennis Coaching, Knucklas and District Community Centre

Personal and Prejudicial

None

Cllr. Thomas welcomed everyone to Knucklas Community Centre and to the first meeting of the Community Council to be held at this venue.

The meeting commenced with ten minutes for the public to address Members with their concerns. A number of concerns were raised involving the distribution of Minutes/Agendas and the Clerk was able to confirm that she would send copies for posting at the old Blacksmiths shop and email copies to the webmaster of the Ilink site for posting on their website. Dr. Ackermann welcomed the Council to the Community Centre. Mr. Bowen read a statement concerning public participation at meetings.

MIN 4786 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes were approved without change and duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 4787 MATTERS ARISING

Min 4780 It was noted that the dates booked for the Community Centre were now incorrect and should be amended. The Council would from now on meet on the second Tuesday in each month.

Min 4784 Cllr. Tippett asked that the draft letter to the previous Clerk be reconsidered. There was some discussion on this and following a proposal by Cllr. Tippett, which was seconded by Cllr. Ms. Hoyle, a vote was taken. The proposal was passed by eight votes to one and the Clerk agreed to send the letter to Mr. & Mrs Lloyd.

MIN 4788 FINANCE

a) **External Audit Form** – The statement of annual governance was read to Members and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman sign the form on behalf of the Council. The Clerk summarised the report of variances which needed to be included. She reported that the internal auditors section of the form had been completed and that all was now ready for despatch to the external auditors.

b) **Review of Banking Arrangements** – Members discussed increasing the number of Members, who were able to sign cheques. The Clerk confirmed that any two of the chosen number would be able to sign cheques. It was agreed that four Members sign the form, these being Cllrs. Thomas, O’Leary, Swancott and Ms. Jones. The change of address notification for bank correspondence was signed.

c) **Payments** -

The following payments were agreed

Yvonne Charker	£208.42
Payment for work as temporary Clerk	

Members asked that the Clerk include a letter of thanks to Yvonne for all her hard work.

Midland News Association	£201.16
Advert for Clerk Position	

Knucklas Community Centre Grant 2008/09	£300.00
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Felindre Village Hall Grant 2008/09	£300.00
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It was agreed that the amount to be donated to the Hospice in lieu of an internal audit fee should be £50 as in the previous year.

St. Michael’s Hospice	£50.00
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The request for a donation by the Wales Air Ambulance was deferred until later in the financial year. It was agreed that the Clerk bring all such applications to the February meeting.

d) **Petty Cash** – It was agreed that the Clerk set up a petty cash float for postage, photocopying costs etc.

The Clerk agreed to draw up a budget forecast to the end of the financial year and bring it to the October meeting.

MIN 4789 PLANNING

P2008 1214 The Nest, Felindre – Full: Erection of outbuilding.

P2008 1205 Cwm Jenkin Wood, Heyope – Retrospective application for overhead line and adding a second service to the line.

Members had considered both these applications after the Clerk interviews in August. It was confirmed that there were no comments.

MIN 4790 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

a) **Movement of Post Office, Knighton to Harry Tuffins** – This item had been deferred from the 25th July meeting. The decision to move to Harry Tuffins had now been made by the Post Office and so no further discussion took place.

b) **Withdrawal of local Buses** – Cllr. Ms. Jones outlined the background to the local bus network and the need for a bus which would get residents into Knighton in time for Doctors appointments and similar things. It was this early bus which ran on demand to Lloyney, which was under threat. The PCC officer concerned was reporting to Board on 23rd September. Members discussed the need to retain bus services whilst appreciating that it was not environmentally friendly for buses to run with few or no passengers. Cty. Cllr. Brunt was invited to comment and stated that he received more complaints about empty buses than anything else. On balance it was agreed that the Clerk write to

Powys County Council stressing the need to retain the 'on demand' bus and the fact that it was not possible to alter the time of the regular main bus in the morning as it was on a return journey from Newtown.

- c) **Removal of telephone boxes** – Three boxes were scheduled for removal in the Council's area. Cty. Cllr. Brunt confirmed that he had objected to the removal of the box in Beguildy and reminded Members to report any boxes not working or connected. Cllr. Thomas read the letter from Kirsty Williams AM and it was noted that one of the reasons for suggested removal was he increased use of mobile phones. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Powys County Council, Kirsty Williams and BT stressing the need to retain all three boxes due to the lack of mobile phone signal in the area. In particular she was asked to stress the importance of the box in Beguildy because of the school. Cllr. Tippet reported that the box in Lloyney was not working and agreed to contact Cllr. Brunt with the details. It was noted that the Felindre box had not been working for months and that this would account for its lack of use.
- d) **Caravans in layby, Lloyney straight** – Cty. Cllr. Brunt outlined the action presently being considered by Powys County Council, the officer responsible being Alistair Knox. He was able to confirm that the dogs had been checked by the RSPCA and were fine. Cllr. Thomas was concerned that if this was allowed to continue a precedent was being set. After consideration Members agreed that there was little to be done as Powys County Council were already dealing with the matter.
- e) **Core Areas for Street Lighting** – Members considered the letter from Powys County Council and were updated by Cty. Cllr. Brunt on the situation at present. He confirmed that in general two out of three lights were being switched off completely. Cllr. Ms. Jones stressed the need to retain the light by the station. Members agreed that the Clerk write for details on how this would affect the Council's area and for more detail generally. They agreed to consider where in particular lights should be retained and report back to the October meeting.
- f) **General Highway Matters** – There were no additional Highway matters to report. Cllr. Harris stated that the drains had appeared to cope well with the recent rain. Cty. Cllr. Brunt stated that a drain was blocked near Pound Farm and that it had been reported.

MIN 4791 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Powys County Council Changes to Registration Service** – The proposed changes were noted.
- b) **Invitation to Radnorshire Liaison Meeting** – Cllr. Jones agreed to attend and the Clerk agreed to confirm this and to note that one other Member would attend if possible.

It was agreed that topic of election expenses (justification for charges, full breakdown of) be submitted for the Agenda of that meeting. In addition the Clerk agreed to approach Sandra Matthews at Powys County Council for details of how election expenses are charged.

- c) **Chairman's Reception** – Cllrs. O'Leary and Tippet agreed to attend.
- d) **One Voice Wales** – Members noted that although their topic had not been selected it was likely that it would be partially covered under another motion.
- e) **One Voice Wales Conference** – Cllr. Harris suggested that Cllr. O'Leary attend, with the conference fee to be met by the Council. Cllr. Morgan seconded this. Cllr. O'Leary agreed to attend.
- f) **Macmillan Coffee Morning** – The details were noted.
- g) **Powys County Council Planning Checklist Consultation** – Members had no comment to make on this consultation.

h) **Ombudsman's Letter** – The Clerk reported that this item was for information only and confirmed that she had taken the advice of the Ombudsman's office in this respect. She added that a decision on whether to proceed with the complaint was expected by the end of the week.

i) **Ballot Paper for Community Sub- Committee of the Standards Committee** – Members were unanimous in selecting the most local nominee, Trevor Johnson as their choice and the ballot paper was completed by Cllr. Thomas.

MIN 4793 SIGNING OF CLERKS CONTRACT

The contract was duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

MIN 4794 HEYOPE RECREATION GROUND

a) **Wales Council for Voluntary Action Questionnaire** – This was passed around for Members to note.

b) **Change of address Trust Account** – This was completed and signed by the two bank signatories.

c) **Financial Contribution towards tennis coaching** – This had been discussed at an earlier meeting. The Clerk had obtained final figures from Dr. Ackermann on behalf of the Knucklas and District Community Centre. The final shortfall was £150. This was less than expected as the coach employed had only charged for the actual hours worked. It was agreed that £150 be issued from the Recreation Ground Fund to make up the deficit.

MIN 4795 INFORMATION ITEMS

Of particular note was the letter regarding the re-submission of the planning application for a second wind monitoring mast. Members of the public indicated that the application had been submitted and the Clerk agreed to contact Powys County Council for a copy of the actual application. Members took this opportunity to discuss the possibility of Powys County Council negotiating wind farm benefits on behalf of Community Councils. Cty. Cllr. Brunt promised to keep Members informed of any developments in this respect.

At this point Cty. Cllr. Brunt made his report on County Council matters, concentrating this month on Powys County Council thinking with regard to the infrastructure needed in connection with wind farms. It was noted that normally Cllr. Brunt would report at the start of the meeting and the Clerk agreed to place this on the Agenda in future.

MIN 4796 URGENT BUSINESS

Dangerous slates on the Knucklas bus shelter were to be reported.

Complaints about the speed of vehicles at the top end of Beguildy village (from the Council houses to the pub) had been received. The Clerk agreed to write to Powys County Council to see what action could be taken.

The offer of a site in the pub garden for a village notice board was to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr. Ms. Jones made a full report on the recent meeting of the Health Focus Group at Knighton Hospital to hear a presentation from Judith Paget, the Chief Executive of the Powys Local Health Board. In summary Ms. Paget had discussed minor injury provision, the assurance that no services would be removed until new ones had been put in their place, health board debt, and the de-commissioning of the x ray unit at Knighton Hospital. Cllr. Ms. Jones handed a copy of her full report to the Clerk and it will be kept on file.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.