

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th July, 2022 At 7.30 p.m. Meeting held via video conferencing

22/29. Present: Cllrs. R. Harris (Chairman) J. Hodge (Vice-Chairman), N. Dodman (part), E. Giordano, K. Williams, C. Newnham.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk. Members of the Public.

22/30. Apologies: County Councillor Edward Jones

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members received a presentation from Dafydd Williams of Bute Energy on their plans for an energy park in the area. A copy of the presentation would be sent to the Clerk to circulate to Members. In summary the intention was to submit a planning application for approximately 36 wind turbines, 100mw of solar panels and battery storage although the details had not yet been finalised. The proposed site was 9.5 km long and, at the widest 4.5km although it was expected that the centre of the area was most likely to contain most of the development. A planning application for a temporary mast was due to be submitted in the coming weeks and public exhibitions would also be held in August/September. Mr. Williams then answered various questions as far as possible given the stage of the project. Full details would be in the documents provided for the formal pre-planning consultation in 2023.

Cllr. Harris thanked Mr. Williams for attending.

Item 9.4 on the agenda, to consider any formal questions for written submission to Bute Energy was considered at this point but Members had none at the present time and would await more detailed information in due course.

Cllr. Dodman joined the meeting at this point.

22/31. Declarations of Interest:

Personal Only: None.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. Dodman: Re agenda item 9.4 Energy Park Development, Bute Energy – owner of property on/near proposed development.

22/32. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2022 were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Harris.

22/33. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

22/33.1 Platinum Jubilee Mugs: Cllr. Harris confirmed that these had been distributed through the school. It was agreed that the Clerk ask if Esco's would be willing to hand out the remaining mugs to anyone who wanted them.

22/34. Finance:

22/34.1 Payments: – The following payments were agreed –

Amazon Uk (refund T. Price)	£519.97
(logitech meetup hardware)	
Dell Uk (refund T. Price)	£783.79
Unity Trust Bank (charges)	£18.00

The Clerk confirmed at this point that following the successful grant application for IT equipment it was now possible to hold hybrid meetings subject to a suitable broadband connection at the venue used. Cllr. Giordano agreed to investigate extending the signal of Cllr. Williams to the Community

Centre for use at Council meetings. He estimated the cost to be in the region of £100-200. He would report back to the September meeting so a decision could be made. He would also speak to the Community Centre Officers to check that this was acceptable.

22/34.2 Reissue of Payment to Cllr. Hodge: Agreed that missing cheque be considered lost and the amount of £150 be paid by bank transfer once the six month cheque validity period expired.

22/34.3 Letter of thanks from East Radnorshire Care: Noted.

22/35. Correspondence/General:

22/35.1 13.1 PACE Update: The Minutes had been circulated to all Members. Cllr. Dodman advised that the group's proposal on working with the County Council had been submitted on 6th June but as yet no response had been received. He suggested the Community Council write in support of the proposal. Given Members had not read the document this was deferred to the September meeting.

22/35.2 Letter re. Community Councillor position on PCC Standards Community Sub Committee: Members confirmed their vote for Cllr. Dodman.

22/35.3 Hub for the Free Trees (as offered to households by Welsh Government): The Clerk reported that the Woodland Trust had been in touch to see if the Council was still interested. She added that there was a possibility that there would be a small hub in Presteigne but that this was not yet confirmed. She agreed to keep Members informed of the progress of any Presteigne Hub.

22/36. Village Matters:

22/36.1 Minor Village Matters: The following matters were raised –

- Damaged Bench: Cllr. Williams reported that one bench was in a dangerous condition and that he had taped it off for safety reasons. The Clerk advised that there was £100 in an allocated reserve for replacement benches and that if Members wished there were sufficient free reserves to add to this and to purchase a new bench. She suggested a local supplier and Cllr. Williams was aware of another. Prices would be reported back to the September meeting for a decision.
- Parking Water Street/Lewis Place: Cllr. Hodge had received a complaint from a road user concerned at parking very close to the junction. Members felt there was little the Community Council could do and Cllr. Hodge was asked to inform the resident that this was a police matter if they were sufficiently concerned.
- Update re High Street and extension of Yellow Lines: The Clerk confirmed that County Cllr. Jones had emailed the Powys Portfolio Holder about this but she had heard nothing further. Cllr. Williams expressed concern that more yellow lines would simply create a problem elsewhere in the village however Members had made the decision to pursue the matter and as such the decision stood for six months before it could be re-visited.

22/36.2 Dark Skies Project Update: Cllr. Dodman reported that a meeting was to be held on 26th July and that around fifteen people were now sufficiently interested in being part of the project. However agreement from the IDSA was needed for the area to apply as one block before further progress could really be made.

22/36.3 Broadband Project Update: The Clerk had no news to report on the grant application but was able to confirm that both Old Radnor and Presteigne and Norton Councils had reached the minimum number of registrations for consideration by the Broadway Partners Board for submission.

22/36.4 Speeding on A44: Members noted the reply from Penybont Community Council on their speed indicator signs and the confirmation that the area did not have a community Speedwatch group. The Clerk had obtained information on Speedwatch groups from the local PCSO but a group could not operate on a road subject to the national speed limit. Members expressed further frustration that the need for prevention could not be seen by the police or County Council, particularly in the light of the recent fatal accident on the road. The Clerk was asked to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner again to re-iterate the concerns and to ask what would be done to tackle the problem given Community Speedwatch could not operate in a 60mph area and the police were unable to provide sufficient enforcement. She was also asked to submit a freedom of information request to obtain the costs incurred in attending the recent fatal accident on 3rd July.

22/36.5 Report of Japanese Knotweed, Mutton Dingle: The Clerk had reported this to the County Council and it had now been treated.

22/37. Planning:

22/37.1 Planning Application Decisions: The following decision was noted –

22/0133/TRE Brookside Farm, New Radnor: Refused 13th June.

22/37.2 Planning Applications: No applications were considered this month.

22/37.3 Powys LDP Settlement Audit Information Request: Members confirmed the entries in the settlement audit and added three services – picture framing, osteopathy and physiotherapy. The Clerk would notify the consultant of the additions. With regard to community aspirations Members had just one to submit – the need to retain the village school.

22/38. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th September, 2022.

22/39. Co-option

Two candidates had submitted expressions of interest and following a vote Mr. Edward Powell was duly co-opted onto the Council.

Before the meeting concluded the Clerk asked that the final declaration of acceptance of office be sent to her for submitting to the County Council.

Members were also reminded of the need to set up their online Council banking as this was now becoming urgent.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.