

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th February, 2015 At 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre, New Radnor

1. **Present:** Cllrs. E. Blackman, M. Cooper, R. Harris, J. Hodge, K. Williams.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk.

2. **Apologies:** . Cllr. N. Dodman.

3. **Declarations of Interest:**

Personal Only: None

Personal and Prejudicial: Cllr. Blackman - planning application P2015/0083 (applicant)

Due to the absence of Cllr. Dodman a Chairman was elected for the meeting only. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr. Harris be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from Mr. E. Smith on the recent concerns raised by a number of residents about explosions at the Radnor Ranges in early December. He reminded Members of the risks, not only of continuing noise nuisance but also in other ways for example through property damage to older dwellings and to the Cornwall Lewis memorial. He also informed Members of the new 'walk in' clinic due to open at the Doctor's surgery in Kington.

4. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January, 2015 were approved with one amendment, under Minute 8.4 'around the playground/footpath area' to be inserted after School Lane. They were then duly signed by the Acting Chairman, Cllr. Harris.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

5.1 **LM1268 ByWay Water Break Its Neck to Dolau:** Members noted the reply from the County Council on the costs incurred in connection with the byway. The Clerk was asked to obtain further clarification on the amount of £20,000 and also on the need to create a turning circle. It was also noted that the byway was still not closed at the New Radnor end and the Clerk was asked to ask why this had not been done.

5.2 **Co-Option:** The Clerk reported that Mr. Stuart Bennett had applied to be considered for co-option. It was agreed unanimously that Mr. Bennett be co-opted onto the Council.

5.3 **Road Surface Presteigne to Walton Road reply from HCC:** The Clerk had received a reply from Herefordshire Council stating that an inspection had not found any defects on the road. Members agreed to look at the road and report back to the March meeting.

5.4 **Potholes:** The Clerk was asked to report a pothole in Rectory Lane, several in Water Street and one on the bridge opposite School Lane.

5.5 **Overgrown Hedge, Hollygate:** Members confirmed that although the hedge had been trimmed it still encroached a long way over the footpath and the Clerk was asked to contact the farmer again and ask that the overgrown holly boughs be fully trimmed back.

6. Correspondence/General:

6.1 Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.

6.2 Letter re. Lack of Health and Care Facilities in Powys: Members noted the letter from a Welshpool resident and the Clerk was asked to reply expressing the Council's sympathies but stating that there was nothing that the Community Council could do to assist particularly given the severe budget constraints that the County Council was experiencing.

6.3 PCC Cheaper Energy Information: Noted.

6.4 PCC Letter re Village hall Revenue Grant Scheme: Noted.

6.5 Welsh Government White Paper on Review of Local Government Consultation: The Clerk reported on the White Paper and its implications for small Community Councils. She was asked to reply to the consultation as follows -

- a limit of five terms for County Councillors is reasonable and to be supported.
- to support a change in electoral qualifications to allow Council employees to stand for their employing Council and only resign if elected (rather than on nomination).
- while the Community Council can see that serving as both a County Councillor and Community Councillor could lead to problems with predetermination and conflicts of interest the importance of having the support of, and information from, a County Councillor is considered vital.
- to express great concern at the proposed review of Town and Community Councils. The suggested minimum budget size of £200,000 would eliminate the vast majority of local Councils in Powys and create units of such geographical size that local representation would inevitably be adversely affected.
- to express concern that the amalgamation of groups of local Councils would result in the precepts for these areas undergoing dramatic change with those resident in small Council areas finding that their precept demand greatly increases when combined with larger Community or Town Councils. This would be unfair on those in smaller, more rural villages and hamlets.
- the Council does not believe that a review of Community Councils should be held as a way of solving the current funding crisis in main local authorities and the need to devolve various services.
- to welcome the introduction of 'competent' community councils' if this enables the introduction of a general power of competence and to ask that the power should be financially unlimited. The suggested capacity test of a budget of £200,000 is however completely unfeasible and could not be achieved without massively increasing the size of local Councils and reducing their connection to the local community. The requirement for two thirds of Councillors to be formally elected is outside Council control and moreover not a measure of 'competence'.
- great care must be taken to not impose too great an administrative burden on local Councils or their Chairmen via a requirement for an annual report and performance objectives.

6.6 Devolvement of Services Update: The Clerk reported that Knighton Town Council were organising a pre-meeting to the meeting with the County Council on 25th February. Cllr. Dodman would attend if possible. The Clerk also informed Members of the possible clustering arrangements between Community/Town Councils that were already being considered in other parts of the County.

7. Planning:

7.1 Planning Application Decisions:

Upper Farm, Dolau:	Conditional Consent granted.
Hendregenny Turbine, Whitton	No decision as yet
Shepherd's Cottage, New Radnor	Conditional Consent granted.
Land off A44 Llandegley (Hendy Wind Farm)	No decision as yet.
Bethugree Farm (turbine)	No decision as yet.
Red Lion Inn	Conditional Consent granted.

7.2 Planning Applications:

P/2015/0011, full, replacement of timber windows to upvc windows of flats in conservation area (17 windows and 1 external door set) at Eagle Hotel, Broad Street, New Radnor. *Resolved that no objections be raised.*

P/2015/0024, full, erection of a single wind turbine 27.13m to blade tip, 20.58m to hub height and 13.10m blade diameter at Bwlchau Bettws, Hundred House. *Resolved no comment to be made.*

Cllr. Blackman left the room for the duration of the discussion on the next planning application.

P/2015/0083, for householder, installation of photo voltaic panels to south facing roof at Castle Cottage, Mutton Dingle, New Radnor. *Resolved that no objections be raised.*

7.3 Hendy Wind Farm Application Update: Nothing new to report.

7.4 Powys Local Development Plan Update: The Clerk reported that the County Council needed to repeat the consultation on the plan. Further information would be supplied in the future.

8 Village Matters:

8.1 Radnor Ranges: Cllrs. Harris and Hodge reported on the quarterly meeting with the Ranges. There had been no progress on the siting of a flashing warning light and Cllr. Hodge had offered to research possibilities but not been able to find anything. The loud explosions heard locally in early December were discussed with Range Management and the Range repeated its offer to email/text residents about forthcoming activity. Members noted the letter and petition received and the Clerk was asked to write to the resident responsible for organising this explaining the efforts made by the Council and stating that whilst appreciating his issues there was little else that the Council could do at the present moment. The next quarterly meeting with the Ranges would be due in April. The Clerk was also asked to reply to the CPRW explaining the present situation.

8.2 Defibrillator: Cllr. Williams reported that there was approximately £1300 in the First Responders Account and that this would cover the purchase a defibrillator unit. He agreed to check that the Town Hall Trust was still happy for the unit to be sited at the front of the Town Hall. The Clerk agreed to ask the County Council if power could be taken from the nearby street light.

8.3 Kington Doctor's Surgery: The details of the new walk -in clinic were noted.

8.4 County Council Refuse Collection Quarterly Update: Noted.

8.5 Broadband Issues: Members noted the current issues with the service.

8.6 Lighting Arrangements Junction with A44: The Clerk confirmed that she had asked the County Council for a progress report and was awaiting a reply.

8.7 Kidney Foundation Wales, Walk for Life Information: Noted.

9. Finance:

9.1 Payments: The following payments were agreed -
Viking (office stationery) £36.73
Information Commissioner (data registration) £35.00

9.2 Bank Balance: The balance of £4281.42 at 29th January 2015 was noted.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th March, 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm