

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th September, 2014 At 6.00 p.m. in the Community Centre, New Radnor

1. Present: Cllrs. N. Window (Chairman), N. Dodman (Vice-Chairman), M. Cooper, R. Harris.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk, County Councillor Michael Jones, members of the public.

2. Apologies. E. Blackman, J. Hodge.

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Planning Application P/2014/0672, full, construct and operate 7 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 110m and maximum hub height of 69m together with ancillary development comprising substation, control building, new and upgraded access points and tracks, hard standing and temporary compound and associated works at **land off A44 SW of Llandegley, Llandrindod Wells**.

Due to the public meeting on the proposed Hendy Wind Farm in Penybont at 8pm the agenda item on the planning permission for this item was taken as the first item of business.

Several Councillors had attended a meeting to view the site and associated access.

Cllr. Dodman reported that he had attended the public session of the Glasbury Community Council meeting which had included a presentation by Mr. Geoffrey Sinclair. He indicated that Glasbury Councillors had agreed that their discussion should not include any consideration of community benefits and asked New Radnor Members to also exclude community benefits from any discussion. It was proposed by Cllr. Dodman and seconded by Cllr. Cooper and agreed that the debate on the planning application would not include any discussion on community benefits.

The Clerk reported that four letters of objection had been received and these had been provided for each Councillor.

Cllr. Dodman stated that the County Council had confirmed that the deadline for the public consultation was 17th September and that the intention was for the application to be considered at an October planning meeting.

Members were given the opportunity to voice their views and following a vote with three votes objecting to the application and one abstention it was agreed that the following comments be submitted to the County Council -

The proposed development far exceeds the 5mw maximum capacity for small wind farms outside the Strategic Search Areas defined in Welsh Government document, TAN 8 and should be refused for the following reasons -

the proximity to nearby bridleways and rights of way, the recommended distance from any bridleway is 3x turbine height, equating to 330m in this case. However the nearest right of way to the turbines is just 200m away, representing a clear danger to all users, not only horse riders but also walkers and cyclists;

the adverse visual impact on the A44 and on tourism, a principal leisure route into Wales (a route recognised as having high scenic value in the recent planning inspectorate decision on the turbine application at Pentre Tump) and the resultant effect on tourism;

sited outside Strategic Search Area, wind farms over 5mw (this site being 17.5mw) should, as indicated in TAN 8, be restricted to Strategic Search Areas or brown field sites. To grant permission for this development would industrialise an area of exceptional natural beauty;

detriment to the local landscape, the views enjoyed from the site area and from surrounding hills, roads and rights of way would be severely detrimentally affected. The Unitary Development Plan for Powys states that a wind farm should only be considered where there is no adverse effect on the landscape;

damage to local wildlife, in particular the local bird population (the email sent to PCC from the Radnorshire County Bird Recorder details many species which would be affected and analyses the present numbers of those species in the area).

5. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

6.1 LM1268 ByWay Water Break Its Neck to Dolau: Nothing new to report.

6.2 Cornwall Lewis Memorial: Nothing further to report at present.

6.3 Co-Option: One application had been received for Mr. Ken Williams and it was agreed unanimously that Mr. Williams be co-opted onto the Community Council.

6.4 Site Meeting A44 lighting: County Councillor Jones was asked to update Members on the situation and stated that he was opposed to the proposed removal of the lighting columns and that he had asked the officers to re-examine the situation. The Clerk was asked to contact Bryan Davies at the County Council to ask for the latest information.

6.5 Highway Items: The Clerk reported that she had contacted the landowner to ask that the hedge at Hollygate be trimmed as soon as possible. Building regulations at the County Council were looking into a name sign for Park Road and the name and sign for the properties in the Porth area of the village. The damaged bench on the A44 had been removed as requested.

7. Correspondence/General:

7.1 Reforming Local Government, Welsh Government Consultation: Noted, no comment to be made.

7.2 Powys County Council Consultation on the Library Service: The Clerk reminded Members that as an employee of the service it would not be correct for her to offer any advice or additional information on this consultation. It was agreed not to comment on the consultation.

7.3 Website Logo: It was agreed that the present logo remain.

7.4 Access Mapping Appeal Refusal Land at Whimble Hill (decision): Noted.

7.5 PCC Budget Workshop Dates: The Clerk reminded Members that the nearest workshop was in Knighton on 3rd October.

7.6 Rural Housing Enablers Final Letter: Noted.

7.7 Summer Ambassadors Pack: Noted. The Clerk agreed to circulate an electronic copy of the information.

7.8 East Radnorshire Day Centre AGM: The date of the AGM was noted.

7.9 One Voice Wales Training Programme: Noted.

8. Planning:

8.1 Planning Application Decisions: The Clerk reported the following:

8 Broad Street, New Radnor	Conditional Consent
Brookside Farm, New Radnor	Conditional Consent
Radion Mast, Black Mixen	Conditional Consent
Hendregenny Turbine, Whitton	No decision as yet
Shepherd's Cottage, New Radnor	No decision as yet

8.2 Draft Local Development Plan Exhibition: Cllr. Window and the Clerk had both attended the exhibition. It was agreed that no comment on the plan was needed.

8.3 Update Possible Wind Turbine, Gwernargllwydd: The Clerk reported that she had received an email from the Penybont Clerk indicating that a scoping exercise was to be carried out very soon. There was no other information at present.

8.4 Planning Application P/2014/0671, for householder, installation of 8 solar panels on roof of rear extension at **12 Church Street, New Radnor.** It was agreed that there were no objections to the application.

8.5 P/2014 0225, Planning Application Hendregenny, Whitton: The additional information supplied was noted.

9. Village Matters:

9.1 Radnor Ranges: The Clerk reported that as requested she had written to the British Horse Society, Ramblers Association and the British Cycling but had not received any reply. Cllr. Harris reported that the new flag warning signs were in place.

The Clerk was asked to approach the Ranges to arrange the agreed quarterly liaison meeting.

9.2 Mutton Dingle Hydro Electric Project: Nothing to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda and that nothing further be done at present.

9.3 Defibrillator Grant Application: Cllr. Williams informed the meeting that the New Radnor 1st Responders still had monies in the bank account and agreed to check the exact balance with a view to this money being used to purchase a defibrillator unit for the village. He also agreed to make enquiries with the ambulance service about the purchase cost for a unit, ongoing maintenance costs etc.

9.4 Street Lighting: The current lighting map was noted.

9.5 Property Grid References: The Clerk reported that details of how to obtain these references was now on the website. Cllr. Williams agreed to check with the ambulance service to see if more recent technology meant such references were no longer of any benefit.

9.6 Noise Issues 25th July: Cllr. Window reported that he had received several complaints about noise continuing late into the night on 25th July. Members reported that there had also been two private parties on the same evening and it was felt possible that these events had also contributed to the noise problem. The Clerk confirmed that the event held at the Brewery had been properly licensed although the licence ran from noon until midnight and noise was reported as continuing beyond this. Cllr. Dodman agreed to speak informally to the organiser about the noise issue. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate at this point to formally report the matter to Environmental Health.

9.7 Village Shop: This had now re-located and was continuing to trade.

9.8 Snooker Club Letter to Town Hall Trust: Members had all received a copy of the email from the Snooker Club voicing concerns about the new arrangements following the re-location of the village shop. It was agreed that the Clerk reply as follows -

- the Council provides a representative to sit on the Trust Committee but was not directly responsible for the Trust or its actions;
- the Council representative on the Trust Committee was on holiday at the time of their meeting and so unable to give Councillors any information on the Trust meeting;
- the issues raised are between the Club and the Trust itself and not within the remit of the Community Council;
- Members were sorry to hear of the problems that the Club are experiencing and hoped that matters are moving towards a satisfactory conclusion.
- County Councillor Michael Jones confirmed at the Council meeting that a meeting of the Trust was held and that Minutes were taken.

9.9 Dragonfire Club, Lloyds TSB Community Fund: Members noted that the Club was in line to receive a community grant from Lloyds Bank. The Clerk confirmed that the Friends of Radnor Valley School was also shortlisted for a grant.

9.10 St. Michael's Hospice Reach out to Radnorshire: Cllr. Window provided Members with details of the event on 14th September.

10. Finance:

10.1 Payments: The following payments were agreed:

T.A. Price (pay July to Sept)	£388.74
HM Revenue and Customs	£97.20
BDO (external audit fee)	£96.00
D. Blackman (travel re website)	£25.20

10.2 Letters of Thanks: Members noted the letter of thanks from New Radnor Baptist Church.

10.3 Bank Balance and Financial Update: Members had received copies of the latest accounts and current bank balance and the Clerk confirmed that spending was in line with precepted amounts.

10.4 External Audit: Members noted that the documents had now been officially certified by the External Auditors and agreed to formally accept and approve the Annual Return. No matters had arisen for the Council's attention.

10.5 Receipts: The receipt of the second precept payment was noted:

Powys County Council	£1694.00
----------------------	----------

11. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th October, 2014.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm