

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th January, 2016 At 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre, New Radnor

1. Present: Cllrs. S. Bennett (Chairman), M. Cooper, E. Blackman, N. Dodman, R. Harris (Vice-Chairman), J. Hodge, Cllr. Williams.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk; Mr. R. Malvern, Upper Bridge Enterprises; Mr. D. Blackman.

2. Apologies: None.

3. Declarations of Interest:

*Personal Only: Cllr. S. Bennett re LM1268 byway, member of trail riders fellowship. NB dispensation for members of clubs and charities issued in February 2013 applies.
Cllr. Dodman re Byway LM1268, part of route forms access to his property*

Personal and Prejudicial: None

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members received a presentation from Mr. Roger Malvern on the proposed new website platform for the New Radnor site. The need for a new site had arisen due to the scheduled withdrawal of the Microsoft Sharepoint software used by the current site. Cllr. Bennett thanked Mr. Malvern for attending.

4. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December, 2015 were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Bennett.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

5.1 LM1268 ByWay Water Break Its Neck to Dolau: Nothing further to report.

5.2 Potholes and Blocked Culverts Access Track Water Break its Neck: Some potholes had been filled although a number remained and the blocked gullies/drains were still blocked. Cllr. Dodman reported that Natural Resources Wales had contacted him and that further repairs would be carried out in the Spring.

5.3 Private Road Access Sign (Radnor Ranges): The County Council had erected new signage indicating the route was a bridleway.

5.4 Reply from Dyfed-Powys Police re press statement on 4x4 accident: It was noted that the police statement to the press did not contain details of the site being a 4x4 area or that it was MOD land.

5.5 Road Surface Presteigne to Walton Road: The Clerk reported that the resurfacing of the majority of the Herefordshire length of road was on the provisional list for 2016/17. The list would be confirmed in early March. Members reported one very bad pothole in need of attention (just past the Toll House) and the Clerk was asked to report this for immediate repair.

6. Correspondence/General:

6.1 Transparency of Senior Remuneration in the Devolved Welsh Public Sector: The report was noted.

6.2 Website: Members considered the quotes supplied and following consideration agreed to accept the quote from Upper Bridge Enterprises to build a new site and transfer all the existing data from the current site. Work to commence as soon as practicable.

6.3 Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Consultation: Members had received the report of the Clerk. In particular it was noted that the schedule for Community Council elections was 2017, 2023 then five yearly. It was agreed that no comment be made on the consultation.

6.4 Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons: The information supplied was noted.

6.5 Clerks and Councils Magazine: Noted. To be circulated.

7. Planning:

7.1 Planning Application Decisions: The Clerk reported the following decision -
P/2015/1099, Old Bakery, Rectory Lane, New Radnor: Conditional Consent

7.2 Planning Applications: The following applications were considered -
P/2014/0672, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION consultation, 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 sub-station, control building etc at land off A44 SW of Llandegley: It was agreed to object to the application and that the following comments be submitted -

Having considered the new information New Radnor Community Council still wishes to object to the above application and would like to make the following comments.

When considering its objection the Community Council had regard to the Powys UDP section SP3 which refers to Natural, Historic and Built Heritage and to E3 12.9.1 which refers to Wind farm Development. It also noted that in the appeal decision for Pentre Tump 28/1/14 Inspector Alwyn Nixon set a precedent for decisions on small wind farm applications, using the Powys UDP in the decision process and re-enforcing the policies contained therein. Interpretation of the TAN 8 documentation produces a need for enhanced protection of areas outside of those strategic search areas identified for wind turbine developments.

Welsh Government Technical Advice Note 8 states that there is a balance to be struck between the desirability for renewable energy and landscape protection. Powys UDP SP3 requires development to take account of the need to protect, conserve and wherever possible enhance the natural and built heritage. E3 states that wind power development should not adversely affect the enjoyment and safe use of the public rights of way network, especially bridleways.

It is the view of the Community Council that this development would unacceptably and adversely affect the environmental and landscape quality of this part of Powys. It would unacceptably and adversely affect the enjoyment of the public rights of way network, bridleways in particular, thereby rendering the proposal unacceptable to the policy of E3 of the Powys UDP.

Access tracks can in themselves have adverse visual impact and this together with the proposed huge turbines would have a very negative visual impact on those enjoying the countryside on footpaths, bridleways and roads. The proposed site is in an area that is very valued for its attractive and historic landscape.

The Community Council feels that the County Council should be proactively steering wind power developments to areas where they would be most acceptable, and away from landscapes valued so highly for their beauty by both locals and tourists and public opinion is of very high relevance and should be taken into account.

In addition the Community Council wishes to re-iterate the points made in its original letter submitted in September 2014

7.3 Withdrawal of Paper Planning Applications: Members noted the response from the County Council. It was agreed that the proposed guide to the planning web portal would not address the issues originally raised and the Clerk was asked to write again re-listing the points originally raised and asking that these be addressed.

8. Village Matters:

8.1 Radnor Ranges: The next meeting was scheduled for 22nd January at 5pm. Cllrs. Harris and Hodges would attend. Issues to be raised included - a missing warning flag on Great Rhos, flags not being flown in accordance with procedures, works on common land/in a SSSI area.

8.2 Defibrillator Grant Application Progress: Cllr. Williams explained that there were ongoing issues with the bank account but that he was still trying to sort this out. In response to a suggestion from the Clerk he agreed to look at possibly submitting a grant application to the British Heart Foundation immediately so that the delay in purchasing a defibrillator would be minimised.

It was noted that the BT manhole cover needed repair and the Clerk was asked to report this.

8.3 Cornwall Lewis Memorial: Works appeared to be complete but the scaffolding was still on site.

8.4 Other Village Matters: The following matters were reported -
damage to the verges along the A44 following grass cutting;
bollard by the Long House, still leaning;
potholes, Rectory Lane;
dog fouling, survey details would be forwarded to everyone.

9. Finance:

9.1 Payments: The following payments were agreed - None this month.

9.2 Receipt: Powys County Council (final precept instalment) £1755.00.

9.3 Bank Balance: The bank balance at 6th January 2016 was noted at £5243.46.

9.4 Setting of precept 2016-17: Members considered the draft budget submitted by the Clerk. It was agreed to remove the allocation of £500 for miscellaneous donations and insert £250 towards defibrillator costs and £250 towards additional hours for the Clerk/possible purchase of equipment that would be required if paper planning applications were withdrawn. This resulted in a budget for 2016/17 of £5545 and it was agreed to set a precept of £25 per Band D property raising £5562.75.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th February, 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm