

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 25 September 2012.

Present:

Councillors: RP Williams (Chair), JE Jones, MH Jones, DR Lloyd, GJ Roberts, DG Smout, P Williams, Clerk G Bradley, County Councillor D Mayor

1- Apologies for Absence

None

2 – Declaration of Interests

None

3- Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (31 July 2012) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr MH Jones/ Seconded: Cllr P Williams)

4 – Matters arising from Minutes

No items raised

5 – Correspondence

- *National Grid – Connecting windfarms through Mid Wales & Shropshire; Option Decision. Newsletter and Q & A about preferred options.* Cllr D Mayor provided a hot-off-the-press update about the decision of Powys CC to recommend Welsh Assembly Government to NOT to approve the three windfarm planning applications. This followed a lengthy full County Council Meeting where six clear reasons for recommending refusal were identified. The application is likely now to be examined at Public Inquiry. It therefore follows that a decision on the corridor connection routes will be deferred until the outcome of the PI is known.
- *One Voice Wales: Direct application of The Equality Act 2010 to the work of community councils.* The Clerk briefly summarised the requirement that focus mostly on treatment of employees. A Community Council is technically required to have a Policy Statement available which Clerk suspected could be 'generic'. Include on outstanding work list.
- *Wales Government – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – December 2012.* Clerk commented that this will allow Members to recover expenses up to £100 pa in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc
- *Age Concern Newsletter and request for funding contributions.* Defer to February meeting for decision
- *Welsh Government – Information about the Tackling Poverty Action Plan*
- *Powys County Council – successful Standards Community Sub -Committee candidates*
- *Business 2 Nature (B2N) Conference details – 9/10 October 12*
- *Card and letter of appreciation from former Councillors Evan Lewis and Emrys Griffiths for Community Council 'thank-you' cards for their long service*

- *'The Voice' Newsletter*
- *Dept for Communities and Local Government – Consultation paper about Payments by Parish & Community Councils.* The Clerk flagged up that this was proposing single cheque signatures as a way forward to facilitating the use of electronic payments
- *CCW Funding Newsletter – August and September 2012*
- *Russell George AM – Update on his campaign to bring about increase in speed of broadband in Montgomeryshire*
- *One Voice Wales – Motions for debate at the AGM on 13 October*
- *Powys Cc – Sustainable Tourism funding availability*
- *Powys Police – Update on monthly actions*
- *One Voice Wales – Notification of draft Guidance note on Power of Economic, Social or Environmental Wellbeing & request for survey information*
- *One Voice Wales – Request for nominations to Citizen Panels for Social Services in Wales*
- *Powys CC – Notification of Roadshows about roll-out of recycling / bins etc. from October onwards. County Cllr Darren mayor was able to give an update on the types of bins available and the likely timing for Penybontfawr.*
- *Powys Teaching Health Board – Notification of public meeting in Llanidloes on 19 October re: 'Your Health Your Future'*
- *Boundary Commission - revised proposals to be published 24 October and 8 week consultation period*
- *One Voice Wales – Notification of Montgomeryshire Area Committee on 2 Oct 12*

6 – Finance

Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £ 2781.63 (as at 4 Sept 2012)

Deposit Account - £ 3288.71 (as at 4 Sept 2012)

Annual Audit: The Clerk advised that notification had been received from the External Auditors (BDO) that it was their intention to issue an unqualified certificate and report in respect of the Community Council's Annual Return. Councillors voted to approve the final stage of the Annual Audit process (Proposer: Cllr DR Lloyd / Seconded: Cllr. JE Jones) and the proforma was then duly signed by the Chairman. This will be returned to BDO by the Clerk before the 30 September deadline.

Payment was approved (Proposer: Cllr. DG Smout/ Seconded: Cllr. MH Jones) for the following, and the cheque signed:

RA Jones, Chartered Accountant – Internal Audit - £30

7 – Planning

Powys CC has notified all windfarm planning applications in Powys will be notified not only to the host Community Council but also to those that adjoin the host Council boundary. The reason given is that the visual impact of turbine development can be far reaching.

The Clerk advised that Full Planning permission has been granted in respect of the single storey rear/side extension at 6 Dolafon

8 – Highways

Following the site meeting with County Highways representatives about the parking difficulties outside the shop, a County Council parking control officer has now apparently visited Penybontfawr and cautioned some of the regular offenders. This has reduced the issue but as the road has become clearer of parked vehicles, vehicle speeds past the shop had apparently increased. The traffic speed sensors on the road would provide statistical evidence about speeds through the village in due course. The Clerk read out the letter received following the site meeting from the County Highways officer acknowledging the various traffic issues and outlining the possible changes that could be implemented, subject to there being funding available.

The Clerk commented that whilst passing through the village late at night, he had noticed that PBW24 lighting the car park had not yet been repaired. Councillors confirmed that this was causing inconvenience to car park users. Several other lights in close proximity were also advised as having failed - Clerk to chase up action and notify additional failures.

The Clerk commented that the response by the various County Highways has been much slower over the last 12 months. Cllr Daren Mayor undertook to pass this comment to a senior officer, but all acknowledged that the reduced staffing levels would inevitably be impacting. There is also a key contact officer likely to be long term absent from work at present.

Cllr RP Williams mentioned a pothole that required repair an an issue with a parking sign – more information required by Clerk

9 - Hirnant Community Centre – sign board proposal

Councillors considered the further information provide by St Illog's Community Centre in respect of the sign board proposal. Approval was given now that Powys CC had confirmed that no consents would be required. Clerk to notify Community Centre

10 - Hirnant Community centre – perimeter wall

Cllr Graham Smout updated on his investigations to identify possible grant assistance in the event of any repair work being necessary. He had identified two possible avenues but in each case there would be considerable delay before any outcome was known.

- i) Church in Wales application through Cadw. Maximum of 40% available
- ii) Heritage Lottery Funding – Maximum 90% available. Note the Community Centre restoration was funded through HLF.

He undertook to continue his inquiries.

11- Any Other Business

Cllr Graham Smout considered that the Community Council is required to draw up a Community Action Plan identifying what could possibly be improved to the benefit of the residents in the area. He volunteered to start the ball rolling.

The Clerk then notified Councillors that, with much regret, he would be unable to continue as Clerk beyond the end of January 2013. He was retiring from full time employment and, as a direct result, was planning to be away for considerable chunks of next year which will make it infeasible to continue in the role.

It was agreed to defer discussion about replacement until the next meeting but that in the meantime all Councillors should start to think about local residents who could be approached as a possible replacement.

Cllr JE Jones apologised that he had forgotten to look at the waste bin on the playground that was highlighted in the ROSPA report as being potentially a hazard

12 - Date of Next Meeting

Agreed to be on 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23 October 2012. Cllr JE Jones to verbally communicate this to the Booking Clerk as book missing from drawer