

# OLD RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Old Radnor Community Council held Tuesday, 26th July, 2016  
in Kinnerton Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Burden, Mrs A. Goodwin, Mrs B. Gwatkin, E. Jones, Mrs. R. Jones, R. Jones, H. Jones, K. Morgan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs T. Price, Clerk.

## **MIN 30/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs. T. Bell, (Chairman), M. Jones, J. Stokes.

## **MIN 31/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*Personal Only: None*

*Personal and Prejudicial:*

*Cllr. E. Jones re. Planning Item 6.1, P/2016/0455 (business connection)*

*In the absence of the Chairman the Clerk invited nominations for an acting Chairman to preside over the election of Vice-Chairman. It was proposed by Cllr. Goodwin, seconded by Cllr. Burden and unanimously resolved that Cllr. E. Jones be elected Acting Chairman for this purpose. Cllr. E. Jones accepted the position.*

## **MIN 32/16 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2016/17**

Cllr. E. Jones invited nominations for Vice-Chair. Cllr. H. Jones was proposed by Cllr. Roy Jones, seconded by Cllr. Goodwin and unanimously resolved that Cllr. H. Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman. Cllr. H. Jones accepted the position.

All agreed that Cllr. H. Jones be appointed as Acting Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

## **MIN 33/16 REVIEW OF HSBC BANK SIGNATORIES**

In accordance with normal Council practice it was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. M. Jones be appointed bank signatories for the coming year. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements for changing the bank mandate and arranging new signatures on that document. For 2016/17 the authorised signatories would be Cllr. Trevor Bell, Cllr. Haydn Jones and Cllr. Michael Jones.

## **MIN 34/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 21ST JUNE 2016**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting (as previously circulated) represented a true record of events. The Acting Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

## **MIN 35/16 INFORMATION FROM MINUTES**

(1) Stones Farmhouse: The Clerk reported that no decision had yet been made.

(2) Grass Cutting: Cllr. E. Jones expressed continuing dissatisfaction with both the standard and timing of the grass cutting in the Walton area. The Clerk explained that the

first cut had been considerably delayed due to problems in setting up the contract with the new contractor. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write expressing disappointment that the grass cutting arrangements had not been properly organised and stating that the cut outside the 30mph limit on the A44 in mid July had been far too late. She was also asked to find out if the contract was in place for one year or longer.

(3) Toposcope: The work had not yet been completed.

(4) County Council Reception at Royal Welsh Show: Cllr. Roy Jones had attended.

### **MIN 36/16 FINANCE**

(1) Payments: to approve the following payments – None this month.

(2) Financial Update and Budget Monitoring to end of June: Members had all received a copy of the budget monitoring document and accounts for the year to date. There were no issues and spending was in accordance with the budget with the exception of the annual insurance policy which had come in under budget due to a change in provider.

(3) Pension Provision for Staff: Members noted the report from the Clerk on forthcoming obligations for all employers. It was resolved -

To bring forward the Council Staging Date to as soon as practicable;

To confirm that the pension scheme to be provided on employee request will be the NEST scheme;

To formally advise the Clerk of the requirement to provide a scheme and advise of timetable for implementation;

To produce pension information for the Clerk using the standard documentation available on TPR website.

(4) Bank Balance at 10th July: The balance of £2524.55 was noted.

### **MIN 37/16 PLANNING**

(1) Planning Applications: It was agreed to defer consideration on the Quarry planning application until the end of the meeting.

(2) Planning Application Decisions: There were two decisions to note and these were -  
P/2016/454, land south of Corner House, Kinnerton: Conditional Consent 20/06/16  
P/2016/0452, Womaston School, Walton: Conditional Consent 21/07/16.

(3) Planning Aid Wales Training: Cllrs. Bell and Burden had attended and Cllr. Burden gave a short report. The Clerk had obtained copies of the Community Council Guide to Planning and these were provided to those Members present.

(4) Old Radnor Petition re: Tarmac application for houses opposite Court Fold: Noted.

(5) Welsh Government Consultation on draft Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment: Noted. No comment to be made.

### **MIN 38/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

(1) Public Rights of Way in the Old Radnor Community Council Area Update: In the absence of Cllr. Bell there was no update.

(2) Quarry Liaison Committee: Confirmation re. Six Representatives: Noted that six representatives had been agreed with the Quarry management. The next Liaison Meeting was

scheduled for 28th July. Additional items to raise were agreed as attending to overhanging tree boughs and clearance of the inlet where the brook is piped underground.

(3) One Voice Wales Area Committee AGM/Ordinary Meeting: Noted.

(4) Powys War Memorials Project Information: Noted.

(5) Ombudsman Annual Report 2015/16: Noted.

(6) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.

(7) Presteigne to Walton Road Resurfacing Information: The length of re-surfacing had been completed. Members reported a number of potholes under Nash Wood and also the problem with standing water in the same area. The Clerk would pass this information to Balfour Beatty.

(8) Defibrillators for Villages: Possible Grant Opportunity: The Clerk reported that she had been made aware of the possibility of obtaining grant funding for defibrillator units at a recent conference. Members discussed the possibilities for locating units in the Community Council area. Suggestions were the telephone kiosks at Old Radnor and Kinnerton or on the outside of the three village halls. The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall Committees to see if they would be willing for a unit to be installed on the outside of their Hall. The Clerk would also make enquiries with BT on the possible adoption of the Kiosk in Old Radnor. Cllr. Ruth Jones would contact the WI to ask if it would be possible to site a unit in the kiosk at Kinnerton. The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.

(9) Report on Recent Conferences/Training Events: The Clerk's report was noted.

(10) Secondary Schools Re-organisation Programme Update: Noted.

(11) Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Consultation Summary: Noted.

### **MIN 39/16 PLANNING APPLICATION**

Cllr. E. Jones left the meeting at this point due to his prejudicial interest in the following item.

The following planning application was considered -

P/2016/0455 Grid Ref: 324385.6/258094.78 for Proposed northern extension to Dolyhir Quarry; construction of screening landform to the north and west of Dolyhir Quarry; related surface water management ponds and drainage infrastructure; construction of new agricultural access to public highway and new perimeter agricultural access track; continued use of existing processing and secondary treatment plant at Dolyhir/Strinds Quarry; relocation of washing plant from Dolyhir Quarry to Strinds Quarry during phase 5 of development scheme; diversion of services; continued development of Strinds Quarry in accordance with current working scheme; implementation of comprehensive restoration strategy; and consolidation of the overall Dolyhir and Strinds Quarry, extension area and screening landform into one overall planning unit. at Dolyhir and Strinds Quarry Dolyhir Old Radnor Presteigne Powys: Members had all received copies of suggested comments from Cllrs. Bell and Burden together with a copy of a letter submitted to the County Council by one Old Radnor resident. Cllr. Burden explained his draft submission in detail and it was agreed that this document be submitted to the County Council. Resolved that the Community Council response be as follows -

*The Community Council wishes to reject Tarmac's proposals in their current form. Significant concern has been expressed to the Community Council regarding the destruction of Stones Farm in the later phase of quarrying and the adverse impact of the proposed quarry boundary on the associated stone barns, **contrary to UDP SP 3**. Stones is the oldest farm building in the Walton basin and of significant historical and aesthetic importance in the local landscape. **The Community Council wish the proposed boundary of working to be altered to ensure that the farmhouse and associated stone barns are preserved for future generations.** A deviation of the proposed Northern face boundary by some 100 yards could achieve this. The Community Council has applied to request that Cadw consider listing Stones Farmhouse and associated stone barns; although the buildings may or may not meet national criteria, the preservation of Stones is of extreme importance to local residents. Given the huge increase in quarrying area encompassed by the current proposal, it is hoped that a modification to the quarry boundary will be possible.*

The Community Council is concerned about the impact of the quarry extension on St. Stephen's Church, Old Radnor, an important ancient monument. A "horseshoe" of the Gore, Strinds and expanded Dolyhir quarries around the hamlet of Old Radnor will result in greater damage from blasting operations originating from different directions. This is contrary to **UDP Policy MW8**, and would affect the site and setting of this important building contrary to **UDP Policy Env 17**. The Community Council has some evidence of potential detrimental effect of blasting on the Church structure. Continuous, independent monitoring of vibration should be considered. There will also be an inevitable loss in amenity value, in the setting and character of the settlement of Old Radnor. Many visitors to the area travel up to Old Radnor to see the Church in its setting.

Recent archaeological work in the Walton basin has elucidated that there are internationally important neolithic sites, which should be protected in their landscape context. Given these internationally important archaeological discoveries the Community Council would encourage a full geophysical survey of the proposed quarry extension boundary to ensure that no significant structures are destroyed where no visible evidence exists above ground. A number of very old oak trees, originally planted on the Harpton Estate, will be lost by the proposed quarry extension. The Community Council reading **UDP GP 1 point 5** wishes to ascertain if more could be done to save some old oak trees on the outer bunding margins of the proposed development, by sloping some of the landscaping. **There is also an important oak in the Stones Farmhouse garden which should be conserved.**

**The Community Council relays the concerns of residents regarding airborne dust from the quarries**, in that the working of the existing extension to Dolyhir quarry has resulted in perceived increases in levels of dust on the prevailing South Westerly wind, blowing towards residences on Old Radnor Hill. As working proceeds in a North Westward direction, this problem will increase in significance. Whilst quarrying is bound to release some airborne dust, residents feel that current levels of dust control are currently insufficient, contrary to policy UDP MW16. Dust clouds can be observed from Hergest Ridge blowing out of current workings from Dolhir quarry. Early planting of trees in the buffer zone on the Northern boundary may help to mitigate this, with other methods of control. **Independent sampling and monitoring of airborne dust to a defined standard, should be a planning condition.**

Concerns have been expressed to the Community Council and Quarry Liaison Committee about existing levels of light pollution from the Gore and Strinds; this may relate to more recent extended working hours of processing plant, resulting in external lighting running at night. Residents are concerned that **UDP Policy DC3** should be implemented to the fullest extent in any scheme involving a Dolyhir extension and that rigorous **lighting conditions are imposed**: lighting should be turned off between 22:00 and 05:00 hrs and should be carefully designed to eliminate light pollution and ensure light sources are only visible from the working areas they illuminate.

Representations have been made to the Community Council concerning the release of sediment and other pollutants into local water courses from Gore and Dolyhir. There is concern from certain local residents that current operating conditions relating to **UDP Policy DC9 and UDP MW1 criteria 5,6,7** need to be more rigorously and **independently enforced**. There is concern that the water management in the proposed extension will be similarly under resourced with inadequate settlement ponds. There is also concern as to the effect of proposed quarry extension on underground water movement and the level of the water table. The Community Council proposes that

**baseline sampling of brooks and streams receiving run-off** from the proposed Dolyhir extension should be undertaken.

Residents are concerned as a result of experience that compliance with **UDP MW 14** (noise) and that **MW 15** (reversing alarms) in particular, should be independently monitored and enforced. A condition limiting the length of the working day for soils stripping and extraction, would help to both cut light pollution and limit noise disturbance to neighbours. **The Community Council suggests that operations involving the construction of screen/baffle mounds and the stripping of soils should not be carried out outside the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Mondays to Fridays and 08.00 and 14.00 on Saturdays. 07:00 hrs start to extraction operations should be a condition rather than the 06:00 hrs start in the current Dolyhir workings.**

Concern has been expressed to the Community Council regarding the level of quarry dust building up on the B4595 between Strinds Dolyhir quarries, to the A44 trunk road junction. Provision for road drainage and settlement tanks should be considered on this section of road, in order to allow washing of the road to mitigate the build up of dust. **A condition to maintain surrounding roads in use by quarry traffic dust free should be imposed and enforced.** More efficient lorry washing facilities should be considered. The current situation making is unpleasant and unhealthy for users such as pedestrians and cyclist to use this section of road share with frequent aggregate lorries raising the dust. It is anticipated that the Dolyhir extension can only compound this situation.

The Community Council notes that **the unnamed road leading up from the Crown Inn on the A44 through the hamlet of Old Radnor, is "closed" to quarry traffic** but wish this to be included in any planning conditions imposed on the proposed extension. The quarry can do more to advise delivery drivers and other visitors of this restriction.

In summary, there is strong concern regarding the impact on Old Radnor of three quarry complexes operating concurrently. The current proposal to extend Dolyhir should be re-evaluated in that light.

#### **MIN 40/16      DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

20th September 2016 at Walton Village Hall.

If necessary an August meeting would be held to deal with urgent business.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.