

OLD RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Radnor Community Council held Tuesday, 15th November, 2016 in Kinnerton Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. T. Bell, (Chairman), Mrs. R. Jones, R. Burden, A. Goodwin, B. Gwatkin, E. Jones, R. Jones, K. Morgan, M. Jones, J. Stokes.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs T. Price, Clerk.

MIN 66/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. H. Jones (Vice-Chairman).

MIN 67/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal Only: None

Personal and Prejudicial: None

MIN 68/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18TH OCTOBER 2016

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

MIN 69/16 INFORMATION FROM MINUTES

(1) Road Sign, Walton Junction; The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the County Council and asked that the Officer liaise with Cllr. E. Jones. She would remind the Officer of this request.

MIN 70/16 FINANCE

(1) Payments: There were no payments this month.

(2) Requests for Donations, Powys Citizens Advice Bureau and Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod: Resolved not to donate but would be considered when setting the budget for 2017/18.

(3) Letter from County Council re cost of 2017 Elections: The letter from the County Council was noted and would be borne in mind when setting the budget for 2017/18.

(4) Review of Internal Audit/Appointment of Internal Auditor: Members reviewed the arrangements and it was resolved that

the appointment of Mr. Lloyd as the internal auditor for the 2016/17 accounts be confirmed;

the planning and reporting arrangements as detailed in the report be confirmed;

the scope of the internal audit process as detailed in the Council Audit Plan and Action List be confirmed.

In addition Members noted the possible need for training and asked that this be considered further when setting the budget for 2017/18.

(5) Letter of Thanks Kinnerton PCC: Noted. The request to be considered for a grant in 2017/18 would be part of the budget considerations.

MIN 71/16 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications: None.

(2) Planning Application Decisions: The following decision was noted -
2 Watery Lane, Walton: Conditional Consent.

(3) Local Development Plan: Consultation on Focussed Changes: Cllr. Burden submitted a suggested written response to the focussed changes on renewable energy in Powys. Members considered the amended LDP documentation and maps and heard from Cllr. M. Jones who had attended the seminar for County Councillors earlier in the month. Following a vote, with nine votes for and one against it was resolved to submit the following comments -

The focused changes, notably the Local Search Areas (LSAs), fail to take account of impacts on the outstanding landscapes and ecological value of rural Powys. A full Strategic Environmental assessment has not been undertaken to ensure that significant environmental impacts are acceptable and proportionate to benefits, as is required in the development of such policy.

Upland areas of the Radnor Forest and the higher ground around Builth have a high landscape value to local communities and an economic value in attracting tourists, walkers and pony trekkers to Radnorshire. The installation of wind turbines involves considerable impact to wildlife habitats, requiring road access, vast concrete turbine bases to be poured, substations and other infrastructure to be built. Any attempt at visual reinstatement does not take into account the ecological damage to habitats, which may take hundreds, if not thousands of years, to recover. The land within the proposed extended search areas of the LDP contains many important habitats which need conservation and protection. There are also many archaeological sites of significance enclosed within the proposed LSAs.

Turbines of the order of 90 metres high will impact considerably on the visual landscape.

There is a failure in the policy to take into account the associated grid transmission infrastructure, which will necessarily involve high voltage power lines across Powys uplands, so further industrialising highly valued, amenity countryside. The consequent impact on local tourism which is vital to rural economies, has not been properly assessed. It is stated in the Renewable Energy Assessment (page 19) that wind resource, and thus Local Search Areas, have been identified without reference to LANDMAP landscape sensitivity data. Policy RE1 is in conflict with LDP Objectives 6 and 7. The proposed policy will significantly reduce principle sources of income and employment in the county. It is fully acknowledged in the LDP, that landscape is the major attraction for Powys tourism and is the reason our expanding local walking festivals, are increasingly successful.

The ambition for Powys almost to double its renewable capacity, is not supported by new national policy, and is in conflict with existing national policy TAN8. LDP Objective 5 (ii) now reads 'Deliver the county's contribution to the national targets for renewable energy generation.' It should be noted that this is entirely spurious, given that there are no set national targets for renewable energy generation; indeed the proposed policy is contrary to current U.K. government thinking on shore based renewable energy generation. The proposed increase in energy generation is totally disproportionate to any local need. The proposed extended search areas in the LDP, are totally contradictory to previous consultations resulting in TAN 8 to protect the high value Welsh hills from industrial sprawl of wind farms and solar sites.

TAN8 established Strategic Search Areas as 'concentration' areas with the implicit objective of maintaining the unspoilt landscape character outside of the search areas, so preventing proliferation of wind farms. The introduction of large swathes of LSAs across the county will promote completely the opposite result. There are many more effective alternatives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, including upland restoration to improve carbon sequestration whilst also enhancing biodiversity and landscape beauty. There is greater scope to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use, in tandem with micro

generation to reduce grid demand thus meeting the objectives relating to reduced carbon dioxide emissions of the LDP.

The comments would also be copied to Kirsty Williams AM and to Chris Davies MP.

MIN 72/16 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Defibrillator Grant Application Update: The Clerk reported that the application had now been submitted and a decision should be received by the end of the year.

(2) Removal of Local Telephone Kiosks: Consideration of Adoption/Reply from PCC re listing: Members noted that none of the kiosks listed for removal locally were listed. It was resolved to make no comment in respect of their removal and that none of the kiosks should be adopted by the Community Council.

(3) Request for Community Council Representative Evenjobb Village Hall Committee: No one was able to become Council representative.

(4) Powys Community Health Council Questionnaire: Resolved that the Clerk submit the following comment : *Given the geographical position of Old Radnor community Members ask that the protection and enhancement of cross border health care (most residents access care over the border) be a priority in 2017-18.*

(5) National Infrastructure Commission for Wales Consultation: Noted. Deferred to the December meeting to allow Members time to consider the information.

(6) Powys County Council Letter re Llanbister CP School & Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School: Noted.

(7) Review of Household Waste and Recycling Centres: Resolved that option 4, to close two sites leaving one in each shire would be the best option. The Clerk to submit this to the Community Health Council.

(8) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.

(9) Ageing Well walking survey for neighbourhoods: Noted. Resolved no comment be made.

(10) Review of National Standards for Community Health Councils: Resolved no comment be made.

MIN 73/16 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

20th December 2016 at Walton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.