

**Cyngor Cymuned MOCHDRE gyda PHENSTRYWAID
MOCHDRE with PENSTROWED Community Council**

Ashford, The Bank, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2AB

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 16th December 2013,
7:00p.m. at Mochdre Old School.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)
Cllr. David Forster
Cllr. Philip Williams
Cllr. Gordon Jones
Cllr. Robin Lewis (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Linda Davies
Cllr. Douglas Wood
Cllr. Jean Williams

APOLOGIES:

None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk)

County Cllr. Roche Davies

1. 0. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

1.1. See above.

1.2. **Declarations of Members' Interests** – There was one Declaration of Member's interest made.

Name of Councillor	Item	Personal	Prejudicial
Robin Lewis	6.1, 6.2,14.3 & 14.5.	✓	✓

2.0. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting (previously circulated).

2.1. That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday,11th November, 2013 were a true record of what there and then transpired and were signed by the Chairman.

3.0. Information from the Minutes.

3.1. Further to the resolution at the last meeting (as per Minute 13.1. 11th November, 2013) the Clerk has checked if the new information from SPEN includes the proposed route and printed it off. Shortly before the meeting, Steven Edwards (SPEN) rang to say he was in the vicinity and wished to attend the meeting - he arrived at 7:40pm and gave an overview of the current situation – see last sheet.

4.0. Finance

4.1. Update on Accounts: Mochdre CC bank statement £3,360.86. Cash book stands at £3,060.86. There are 2 outstanding cheques, for £200.00 and £100.00. No invoice as yet received from Upper Bridge, so the cheque (for £150.00) previously approved has been retained until the invoice has been received.

To consider the payment of:

- 1) Renewal of Clerk's annual SLCC Membership - £76.00
- 2) OVW invoice for 8 places on Planning Training (12th December) - £160.00
- 3) Clerk's quarterly salary - £552.50
- 4) HMRC PAYE Tax payment - £135.00
- 5) Reimbursement of Clerk's Expenses (June – December, 2013) - £154.63

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts.

4.2. Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £1,503.61. Cash book stands at £983.90 There is one outstanding cheque for £519.71. This was duly noted.

5.0. National Assembly

5.1. Consultation on the Proposed Revocation and Remaking of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005. Comments required by **no later than 3rd January, 2014.**

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to analyse the information and forward comments by the deadline.

5.2. Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2014-2015 – Notification has been received that the maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2014-2015 will be £7.20 per elector. This was duly noted.

6.0. Planning Matters

6.1. **Application Ref: P/2013/0956** – Grid Ref:321813.83/290829.37 for Installation of a 500kW wind turbine with a hub height of 50 metres and tip height of 77 metres and associated infrastructure including crane hardstanding (grid ref: E:321818 N: 290732) at land at Sarn Poultry Farm, Wern Lane, Sarn, Newtown, Powys. The Council has been consulted as a neighbouring Community Council whose area may be affected by the development.

Duly noted – the Council unanimously agreed that this would not affect the Community Council area.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to advise PCC Planning Office accordingly.

6.2. **Application Ref: P/2013/1033** – Grid Ref:313665.99/288713.68 for Installation of a 5kW wind turbine with a hub height of 18.74 metres and tip height of 21.487 metres and associated works at grid ref: SO 313624/288695 at land at Lower Penarron, Kerry, Newtown, Powys. The Council has been consulted as a neighbouring Community Council whose area may be affected by the development.

Duly noted – the Council unanimously agreed that this would not affect the Community Council area.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to advise PCC Planning Office accordingly.

7.0. Community Council Website

7.1. Draft website – The Council viewed the website and gave its unanimous approval. It also voted to have a group photo included on it (rather than individual ones) and the photo was duly taken. Also Cllr Wood is to provide a history of Penstrowed Church for inclusion on the site. Once this is done, the website should be “good to go”.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to forward the comments and group photo on to Upper Bridge.

8.0. Powys County Council

8.1. Precept for 2014/2015 – Unanimous approval was given for the submission of a request for a precept of £6,350 (see Minute 4.3, 11th November meeting) once the application form is received from PCC.

9.0. One Voice Wales

9.1. Planning Training Module, 12th December – Feedback relayed from attendees was that the course was interesting and helpful **BUT** the trainer did not seem to have the appropriate knowledge/be “genned up” on Welsh Planning policy. Hence he did not have the answers for the important questions asked and used the LDP as his main topic. Attendees felt that training on how the Planning system in Wales is due to change would be very useful.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to forward the comments to Paul Egan at OVW.

9.2. War Memorials Online – OVW is asking all members to contribute information on local war memorials to this website which is seeking to create a greater understanding of the condition of War Memorials as we approach and through the centenary. This was duly noted.

10.0. Highway Matters

10.1. Feedback was received from Cllr Jean Williams about her meeting with Andrew Jones on 6th December, reference Penstrowed signage and Andrew Jones’ report on that meeting was read out. He stated: “We had a look at the sites where your Council would like to see signs and these sites do cause me a problem. I was expecting signs close to what I would consider the hamlet of Penstrowed on the trunk road not the boundaries of Penstrowed parish. I have attached photos of where I am happy to see signs go. Both locations have good verge width and neither obstruct visibility or are in positions likely to affect the safety of highway users. Plus as you approach and pass both these locations you almost immediately see features that you would expect to see when entering a signed population centre – community hall/church/residential properties/garage/etc. Compare this with your preferred sites at the parish boundaries which to my mind would only serve to confuse road users given how far they would have to travel before seeing features they would expect.”

Hopefully you will be able to confirm for me that Councillors are happy to go with what I propose and I can then get the signs ordered and erected. I await your response”.

Following the viewing of the aforementioned photos and subsequent discussion, the Council unanimously voted in favour of accepting Andrew Jones’ proposition.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to advise Andrew Jones of the Council’s acceptance of his proposition and also check that there would be no financial cost to the Council for the erection of said signs.

- 10.2.**”Walkabout” Report from John Ward – This has now been received, but he is awaiting further information from Hugo Van Rees about the proposed visibility works at Foxes Pitch. County Councillor Roche Davies has since spoken to Hugo Van Rees about this matter - he stated that he was very aware of the situation and would speak to John Ward.

11.0. Street Lighting

- 11.1.** Feedback was received from Cllr Jean Williams from neighbours regarding their feelings about the possibility of having a street light installed at the top of Mill Lane. Cllr Williams had spoken to 14 possibly affected households and overall the comments received indicated that installation of the light might cause more problems than it might solve.

IT WAS RESOLVED to possibly revisit this at a later date.

12.0. Charities

12.1.

13.0. SP Energy Networks

- 13.1.** 132kV Overhead Line Connection from Llandinam Wind Farm to Welshpool Substation – Steven Edwards of Scottish Power has been in contact to ask for feedback about any problems/concerns arising from the updated information which was sent out last month. Duly noted – see 3.1 above.

14.0. Correspondence

- 14.1. OVW Electronic Standing Orders** – Copy of updated Model Standing Orders received for discussion at the Council meeting in February, 2014. This was duly noted.
- 14.2. Powys County Council** – 2014/2015 Precept application form has now been received for completion. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to complete and send in the application form before the stated deadline.
- 14.3. Planning Matter** - Application Ref: **P/2013/1188** – Grid Ref: 311182/285163 for erection of a 20kW wind turbine with a hub height of 20.58 metres and tip height of 27.13 metres (E: 311182/N: 285163) at land near Dolfor, B4355, Dolfor, Newtown, Powys. The Council has been consulted as a neighbouring Community Council whose area may be affected by the development. Duly noted – the Council unanimously agreed that this would not affect the Community Council area. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to advise PCC Planning Office accordingly.
- 14.4. Castell-Y-Dail** – Newsletter and information leaflets about what they do has been received. Duly noted.
- 14.5. Planning Matter** - Application Ref: **P/2013/0524** – For installation of 50kW wind turbine generator at land at Dugwm Farm, Pentre, Mochdre, Newtown, Powys. Official notification has now been received that full Planning Permission has been granted for this development. Duly noted.
- 14.6. Community Council Website** – Roger Malvern submitted the following proposal to the Council for discussion: That “Other Documents” be changed to “Local Businesses” and that he would add boxes with local businesses as they come on board, at a charge to the Council of £5 to put each “ad” in including pictures and “click here” for their website (£5 charges to be stored up and invoiced every 6 months). Following discussion, the Council unanimously voted in favour of accepting this proposition. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to advise Roger Malvern of the Council’s decision.
- 14.7. Thank You Card from Enid Morgan for Cheque towards BEM celebration expenses** – This was read out to the Council, and duly noted.
- 14.8. Response from Andrew Jones ref. Penstrowed Signage** – E-mail received outlining his proposition, for discussion. Duly noted – see 10.1. above.
- 14.9. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2014-15 Consultation** – Consultation closes at midnight on Thursday, 2nd January, 2014. Due to the tight deadline this was e-mailed to Councillors for their information and duly noted.
- 14.10. Stroke Association Wales Christmas Appeal 2014** – Request for a charitable donation. Duly noted.

15.0. Chairman’s Announcements

- 15.1.** If there is a financial implication for the Council for the proposed Penstrowed signage, there might be Grant monies available to cover the cost. This would be investigated should the situation arise.

- 15.2. Update on Nectar Trees Application – Five fruit trees, plus information on how to look after them, have been received by Cllr Douglas Wood for planting on the land close to Penstrowed Church.
- 15.3. Penstrowed Church has thanked the Council for its £100 donation.
- 15.4. Two issues concerning some of the occupants at Trem-Y-Cwrt were raised and discussed. Cllr Gordon Jones will go and see the Community Support Officer, Graham Jennings, to voice both issues and report back to the Council.
- 15.5. The Chairman thanked Councillors, County Councillor Roche Davies and the Clerk for their support and hard work during 2013. He felt it had been a good year and that the Council comprised a good team ready to take on the challenges of 2014.

16.0. Date of next meeting

16.1. Next meeting will be on Monday, 3rd February, 2014.

Meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Overview/Discussion with Steven Edwards (SPEN) – See 3.1. above

The Llandinam Connection Project/Mid-Wales Wind Farm Connection consultations began in 2009, and the public enquiry will begin on January, 21st, 2014. The line is an asset in Scottish Power's name.

Current turbine life is 25 years, but they may possibly be refurbished at the end of this time.

The line will be supported by 12 to 16 metre tall wooden poles, set in 2.5 metre deep holes and the holes then backfilled.

Powys County Council has stated that it is not too worried about the line as it is the re-powering of an existing set-up. The main issue has been concerns about how it will impact the Kerry Ridgeway, and the preference has been stated that the line should go underground here. However, SPEN does not think it warrants the massive expense that this would incur, it being an area where it feels the line will not have too much of a visual impact (it feels that the wooden poles will not be visible lower down).

SPEN prefers the Welshpool route for the line, rather than the Cefn Coch route (the power will be used locally). However, Steve Edwards thought that Cefn Coch would still be built at a future date for Area C, but this is dependent upon the results of the enquiry.

The sub-station at Bryndadlau will have a "footprint" the size of half a football pitch.

The line will be about 500m from Bryn-picca, and there is a bungalow which is closer than this. Earthing mats at the bottom of each pole discharge over a period of time 1m below ground. SP Manweb has a duty to design and operate installations that minimise the ROEP (Rise of Earth Potential) and hence eliminate dangerous touch and step potentials. There are no practical solutions to significantly reduce ground impedance values to reduce the ROEP to acceptable limits around the substation, nor would it be practical to establish a large exclusion zone from the perimeter of the main substation earth system. As a result, the use of a Trident overhead line design is not recommended on the grounds of safety.

The high resistivity of the ground at the Llandinam Repowering Wind Farm substation and the resulting ROEP confirmed the need to incorporate an earth conductor with the proposed overhead line design. An earthed construction ensures that in case of an earth fault not all the fault current is flowing through the ground and part of it will flow through the earth return conductor back to its source. There is therefore less current flowing to earth and the inherent local ROEP is lowered thus eliminating dangerous touch and step potentials. The proposed earthed HDWP line therefore ensures that the ROEP is minimised.

The line will be such that it could be upgraded to service an extra wind farm in the future.

It is anticipated that construction would start in Spring 2015, which is at about the same time as construction on the By-Pass. Oswestry sub-station upgrading is already in progress.

SPEN will provide screening and help where necessary to minimise any visual impact.

Nothing is as yet planned with regard to Community Benefits – they will get the money first and decide where it should be spent after. It is literally a "chicken and egg situation" at the moment. Under S106 they have to contribute in some way to the community.

