

**Trefeglwys Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**7:30pm, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
**at Trefeglwys Village Hall Meeting Room**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors:	William Davies Rhiannon Jones Endaf Meddins Sue Preston Derrick Pugh Arthur Williams John Williams Beryl Crone
<b>In Attendance:</b>		County Cllr Graham Jones Alex Wilson-Mills (New Clerk) Mary Shergold (Clerk)
<b>Visitor:</b>		Mr R Williams
<b>Members of the Community:</b>		6
<b>Apologies:</b>		Cllr Bennett

The Chairman welcomed and introduced the New Clerk and also took the opportunity to thank Mary Shergold for all her hard work over the past 8 years.

**Discussion/Approval of Minutes** from previous Community Council Meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013 (as the minutes had previously been agreed the following is a discussion by the council after further review of the minutes for notes to be clarified).

The Chairman expressed that there had been confusion on the statement of events from the last meeting and had discussed the matter with a few fellow council members who were of the same opinion that their understanding was that the statements of events, as prepared by the clerk (MS), was to be circulated to the council before being sent to Paul Egan of OVW. Paul Egan had telephoned the chairman regarding the document as he had received it from the clerk (MS), but this was not made aware to the chairman or the remainder of the council and as a result the chairman retracted the document from the investigation by OVW. The Clerk (MS) was adamant that what she had said at the last meeting was correct, this was that if the Council had no objections she would send it to Paul Egan to use as a checklist and send a copy to the Councillors for their records.

The councillors all agreed that they had requested to see the statement of events before it was to be sent to Paul Egan of OVW.

Cllr D Pugh mentioned that as discussed previously he was not happy with the statement made regarding the investigation in the diary of events, but thanked the clerk (MS) for changing this and he was now happy with it.

Cllr W Davies raised a point regarding a comment in this diary of events relating to 23 May 2013 stating that the previous Chairman was “publicly humiliated” in the council meeting. Cllr D Pugh noted that this needed to be clarified as it could be interpreted as being humiliated by the council and not by the public.

The clerk (MS) reported that a letter had been received from Mr Michael Breese-Davies on 26 September 2013 and its contents were read out in the council meeting. A copy can be requested in writing from the clerk if required.

Cllr W Davies stated that he was not happy with emails not being sent to all members of the council and felt uncomfortable not knowing about emails that have been referred to for the preparation of the report for OVW. The Clerk (MS) advised that e-mails were always accessible to the Councillors. The Chair responded by stating that it was the clerks (MS) responsibility to pass on, copy in and provide correspondence to all council members.

The chairman then stated that there was no point in arguing over matters and it was best to wait for the Report from OVW and for everyone to make their minds up from there of events that have occurred. The chairman advised that the statement of events had been disregarded Cllr Pugh felt that it should be taken out of the minutes from 22 August 2013 or an insert made.

Cllr A Williams agreed to leave the matter and wait and see what the Report says to draw a line under the matter.

**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Arthur Williams declared his interest relating to the SPEN item but it was agreed by the council that he was to remain in the room but to be sat back from the table during discussion.

### **Matters Arising:**

#### **Mid Wales Connection re National Grid / SPEN / Public Inquiry:**

Details received from SPEN regarding the announcement of the draft route and substation site were received that evening and Councillors were provided with copies for discussion and the information to look over as downloaded from [www.spmidwalesconnections.info](http://www.spmidwalesconnections.info) (which was previously forwarded to all councillors).

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for a meeting with Steven Edwards prior to the SPEN presentation in the village Hall on 16 October 2013. The clerk (MS) would confirm a meeting with Steven Edwards for Friday 11 October at 7.30pm and to also ask local MP's Russell George and Glyn Davies to see if they are able to attend.

Cllr S Preston handed a cutting from the Telegraph regarding 'Farms and British Windfarms' to the Chairman, who then read it out. Noted.

**Mid Wales (Powys) Conjoined Wind Farm Public Inquiry:** The chairman confirmed that he would be attending and Cllr Rhiannon Jones also said that she would be attending the evening session for SSA-C, Llanbadarn, Llaithddu and Llandinam Applications at the Dolfor Community Centre, Dolfor, Newtown, Powys, SY16 4BN on Thursday 10th October 2013 starting at 18.00 hrs and finishing at approximately 21.00 hrs. To report back at next meeting.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation:** Cllr Sue Preston enquired as to how much was available to spend on the notice board for Llawryglyn. Cllr Rhiannon Jones advised that the cost of the benches was approximately £300 each and the notice board was approximately £500. It was agreed by the council that the notice board should be purchased and that money should be used from the wind farm money. Cllr Sue Preston was to look into this further and obtain prices and to also look at commemorative plaques for the two benches and notice board. Cllr Sue Preston advised that she will be away on a long holiday and possibly this could be passed on to Cllr Nick Bennett to sort.

**Re-cycling Area:** Cllr Sue Preston confirmed that the repair work to the recycling area was all in hand and that the stone has been sourced and it was just waiting for Meurig Rees to be able to come when he was ready.

**Hywel Dda Health Board:** No update at this time.

## Highways:

*Blocked culvert between 'Fron-Derw' and 'Penffynnon':* Nothing has been done and it was requested to chase this up again.

*Road serving Bryn Clywedog, Tremafon, Dolgwyddel Isaf and Dolgwyddel Uchaf:* The Clerk wrote to PCC requesting a copy of the legal document that has the road "Stopped up". A reply has now been received from PCC advising that their records & archives section have been unable to find any records in connection with the road improvement at the above location in Staylitttle. Highways would presume such a scheme would have required planning permission and it could be the case that the stopping up of redundant highways would have been included within this process. It was agreed that the clerk was to contact PCC and state that the councils view was that the road should be maintained by PCC until the Highways department can prove that the highway rights were ceased.

*Waen Road:* Cty Cllr Jones and Cllr Derrick Pugh said they would look at this and report back at the next meeting on the position.

## Reports:

**Welsh Language Communities Alliance.** This is an invitation for Town or Community Councils to become a member of the Welsh Language Communities Alliance. After the 2011 Census results, it was felt that there is need to ensure people speak and use the Welsh language. The Chairman apologised, as this has not gone any further and asked if the council wanted to proceed. It was agreed that the council did want to pursue this and the Chairman said he would look at this for the next meeting.

### **OVW Executive Board Meeting:**

Cllr. Pugh who is an Executive Board member of One Voice Wales Montgomeryshire attended a Board Meeting on Friday, 13th September 2013 at Llandrindod Wells. He produced a brief report that related to issues of interest in this area

### **Grant Proposal to Welsh Government - Websites**

Members reported on the situation across Wales in respect of progress in relation to £500 grant. There is a mixed and inconsistent response, with some counties progressing well whilst others do not seem to be moving very quickly on the project. One county was even reported as being unwilling to distribute the grant unless councils used the county provider, which members questioned as being unethical or possibly illegal. It was agreed that the Development Officer should write to all unitary authorities to check on progress in relation to this grant and to see how many councils have taken up the offer to date. It was also suggested that One Voice Wales could consider designing a poster for display at the Annual Conference in October.

### **Pylons**

Concerns had been expressed about linking windfarms to the grid via pylons with a strong preference being confirmed that the connections should be put underground. Meifod Community appear to have been successful in having the cabling through their community underground which has been agreed by National Grid. It was also mentioned that other windfarm developers were planning to put their cable underground from their windfarm to the sub-station. There was very strong feeling throughout Wales that this practice should be enforced rather than destroying the appearance of the countryside with pylons running all over the place.

## **Flooding Issues**

It was suggested by one member that one of the causes of flooding was due to the fact that rivers were not being routinely cleaned out which was causing blockage at bridges etc. It was considered that there was a need for Natural Resources Wales to review its policy in this context

as a means of reducing the number of flood incidents. It was noted that there is a motion being submitted to the AGM in support of OVW taking action in this matter.

The OVW Annual Conference will take place at Bulth Wells Showground on 5 October 2013 . The chairman and Cllr Derek Pugh will be attending. Cllr Derek Pugh advised that the conference fees expenses for both councillors would be approximately £130, but Cllr Pugh believes that this will be refunded in due course as a goodwill gesture, as this year, he has again for the second year running agreed to sponsor the filming of the OVW Conference for their new website.

**Town and Community Council Websites:** The grant has been paid to TCC. Arrangements have been made for training to be given to the new Clerk and to look at options to upgrade the webpage which has been arranged for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 5.45pm. However as the SPEN Public presentation is on the same evening this is to be rescheduled. Councillors were asked for any input on possibilities for improving the webpage.

### Finance:

*Quarterly Accounts:* These were circulated to the council. Cllr Janet Rowlands noted a duplicate entry and the clerk (MS) apologised and said that this would be corrected.

*Payments In:* Precept & Website Grant £2,482.00  
The clerk (MS) stated that the precept and grant should be a total of £2,480.80 and that she would get on touch with PCC to clarify the amount due.

*Payments Out:* Clerk's Salary from June to August £879.04  
Clerk's Expenses £281.43

The chairman brought it to the attention of the community council that he had received questions from members of the public regarding the potential request in increase payment of wages and a particular reimbursement made to the clerk (MS) back in June. The Chairman had been in touch with OVW for advice on this matter. He was advised that as the council had not agreed to pay any overtime hours to the clerk (MS) and had not had a request from the clerk for extra working hours (contracted for 12 hours), that they did not have to agree to pay the extra hours. The chairman wanted it included in the minutes that it was mentioned to him by members of the public and that he was bringing it to the attention of the councillors as it had been asked of him to do so.

Cllr Arthur Williams said that the extra hours were justified and that the full amount should be paid to the clerk (MS).

Cllr Sue Preston supported the extra work which had been done by the clerk (MS) and stipulated that MS should be paid in full for work done. This was agreed by Cllr Arthur Williams.

Cllr Derrick Pugh – asked a general question of how other community councils operate and was too much being asked of the clerk (MS) with regards of running a council and the hours involved. Cllr Pugh also raised the question of when the clerk (MS) would be finishing as there are currently two clerks and therefore is the council expected to pay for two clerks at present and that this needed to be clarified. The new Clerk (AWM) offered to waive her salary for September but this was rejected. Cllr Pugh added that the new Clerk needed to be paid from that evening as she had been interviewed, given the job and accepted the position and was now taking the Minutes. Paying one Clerk and not the other was unacceptable.

Cllr R Jones stated that the job had moved on in the last few years and it would be too much for the new clerk (AWM) to pick up with the amount of work and there needed to be a crossover with MS.

Cty Cllr Jones stated he was not in a position to comment.

The clerk (MS) expressed that she found the whole thing “very repulsive”. The extra hours have been done on the request of the council for work that needed to be done and therefore as a result there is an increase in the number of hours. The clerk (MS) said she found it an insult as she has worked endlessly for the council and has never charged the full amount of hours done each month and this is the first time they have ever been queried.

The Chairman stated that he had only queried the matter as members of the public had raised it and he would not be doing his job if he did not bring it to the attention of the councillors.

The community council discussed the matter and it was agreed that the clerk (MS) was to be paid in full for the time done to date and that both clerks are to be paid for September and October.

A member of the public (Russell Williams) requested that it be in the minutes that the accusations had not come from him or his wife and that they would never say anything and would not insult MS with such a comment.

## **Correspondence:**

### **Planning Portals.**

E-mail from Welsh Government re **Consultation of Designated Persons from the Local Government Measure 2011**. The Welsh Ministers will, subject to consultation, make a “Designated Persons Order”.

- The Order will designate the individuals and organisations which will, as a consequence, be subject to scrutiny by local authority scrutiny committees.
- This is not intended to duplicate existing systems of accountability. The aim is to complement these by focusing on areas where public services work together.
- Town and Community Councils are also named community planning partners. Given their existing democratic mandate, we are seeking views on whether and how they could contribute to local collaborative scrutiny and if it is necessary to designate them in this first phase.

Noted, no action required.

Letter re **National Eisteddfod** returning to Montgomeryshire in 2015. Council agreed to find out further from the meeting held on 17 September 2013.

Letter from **Wales Rally GB** re Wales Rally on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Competitors will complete a reconnaissance run through the stages on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November in normal road cars. Spectators are not permitted. Noted

E-mail re **Welsh Water Consultation**. Noted, no response.

E-mails from Montgomeryshire CHC re **maternity services review**. Posters put on Noticeboard. Noted.

E-mail from Dyfed-Powys Police re **Rural Policing Consultation Survey**. Noted.

E-mails from OVW re **Training**. Nobody to attend.

E-mail from Prof L McAllister re Expert Group on **Local Government Diversity**. Noted, no response.

E-mail from OVW re **Appointment of Independent Member to the NHS Wales National Delivery Group**. Put on Noticeboard. Noted.

E-mails from **Boundary Commission** and OVW re Electoral Reviews Programme 2014. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires the Commission to publish a ten year programme of electoral reviews. In February 2013 the Commission set about analysing the information it had obtained from principal councils and the relevant factors considered necessary to develop a 10 year programme of electoral reviews for the 22 principal councils of Wales.

Noted, no comments.

E-mails from PCC re **Traffic Management Measures** re the Tour of Britain Cycle Event 2013 (Stage 5). Noted.

E-mail from PCC Countryside Services re **Powys Community Nectar Tree Scheme**. There has been considerable publicity in recent months over the rapid decline of native bee species and the importance of all pollinating insects to our economy and quality of life. Welsh Government is taking steps to safeguard this essential resource and launched its first Action Plan for Pollinators at the Royal Welsh Show in July.

Powys County Council in partnership with Natural Resources Wales are offering local communities in Powys free trees which provide a nectar source in early spring for bees and other insects. In addition to raising awareness of the importance of pollinating insects the scheme also aims to enhance local open spaces for the benefit of all. Community groups will be able to apply for up to fifteen free fruit trees (depending on demand) to plant on land accessible by the community. Advice and support on planting and after care will also be provided.

Discussed by community council and noted to forward to Cwm Trannon for activities for schools.

E-mail from **Consumer Council for Water Wales Committee Annual Review**. Noted.

E-mail from **Play Wales** re **'A Tool kit for schools'** regarding use of school grounds for playing out of teaching hours. Council agreed to forward to the school.

E-mail from **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service** re feedback from communities. Noted.

E-mail from PCC re **Funding Opportunities**. Noted.

E-mail from PCC re **casual vacancies in the office of Councillor**. This is mainly information for Clerks. Noted.

Letter from OVW re **OVW Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meeting**, which will be held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 in Machynlleth. Noted.

E-mail from Banks Solutions re **Conjoined Public Inquiry**. Noted.

All e-mails were previously sent to Councillors who have e-mail facilities prior to the meeting.

### **Planning:**

- **P/2013/0855** Application for Full installation of a single 15kW wind turbine measuring 26.131m to blade tip (hub height of 20.584m) and associated infrastructure at Grid ref: E:299435, N:287115 at land SW of Rhydfaes, Oakley Park, Llandinam. The community council discussed this and had no objections or comments at this time.
- **P/2013/0895** Planning application for alterations and extensions to bungalow in order to form a two-storey dwelling at Nantygelyn Fach, Trefeglwys. The community council discussed this and had no objections.
- **P/2013/0867** Planning application for alterations and extensions to existing cottages to form a single dwelling, together with the erection of a cart shed for use as residential garage, change of use of land into residential use including the permanent closure of existing No.2 vehicle access of B4569 at Oleu Ddu Cottages, Trefeglwys. The community council discussed this and support the application as it is an improvement.
- **P/2013/0526** Amended Proposals consultation re Full installation of a single 50kW wind turbine at land at Hirnant, Staylitttle. The community council discussed the amended proposals and had no objections.

### **Chairman / Councillors Comments:**

Cllr Arthur Williams mentioned that it had been brought to his attention by members of the community over the concern of the positioning of the speed van on the brow of the hill which is dangerous and a hazard. County Cllr Jones to provide details to the clerk (AWM) for Police Commissioner Christopher Salmon to write and express concerns on behalf of the community.

Cllr William Davies stated that the council meetings are going on too long and this needs to be addressed.

The Chairman passed on the thanks on behalf of Staylitttle for the cheque received from the council towards the village hall repairs and that it was very much appreciated.

Cty Cllr Jones thanked all council members for the money raised for the Alzheimer's Walk which raised £400.

Cllr William Davies mentioned that a resident had reported that the bank by the post office (Fron Goch House) Staylitttle is a problem. The bank is slipping down to the road and is very slippery.

**Date of next meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 7:30 pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 11.00pm.