

Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council
Serving the community of Dolau Radnorshire

There was an ordinary meeting of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council held on **Thursday 8th March** at 8.00pm in Dolau Community Hall.

Minutes

Present- Cllrs R S Lyon (chair), E Newman, D Lewis, C Watkins, R Shelton, R Thomas, R Watkins

1. Apologies for absence;

County Cllr. Deborah Edwards (due to snow conditions)

2. Declarations of interest;

None

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2023 were read and agreed. Proposed by E Newman and seconded by D Lewis. These were signed by the chair.

4. Matters arising from the minutes - None.

5. Correspondence

- Email from Powys County Council acknowledging receipt of our precept request for £4,750 in 2023/24
- Invitation to participate in the Climate and Nature Action Forum in Llandrindod Wells on 14 June 2023 hosted by Llandrindod Wells Town Council. Request to complete a questionnaire (*Cllrs C Watkins and E Newman expressed an interest that they might attend*)
- Letter from Audit Wales confirming receipt of cheque 100542 for invoice ARINV/005094
- Request for support from Macmillan Cancer Support in 2023 – *Noted. It was pointed out that the Dolau Community has made generous support to this charity through a Macmillan Coffee Morning*
- Invitation from Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council to a meeting to discuss Nant Mithal Energy Park Community Benefit planning (*Cllrs E Newman and R Shelton attended this meeting' Copies of notes of the meeting – attached appendix A – had been distributed to all members. All agreed to support the principle of a joint working group as outlined in the notes.*)
- Email from the Clerk Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council with notes of the meeting held on 2 March 2023 (*appendix A*)
- Email from Powys County Council Planning dated 10 February 2023 stating that it is unlikely to be expedient for them to take any further action in respect of the wild camp activities.
- Request for support from Cruse Bereavement Support in 2023 - *Noted*
- Letter from Llandrindod Wells and Area Twinning Association thanking the Council for its grant of £50

- Notice from Powys County Council of road closures at Dolau Station railway crossing during March – *details posted on the Council's website*
- Receipt of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - February 2023 - *Noted*
- Email from Dolau Ty Y Fi thanking Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council for the £200 grant
- Email from Dolau Recreation Association thanking Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council for the £100 grant

6. Highways

Concern was expressed at the shortage of salt bins on steep sections of the highway in Dolau. The Clerk was asked to write to the Highway authority pointing out salt bins would be of benefit on the Fronwen Lane hill and steep slope adjacent the Old Toll House in the Village.

7. Dark skies update:

Cllr Newman reported meetings are continuing

8. Reports from representatives:

DRA - Cllr E Newman reported that the AGM was well attended with a number of new members. There is concern about the future sustainability of maintaining the Community Hall with the loss of substantial income after Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School has closed.

School Governing body - Cllr D Lewis read a short report from the Headteacher

At the School it is very much business as usual, two children have left to start a new school. Lots of activities arranged, including forest, schools, well-being, coaching and lots of trips planned.

The Headteacher has held a first meeting with the authority about archiving materials and sorting out logistics et cetera.

The Governors decided last night that there will be a big end of term celebration on the last day or weekend of term, and that be a celebration for the children, staff, parents and community. There would then be another event towards the end of the summer holiday that marks the closure. Nothing decided yet, but as the two events are separate, it would be up to parents if they wanted their children to come to the final thing or not. The School keys will be handed back to Powys on the 1st of September

There was lots of discussion about what will happen to the school grounds and building, but that is an issue/role for Community Council and or DRA and or a mutation of the school action group. Governor focuses now on standards and supporting for transition.

DRA representatives have met representatives from a play-ground company to spend a grant secured a while ago. The children are going to help choose equipment which will likely be mobile equipment. Located on the school field in the first instance but able to be relocated should the community not secure the school field.

9. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

- Budget – £942.50 has been spent on trees chosen by residents in the community planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. The total expenditure is now £8,493.48 against the approved budget £8,500
- Trees – A total of 81 trees have been distributed and planted around the community. There have been a large number of messages from residents thanking the Community Council for enabling the community to mark the late Queen Elizabeth II's seventy years on the throne in such a sustainable way.

Councillors wished to thank Rob Stuart-Lyon, Rob & Barb Shelton for their work organising the tree planting scheme. It was suggested a press report and photo be sent local papers.

10. King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

At its recent meeting DRA suggested a programme of events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. It was agreed that the Community Council will submit a bid to the National Lottery Community Fund to celebrate and commemorate the King's Coronation on the weekend of 6 – 8 May in accordance with plans drawn up by Dolau Recreation Association on behalf of Dolau Community.

11. Community Council Finances

1. Bank Balances – as of 3 February 2023

- Current account - £ 5,161.33
- Money manager -£ 1,218.93

2. Recent Transactions

Current account-

Paid out - £5.00 - bank charges, £1,900 grant to DRA

Outstanding payments (grant payments approved at the meetings on 24 November 2022 & 19 January 2023) £700.00, Trees for Platinum Jubilee £942.50

Money manager payment in - £0.99 interest

12. Position of Clerk

It was noted that the existing clerk's position has terminated and in the interim Cllr R Shelton agreed to serve as acting clerk. An interview with a potential new clerk has been conducted.

13. Any other business.

No items raised

Date of next meeting:

20 April 2023 7.45pm

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Signed

Chairman

Date :

DRAFT

NANT MITHIL ENERGY PARK - AFFECTED COMMUNITIES MEETING

Hosted by Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council

at 7pm on Thursday 2nd March 2023 in Llanbadarn Fawr Community Centre, Crossgates.

An informal meeting of Community Councils affected by the potential Nant Mithil Energy Park development to discuss: if planning permission is consented, how/if communities could work together to establish a vision for a fund and involve the entire community in decision-making about its benefits.

Attending:

for Llanbadarn Fawr: Cllrs M Phillips, J Le Mesurier, P Knill, V L Garwood (Clerk).

for Penybont and District: D Turner.

for Llanfihangel Rhydion: R Watkins, R Shelton, E. Newman.

for New Radnor: Tracey Price (Clerk).

and County Councillor G Morgan.

Cllr Mike Phillips (Chairman Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council (LFCC)) welcomed attendees to the meeting. He gave a brief explanation to the reason for calling a meeting and an information note was circulated. He noted that at the LFCC January meeting it was understood that an appointment had been made by Bute Energy of an 'environmental and heritage officer' who would work with communities. It was also confirmed that since that LFCC meeting contact had been made directly to the LCFF Clerk by a Bute Energy Officer. Although no discussions had taken place with Bute Energy LCFF Members felt it was important to share this with other Community Council colleagues.

There was a short discussion about **the need to ensure clear separation between the planning process and community benefit negotiations** and that care should be taken to ensure that individual councils did not jeopardize their ability to maintain a quorum if /when any development plans were presented for comment. Attendees were reminded a Community Council Member **taking part in any negotiation process with the developer must forgo involvement in determining the Community Council's response.**

Cllr Phillips also advised that since invitations to this meeting were issued a public meeting had been arranged at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground also on 02/03/23 by the Countryside Alliance and others to discuss the impact of an electricity grid network and associated pylons. All attending noted that there had been no information regarding the grid network meeting circulated directly to community councils.

There was general opinion the 'community benefits' should be a Plan B consideration for communities if an energy park development was consented.

There was a short discussion about the **format for management of community benefit funds**. Cllr Geoff Morgan gave an overview of the Llanbadarn Fynydd RES Fund and how this operated for Llanbister. Powys Association of Community Organisations (PAVO) manage the fund and charge a fee for doing so. Community members are involved in the assessment of applications for support to the fund. He advised that it is important that the terms of local awards should be clear and enforceable. He also advised that local residents receive an annual energy support payment from the local scheme.

There was an awareness of other local funds, for example the Bryntitli Fund – distributed in their communities by both Rhayader Town Council and St Harmon Community Council.

Cllr Phillips asked the Llanbadarn Fawr Clerk speak about her past experience as Powys County Council Regeneration Manager working with communities affected by wind farm developments.

She explained that there were many examples of community benefit good practice across the UK and suggested that these be referenced in any future discussion. These could demonstrate the range of management and delivery structures (Trusts, Charities, Community Interest Companies, Industrial and Provident Societies) for a fund. She said that the type of structure chosen may influence how funds could be distributed and for what purpose. She advised that communities should look at a step by step process to develop an appropriate 'vehicle' for a local fund.

Where should it operate? What kind of structure? were as important questions as what should any funds be used for and how will they be distributed (through an application and award process (e.g. Bryntitli Fund); by a regular scheme of benefits (e.g fuel cost payments – Llanbister); or both and whether at full area level and/or at individual community levels. Noting Cllr Morgan's experience it was also important that the governance documents of a fund should allow for review and change. Who should be involved in developing the Structure? Local groups and residents should be considered. How will they be engaged in the process and could they take the lead on developing/managing a fund – do they already have a structure that can be adapted?

Meeting attendees raised the following

- Can existing boundaries be used? (sometimes a good starting point). The electoral register would define properties in a community.
- Create a simple boundary based on distances from a fixed point (say the center of the development). T Price had knowledge of schemes where concentric circles of decreasing benefit linked to closeness to the development were used.
- Consider where the 'communities' (people) are, where facilities are. Why have you included some or left others out? Cllr Morgan advised care should be taken to ensure that there were no 'benefit not spots' where two or more boundaries excluded some geographic areas.
- Should there be exceptions, if so why?

Other points raised included:

- ensuring that any agreements with a developer were legally binding to both those offering the benefit at the time of development and any future owners of the development if ownership was transferred or sold.
- How would development impact be defined within benefit distribution – it is likely that many communities very distant from the proposed development site would incur visual impact.
- Would a grid connection for Nant Mithal become accessible to other developments e.g Garn Fach and what added disbenefit for communities could this create.
- Should grid connections routes provide community benefits.

Cllr Phillips thanked everyone for their thoughts and asked if the principle of joint working was one that was supported. **This was agreed and that LFCC should Co-ordinate this.**

It was suggested that should **future contact be made to Community Councils by Bute Energy or others that this be made by them to all councils together** as it was noted that their previous 'presentations' to individual councils had been in different formats at different council meetings.

It was also agreed that in the first instance, on behalf of all the councils **LFCC Clerk be a point contact with any Bute Liaison Officers.**

Attendees thanked LFCC for organising the meeting which closed at 8.55 pm.

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