

Minutes of the meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday the 29th July 2015 at 7.30pm. New Mills Village Hall.

Present – Vice Chairman Cllr. H. Lewis Cllrs. Ms. J. Hall, A. Lewis, C. Davies, T. Jerman, Co. Cllr. Mrs. J. Shearer and the Clerk Mrs L. Stanton.

- 1) **Welcome** by Cllr. H. Lewis Vice Chairman
- 2) **Apologies for absence** – Apologies from J. S. Davies
- 3) **Declaration of Interest** – There were none
- 4) **Minutes of the last meeting**; minutes approved, proposed by Cllr. A. Lewis, seconded by Cllr C. Davies, agreed by all and duly signed by Vice Chairman. Cllr. H. Lewis.

It was becoming increasingly difficult for the Messenger to accommodate 3 months minutes in each publication. It was unanimously agreed that in future only main bullet points from the minutes would be published in the Messenger as the main minutes are available in the web site. Clerk would arrange for a notice to go in the next edition informing residents of the changes and copies by email were available from the Clerk as well as the web site, hard copies could be provided at 10p per sheet.

5) **Matters arising from minutes (not covered in main agenda)**

Employment contract Clerk - contract of employment for Clerk recommended minor changes made to Contract, changes advised to Council during meeting, unanimously agreed, only remains for Chairman Cllr. Davies and Clerk to sign.

Local transport – Cllr. J. Shearer confirmed 2 local buses had been saved protecting some local transport facilities.

6) **Updates on Sewage Plant STW/Fischer German**

2 members of the public attended for this agenda item. General consensus was that STW had not fully answered / addressed all of the questions raised by Council to them as a result of the public exhibition and council discussions with STW on the 29th June.

By way of a reminder, the issues put back to STW as a result of the meeting in June were as follows:

1. *Population growth / housing potential, it was felt the numbers were potentially inadequate.*
2. *Proposed siting of new plant given there is a local consensus that it could have been further away from the village settlement and the original suggestions were for it to be sited in the “corner field”.*
3. *Speed limit reduction on approach to the access, Council believe it is critical that the 30 MPH sign is moved back from present location and will be a matter between the developers and the Highways Department.*
4. *Signage, local residents would prefer that there was no direct reference to a sewage treatment plant in the village, and would opt for more subtle signage, for example Severn Trent Water only.*

5. A serious concern is the maintenance and responsibility of the land designated specifically as the flood plain site after the installation/completion of works. Experiences in other areas suggest that if the land is neglected then the function as a flood plain (water attenuation) would be seriously compromised.

Following discussions took place surrounding the issues raised:

Q1. – Still questions surrounding the validity / justification of the population numbers quoted by STW as part of the justification for the sewage scheme, Cllr. Benyon had made a study of the current local residents and based in the 53 dwellings, including the (30) caravans in the scheme the population would be around 110, STW had quoted 186. That raised a further question as to the validity of the projection on future housing / population growth which dwellings were in the scheme/going to be in the scheme.

Q2. Siting of the purposed scheme is by far the most concerning throughout the parish and a number of residents had voiced their concerns as to the siting. Council requires more data on the feasibility study undertaken and why the originally proposed site within the “Ffinnant” field has now been rejected. The feeling is that it is more cost related than anything and STW has opted for a cheaper option and doesn’t take into account fully the views of local residents.

Council accepts that a sewage upgrade was essential but continued to support residents in their feelings about the location. More detail /data is required as to why the originally proposed site nearer the green has been disregarded.

Q5. With regard to this current proposed siting, concerns were raised about the new access road needed running across the old river bed. Local knowledge of the river suggests this could act as a dam in the event of flooding, also the river behaviour in cases of heavy rain are such that water levels come up in a flash , history if a severe flood supports this and Council felt that STW have completely missed the point about the River Rhiew. With regard to the land once the site is competed, whichever site that maybe, concerns remain about the use of the land and its’ management after the land purchase and completion of the site

A major point raised by local residents was that STW have not (as STW suggested they had) taken part in consultations with local residents per say, many residents affected by this proposal have not been consulted with and it was their view that all residents should have been and should in future be properly consulted with. It would seem that whatever level of consultation took place it was not as inclusive as it could or should have been; we need to ask STW why there was no inclusive notification.

It was noted that Adfa was an excellent example of a recent sewage plant upgrade and was sited well out of the village itself.

Clerk was asked to revert in writing to STW with all points raised. Depending on responses it may be that Council insist on a site meeting and possibly a full Public Meeting with STW & residents.

The notes made by the Clerk at the presentation by STW 29th June would be uploaded to the web site ASAP.

7) Correspondence / Updates from Clerk

A brief resume of relevant correspondence received, if required more information can be made available:

- a. Clerk had made enquiries about notice board at village hall for council use. Permission applied for and granted by Village Hall Committee. Prices for a suitable board weatherproof and tamperproof were around £120, prices vary slightly depending on offers available on various sites. It was unanimously agreed that a board should be purchased, Cllr. Shearer suggested Clerk contact Clerk @ Adfa who had recently purchased a notice board and discuss prior to final purchase.
- b. As part of its Summer Budget announced last week, the Government has proposed a series of reforms to the planning system.
- c. Statutory guidance on access to information – Clerk to set up a register of interest documents which must be displayed on web site, and we have to update Councillors details to include information on if members are elected or co-opted Clerk to arrange ASAP.
- d. The Law Commission has issued a consultation paper asking what can be done to simplify legislation relating to Wales and make it more accessible. Throughout the UK the law can be difficult for professionals and the public to find and understand. The volume of legislation in England and Wales, the number of amendments and the way in which legislation is presented, make it increasingly difficult to find out what the law is and what it means. In Wales, the process of devolution has made matters even more complicated.

The consultation runs until 9th October 2015, following which the Law Commission expects to offer advice to the Welsh Assembly in the spring of 2016.

- e. Communities will have more say over Wind Farms, a written statement to Parliament, Greg Clark MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has outlined changes to the planning system aimed at giving communities greater control over onshore wind farms. The changes mean that when considering a planning application for wind turbines in their area, a Local Planning Authority should only grant permission if:
 - The site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy as part of a Local or Neighbourhood plan, and following consultation, the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore has their backing.
- f. Newsletter from Russell George AM contains reference to Newtown by pass one way system Welshpool; changes to bus services schools reorganisation, Mid Wales connection project, a copy will be on notice board.

8) Planning

No new planning applications or approvals received by Clerk.

Gwernydd Application reference P/2015/0520; copy of application was eventually received by Clerk and passed to Cllr. C. Davies. Some local objections had been raised and advised to Cllr. Davies. Main issues surround highways and the access and egress from the holiday park. Some local businesses were being affected at times as were residents and suggestions had been made that Gwernydd were to sacrifice some land to enable more frequent and larger passing places to be constructed above and below the entrance. It was felt there was an increase in traffic locally with holidaymakers using more local roads, partly with “sat nav” directions and this was adding to the problems. Council was not objecting to the plans for additional caravans but felt that the matter needing feedback to the planning department in respect of concerns over the highways issues. Clerk to respond to Nick Morgan in planning with views, some residents have been in correspondence directly with the planning department already.

9) Retirement Gift/Discretionary Payments

Clerk organised a collection between existing and previous Councillor’s. Donations generously made up totalling £125 which has been used for the retirement gift.

10) Highways

C. Cllr. J. Shearer stated that highways department will lose in the region of £6.4 million from budgets over next 3 years. Concerns were raised over the “over hanging hedge” at New Mills which was restricting views for traffic, Cllr. H. Lewis would take up the matter; locally.

Another issue was the telegraph pole that was in the road rather than in the verge at Dolryhoel rock, Cllr. C. Davies to take up with highways department.

11) Reports of Training / Meetings attended

Cllr. Benyon attended a meeting at Llanfair Caereinion School as part of the reorganisation of Montgomeryshire Secondary schools.

The majority of those that had questionnaires or attended the meeting preferred to keep the school bi-lingual, considered that a welsh speaking education could be limiting for some career choices for pupils, potentially changes in secondary schools had consequences for primary schools too, other factors affect decisions about location and status of schools, pupil numbers, transport costs etc. but seemingly due to the overall pupil numbers then one school potentially would have to close.

The Council has appointed an organisation called Sbectrwm to consult with high schools and parents across Montgomeryshire. These consultation events have taken place. If you were unable to attend a consultation event you can still give your views by emailing school.modernisation@powys.gov.uk

Extract from July newsletter from Russell George has more information, follow link: <http://www.russellgeorge.com/news/july-newsletter>

12) Payment of accounts

Cheques raised for £50 for donation to Welsh Air ambulance as approved at June meeting. Clerk will take into Newtown Friday.

Clerk - £14.04 payment for postage stamps.

Cheque for £125 to Cllr. J. Davies to contribute towards retirement gift for Mrs. R. Davies covered by donations received of £125. This matter is now considered resolved.

Clerk gave an overview of current accounts and provided hard copy to Councillors; expenditure so far amounts to £543.18 including VAT, Clerk confirmed that the £30 “cash back” deal from HP has been approved, payment should be in the bank account in the next 60 days. This effectively reduces cost of lap top to £181.47.

13) Proposed agenda for meeting (any additional items arising in the meantime will be added before issuing prior to meeting, please advise of any **additional agenda items to Clerk by 22nd August**)

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declaration of interest (as agenda points arise)
4. Minutes of the last meeting
5. Matters arising from minutes
6. Updates on Sewage Plant from STW/Fischer-German
7. Correspondence / Updates from Clerk
8. Planning Applications/Updates
9. Notice Board update
10. Highways matters
11. Reports from meetings / training attended
12. Payment of accounts
13. Agenda items next meeting
14. Confirmation of date of next meeting

14) Date of next meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **2nd September at 1930 hours.**



Lorraine Stanton
Clerk & RFO to the Council

Action Points from Meeting 29th July 2015

Clerk

Upload information to web site, notes from meeting 29th June, questions and responses with STW in respect of sewage plant

Organise for new notice board

Email article to David Hall for next Messenger re future distribution of minutes

Email STW/Fisher German re Council views on proposed site

Email Nick Morgan Planning re Gwernnydd and highways issues

Update web site in respect of Councillor details, elected or co-opted

Generate a register of interest and add to web site

Councillors

Cllr. J. Davies to sign contract of employment and set up formal appraisal system for Clerk (carried over from 24th June due to illness)

Cllr. H. Lewis attend to New Mills hedge cutting

Cllr. C. Davies speak to highways department re telegraph pole

Addendum to minutes.

For information, the following links are now established on the Manafon CC web site

Useful Links

National and Local Government

[MP for Montgomeryshire - Glyn Davies](#)

[AM for Montgomeryshire - Russell George](#)

[Welsh Assembly Government](#)

[Powys County Council](#)

[PCC Planning Applications](#)

NHS Wales

Police and Fire Services

[Dyfed-Powys Police](#)

[Dyfed-Powys Police Authority](#)

[Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service](#)