

Raglan Community Council
Minutes of the Site Meeting held on Wednesday
24th July 2013 at the Pen-y-Clawdd Village Hall
Raglan at 5.00pm

Present

Cllr Dennis Brown

Cllr Ewen Brierley

Cllr Penny Jones

Cllr Richard Moorby

Cllr Sylvia Price(Chairman)

Cllr Ray Parry

Cllr Trevor Phillips

Cllr Peter Williams

3422 In attendance:

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council. Plus 23 members of the public.

The Council met at Pen-y-Clawdd village hall. The Chairman invited members of the council to inspect the proposed site before meeting members of the public. This enabled members to have a better understanding of the proposals and the impact the proposed application would have on the local community and surrounding area.

Members adjourned to the site and the Clerk showed members the proposed plans and gave members an update on the meeting which he and Cllr Brown attended with the Planning Officer, applicant and his agent.

Members were concerned over the height and the impact it would have on the surrounding community and the distances it could be viewed from. One member had concern over the lack of an environmental study and the comments made by MCC Planning Department. Members debated the proposals in great depth it was:

Resolved that members consider the views and observations of the public before members make a resolution. It was proposed that item three on the agenda be extended to 30 minutes allowing the public to address the Council. Members reconvened at the village hall at 5.30pm

3423 Agenda item 1:-Apologies for absence.

Cllr's Helen Williams, Noel Porter and Vivenne Compton

3424 Agenda item 2:- Declarations of interest.

None made

3425 Agenda item 3:-Ten minutes will be set aside for members of public to address the Council with any concerns at each location.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Standing Orders will be suspended allowing 30 minutes for any observations to be made.

The Clerk explained that he and a Council member attended a meeting with MCC Planning Officers with the applicant and his agent. It was also explained that MCC are still waiting for further information relating to this application.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the power will go over ground on the existing poles with an extra cable. There will be some new poles needed to divert around the hedge rows; this will total an estimated 700m. He explained that he has some drawings showing the proposed line.

The Clerk also explained that the applicant and the agent stated that he has spoken to a number of land owners about the cables going over ground since the last planning meeting.

Concern was expressed over this and the size of the cable. The tenant of Trecastle Farm explained that he has met with the applicant and the agents and he was under the impression that the turbine was going to be a lot smaller than what has been proposed. He explained that he has contacted county farms asking for the cables to go underground and not on the proposed overhead cables.

There was concern over the cables going over ground and close to listed monuments. The Clerk explained that he only received the proposed plan today at the joint meeting and the plan only came on A4 paper. He has had the proposals blown up for the meeting to-night. He explained that the agent has been in contact with Western Power over the proposals and the plans are from Western Power.

One member of the public explained that she along with others were unaware of this application due to the poor internet connections. She explained that she is unable to find this information and this should have been made more widely available. The Clerk explained the Community Council is a consultee in the planning process and this is the second public meeting which has been held giving members of the public an opportunity to address the issue.

One member of the public expressed concern over the new cable going over ground and the size and weight of the cable on the existing poles. He asked what poles or structures are going to be erected. It was explained that if there are any concerns over H&S issues this should be addressed to Western Power or the Planning Authority.

A number of members of the public looked at the proposed plan for five minutes.

The Clerk explained that the Planning Officer has not received any objections from CADW. One member believes that CADW should be invited to a site meeting and see the proposals from all angles. It was explained that CADW have no objection in principle and that information is on the planning website.

One member asked about the inaccuracies within the proposed application and what is going to be the Council's observation. What observations are going to be made for the local residents? It was explained the Council members will consider all the facts and observations made and make comment in line with the planning policy. It was explained that a number of points were made in the joint meeting today with the Planning Officer.

Some of the points raised were:

- Scale and Size
- Impact on the health and well being
- Impact on the open countryside and the landscape
- Impact on birds and other flying mammals
- The impact on horses and riders
- Low flying air craft
- What will the community benefit be
- Wind speed data
- Precedent set for other environmental projects of this size

There was concern over the bridle ways in the location and area of the proposal, as riders and horses will be riding on the highway close to the turbine.

One member of the public asked what authority does the Community Council have on a planning application without being the Planning Authority.

It was explained the Council are consultees and the Council members will consider all the facts in relation to any application and make comment and follow the existing UDP and the draft LDP documents. Members are not allowed to allow personal judgment to come into the decision making process, as if an application is appealed against the Inspector will consider all the comments made and disregard any not made in relation to planning policy

It was explained that advice from the Planning Officer can be taken and they can take advice from Planning Aid Wales and the advice will be independent.

One question was asked about the value of properties which will be overlooking this structure if the application received consent and what are the views of the Council.

A local tenant explained that he has received correspondence from MCC Estates Department outlining the tenancy agreements for the next number of years. This is going to affect property prices within the area. It was also explained that there are two proposed environmental projects in this community which will affect land and property prices. It was also explained that MCC Estates are intending to sell off farms and other small holdings and this will affect the current price and any forecasted spending on schools. The council may need to consider this when making a decision.

It was explained that the Council cannot consider the value of land and property when making any observations relating to a Planning application.

A question was asked about what the Council will consider making their points on. The Clerk gave some headings the Council may consider.

One member asked about the efficiency of a turbine of this size.

One member of the public asked will the Council consider the public views when making their observations. It was agreed that the Council members will be considering everyone's views.

One member of the public thanked the members for taking the time to listen to everyone's point of view. He explained that it's not their intension to attack the Council.

It was resolved: those members should inspect the sites which were indicated in the meeting so members can have an understanding of the concerns expressed and the impact on the environment and landscape. Members adjourned at 6.20pm

3426 The Chairman thanked members for attending. The meeting closed at 7.10pm. The date of the next meeting is 25th September 2013

Signed by _____
Chairman Cllr S Price
Date 25th September 2013