

Nelson Community Council

Extraordinary Meeting held on 3rd August 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm at Nelson Institute

Present:

Cllr. R. Powell
Cllr. G Davies
Cllr. A Gray
Mr. L John (Clerk)
Cllr B Miles (joined 20:10)
Cllr E ap Llwyd Dafydd (Chair)

No declarations of interest were received.

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. L Dufty, Cllr A. John, Cllr. R. Powell, Cllr S Morgan.

2. To receive the report of the Internal Auditor and approve the 2022/2023 Statement of Accounts

Members noted receipt of the report and discussed the content.

Members agreed to

- review the energy rates regularly to ensure value for money
- Undertake a mid-year audit

Members resolved to approve the 2022/2023 Statement of Accounts.

3. To consider actions related to Summer activities

Members resolved to pay appropriate expenses as requested and to other judges on request.

Members considered the support available.

Members updated and agreed actions as per Appendix A below.

4. To receive and consider the Report from the Clerk:

- a. Members agreed to the payments
- b. Planning

Members considered the planning applications and wider development in Llanfabon.

Members discussed their concerns which included:

- Potential obstructions to the water course
- There is limited publicity around the developments.
- The planning is being applied for separately and the bigger picture needs consideration

- The impact on future generations

Members of the public raised the following concerns:

- Information on the planning portal appears to be inconsistent
- It is unclear what connection WP Power and the planning application have to the National Grid who have permitted development.
- Lack of clarity about the intended developments at the site generally
- Why the cemetery is not being extended
- Planning authorities refuse to meet with residents although a meeting with CCBC has now been organised.
- No confirmation of approval by aviation authorities
- Attempts to contact/discuss issues with Welsh Government have not been successful
- Access issues following the development
- Lack of contact from CCBC Planning to clarify *permitted development*
- On-site staff have suggested that the development has already been approved.
- No response relating to the query about where drilling is likely to happen
- Suggestion that the substation development will continue
- Impact on residents' wellbeing through the process
- The overall catastrophic impact on Llanfabon
- The valuation of residents' houses are not considered
- The impact of the development phases on residents
- The turbines last for 20 years but the project is for 45 years but any new turbines have not been considered
- Impact on wildlife and protected birds
- The renewable energy development in Wales is disproportionate to the carbon dioxide generation
- How the project will end and is there funding to put the site back to how it was

Members noted that they had attended a recent meeting of Pontypridd Town Council. The following was also noted:

- There is a pre-assessed stone in Llanfabon. Gwent Heritage and a former professor of Cardiff University are involved in challenging the ability to develop on the land.
Members confirmed that a petition had been considered to protect the stones.
- Pontypridd Town Council may be in favour of the development because of the community benefit.

It was noted that it has been agreed for a meeting with CCBC Planning to take place as soon as possible with Cllr. B Miles and 2 residents.

Members resolved:

- to respond to the planning application and object to the proposal on the below grounds
 - o Visual impacts for residents

- Unknown impact on water courses
- Disruption to local residents in development
- Close proximity to residents' properties- Noise and visual impact
- It will be raised rather than discreetly
- There is scope for an extension to the development with a site which has permitted development next to it
- Proximity to amenities such church and graveyard

It was confirmed that Community Councillors could make representations at the meeting and Cllr Miles would not be taking part in the Committee.

5. To consider actions required in submitting a voluntary Local Impact Report (LIR) and/or representations to PEDW in response to the Twyn Hywel Energy Park.

Members continued to discuss the development and the option to submit a Local Impact Report and representations to PEDW.

It was confirmed that a meeting with Bute Energy on 7th September with Hefin David MS is planned to discuss community benefit.

Members noted the following:

- A voluntary LIR must include the exchanged land on the common for Nelson community, draft conditions or obligations
- Local planning consultants had been contacted with little positive feedback. Some were unwilling to undertake the work and others had conflicts of interest.
- Following a discussion with other stakeholders, it is thought that a Local Impact Report may be challenging to undertake given the timeframe and potential cost and may have little value given the its requirement to be objective and that CCBC and RCT are both undertaking one.
- CPRW had been contacted for advice.

Members resolved to:

- ask residents for their input on their concerns through Facebook and notice boards.
- Continue to pursue the support of a planning consultant to support with representations at a minimum.

6. To receive any questions from members of the public/report by Members
There were no others to be considered.