



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE/
TY PENALLTA, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor C.P. Mann - Chairman
Community Councillor C.R. Roberts - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D.G. Carter, M.H. Newman, Mrs. K. Presley, J.A. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts,
A.S. Williams

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	- I. Racz, Mrs. S. Hughes (Clerk)
Argoed	-
Bargoed	- H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	- Ms J. Gale, Mrs. S. Chick (Clerk)
Blackwood	- Mrs. M. Franklin, Mr. J. Hold (Clerk)
Caerphilly	- Mrs. U. Newman, Mr. K. Williams (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- C.R. Roberts
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	- Mrs. S. Chick (Clerk)
Gelligaer	- A. Angel, Ms. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- R. Cantelo, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Miss. J. Rao
Nelson	- Mrs. G. Davies
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	-
Rhymney	- D.T. Williams
Van	- Mrs. E. Macey

Together with

M. Williams (Head of Public Services), J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager), H.C. Morgan
(Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. D. Price and Mrs. L. Williams, Community Councillors Mrs. E. P. Prendergast, P. Blight, D. Woodman and Mrs. A. Nash and Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. G. Thomas, Mrs. H. Treherne, Mr. A. Hoskins and Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerks of Bargoed, Maesycwmmmer, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn, Nelson and Van Community/Town Councils respectively).

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Community Councillors I. Racz, B. Cantelo, Mrs. M Franklin and H. Llewellyn along with Sharon Hughes (Clerk of Aber Valley Community Council) to their first meeting of the Liaison Sub-Committee.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Community Councillor C. Roberts was appointed Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

Members paid tribute to the way in which the outgoing Chairman, Councillor C.P. Mann, had carried out his role during his term of Office.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHAIRMAN

Councillor C.P. Mann was appointed Vice - Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

5. MINUTES - 23RD FEBRUARY 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2011 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted. There were no matters arising.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the community/town councils.

6. COLLABORATION ON WASTE - PROSIECT GWYRDD

Mr. M. Williams (Head of Public Services) gave a slide presentation and advised that Prosiect Gwyrdd is a partnership project between 5 local authorities, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan. Together they seek to deliver the best environmental, cost effective and practical solution to municipal residual waste that is left over in each authority after recycling and composting has been maximised in each area.

The outline business case defines the scope of the Project as a 25 year contract involving the design, build, finance, operation and maintenance of the facility for circa 35% of the total municipal waste stream from the five authorities (with each also striving to achieve the 65% recycling and compost target set by the Welsh Assembly Government). He advised of the aims of the procurement of a long-term contract for the treatment/disposal of residual municipal waste and detailed the value for money of economies of scale of the shared procurement costs (supported by WAG) which will provide a solution that reduces the reliance on landfill to a minimum.

Reference was then made to the governance structure and it was noted that the partnership is governed by a decision making Joint Committee, consisting of two Councillors from each Cabinet/Executive from each authority. The Joint Committee will also govern the project through the 'Competitive Dialogue' process and the final decision to appoint a contractor will be made to each Council. The Project Board (with senior advisors from each authority) advises the Joint Committee with the assistance of the Project Team and external advisors. The role of the Joint Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise the decision making process. However, there are three key decisions that must be made by each individual Partner Council - entering into the partnership, the appointment of a preferred bidder and the final contract award.

Mr. Williams then detailed the procurement process (invitation, prequalification, outline solutions, detailed solutions, final tender, preferred bidder) and advised that due to the

contract value, an OJEU notice, which outlines the requirements, had been sent out to the market, marking the beginning of the complex procurement process. All bids made will be assessed against agreed criteria, involving environmental impacts, sustainability, service delivery, cost and value for money. The Partnership is technology neutral and will look at all technologies that may be proposed for the contract and is aware of a number of different technical solutions that have been proposed.

He advised that Prosiect Gwyrdd is currently in the middle of the competitive dialogue process at the detailed solutions stages with three separate bidders (there were four but one has subsequently withdrawn). Each are proposing an energy from waste facility, Covanta at Brig y Cwm, Merthyr Tydfil, Veolia at Llanwern, Newport and Viridor at Trident Park, Cardiff. The preferred bidder is likely to be announced in Summer 2012.

During the course of the debate reference was made to the application by Covanta for the construction and operation of an energy from waste facility which would be sited at Brig y Cwm, Cwmbargoed to the west of the existing disposal point. Mr. Williams advised that an application has been submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission and that the county borough is a statutory consultee in the process and is required to produce and submit a local impact report to the Commission. The report is in the process of being finalised and will be presented to the Planning Committee on 8th June 2011 for consideration, at which time a number of objectors to the proposal will be able to speak. In noting that a copy of the document will be available a week before the meeting it was agreed that once it is produced it be forwarded to the community/town council clerks.

Reference was made to the possible health risks associated with the facility and the perceived risk from emissions to atmosphere. Mr. Williams advised that the Environment Agency have a statutory role to safeguard the environment and human health from all processes and activities they regulate, including energy from waste, to ensure they comply with current air quality objectives and limit values. As part of the process an application for an environmental permit (which controls how the facility is operated) has been submitted to the Environment Agency. Emission limits are established by the EU Waste Incineration Directive and policed by Environment Agency Wales to ensure public safety. This directive sets the most stringent controls for any thermal process regulated in the European Union. A copy of the Environment Agency briefing note on 'energy from waste and health' would be circulated for information. An Environmental Impact has to be carried out to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the scheme. Details of the assessment have to be submitted with the application in an Environment Statement and will include assessments on air quality, archaeology, ecology, noise, transport and visual impacts. If any significant impacts are identified, mitigation measures will be detailed.

Reference was then made to the transport of waste to and from the site and to the volume of heavy goods vehicle traffic which would be generated on the local road network. It was noted that the site would be served primarily by the existing rail network at Cwm Bargoed, which is currently used for freight purposes, at timings to be approved by Network Rail.

A query was also raised in relation to the disposal of residue from the burnt waste. It was explained that residue bottom ash can be recycled and used as an aggregate within the construction industry and that it will be transported from site by train in sealed containers to a facility where it will be processed and made available for such projects.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Williams for his informative presentation and for responding to the number of queries raised during the course of the debate.

7. REVIEW OF THE CHARTER

Consideration was given to the proposed changes to the charter as detailed within the report which had been collated following consultation with community/town councils and Officers. It was noted that the requests that the timescale for responses to consultation has been changed from fifteen to twenty working (with Officers being asked to bear in mind the

frequency of meetings and the fact there are no meetings during August recess), a member will be allowed to substitute for a Clerk if he/she is not able to attend, under lists for consultation has been added 'other areas not detailed which are key and fundamental to the majority of wards that have community/town councils' and minor amendments have been made to the subjects for consultation generally (as a result of legislative and other requirements) had been incorporated within its content .

With regard to the suggestion that the Charter including a paragraph to enable community/town councils to request an item to be placed on a scrutiny committee agenda the Democratic Services Manager advised that scrutiny committees must be allowed to determine their own priorities (in partnership with Directors) within the capacity of the 6 weekly meeting cycle. However, it was accepted that the scrutiny committee would consider any significant requests brought to their attention by community/town councils. The Charter details those items which are subject to consultation and, where the views of the community/town council are sought, any responses received are incorporated within the subsequent report that is presented to committee.

It was pointed out that whilst there are no formal arrangements for community/town councils to have the right to refer matters to scrutiny committees for consideration, there are a number of opportunities for community/town councils to engage with the scrutiny process. In some instances Community Councillors are also County Borough Councillors and can bring requests of concern to the attention of scrutiny committees in their capacity as a local member, community/town councils can contact their local member(s) or relevant chair to request that an issue is considered by a scrutiny committee and community council's can also request that a scrutiny committee consider an issue or, alternatively speak at a scrutiny committee meeting).

Mr. Jones advised that this position is reflected in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 which has recently been given royal assent. It provides for a new duty for scrutiny committees to take into account the views of the public (which would include community/town councils). While the general theme of the Measure is to place a duty on a scrutiny committee to actively engage with stakeholders it falls short of requiring scrutiny committees to consider all issues raised by stakeholders.

It was agreed that a representative of the Welsh Government be invited to attend a future meeting to give a presentation on the implications for town and community councils following the Measure coming into force.

Subject to the forgoing the proposed revisions to the Charter were approved.

8. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CENTRES - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER INITIATIVE

It was noted that the report in respect of the review of community centres, which suggests that certain of the county boroughs existing assets, including land buildings and other structures used for a variety of social, community and public purposes, could be transferred to the ownership of community and/or other voluntary sector management, has not yet been finalised for submission to Cabinet but would be circulated once it becomes available.

It was confirmed that only two enquiries had been received as to the possibility of centres transferring to community councils (with the majority of community councils advising that they were not in a position to take the initiative forward) and that further discussion would be held with those in due course in order that they can make an informed decision as to whether they can participate in the delivery of the service. Members were reminded that the closing of certain centres was only one of the options for discussion and it would need to be determined as to whether it could be declared surplus to service requirements.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.