

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RIVER RHYMNEY TASK GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON TUESDAY, 30TH MARCH 1999 AT 3.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. S. Jackson - Chairman

Councillors:

D.P. Slarke, T.J. Williams

Also Present:

H. Prosser (Welsh Office), D. Williams (Environment Agency), R. Woodyatt (Rhymney Anglers Federation)

Together with:

Special Projects Officer, Senior Legal Assistant (RA), Senior Committee Services Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Wood, Mr. D. Stafford (Coal Authority) and Mr. B. James (Anglers Conservation Association).

MINUTES

Subject to the inclusion of Mr. R. Woodyatt (Rhymney Anglers Federation) in the list of those who had tendered apologies, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 1998 (a copy had been circulated to each member) were agreed as a correct record.

Review of Remediation Options

The group reviewed the options contained in the original report produced by Hyder Consulting Limited and reconfirmed its previous decision that Option 1 in relation to the oxidation channel should not be pursued for those reasons outlined at the last meeting.

Consideration was then given to the aerobic wetland option, and the possibility of using land in Council ownership at New Road, Hengoed. The practicalities and possible funding sources of implementing the scheme were discussed.

The issue of necessary wayleaves over areas of land not in this Council ownership to accommodate pipeline access to the wetland site was raised and it was agreed that this should also be examined.

Whilst discussing the proposed scheme, it was noted that a planning application for the removal of ash had been granted and that works were due to commence on site in the near future. It was confirmed that one of the conditions is that the land be restored for amenity purposes and it was suggested that if it could be restored in keeping with the proposal for a wetland, the cost of the scheme could be reduced.

In view of the foregoing it was agreed that:-

- (i) the option of providing an aerobic wetland on land in this Council's ownership and the reservation of the area for that purpose be pursued;
 - (ii) possible sources of funding be investigated;
 - (iii) the issue of necessary wayleaves over areas of land not in the Council ownership in order to accommodate pipeline access be pursued;
 - (iv) the practicalities of a variation of the final land restoration proposals in respect of the removal of ash from the site be examined, such that the restoration takes account of the possibility of developing a wetland on the site.
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