

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the held on 8th February 2011

- PRESENT:** Councillor Selwyn Williams - Chair
Councillor G.O Jones - Vice-Chair
- Councillors W.J.Chorlton E.G.Davies; Lewis Davies; R.Anthony Dew;
C.LI.Everett; K.Evans; R.LI.Hughes; T.LI.Hughes;
W.I.Hughes;W.T.Hughes; K.P.Hughes; Aled M Jones; Eric
Jones;H.Eifion Jones; O.Glyn Jones; Raymond Jones; R.Dylan
Jones;R.LI.Jones; T.H.Jones; C.McGregor; Rhian Medi; Bryan
Owen; J.V.Owen; R.L.Owen; Bob Parry OBE; G.O. Parry MBE; Eric
Roberts;G.W.Roberts, OBE;J. Arwel Roberts;P.S. Rogers;
H.W.Thomas; E Schofield, Ieuan Williams; J.P. Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Interim Managing Director;
Corporate Director (Finance);
Corporate Director (Housing and Social Services)
Corporate Director (Planning and Environment)
Corporate Director (Education and Leisure)
Director of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Head of Service (Planning and Public Protection)
Head of Service (Policy)
Head of Service (Housing)
Solicitor to the Monitoring Officer
Committee Services Manager.
Communications Officer.
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors K.Evans, D.R.Hughes, Ff.M.Hughes

The meeting was opened by a prayer offered by Councillor R.LI.Jones.

A warm welcome was extended to Mr.Alan Raymont, Chief Operating Officer, Horizon Nuclear Power and to his accompanying colleagues from Horizon Nuclear Power. Also to Messrs. Huw Lloyd Jones and John Roberts of the Wales Audit Office and to the members of the Recovery Board who were in attendance today.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor G.O.Jones declared an interest in Item 3 of these minutes, remained at the meeting but did not take part in any discussion thereon.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR THE HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICES.

On behalf of the Members and Officers present, the Chair expressed his deepest condolences to Councillor C.LI.Everett and family upon the loss of his father and to Councillor Ff.M.Hughes and her family upon the loss of her sister over the weekend.

He also extended those condolences to any Member or member of staff who had suffered a bereavement.

Members and Officers stood in silent tribute as a mark of their respect.

3. HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER - WYLFA NEW BUILD PROJECT UPDATE.

Submitted - a Presentation by Mr. Alan Raymont, Chief Operating Officer, Horizon Nuclear Power.

Horizon was a joint venture between E.ON UK and RWE npower to develop a total of around 6,000MW of new low carbon nuclear capacity by 2025 across its sites at Wylfa and Gloucestershire. HNP hoped to be in a position to submit a planning application for Wylfa 'B' in 2012. Associated development required for the project would be included in the consultation but subject to a different approvals process. National Grid's application for necessary improvements would also be subject to a separate application. The Wylfa site would comprise of up to 3 nuclear reactors with a combined output of 3300MW.

Details were provided of the statutory consultation process which would need to be completed prior to the submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO). The development would require an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out as part of the DCO process.

The Statement of Community Consultation provided HNP's commitment to carry out effective community consultation in accordance with the legislative requirements. This Council's views and experience had been taken into account in shaping the consultation proposals set out in the document.

Members were provided with the opportunity for a question and answer session following the presentation.

4. ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES - JANUARY 2011.

A verbal presentation was given by Mr. Huw Lloyd Jones, Improvement Assessment Lead Officer, Wales Audit Office on the Annual report.

Reported - That this report was the first of its kind, following new legislation in April 2010, which required Councils to make arrangements to improve their services and the way they worked.

The report's main message was that the Council had responded positively to the serious findings of the 2009 Governance Inspection. However, much work remained to make sure that the problems of the past did not resurface once the intervention was over and that the Council sustained a clear strategic focus on delivering improvement for citizens.

The Auditors also identified a number of important issues while auditing the accounts and the accounts were not approved by the Council by 30 September 2010, as required by accounting regulations.

The Council had published its 34 improvement objectives to its website as part of its Corporate Plan in early July, a significant step forward in improving the transparency of its intentions and accountability for delivery. Each objective related to one of five strategic objectives but relatively few focused explicitly on improving outcomes for citizens.

A review by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales found that the Council had effective arrangements and a strong commitment to safeguarding vulnerable adults. The Council's objective to meet local housing need, while appropriate, was not supported by specific outcomes for citizens or clear plans for achieving those outcomes.

Educational attainment was above the Welsh average and improving in most respects. An Estyn and Wales Audit Office joint inspection in November 2009 found that the Council's support for school improvement had good features and no important shortcomings.

The safety and the cleanliness of the area compared well with the rest of Wales with the Council's waste management service performing very well.

An opportunity for a question and answer session was provided.

Deferred Items from 9th December, 2010 meeting

5. INTERIM PLANNING POLICY - LARGE SITES.

Reported that the Executive at its meeting on 30th November, 2010, had resolved to recommend to the County Council as follows:-

“(i) To approve the Interim Housing Policy Large Sites for adoption as an Interim Policy until the adoption of the LDP, subject to the amendments tabled at the meeting on 9th December, 2010, and attached to these agenda papers.

(ii) That authority be given to the Head of Service (in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) when appropriate) to undertake minor amendments that do not change the substance of any policy or interpretation of such policies following conclusion of ongoing discussions, including those with Enfusion.”

RESOLVED to endorse the above recommendations of the Executive.

6. RECOVERY STEERING GROUP

Councillor Gwilym.O.Jones, Chairman of the Recovery Steering Group (RSG) stated that the Council on 14th September, 2010 last had endorsed its Recovery Programme and established an RSG to oversee progress and report back to every ordinary meeting of the Council until such time as the Ministerial Intervention had ended.

The RSG had met on three occasions and had identified nine issues, satisfactory progress in respect of which were fundamental to achieving a long term and sustainable recovery. To address these issues, the RSG agreed that it would invite presentations from relevant Portfolio Holders on each area in turn, the purpose of which would be to

assess the starting position, progress to date, proposed future developments, timetable and resources with a view to establishing the RSG's expectations/requirements for future reporting and monitoring. Particular emphasis would be placed on any elements which appeared to be stalling or failing to proceed at a reasonable pace and further information would be requested on any particular areas of concern which would be reported to Council.

(Councillor Rhian Medi mentioned that under Item 5 of the minutes of the RSG held on 20th January, 2011, reference was made to Medrwn Mon in the Welsh version. This should be amended to read Menter Mon).

RESOLVED

To accept the current findings of the Recovery Steering Group, namely, that progress against the Recovery Programme generally is satisfactory and;

To endorse the process and principles adopted by the RSG to continue monitoring future developments against the key areas identified and the wider Recovery Programme.

7. REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY

Reported by the Portfolio Holder- That this Authority was required under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003, to review its Licensing Policy every three years. This report summarised the consultation process. Due to the fact that the Policy was considered to have worked well and not faced any challenges, responses were minimal, and amendments slight.

RESOLVED to endorse the contents of the report and to adopt the amended Licensing Policy.

8. ADOPTION OF MEMBERS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2012.

Submitted - The report of Councillor J. Penri Williams, Chair of the Member Development Working Group/Member Development Champion, seeking the Council's support on a draft member development training plan for the period November, 2010 to March 2012.

The intention was for the plan to make further positive steps towards supporting Members in their roles, improving standards, developing good practices and achieving the Member Development Charter.

RESOLVED that the Council adopts and undertakes to support the training plan referred to at Enclosure 1 of the report.

9. **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY.**

Submitted- A verbal report from Councillor J.V.Owen, one of this Council's representatives on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, on meetings held by that Authority, between 1st September, 2010 and 30th November, 2010.

Reported - That the Authority had decided upon a standstill budget of £32m, which in reality meant cuts of £2.4m. The Authority would be acting responsibly with the moneys received and would be looking to minimise staffing cutbacks.

RESOLVED to note the information.

10. **DELEGATIONS BY THE LEADER**

Submitted for information - A report by the Interim Managing Director setting out any changes to the scheme of delegation relating to Executive functions made by the Leader Service the last Ordinary Meeting (Rule 4.4.1.4 of the Executive Procedure Rules of the Constitution refers).

RESOLVED to note the information.

11. **MOTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1.2.2.12 OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

(a)Submitted-The following Notice of Motion by Councillor R.G.Parry, OBE :-

“Anglesey County Council wishes to appeal to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in the first instance to keep the Alaw Ward in Ysbyty Gwynedd open as a ward for patients who suffer from cancer. Secondly to give serious consideration to re-opening the minor-injuries unit at Penrhos Hospital, Holyhead during the hours of 5:00 to 10:00pm.”

RESOLVED that authority be given to the Leader of the Council to write to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board supporting the motion put forward by the Deputy Leader.

(b)(i) Submitted- The following Notice of Motion by Councillor G.W.Roberts,OBE:-

“That this Council adopt a policy of paying 2nd class travel allowance only, for Council members and to cease paying 1st class travel allowance.

That this Council freezes members travel allowance between home and council offices in Llangefni when attending the Isle of Anglesey County Council meetings due to the current economic climate.”

(b)(ii) Submitted - The following alteration to the above Notice of Motion by Councillor G.W.Roberts,OBE:-

“To amend the Members’ Allowances Scheme in the Constitution, with effect from 9th February, 2011, as follows:-

(a) In Clause 6.5.1 before "train" insert "Standard Class"

(b) In Clause 6.5.4 (which lists purposes for which travelling allowances are not payable), add an additional bullet point, "journeys from home to Llangefni in order to attend meetings of the full County Council."

The Finance Portfolio Holder proposed an amendment that the second clause should be left on the table pending the outcome of cross Party discussions currently taking place on members allowances and which it was intended to report further on at the next Council meeting. The amendment was seconded but not carried.

A discussion was held regarding an amendment put forward by Councillor B.Durkin that there be no travelling allowances for members attending Council called meetings at Llangefni. The amendment was seconded but not carried.

RESOLVED

- **To accept the alteration to the Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor G.W.Roberts,OBE, as referred to in 11(b)(ii) above.**
- **That the substantive motion, as altered, be carried.**

New Items

12. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2010.

Submitted - The report of the Corporate Director (Finance) on the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales published in December 2010 covering the maximum rates of members' allowances for 2011-12 and upon a proposed allowance to be paid to the position of Shadow Leader.

Councillors Bryan Owen and G.W.Roberts,OBE, wished it to be noted in the minutes that the Opposition had never asked or requested a payment for the Shadow Leader.

The Finance Portfolio Holder in response stated that the allowance for a Shadow Leader had been included as part of the Remuneration Panel's annual report for consideration by individual Councils.

RESOLVED

- **That the Council Budget be prepared on the basis that there will be no change to the Members rates of allowances for 2011-12;**
- **That there be no allowance payable to the position of Shadow Leader.**

13. **POLITICAL BALANCE**

Submitted - A joint report by the Director of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer and the Corporate Director (Finance) following the Political Group changes that occurred in January.

RESOLVED

- **That the Council notes the new appropriate political balance arrangements and the number of seats attributable to each of the Groups under the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, and the number of seats given by custom and practice to the Unaffiliated Members;**
- **To agree the whole number of seats to be allocated to the Unaffiliated Members and that the Chairman of the Council shall determine the allocation of each of those seats to an individual unaffiliated member (by agreement where possible);**
- **To ask the Group Leaders to provide the list of the names of their Group representatives on each Committee to the Committee Services Manager by no later than 10am on Wednesday 9th February, 2011, and that the Chairperson of the County Council provide the names of the unaffiliated members by no later than noon on Tuesday 15th February, 2011.**

14. **QUESTION RECEIVED PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1.12.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

Councillor T.LI.Hughes put the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transportation and Maritime:-

"In view of the recent bad weather conditions, will the Highways Department of the Ynys Mon County Council be reviewing the winter gritting policy of the Council for the future?"

The Portfolio Holder in response stated that a review of the gritting policy was to be undertaken in response to the harsh winters being experienced. The current salt storage area which held enough salt for a winter and a half of bad weather was to be extended to 555,000 tons which should provide enough stock for two bad winters. It was also intended to collaborate closely with Town and Community Councils to ascertain their needs. This Authority was currently gritting 37% of its highways network which was substantially more than other rural areas in Wales, where the average was 27%.

As his supplementary question, Councillor T.LI.Hughes congratulated the Department for their work but referred to the policy which stated that priority should be given to gritting access roads to schools and he mentioned the lack of gritting that had taken place at Ysgol Thomas Ellis and St. Mary's School, Holyhead.

The Portfolio Holder in response stated that the gritting policy would be reviewed and that he would relay Councillor Hughes' concerns to the Department.

15. **INTERVENTION**

Reported for information by the Interim Managing Director - That the Minister had asked the Recovery Board to look at the status of the current intervention and to provide him with advice in that respect.

The meeting concluded at 5.05 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR SELWYN WILLIAMS
CHAIR**