

## EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

- PRESENT:** Councillor R.L.I.Jones - Vice-Chair (Chair)
- Councillors W.J.Chorlton, E.G.Davies;C.LI.Everett; Lewis Davies;  
R.Anthony Dew; B.Durkin; T.LI.Hughes; W.T.Hughes;  
K.P.Hughes; Aled M Jones; Eric Jones; O.Glyn Jones; Raymond  
Jones; R.Dylan Jones; T.H.Jones; Bryan Owen; J.V.Owen; Bob  
Parry OBE; G.O. Parry MBE; Eric Roberts;P.S. Rogers;  
E Schofield; J.P. Williams;S.Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive;  
Corporate Director (Environment and Technical Services)  
Corporate Director (Housing and Social Services)  
Director of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer  
Energy Island Programme Director  
Acting Head of Service (Economic Development)  
Committee Services Manager.  
Communications Officer.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Alex Aldridge, Margaret Foster, M.Giannasi and  
Gareth Jones
- APOLOGY:** Councillors Jim Evans, K.Evans, Ff.M.Hughes, R.LI.Hughes,  
W.I.Hughes,H.Eifion Jones, C.McGregor, R.L.Owen,  
G.W.Roberts,OBE,J.Arwel Roberts,Ieuan Williams.

The meeting was opened with a prayer offered by Councillor K.P.Hughes

A warm welcome was extended to the following representatives of Horizon Nuclear Power:-

Mr.Alan Raymant – Chief Operating Officer  
Mr.Kieran Somers – Head of Planning and Consents  
Mr.Leon Flexman – Head of Communications

#### 1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Energy Island Programme Director declared an interest, as her husband was employed by Horizon in the preparation of the Welsh language impact assessment.

#### 2. **TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

None to report.

**3. ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER'S STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.47(3) OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008) WITH REGARDS TO THE PROPOSED NEW NUCLEAR BUILD AT WYLFA**

(a) Reported by the Energy Island Programme Director - That Horizon was proposing to build a new nuclear power station on land adjacent to the existing Power Station at Wylfa and as part of that development proposal, they were required under s.47 of the Planning Act 2008 to produce a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) outlining how they intended to carry out consultation with the community regarding the proposed development.

They must also consult with the relevant local authorities on the draft SOCC and in local newspapers before carrying out public consultation in line with the SOCC. This Council has a statutory duty to respond to the adequacy of Horizon's consultation proposals within 28 days of receiving a request for comments on the SOCC.

A draft response to the SOCC (Appendix 2 of the report) had been prepared by this Council, co-ordinated by the Economic Development Unit, and which would be submitted to Horizon and the Infrastructure Planning Commission by no later than 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. It was likely that Horizon would implement the consultation proposals outlined in the SOCC in November, 2011.

Overall, Officers believed that the SOCC, with the aid of the Background Document, was comprehensive and clearly outlined Horizon had actively shown a willingness to accept suggested amendments. The officers believed that the SOCC, if this Council's comments were incorporated, was fit for purpose and was sufficiently robust to effectively consult with the public on proposals relating to the proposed new nuclear build at Wylfa.

(b) Submitted - A presentation by Alan Raymant, Chief Operating Officer, Horizon Nuclear Power on the Statement of Community Consultation.

Mr. Raymant provided the Council with a brief update of progress made since the last meeting with this Council 6 months ago. The framework for the development was proceeding to plan and the critical part of the programme was the planning programme. Horizon were extremely busy preparing for the consultation process next year and in finalising the selection of the reactor technology. In parallel with that, they had been working on the Environmental Impact Assessment base line studies. They were also finalising the planning performance agreement with the Council to agree the need for additional capacity directly relating to the proposed new nuclear build.

The land at Wylfa gave Horizon sufficient flexibility to be able to look at a range of options for the location of the plant. They were also looking at additional land required to the south-west for temporary requirements and for environmental mitigation. They were currently firming up detailed plans in this respect and were in discussion with the landowners affected.

Mr. Kieran Somers gave a brief synopsis of the work required in preparing the SOCC and the engagement that Horizon had undertaken to date. A SOCC was basically the methodology of setting out how Horizon would consult in a transparent and comprehensive way upon the proposals. He also mentioned that a New Build Project Liaison Group had been established at the end of 2010, made up of key stakeholders and that it had held four meetings to date.

Councillor C. Li. Everett thanked the officers for their report but expressed concern that neither Holyhead Town Council nor an elected County member was represented on the Project Liaison Group. Bearing in mind that the port of Holyhead might again be required for the construction of Wylfa B and that the land at Anglesey Aluminium was now contained within the boundary of the Town Council, he thought it imperative that the largest town on the Island should be represented on the Liaison Group.

Councillor Rhian Medi expressed concern that she had been made aware in the press recently, that Horizon required additional land at Wylfa and that this would have a particular impact upon a local agricultural family. At the end of the day, Councillors had a responsibility to the electorate, the heritage, language and the employment of the Island. The work of this farm would come to an end if they were forced to sell to Horizon. As an elected member, she wanted to know about the additional land Horizon required and also its intended purpose.

She had also been astounded at having received a copy of a minute of a meeting between this Council and Horizon held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the contents of which she had been previously unaware of. The minute stated *that "need had been identified for a reservoir to service water needs of the developer and that further discussion was required as regards size and location."* Were we looking at another Tryweryn here? Why did Horizon require more water?

If the development went ahead, did people realise that there would be a nuclear dump on the Island the size of three football pitches and that the land in question could not be used again for hundreds of centuries. If this consultation was to succeed, members required access to all the relevant information. This was the most contentious application Anglesey would face this century and the consultation must be transparent and open. She was also aware that an Energy Island Board had been set up. However, she was unaware of its membership, how it had been appointed, there were no minutes of meetings held and there was no information available on the Council website.

Councillor W.T. Hughes referred to the official site map for the new power station before Council today. He was also aware that another map existed which showed where Horizon intended to purchase additional land. He would like for that map to be distributed more openly with the general public. His concern from what he had seen and heard was that the new site boundary came to within the width of the main road of the village of Tregle. He questioned what the value of houses and buildings would be in the village when they were possibly only 20 feet away from a building site? He mentioned he had been approached by a villager trying to sell his house in the village and that once mention had been made that Wylfa required additional land, the proposed purchaser had withdrawn his offer.

He sympathised with those individual farmers affected but consideration should also be given to the villagers of Tregle who would have to live in the shadow of the new build. As part of the consultation process, he asked for Horizon, the Energy Island Director and the Commissioners to meet with the villagers of Tregle to discuss their concerns.

Councillor Tom Jones stated that over the last few months he did not consider that Horizon had kept local members fully informed of developments. Unless they were totally transparent with the public, rumours would commence and spread within the community. He implored Horizon to be completely honest with landowners as to their intentions rather than stating that they wished to carry out an EIA on their land. Also the boarding up of houses already purchased by Horizon could have a detrimental effect upon the tourism of the area.

Councillor B. Durkin stated that he was unhappy as regards the consultation zones proposed. He would like to see the same consultation being afforded to the south of the Island as to the north. The impact upon the south of the Island was just as important, especially from a highways aspect. He supported the recommendations of the Economic Development Scrutiny Committee and wished for them to be included in the Council's response.

Councillor Lewis Davies stated that a number of his constituents had asked him to ask the following questions and he requested Horizon to provide him with a written response:-

- why is the consultation proceeding without having proper answers to the linguistic and cultural effects of the development? There was mention that this was to take place, but when?

- at Paragraph 3.2.2 (page 13) it mentioned that there would be an Environmental Statement to accompany the application, but no assessment or report had yet been made. He considered that this was one of the most important things that should be done initially, looking at the landscape, ecosystems and ecology of the area. Would there be any effect upon nearby S.S.S.I's and nature reserves?
- how much waste was there at the present time and where would future waste be stored? Under the new process it was twice as dangerous because of the heat. We know of the problems at Sellafield today in that the reprocessing centre there might be closing. This had cost billions of pounds and may not now be used. Japan did not want to send their waste to Sellafield again because of the major problems they had encountered with their reactors.
- in the USA emergency sites had been created some 80 miles away from reactor sites. It was important to have such sites, a comprehensive evacuation plan and to hold discussions with the emergency services. Nothing regarding this was mentioned by Horizon in the report. If the USA felt that they required an 80 mile exclusion zone after an emergency, it was surely important to show a similar exclusion zone on a map of North Wales.
- There were now ways of getting gas from the ground called fracking. This was where they injected water and chemicals into the ground which created waves under the rock and this was being talked about in the Irish Sea as a possibility. Sellafield, Wylfa and Heysham were all on the same bed rock and waves would be created underground which might split the bed rock beneath these reactors. This needed to be looked at very carefully. In the USA they had encountered major problems in using this fracturing process.

Councillor A. Morris Jones endorsed what had been said regarding the concerns of Tregale. He mentioned that at the Economic Development Scrutiny Committee, members had asked for an independent impact assessment as regards the Welsh language and to also ensure that the local workforce was used if the development went ahead. He asked Council officers to prepare a report on what was required to fulfill all the obligations with regard to infrastructure, consultations, etc. Budget discussions were already taking place and he felt that it would be a great opportunity with the Commissioners in place to seek additional resources from Cardiff.

Councillor J.P. Williams stated that when the current Wylfa was being built, many local companies lost key staff and as a result some of those companies ceased trading. Training and upskilling young people by local businesses was therefore vital to ensure that this did not take place again.

Councillor T.L.I. Hughes wished to see a report as regards what effect this development would have upon the tourism of the Island.

Mr. Alan Raymant in response to the questions and concerns raised today stated that it was important to the process that Horizon received a wide range of views together with any concerns regarding the proposals. He acknowledged from the feedback received today that they had fallen short in some areas and that those concerns needed to be addressed.

Horizon were acutely aware of the proximity of the development site to Tregale and how that could be mitigated. One of the consequences to minimise the impact on Tregale was the need to look at the option of acquiring additional land for construction purposes and environmental mitigation. They were already undertaking a Welsh language impact assessment as part of the overall Environmental assessment. The preliminary EIA would be presented with the first stage consultation.

Seismic risk and waste disposal would all be described in the consultation material to be presented at the beginning of next year. The impact on employers was well understood and recognised and he was fully supportive of the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Horizon were already supporting an apprenticeship programme which would be increased as the project moved forward to make sure that they had the capacity for existing businesses and the new project to work alongside each other. Spent fuel would be stored on site on an interim basis and then disposed of at a long term facility which the Government was developing.

The Project Liaison Group consisted of representatives from organisations across the Island including elected representatives and those affected by the development. It was expected that the membership of that Group would develop over the years. He accepted that there should be representation from Holyhead and he would ensure that this took place.

Councillor Rhian Medi wished it to be recorded in the minutes that she had not received a response to her earlier questions from Horizon.

The Chair in response stated that she would have an opportunity to raise those questions again as part of the consultation. *(Horizon were prepared to give a more detailed response to Councillor Rhian Medi in writing.)*

## **RESOLVED**

- **To note and endorse the contents and structure of Horizon Nuclear Power's SOCC (provided that this Council's comments are taken into account).**
- **To note, agree and endorse this Council's response to the Statement of Community Consultation as contained in the Chief Executive's response, together with the additions referred to below.**
- **To agree that the Economic Development Unit continues to co-ordinate and facilitate discussions/negotiations with Horizon on their SOCC proposals.**
- **To agree to the following recommendations put forward by the Economic Development, Tourism and Property Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011:-**
  - **That Horizon Nuclear Power undertake specific consultation with all employers, both on Anglesey and in the Arfon district in Gwynedd, to evaluate potential impacts and opportunities that could arise as a result of the new nuclear development at Wylfa;**
  - **That the Consultation Zones are amended so that the whole of Anglesey is included in Zone A, better reflecting the potential impact that the new nuclear development will have across the Island;**
  - **That an independent language impact assessment is undertaken/commissioned by the County Council (whilst approaching the Welsh Government's Language Commissioner for advice, input and involvement);**
  - **That an independent housing stock impact assessment is commissioned;**
  - **That further work is undertaken on training and upskilling young people so that they are better prepared to take advantage of any potential opportunities that arise as a result of the new nuclear development;**
  - **That the local educational curriculums are encouraged to focus on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Subjects, and that there is a twin track approach with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to ensure they play their part in the skills agenda.**

- That Horizon be requested to extend an invitation to a representative from the Holyhead Town Council and to one of the elected County representatives for Holyhead to attend future meetings of the Project Liaison Group,
- That Horizon be also requested to make arrangements to undertake further consultation with the residents of Tregle regarding their concerns and that an invitation be extended to their local member, Commissioners and the Relevant Officers of this Authority to be in attendance,
- That Officers of the Council be requested to report back to Council on the necessary resources required to deal with all consultation processes, infrastructure and socio-economic impacts and that a case for funding be made to the Welsh Government, mindful of the role of the Commissioners and bearing in mind the need to prepare this Authority's budget for 2012-13.

The meeting concluded at 3:30pm

**COUNCILLOR R.LL.JONES**  
**VICE-CHAIR**

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