**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14th Janaury 2025. At Penybont Community Hall and online at 7.30pm [[1]](#footnote-1)**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D.Turner (Chair); Cllr D.Lyall Cllr Bufton Cllr R.Duggan:R.Watkins:J.Lawrence

**Apologies**: County Councillor G.Morgan

**Absent:** Cllr Baylis

**Others:**

**Declarations of Interest:**

*Reminder to members. A personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest because under the objective, public perception test (Para 12(1) of the Members’ Code of Conduct) where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. Forms available from the Clerk*

**PD/0001/25 Minutes**

To authorise the Chairman to sign minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on the 12th November 2024.

Proposed Cllr R.Duggan Unanimous

**PD/0002/25 Clerk’s update**

Recent matters during the school summer holidays but not limited to, that of anti-social behaviour by youths. Llandrindod Police and PCC spoken too and advised that a formal complaint would be required if those involved were to be spoken too. Community councillors agreed to monitor the occurrences for any patterns. Then chair highlighted the need for the exploration of facilities designed towards the youth available between the villages.

**PD/0003/25 County Councillors Report**

Much of his time and address to the council was around the budget being considered by PCC. It is currently being reported as a charge increase of about 9%, with many ‘non statutory’ requirements being either, withdrawn, reduced or charged as an additional cost to local community budgets.

**PD/0004/25 Planning:**

* Application Ref: 24/1802/FUL Proposal: Erection of five bell tents, toilet blocks and composting toilet. Location: Land At, The Wern, Llandegley. Additional documentation from ‘Highways’ supplied, supporting the application. There no longer being the concerns raised by the council. Noted

**PD/0005/25 Community Projects/Issues:**

* **Climate Change**

On going arrangements for public engagement.

* **Llandegley Road Signs**- on going
* **Traffic Calming,** Cllr Turner re submitted his paper on ‘Traffic Calming Measurers’ from Llandegley to Crossgates via Penybont. On going

**PD/0006/25 One Voice Wales**

No area meetings

**PD/0007/25 Finance**

* Expenditure to authorise.

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 2nd Oct 2024 | British Legion donation | £100 | | 27th Sept | Subscription to SLCC | £80 | |  |  |
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**Proposed to pay Cllr Bufton Unanimous**

* **Budget 2025-26**

The Council approved a precept of £5377 this equating to a reduction of 47% on 2024/5.

* Bank Reconciliation submitted 1/1/2025
* Appointment of Mrs T.Price as internal audit for 24/25

**Prosed Cllr D Turner Unanimous**

**PD/0008/25 Correspondence.**

* Wales Air Ambulance letter of appreciation -noted
* Letter of assessment re planning application for Ffaldau re-cycling plant, was submitted to the council for comment. A full version is attached to these minutes. Having discussed this further information, it was proposed to submit further comments to the Planning Authority.

Proposed Cllr D.Lyall Unanimous.

**PD/0009/25 Public Questions**

Matters pertaining to minutes above were permitted by the chair at the time.

**PD/0010/25 Date of Next Meeting and format**

11th March 2025 at 7.30pm Hybrid available.

Hi Derek,

I have just read the Acoustic survey that was recently posted and here are my comments, again, some unanswered questions /gaps:

**1. Introduction**

This response outlines objections to the planning application for the proposed Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant at Ffaldau Waste Recycling Centre, Llandegley, on the grounds of noise pollution and its impact on the local environment and residents. The application relies heavily on a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) conducted by Hunter Acoustics Ltd, which contains critical flaws, data gaps, and inadequate mitigation measures that compromise its validity. These issues are outlined below, supported by references to relevant planning policies and standards.

**2. Inadequacies in the Noise Impact Assessment**

**2.1 Lack of Operational Data**

* The NIA relies on noise data from a similar facility where critical operations (e.g., ORC generator and waste unloading) were **not operational** during the measurements. This introduces significant uncertainty in the predictions, particularly regarding these major noise sources.
* Without actual operational data, the modelled noise levels cannot reliably reflect real-world impacts, especially during nighttime operations.

**2.2 Background Noise Thresholds**

* The report states that background noise levels at night were measured at **18 dB LA90**, which is at the lower limit of the monitoring equipment’s detection range. This suggests that actual background levels may be lower than reported, making the predicted industrial noise impacts understated.

**2.3 Reliance on Unverified Data**

* Noise data for key equipment, including the air cooler and ORC generator, were provided by the client and not independently verified. This compromises the assessment’s credibility and may lead to underestimating the noise impact.

**2.4 Mitigation Measures Are Speculative**

* Proposed barriers and building insulation are theoretical and lack validation specific to this site. The absence of real-world testing or consultation with manufacturers raises concerns about their effectiveness in mitigating noise.

**3. Significant Adverse Nighttime Impacts**

**3.1 Noise Levels at Sensitive Receptors**

* The NIA identifies **SSR3, SSR4, and SSR5** as experiencing **significant adverse impacts** during nighttime operations, with rating levels exceeding background noise by **6–16 dB**. These exceedances are substantial and contravene **BS 4142:2014+A1:2019** guidance, which states that such differences are likely to result in complaints.

**3.2 Sleep Disturbance Risks**

* The **World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines for Community Noise** recommend maximum indoor nighttime noise levels of **30 dB LAeq** to avoid sleep disturbance. Even if external noise levels comply with standards, they may result in unacceptable indoor noise levels for nearby residents.

**3.3 Lack of Mitigation Specificity**

* The proposed mitigation measures for nighttime impacts (e.g., barriers) are insufficiently detailed, and their effectiveness is not supported by evidence. For example, the acoustic barrier design does not account for higher-frequency or tonal noise components.

**4. Broader Planning and Environmental Concerns**

**4.1 Contradiction with Planning Policy Wales (PPW)**

* **PPW (Edition 11)** emphasizes reducing exposure to noise pollution to achieve well-being goals. The introduction of an industrial noise source in a **quiet rural area** contradicts this objective by degrading the acoustic environment and public amenity.

**4.2 Impact on Sensitive Rural Environment**

* The rural location’s low baseline noise levels amplify the perceived intrusion of industrial noise, even if levels comply with regulatory thresholds. This will negatively affect local residents, businesses (e.g., Spring Rock Caravans and Lodges), and visitors.

**4.3 Cumulative and Long-Term Impacts**

* The NIA does not account for cumulative impacts, such as increased traffic noise from **HGV movements** or future expansion. These factors could exacerbate the noise burden on the community.

**5. Insufficient Monitoring and Mitigation Plans**

**5.1 Absence of Post-Implementation Monitoring**

* The NIA does not include a robust plan for monitoring noise levels after the plant becomes operational. Without such a plan, there is no mechanism to ensure compliance with predicted noise levels or address unforeseen issues.

**5.2 Lack of Adaptive Mitigation Measures**

* There is no provision for additional mitigation if noise levels exceed predictions. A conditional approval requiring operational noise testing and adaptive mitigation is essential.

**6. Recommendations**

Based on the identified flaws and potential impacts, the following actions are recommended:

1. **Reject the Application:**
   * Given the uncertainties in the NIA, significant adverse impacts, and insufficient mitigation measures, the application should not proceed in its current form.
2. **Require Additional Studies:**
   * Conduct operational noise measurements under real-world conditions and reassess the impacts before granting approval.
3. **Impose Conditions if Approved:**
   * Require a detailed post-implementation monitoring plan and enforceable conditions to halt operations if noise levels exceed acceptable thresholds.
   * Mandate enhanced mitigation measures, such as full enclosure of noise-generating equipment and advanced acoustic treatments.

**7. Conclusion**

The proposed CHP Plant at Ffaldau Waste Recycling Centre poses significant risks to the acoustic environment and the well-being of nearby residents. The Noise Impact Assessment is flawed, with data gaps and speculative mitigation measures undermining its reliability. Powys County Council has a duty to prioritize the health and amenity of its residents and the integrity of its rural landscapes. This application should be rejected unless substantial additional evidence and mitigation measures are provided.

Once again the Noise Impact Assessment report was funded by the applicant which provides yet another conflict of interest.

Finally, it troubles me that especially sensitive recording equipment was installed without my knowledge or consent or consultation in close proximity to my home, my grounds, my daughter’s bedroom (!) during a 5 day period in July this year, 24 hours a day– this in breach of data protection laws and a complaint should be made to the ICO. Once again, this kind of behaviour confirms the un-sensitive nature of the planning applicant.

Feel free to share this with the environmental team.

Sincerely,

Ben Evans

The Ffaldau

1. Fault with on-line facilities [↑](#footnote-ref-1)