

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RADNORSHIRE COMMITTEE HELD AT
POWYS COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS
ON WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2015**

Present: County Councillor W.J.T. Powell (Chairman)

County Councillors J.H. Brunt, K.W. Curry, C. Davies, D.O. Evans, J.W. Evans, H. Lewis, E.M. Jones, M.C. Mackenzie, P. J. Medlicott, G.D. Price, T. Turner and G. Williams.

In attendance:

Councillor A. York, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Regeneration and Planning
Councillor D.J. Mayor, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care and Children's Services
– via video link

Amanda Lewis - Strategic Director: People, Mark Stafford-Tolley – Countryside Access Officer, Phil Jackson - Transportation and Development Control Manager and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

1.	APOLOGIES	RS12-2015
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors G. Banks and K.F. Tampin.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 14th JANUARY 2014	RS13-2015
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015 as a correct record subject to including Councillor G.D. Price within the list of apologies. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Commercial Services Team (Structure and Cost)** – the team currently comprises 10 staff. The team had been made up of staff who had been in positions which had been removed or were at risk of being removed from structures within the Council. It had been hoped that one of the positions would be for an apprenticeship appointment. Staffing costs, including on-costs for the unit, would be in the region of £600k per annum when fully staffed (it was subsequently confirmed that the costs are based on 16 staff members at full complement). In terms of the role of Northgate as the Strategic Partner, it was confirmed that there had been a one off payment of £15,850 for initial diagnostic work and that future payments would be based on the recovery of savings.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RS14-2015
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There were no declarations received in relation to items on the agenda.

4.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	RS15-2015
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The Chairman reported on the following:

- a. **Citizenship Ceremonies** – having officiated at a recent citizenship ceremony
b. **Llandrindod Library** – having attended the recent opening of the re-located Llandrindod Library. The library had been re-located to The Gwalia Building,

Llandrindod. It was reported that officers had been discussing options for the now vacant library building with the local member (Councillor T. Turner)

5.	POWYS BYWAYS USER GROUP (Pbug)	RS16-2014
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Members welcomed Mark Stafford-Tolley, Countryside Services Manager to the meeting to provide an update in relation to the re-establishment of a Powys Byways User Group. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Consent Order** – on 24th October 2014 the Authority signed a consent order with off-roader groups following a lengthy court case in relation to a challenge to maintain areas of byway used for off-road activities. There are obligations to be met by all parties. Members were informed that the advice of the Solicitor to the Council had been that the detail of the Order should be kept confidential to the shire and those who have accepted the terms of the Order. Members requested clarification in relation to the status of the Order in terms of public access and for sharing
- b. **Powys Byways User Group** – as part of the Order the Authority would re-establish a Powys Byway Users Group (Pbug). Pbug would be the mechanism by which the Authority would consult with all interested parties in relation to byway matters prior to determining any actions. Membership of Pbug had been stipulated by the Order. There are some concerns with regard to how those represented on Pbug would determine their one representative to sit on the group and how they would represent the wider views of their organisations. Members requested detail in relation to how Pbug would operate when arrangements had been confirmed
- c. **Elected Member Representation on the Powys Byways User Group** – it would be for the Portfolio Holder to determine which elected member sits on Pbug. It was noted that byways are predominantly in Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire. It was agreed (subject to the constitution allowing) that the Portfolio Holder should write to all members and invite expressions of interest. The Portfolio Holder would review statements provided by interested parties and choose who he feels best suited to the position (all submissions would be anonymous when considered)
- d. **Shire Determination** – decisions relating to byway Traffic Regulation Orders, including Moefre City, Water Break its Neck and CR127 would be taken by the shire after consultation with Pbug
- e. **User Groups** – members were pleased to learn that volunteers from user groups had, as a direct result of the Consent Order, helped with manual labour at route CR127 and noted that they are a resource to be utilised within the adopted Motorised Access Strategy
- f. **Costs and Budget** – members were informed that the cost to arrive at the Consent Order which included obligations under the Order to maintain areas of byway had been £154k. Members requested a breakdown
- g. **Newbridge-on-Wye (Byway Passing)** – there had been some concern locally with regard to off-road groups opting to drive through a local salmon spawning area as opposed to using an areas which was better maintained. The local member urged a review and appropriate action to be taken. It was felt that the issue would be a matter for the Powys Byways User Group. National Resource Wales had been made aware
- h. **Monks Trod Byway** – the Authority had been served an order by the appellant with regard to the court case (along with other byways and at least two unclassified roads) to repair the byway and would, hopefully, secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Funding to undertake works. The byway had been closed since 1990 and

designated as a site of special scientific interest and in parts a Special Protection Area and on the Historic Register of landscapes

- i. **Duty to Maintain** – the Authority's duty to maintain any byway is to maintain at the level of determination for the ordinary traffic using it. There is no duty to maintain above the determined level of that for ordinary traffic

6.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	RS17-2015
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- 6.1 Councillor Avril York, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Regeneration and Planning
- 6.2 Councillor Darren Mayor, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care and Children's Services – **attended via. video link**

Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Powys People Direct** – the Council had recently joined Powys People Direct. The facility provides one phone number which residents can call to discuss matters relating to social and health care (as opposed to calling either the Council or Health Board). Operating this way would, hopefully, be better for the resident and allow for the right service to be provided quickly. Members were urged to help publicise the scheme
- b. **Safeguarding** – safeguarding remains a priority and steady progress is being made towards bringing the work of separate adult and children's safeguarding units closer. There is now a joint safeguarding strategy for both adults and children overseen by Ruth Ingram the new Adults and Childrens Safeguarding Manager. A joint structure would be developed. The Council has both regional and local safeguarding obligations to fulfil
- c. **Inspections** – there have been a number of recent social care inspections i.e. Looked After Children which have been positive
- d. **Domiciliary Care Providers** – members with concerns about care visits etc. were encouraged to contact the Authority direct. It was noted that there had been rumour and general concern about the operation of a care provider in the mid/south. Members were informed that the Authority undertakes regular monitoring and would act accordingly to issues of concern. Member input and local knowledge would be important and help track or identify any potential areas of concern. Consistency of care remains important as does regular dialogue with those in receipt of services, in particular during periods of change or transition. Members urged strong contingency planning to respond to any issues which arise. In response to clarification regarding whether a service user could opt to change provider upon request the Authority's position would, in the first instance, be to identify any issues and hope to resolve them, if there continued to be issues appropriate action would be considered
- e. **Domiciliary Care Visits** – members were informed that the minimum visit time in Powys for just a few residents was 15 minutes
- f. **Clinical Waste Collections** – there had been changes to the way in which clinical waste would be collected. The function would be undertaken by the health board. The previous arrangement had been that the Council had overseen collections and disposal. Those in receipt of services had been advised. A member expressed concern because he had been made aware that on some occasions those providing personal care had not taken clinical waste with them for disposal despite there being a requirement for them to. The Portfolio Holder would welcome detail

- g. **Cost of Care (Fee Charges)** – members were reminded that although fee charges had increased the level remains appropriate and that the Authority operates a £55 per week fee cap. A member expressed concern with regard to the potential impact on the increase in fees. The Strategic Director: People confirmed that take-up etc. would be monitored for any impact
- h. **Local Development Plan** – officers are continuing with arrangements to support the development of the LDP
- i. **Planning Department (Capacity)** – it has been recognised that there are capacity issues and there are vacant positions. The Portfolio Holder expects the unit to be back to full capacity for April
- j. **Planning Applications (Consultation Responses – Website)** – the Authority no longer publishes via its website individual planning application consultation responses because of data protection and safeguarding issues in line with advice received. The volume of responses and the resource needed to redact etc. had also been an issue. Agency consultation responses are published on the web. All responses (individual and agency) can be viewed at the offices of the Council with prior appointment. It was noted that in some areas the view has been that letters of support are published whilst objects are not. The Portfolio Holder agreed to issue a position statement
- k. **Planning Offices (Space to Meet)** – members expressed concern with regard to there being limited space to meet with planning officers at The Gwalia building
- l. **Wyeside Arts Centre** – due to historic arrangements the Wyeside Arts Centre sits within the regeneration portfolio while the other three Powys theatre sites are within the leisure and cultural services portfolio. As a result Wyeside had been funded differently and received less funding from the Council to support operations in comparison to the other three sites. All four sites would receive less funding in future. Future management and operating options would be discussed with theatre managers
- m. **2015 National Eisteddfod (Meifod)** – members requested detail in relation to the budget (and projected spend detail) to support the running of the 2015 National Eisteddfod which will be held in Meifod during 1st to 8th August
- n. **Regeneration Opportunities** – a member reported that he had been made aware that a local resident wanted to procure a piece of Council land to establish a business. The member would welcome the Authority engaging in this way and supporting those with potential business ideas. The Portfolio Holder fully supports schemes that would regenerate areas and suggested that the resident contacts the offices of the Council to discuss matters

Whilst accepting that use of video facilities was a move in the right direction it was felt that there should not be further use until connections are better and the facility more reliable.

7.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES	RS18-2015
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- 7.1 Powys Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – 1 Vacancy
- 7.2 Care and Repair Management Board – 1 Vacancy
- 7.3 Brecon and Radnor Sports Partnership – 2 Vacancies
- 7.4 Brecon and Radnor Community Health Council – 1 Vacancy

There were no reports from, or questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

While discussing appointments to positions on outside bodies a member requested that the Council review its position. It was also felt that consideration of shire appointments to outside bodies should, in the interim, be put on hold pending a view of the above.

8.	ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	RS19-2015
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Members welcomed Phil Jackson, Transportation and Development Control Manager to the meeting for this item of business.

8.1 20 mph Zone – Cae Nant, Newbridge-on-Wye

Members **RESOLVED** that formal consultation be undertaken on the proposal prior to implementation of the scheme and if no substantive objections are received, a 20 mph zone Order be advertised and made.

The local member for Llandrindod north reported that when a 20 mph limit had been introduced in the Tremont Park area school children had entered into a competition to design signs which had proven very positive. It was felt that the Cae Nant proposal was a distance from the local school so that it would not be as appropriate to run a similar school competition.

While discussing matters, a member requested clarification of the operation of 20 mph zones near schools and whether they apply outside of the school day and at weekends. It was reported that there are two types of zone. In some areas there are standard permanent signs and a speed restriction is in place all of the time. In other areas, lights flash to show the periods when an advisory 20 mph speed limit is operational. When the lights are not flashing the local signed speed limit will apply (normally 30 mph).

9.	FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS	RS20-2015
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Members were reminded that Council had recently agreed that shire meetings should move to a bi-monthly pattern and that attendance would no longer count towards member attendance rates. Having considered the matter and noting that the Chair would have discretion to call additional meetings upon need it was agreed to operate a bi-monthly system of meetings with effect from the May Council Annual General Meeting. It was the general feeling that members should take a greater role in shaping future agendas and bringing matters to the shire for discussion and update.

It was also agreed to only issue paper copies of papers for shire meetings upon request. Agendas and supporting papers for shire meetings would be published on the Council website as usual and e-mailed to shire members as opposed to being posted.

10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 11th MARCH 2015	RS21-2014
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The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11th March 2015.

A member requested an update to the next meeting in relation to arrangements for operating a gritting service in each shire, it had come to light that in some areas arrangements for undertaking repair works to machinery had been different and as a result there had been different impacts. The member also requested an update from fleet

management in relation to arrangements for operating a share services vehicle maintenance site at Ddole Road, Llandrindod.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN POWELL
CHAIRMAN**