

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE HELD AT COUNCIL  
CHAMBER - NEUADD MALDWYN, WELSHPOOL, POWYS ON  
WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor K M Roberts-Jones - (Chairman)

County Councillors MC Alexander, D Bailey, G J Bowker, G Breeze, R G Brown, D E Davies, A W Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, V E Evans, S M Hayes, D C Jones, E M Jones, D R Jones, J R Jones, W T Jones, F H Jump, P E Lewis, R H Mills, P C Pritchard, , W B Thomas, R G Thomas, G P Vaughan and J M Williams

**In attendance:**

Councillor Rosemarie Harris - Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Property, Housing, Catering and Cleaning, Armed Forces, Business and Customer Services and Standards/Monitoring Officer

Councillor Melanie Davies - Vice Chair – Powys teaching Health Board

Jeremy Patterson – Chief Executive, Neil Townsend - Office of National Statistics, Joy Garfitt - Assistant Director for Mental Health Services, Powys teaching Health Board, Councillor Mel Davies – Vice-Chair, Powys teaching Health Board, Chris Lloyd - Area Traffic Officer and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>MS1-2017</b>
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors R.I. George, D.J. Mayor, G. Morgan, G.M. Jones and J.G. Shearer.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<b>MS2-2017</b>
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 as a correct record. During discussion particular reference was made to the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) having recently decided to name a project Future Fit. Concerns had been expressed because of the potential for confusion given the name would be the same name given to the programme being run by the Shropshire and Telford NHS Trust to re-shape emergency care i.e. the Future Fit Programme. The Chair agreed to pursue the matter with the Chief Executive of PAVO with a view to changing the name of the PAVO project to something other than Future Fit.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>MS3-2017</b>
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There were no declarations of interest made in relation to items on the agenda.

<b>4.</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>MS4-2017</b>
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The Chairman reported on:

- a. **Councillor Frank Torrens (Deceased)** – members stood to remember ex-County Councillor Frank Torrens who had been a former shire Chairman
- b. **Welshpool Llanerchuddol (Bi-election)** - the Chairman welcomed Councillor Graham Breeze to his first shire meeting having recently been elected to represent Welshpool Llanerchuddol
- c. **Councillor Joy Shearer** – members joined the Chair in wishing Councillor Shearer the very best for a speedy recovery to good health
- d. **Christmas Carol Service** – the Chair thanked those who had attended her Christmas Carol Service held at Kerry Church. The High Sheriff had read at the ceremony

<b>5.</b>	<b>CENSUS TESTING (10.15 - 10.45)</b>	<b>MS5-2017</b>
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Members welcomed Neil Townsend, Office of National Statistics to the meeting to provide an update in relation to census testing for 2017. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

- a. **2011 Census** – the 2011 census had been very successful and local authorities had provided valuable support. There had been attempts to encourage use of technology i.e. digital returns. 16% of those who had completed 2011 census returns had done so on-line
- b. **2021 Census** – the government (Westminster and Wales) had approved the recommendation to have a Census, however, the enabling legislation won't be until 2018/19, the content needs to be agreed first
- c. **2017 Test** - there would be a period of preparatory work leading up to the 2021 census and an initial test with sample groups would be undertaken in 2017. There would be seven UK test areas of 100,000 residents from each. The sample group would be asked to take part in the test. Areas of Montgomeryshire had been identified for inclusion in the test. There would be a focus on digital returns allowing for paper opt outs. Tests would be Welsh language compliant. Those households which had been identified would be contacted from 20<sup>th</sup> March onwards. The census test date would be 9<sup>th</sup> April
- d. **Local Authorities** – local authorities in each test area would play an important part in supporting activities including helping advise town and community councils
- e. **On-line** – a member highlighted the particularly poor broadband/internet access available and how it would be difficult for residents to engage via. on-line test returns
- f. **2019** – there would be a 2021 census rehearsal in 2019

It was agreed that members should have access to the presentation. Members thanked Neil for his update and for agreeing to keeping them informed.

<b>6.</b>	<b>OLDER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH NHS SERVICES (10.45 - 11.15)</b>	<b>MS6-2017</b>
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Members welcomed Joy Garfitt – Assistant Director for Mental Health Services, Powys teaching Health Board and Councillor Mel Davies – Vice-Chair, Powys teaching Health Board to the meeting. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Fan Gorau (Closure)** – the site is an 8 bed inpatient unit for older adults in Newtown and supports those with mental illness. Since 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 the site had been closed for admissions. At the time of closure there were three inpatients and before it closed it would usually care for between 3-6 patients at a time. The site was closed due to staffing shortages which meant it could not operate safely (in particular the need for registered mental health nurses). There had been a range of options considered in order to maintain the facility prior to closure. Despite a recruitment campaign which included advertising vacant positions eleven times appointments had not been made
- b. **Dementia Home Treatment Team** - in the light of the above and the need to provide support a dementia home treatment team was established. The team provides intensive support to patients in their own homes or in the settings which they live in and operates between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. seven days a week. The arrangement has proven very positive. Since operating the team had supported 53 patients which is more than would have been supported at the Fan Gorau site. Staff, patients and carers had all praised this way of operating
- c. **Fan Gorau (Re-opening)** – it is hoped that the site would re-open soon, however, it would depend on being able to recruit to positions. The DHTT model of care had been a success and could shape the future of dementia support
- d. **Hospital Admissions** – where hospital admission was needed it would always be the preference to admit within the Powys border which could, in some cases, mean admission to Ystradgynlais. The need to admit close to home would always be recognised and considered. Where admissions are distances away there would be support offered to families and close relatives i.e. contributions towards travel and overnight stay costs etc. At this point in time the Powys teaching Health Board would not use Betsy Cadwallader for admissions because of it being in special measures. The position would remain under review
- e. **Member Engagement/Input** – Powys teaching Health Board would welcome member input and engagement with regard to the siting and operation of its services. Attending today to update and discuss matters should re-assure members that their input is important
- f. **Specialist Positions** – it's accepted that there are difficulties on a national level in terms of recruiting to specialised nursing/caring positions i.e. mental health/dementia. It was noted that during the period 2009-15 mental health services had been accessed from Betsy Cadwallader Health Board
- g. **Welsh/English Care Contributions (Capped Charges)** – it is recognised that the difference of position with regard to the capping of financial care contributions is more visible at border areas. Care contributes in England are not capped whereas in Wales they are
- h. **Powys Mental Health Strategy** – it would be important for there to be clarity in terms of responsibilities in relation to agreed actions under the Mental Health Strategy and to keep track. It was confirmed that the Powys teaching Board through the Director of Nursing and the Assistant Director for Mental Health Services (Joy Garfitt) had responsibility for moving forward with actions. A stakeholder group would monitor delivery of the strategy and it was agreed that the membership of that group should be extended to include that of the Council's Mental Health Champion (Councillor Dawn Bailey). Links would be made and Joy would feedback to Dawn regarding arrangements

7.	<b>REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (11.15 - 12 NOON)</b>	<b>MS7-2017</b>
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders. During discussion particular reference was made to:

**a. Councillor Graham Brown, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Children's Services/Commissioning and Procurement**

- i. **Commercial Services** – the Commercial Services Team continues to support services in reviewing spends and delivering on the commissioning and procurement approach. In this regard the team has supported delivering on savings running into the millions
- ii. **Leisure and Recreation** – Cabinet had agreed to use additional funding provided by the Welsh Government to retain the Staylitttle Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Caereinion Leisure Centre and Knighton Leisure Centre for a further 12 mths so that further work could be undertaken to review the operation of each site. A member expressed concern with regard to the different approach in relation to Knighton i.e. it had been agreed that Knighton should be supported for the longer term whilst the funding for Caereinion and Staylitttle was different in Knighton because it had a pool. Options for Staylitttle include a commercial proposals and options for Caereinion include an asset transfer (both were being progressed)
- iii. **Children's Services** – Amanda Lewis had recently left the Authority, Amanda held the position of Strategic Director: People which included Director of Social Services. In the light of the position Carol Shillabeer, Director of the Health Board had assumed the role of Director of Social Services and Phil Hodgson had been appointed Head of Operations for Social Services. The arrangement was cost neutral. There had been recent changes with a view to strengthening arrangements for supporting children which included a move to locality based services (multi-agency teams). The position would be monitored and there are significant benefits to be achieved through working locally and across agencies (there are four locality teams operating in Powys). Accepting that there could be a draw on the budget at any time to meet areas of need the budget position looks likely to be positive and that the yearend spend will be within budget
- iv. **Fostering Services** – support for foster carers had been strengthened in a bid to provide a better service for those operating within Powys. It's very important to provide a strong support network in order to build provision and reduce the use of agencies
- v. **Respite (Camlais/Bannau – Brecon)** – spare capacity at both sites would be made available for purchase and could become a lucrative income stream

**b. Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Property, Housing, Catering and Cleaning, Armed Forces, Business and Customer Services and Standards/Monitoring Officer**

- i. **Property** – officers are continuing to consider options for the property portfolio which includes sale, investment, leasing etc. Local members would be engaged in relation to considerations for their areas

- ii. **StAMP (Strategic Asset Management Plan)** – members had been invited to attend StAMP meetings to discuss options for the management/treatment of properties/assets. Members were urged to attend meetings to input
- iii. **Agile Working** – the programme would be progressed in order to support accommodation reviews and provide a better experience for those employees who would benefit from working this way
- iv. **Ladywell House, Newtown** – the Council would be looking to purchase the premise. There are letting options and the Council would be sharing the building with a tenant
- v. **Brecon Cultural Hub** – officers are supporting the creation of the hub which would be a £10 million project within Brecon town
- vi. **Archives** – the Authority had been found failing in its archive provision and had undertaken significant capital works to upgrade facilities at Ddole Road, Llandrindod Wells. Members would be invited to tour the facility (there had been a £1.7 million investment)
- vii. **Judge's Lodgings (Presteigne)** – the lodgings had been offered for asset transfer and a Trustee group had entered into an agreement with the Council for the site. The Authority had provided £50k to undertake much needed capital works which included a significant sum for the roof
- viii. **Gypsy and Travellers** – the Authority had been found lacking in its provision to meet the recognised need. Further units would be provided using Welsh Government funding at Brecon (3 additional units) and Machynlleth (5 units). A member suggested that the Authority should be very pro-active in advising communities of the recognised need and the duty to comply with Welsh Government requirements in order to explain positions. It was felt that information should clarify that most of the costs would be met by the Welsh Government and not by the County Council
- ix. **Right to Buy** – the previous application to the Welsh Government to suspend the right to buy had been unsuccessful. A further application, supported by housing associations, had been submitted and it's hoped that this application would be approved
- x. **Affordable Housing** – there's a recognised shortfall in affordable housing. Providing the right type of dwelling would be important i.e. 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom flats. The impact of single occupancy (the bedroom tax) had an impact on those in larger dwellings. There are good links between housing and those delivering on adult social care to ensure that needs are recognised and built into plans
- xi. **Older People's Accommodation** – the Council has in the region of 2000 designated dwellings and would be looking to provide to meet the need
- xii. **Supporting Local Businesses/Loan Scheme** – when considering build projects there would be as strong focus on supporting local tradesmen etc. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that an agreement had been entered in to ensure the use of local timber in relation to some developments. The Council also operates a loan scheme which developers could access
- xiii. **Syrian Refugees** – the Council would play its part in re-settling Syrian refugees in line with a national programme. There are two accepting areas (Newtown and Ystradgynlais). Communities in both areas had been very welcoming
- xiv. **Armed Forces Covenant** – the Portfolio Holder chairs the Covenant Board. The Board can provide funding to support activities which link to the forces (serving, ex-serving and forces families/communities). It would be important to maximise the drawdown of funding to support Powys projects.

A member requested that detail regarding the application process etc. be circulated to members for their awareness and to help them in encouraging bids to support local, qualifying activities

- xv. **Catering and Cleaning Services** – the service has an annual budget of in the region of £6million. The service continues to be recognised and had received a number of high level awards
- xvi. **Cashless System for Schools (Business Services)** – business services are supporting the roll out of school cashless payment systems which have proven positive and welcome. The roll out would focus on high schools first then be introduced in the primary sector
- xvii. **Cemeteries (Christmas Closures)** – a member expressed concern regarding cemetery closures over the Christmas/New Year period which had meant that burial arrangements were unable to be made. While recognising that staff would be on leave during the period it was felt that a level of service should be retained to enable arrangements to proceed. The Chief Executive would report the matter to the responsible portfolio holder

Members thanked the Portfolio Holders for their updates and for responding to issues raised.

<b>8.</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b>	<b>MS8-2017</b>
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

- a. **To appoint to a Powysland Trustee Position** – Councillor Graham Breeze accepted the nomination to serve as a Powysland Trustee to represent the shire
- b. **To confirm non-Council representation on the Community Health Council (Montgomeryshire)** – members agreed to accept the nomination of the Chairman and to appoint Ruth Weston to a vacant position on the CHC. The clerk would link with both Ruth and the CHC in this regard

<b>9.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<b>MS9-2017</b>
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There were no items of correspondence.

<b>10.</b>	<b>ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES</b>	<b>MS10-2017</b>
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Members welcomed Chris Lloyd, Area Traffic Officer to the meeting for this item of business.

- a. **18 Tonne Amenity Weight Limit – Criggion Lane, Trewern (C2039 and C2040)**

Having considered the report, and debated a request from Bausley with Criggion Community Council to modify the proposed order to introduce the 18 tonne

amenity weight limit with an exemption for all agricultural vehicles, it was **RESOLVED** that the 18 tonne amenity weigh limit Traffic Regulation Order be made as originally proposed.

The local member for Trewern requested that highway officers endeavour to have the 18 tonne amenity weight limit made and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

While discussing matters, the local members for Llanfair Caereinion and Machynlleth requested an update in relation to progress towards implementing the Welsh Government funded 20mph speed restrictions on the approaches to the Llanfair Caereinion and Machynlleth Primary School sites. It was noted that speed restrictions at other qualifying sites had been imposed.

<b>11.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>MS11-2017</b>
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The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and would include updates in relation to local policing and the Newtown bypass.

**County Councillor K M Roberts-Jones  
Chairman**