

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RADNORSHIRE  
HELD AT JUDGE'S LODGINGS ON  
WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2017**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor P J Medicott – Chairman

County Councillors G R Banks, J H Brunt, K W Curry, D O Evans, E M Jones, MC Mackenzie, W J T Powell, K F Tampin and T Turner.

**In attendance:**

Councillor W. Jones, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Finance, Performance Management and Business Services

Gabrielle Rivers – Judge's Lodgings Trust, Catherine Richards – Principal Lead: Museums, Archives and Information Management Services and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>RS11-2017</b>
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors W.J. Evans, H. Lewis, J. Gibson-Watt and G Williams.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<b>RS12-2017</b>
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 as a correct record. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Radnor Roller (Aveling Roller EP3339 and Living Van)** – legal had confirmed that once an appointment to a vacant legal position had been made that officer would have responsibility for progressing the matter of the storage and maintenance of the roller and living van

<b>3.</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>RS13-2017</b>
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There were no issues for the Chairman to report on.

<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>	<b>RS14-2017</b>
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There were no declarations received in relation to matters to be discussed on the agenda.

<b>5.</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (10.10 - 11)</b>	<b>RS15-2017</b>
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

**a. Councillor Wynne Jones - Deputy Leader/Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Finance, Performance Management and Business Services**

- i. **Inflation** – it is very likely that the country would slip back into recession. Inflation is an issue and there are claims that Brexit has had a significant impact on retail performance. The Strategic Director: Resources receives regular (three weekly inflation reports from Capita which is a nationally recognised reporting company) which he shares with the Portfolio Holder so that they can consider any potential impacts for Powys
- ii. **Barnett Consequential (Adult Social Care and Education)** – in his recent budget statement the Chancellor had announced additional funding in England for Adult Social Care and Education. It is expected that funding to support both areas would be passported to Wales in accordance with the Barnett Formula, however, the position and allocation for Wales had yet to be confirmed
- iii. **Council Tax** - levels had been set, the police increase had been 6.9%, the Council had increased its level by 3.9% and the average increase for town and community councils had been 13%
- iv. **Adult Social Care (The Living Wage)** – additional funding had been identified to meet requirements to pay at the living wage (in the region of £1.3 million would be needed in 2016/17)
- v. **Budget (Schools Service)** – there continue to be budget shortfalls and schools in deficit positions, the position in the secondary sector is of particular concern. It is hoped that the Council would appoint to the position of Director of Education soon
- vi. **Budget Planning (3 Year Cycle)** – the three year approach to budget planning as adopted by the Cabinet had allowed for a more planned approach. Management Team would report on areas to review to Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> April
- vii. **Cabinet (Governance)** – Cabinet met on 14<sup>th</sup> March (yesterday) under the new arrangements as agreed by Council which had proved better in terms of conducting its business. There would be further efforts to improve pre-Cabinet scrutiny arrangements in order for proposed actions to be challenged. The Portfolio Holder values scrutiny input
- viii. **Payment Processing** – the cost of invoicing is a recognised pressure on the budget. The Council had recently entered into an agreement with the four companies which it issues the most invoices to in order to remove those processing costs. This arrangement would save in the region of £90k per annum
- ix. **Business Service Functions** – opportunities are being explored in relation to the offering of business service functions to others to generate income. There's scope to offer the DBS checking facility across Wales given that seven Welsh authorities use Powys to support this function. Generating income from entering into agreements for fraud prevention/identification and payroll services are also being considered
- x. **Strategic Overview Board** – the Portfolio Holder had introduced regular meetings the Strategic Overview Board (Cabinet in a different mode) in order to consider performance matters. Work of Cabinet in this regard would be important
- xi. **Non-Domestic Rates** – there would be an increase in rates payable. Cabinet had welcomed the Welsh Government's scheme to recognise difficulties in meeting rate increases for smaller businesses and adopted a local scheme. The Welsh Government would provide funding to lessen the

- impact of the increase in rates payable. There are two levels of relief available to small/medium sized businesses
- xii. **Consultants** – there is a public perception that use of consultants is illegal. This is not the case and consultants are only used if a business case justifies. Moving forward the Council is changing in terms of how it delivers services and entering into new territory which could need consultant input whilst skills are being developed. In the light of criticism and the need for clarity the Portfolio Holder welcomes a Council Policy regarding the use of consultants. A draft policy would be considered by Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> April
  - xiii. **Member Casework Management System** – in the light of members requesting support for dealing with matters brought to them from their residents the Portfolio Holder had held a focus group session with members to discuss needs, visited a system operating in Swansea and began to look at introducing a system which would be developed
  - xiv. **Joint Venture Company (Kier)** – members were informed that the Cabinet would hold two director positions on the Joint Venture Company Board. Kier had been awarded the contract. Kier would be likely to employ locally and the contract would be to deliver the housing maintenance and building functions for the Council. There had been a delay in finalising arrangements because of issues that had had to be agreed on in the final contract prior to award. Monitoring of the contract would be important and the contract included relevant break-clauses
  - xv. **Award of Local Contracts** – the Authority favours offering contracts for works/functions to local traders/businesses. There had been a strong drive to support local businesses in bidding for works, however, engagement from those who operate locally had been poor. There would continue to be efforts to support local businesses in this regard
  - xvi. **Contacts to Cabinet** – like his colleagues on Cabinet the portfolio holder would welcome members raising issues with him and would encourage the practice

Having learnt that the Portfolio Holder had decided to stand down at the end of this Council term the Chairman thanked him for his input and support and wished him all the very best for the future.

**b. Councillor John Powell – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Environment, Sustainability and Human Resources**

**Environmental Health/Trading Standards:**

- i. **Licensing Act** – there had been a taxi fee review
- ii. **Immigration Act** – officers support delivering on requirements and obligations
- iii. **Smoking in Enclosed Places / Health and Safety** – officers are progressing a number of prosecutions
- iv. **Food Hygiene** – there had been a number of prosecutions. Officers support those who are subject to action with training etc. in order to comply with requirements. There are requirements to publish food standard ratings and actions are being taken against some operators for non-compliance. There had been two poisoning outbreaks with no serious impacts, however, around 50 illnesses had been reported
- v. **Infectious Diseases** – work continues to meet obligations

- vi. **Dog Fouling** – there had been a recent case which had resulted in a £75 fine following prosecution
- vii. **Noise Nuisance** – there had been a recent case which had been settled out of court
- viii. **Animal Welfare / Teeth Whitening Scams and Illegal Tobacco Sales** – there are on-going monitoring arrangements and actions being taken
- ix. **Air Quality Control (Newtown)** – the air quality had improved and emission controls had been lifted
- x. **Trading Standards Team** – it is a small focused team. Providing pre-operating advice and guidance had proven positive

## **Waste and Recycling**

- i. **Waste Recycling Targets** – the Portfolio Holder is confident that the recycling target of 58% for 2015/16 would be met. The success of the Powys scheme had been down to officers, operatives and the public having adopted and supported the scheme
- ii. **Three Weekly Home Waste Collection Cycles** – three weekly home waste collection cycles had embedded and been accepted
- iii. **Four Day Collection Week** – a four day collection week would be introduced. The move would save in the region of £500k. There would be no staff reductions as a result. A member requested details in relation to where the savings would be achieved. There would be appropriate awareness raising for the public in relation to arrangements
- iv. **Plastic Recycling** – it would be important to keep the public informed of changes to the recycling of plastics so that what is collected could be recycled to yield a return as opposed to contaminating (black food containers had been an issue)
- v. **Cae Post** – Cae Post would cease to operate with effect from April 2017 when those functions would be undertaken by the Council
- vi. **Household Waste and Recycling Sites** - five sites operate and there had been a review. Operating costs need to be reduced and it is likely that sites will move to operating three days a week
- vii. **Llandegley/Llandrindod Waste Recycling Site** – the waste recycling site at Llandegley will remain open until the Llandrindod site becomes operational. There are drainage issues that need to be resolved at the Llandrindod site. Llandrindod members would welcome being kept informed regarding the local site and operations/developments/works
- viii. **Bulking Waste (Brecon/Abermule)** – an agreement with Potters to operate a site at Brecon had come to an end. The site is owned by the Council and would be run by the Council. The Welsh Government had provided significant funding to develop a bulking site in Newtown and there would be a site provided in Abermule
- ix. **Housing Estates** – the Authority had been working with tenants to organise estate cleaning sessions
- x. **Flytipping (General)** – actions would be taken and there's a three staged process. Officers would, hopefully, work with offenders in order to educate them in the first instance, however, the final stage of the process (after repeat tipping) would result in the issue of a fine or summons to court. The Council had recently issued 400 first stage letters to those who had offended and a register would be kept. The Portfolio Holder encouraged members and the public to report flytipping

- xi. **Trade Waste (Flytipping)** – seventeen fixed penalty notices had recently been issued. Traders are required to operate under a license agreement to dispose of waste
- xii. **Four Day Collection Week** – a four day collection week would be introduced. The move would save in the region of £500k. There would be no staff reductions as a result. There would be appropriate awareness raising for the public in relation to arrangements. Members would support those who are found tipping to meet clean-up costs in addition to paying fines issued
- xiii. **Cae Post** – Cae Post would cease to operate with effect from April 2017 when those functions would be undertaken by the Council
- xiv. **County Farm Estate** – an investment programme to meet a backlog of urgent works had begun, the Authority was nearing the end of its first year of the programme (£500k had been identified for year one)

<b>6.</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b>	<b>RS16-2017</b>
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

- a. **Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel** – Councillor David Evans reported that the Panel had increased the level of precept by 6.9% in order to reinstate funding which the previous Commissioner had removed from the reserve

<b>7.</b>	<b>JUDGE'S LODGINGS - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (11-11.30)</b>	<b>RS17-2017</b>
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Gabrielle Rivers – Judge’s Lodging and Catherine Richards – Principal Lead: Museums, Archives provided an update in relation to the operation of the Judge’s Lodgings during which particular reference was made to:

- a. **November 2016 (Freehold Arrangement)** – in November 2016 the Council entered into an agreement with the Trustees for operating the facility. The agreement included providing a grant to undertake capital works (£50k). There had been an advance on the grant in order to undertake immediate works to a boiler (£10k). The transfer of ownership was with the legal service for final consideration. The Council would ‘take back’ the facility in the event of the Trust being unable to continue operating the site
- b. **Grant Scheme** – the Council would reduce the funding it provides to support operations on a sliding scale (£30k in year 1 to be reduce by £10k per annum)
- c. **Grant Funding Opportunities** – the arrangement would allow for the Trust to bid for funding from the lottery and other grant funding associations to support running costs, however, the site would need to become self-funding over time
- d. **Operating Costs / Through Fair** – it costs in the region of £70k per annum to open and run the facility. Last year there were in the region of 14,000 visitors
- e. **Heritage Lottery Fund** – in December 2016 the Trust had been successful in obtaining funding from a HLF bid which had been used, in the main, to meet staffing costs
- f. **Trustees** – the composition of the Trustee Board had been reviewed and there would be more of a focus on the Board comprising of professionals who would

be able to input better into determining how the Trust should operate the facility. The Trust comprises of seven Board members, four are in position and there are arrangements underway for appointing to the three vacancies. Recruiting locally for at least one position would be important

- g. **Backlog of Maintenance** – there's a £200k backlog of maintenance/repair works
- h. **Marketing** – marketing and making best use of the facility in order to generate income would be very important. Use of the site as a wedding venue and for other activities would be further explored
- i. **Grade II\*** – the building is in a very unique category being a II\* graded property and is one of only a few sites in the county having been awarded the status. The building was created in the 1820s and at that time, it could be argued, it was the most important building in Radnorshire
- j. **Post May / New Council** – given the importance of the facility it was suggested to update the new Council about its operations and facilities after the May elections

<b>8.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<b>RS18-2017</b>
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There were no items of correspondence.

<b>9.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>RS19-2017</b>
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Building, Llandrindod Wells in order to view the new facility.

The Chairman thanked members for their support during his year as Chairman and wished those members who were not standing for re-election in the May the very best for the future and those who were seeking re-election every success.

**County Councillor P.J. Medlicott  
Chairman**