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CommitteeName MeetingDate

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RADNORSHIRE HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016

PRESENT: County Councillor T. Turner – Chairman

County Councillors G R Banks, J H Brunt, K W Curry, W J Evans, D O Evans,
J Gibson-Watt, E M Jones, H Lewis, MC Mackenzie, P J Medicott, W J T Powell,
GD Price and K F Tampin.

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	RS9-2016
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor G. Williams and Councillor G.R. Brown – Deputy Leader/Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Commissioning and Procurement/Children's Services.

In attendance:

County Councillor D. Mayor, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Property, Buildings and Housing,
Tony Caine – Road Safety and Traffic Systems Manager and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	RS10-2016
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 13th January 2016 as a correct record. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Aveling Roller and Living Van (reg EP3339)** – the matter of confirming the commitment of The Gore Quarry to maintain and store the aveling roller and living van (if the van exists) remains outstanding. The owners had been in situ for well over a year and had been contacted a number of times. In the light of the passage of time and the need to resolve the matter it was agreed to request that legal services be asked to confirm the position. If the matter had not been resolved by the next meeting a legal representative would be asked to attend to brief the shire

3.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	RS11-2016
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The Chairman reported on

- a. **Christmas Lunch** – those members who attended were thanked for joining the Chairman at the Golf Club for a Christmas lunch
- b. **Citizenship** – having conducted two citizenship ceremonies since the last meeting

4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RS12-2016
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There were no declarations of interest from members in relation to items to be discussed on the agenda.

5.	ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	RS13-2016
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Members welcomed Tony Caine, Road Safety and Traffic Systems Manager to the meeting for this item of business. Tony distributed a paper to the meeting which included summary detail in relation to the representations received during the formal consultation period.

5.1 Llandrindod Wells – Parking Review

Having reviewed each plan individually and considered the feedback received during the formal consultation period members **RESOLVED**:

LLW01 – to accept the alterations identified in the plan and implement the restrictions (noting that there was an error and that restriction along Lant Avenue would be extended to a level beyond what had been indicated)

LLW02/LLW05/LLW06/LLW07/LLW08/LLW09/LLW10 – to accept the alterations identified in the plan and to implement the restrictions

LLW03/LLW04 – to recommend to the Welsh Government that the proposals be made as part of a parking review for Llandrindod Wells

The Portfolio Holder: Highways abstained from voting on the above. Members thanked officers for supporting the review.

6.	ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS	RS14-2016
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Members discussed the following issues:

6.1 Proposed School Closures in Radnorshire – Councillor David Evans

The local member for Nantmel outlined his concerns in relation to the impact of proposed school closures in the Radnorshire area which included the wider impact to communities. There are three primary schools, namely Nantmel, Dolau and Llanbister, being proposed for closure and the future of the remaining Radnorshire secondary school is under review. As opposed to losing sites the favoured approach by communities and some members would be to enter into federation arrangements. Having discussed matters it was the general feeling amongst members that unless members sat on the Cabinet they had little influence, involvement or engagement in service delivery matters. In the light of the feeling of members it was agreed to request a special meeting so that the Solicitor to the Council could discuss how members could look to allow for the constitution to be reviewed in order to enable members to have more input into service delivery considerations and outcomes. The Chairman would, through the clerk, arrange a special Radnorshire meeting once advice had been received

6.2 Frequency of Meetings – Councillor David Evans

While noting that Council had determined that shire meetings should be bi-monthly (allowing for the Chair to call additional meetings on need and not as the norm) the Shire felt that this arrangement should be reviewed with a view to permitting the holding of monthly meetings. There are issues with regard to members using meetings for raising issues that would need to be considered, however, it was agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Democratic Services that the current system be reviewed as above.

7.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	RS15-2016
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7.1 Councillor Graham Brown – Deputy Leader/Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Commissioning and Procurement and Children's Services

Having presented apologies for being unable to attend today's meeting members received a written activity update report and were encouraged to discuss any issues relating to portfolio matters with the portfolio holder direct.

7.2 Councillor Darren Mayor – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Property, Buildings and Housing

Members received a written activity update report and during discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Local Disposal/Asset Reviews** – members requested being informed of, or where appropriate being involved with, disposal and asset reviews. As local members they would expect to be advised of matters relating to local facilities. There had been occasion when activities had been progressed without member knowledge. The local member for Old Radnor reported that there had been local concern regarding rumour in relation to the sale of purpose built bungalows for older people. It was felt in this case that loss of the dwellings by sale may not be the best option. The local member for Llanelwedd also reported that there had been a local issue regarding the allocation of garages which she would welcome involvement with
- b. **Strategic Asset Management Policy** – the Authority would be reviewing the management of its assets via. a more strategic approach and by arranging Powys into 11 management areas. Best use of buildings including consideration of co-location to support joint working with the Powys teaching Health Board remain important considerations
- c. **Right to Buy** – the Authority had applied to the Welsh Government to request suspension of the right to buy for five years. Other authorities had also applied. The need for social housing in Powys remains high
- d. **Affordable Housing** – in the light of there being limited affordable housing and the need for smaller dwellings to rent the Council would be entering into an agreement with a partner to build new dwellings (1 and 2 bedroom dwellings are in need). The initial venture would be in the Crickowell area
- e. **Gate Farm Sale** – the portfolio holder would provide an update in relation to progress towards ensuring that planning obligations are met, there are access conditions that have yet to be satisfied as a condition of the grant of permission
- f. **Houses of Multiple Occupations (HMO)** – properties in Llandrindod had been subject to a pilot licensing arrangement. There are requirements to comply with; three properties had been recently required to inspect to ensure compliance with relevant requirements. There had been a 28 day deadline imposed. The local member would welcome being kept advised on the position
- g. **County Farm Estate** – a project to review the estate had been reported as green because it was on-track to undertake a full study and present options for consideration. It's accepted that the estate is in need of investment, the work being undertaken would inform future considerations
- h. **Workshops** – an area approach to reviewing use of the Authority's workshops was being undertaken. A member reported that in his area (Rhayader) there had been some concern because a year had passed since letters had been received advising of change, however, there had been no further contact. A member requested clarification in relation to the budget position i.e. were rents meeting costs (there are conflicting messages)
- i. **Agile Working** – members were informed that agile working would be progressed and that the aim would be to make best use of space/resource to support working arrangements. Other organisations which had introduced arrangements had evaluated them and evidenced that they had proven worthwhile. The portfolio holder agreed to provide copies of relevant reports. There would be more detailed updates to members in due course

- j. **Member Resource Area (Llandrindod)** – members had become more aware of staff using areas of designated member space for general working and the area was being used as a thoroughfare. The space had been provided for member use and access should be appropriately restricted. Staff would be advised accordingly
- k. **No1. High Street (Social Services)** – it was noted that there are plans to move social services teams from No1. High Street (which the Authority leases) to The Gwalia Building. It was agreed to request that officers review the outcome of a Joint Review undertaken some years ago which recommended (for reasons of safeguarding) that social work teams should work from a separate building to that of other Council services. Councillor McKenzie agreed to refer the matter to tomorrow's Scrutiny Committee and the Clerk would refer the matter to Children's Services and the scrutiny lead for Children (Councillor Kath Roberts-Jones)
- l. **Fairview (Llandrindod)** – the Council had identified in excess of £1million to invest in the upkeep and refurbishment of Fairview which is a Council owned dwelling in Llandrindod Wells. A Llandrindod member queried whether this would be best use of the funding. The portfolio holder would report back

8.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES	RS16-2016
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- 8.1 **Brecon and Radnor Sports Partnership** – Councillor Keith Tampin accepted the position. The Clerk would notify the relevant officer.

9.	CORRESPONDENCE	RS17-2016
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There were no items of correspondence.

10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	RS18-2016
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The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18th May 2016. In the light of the discussions at minute 6.1 a special meeting would be called pending advice.

**County Councillor T. Turner
Chairman**