

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE COMMITTEE
HELD AT NEUADD MALDWYN, WELSPPOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor A.W. Davies – Chairman

County Councillors M.C. Alexander, G.R. Brown, D.E. Davies, L.R.E. Davies, V.E. Evans, R.I. George, A. Holloway, D.C. Jones, G.M. Jones, J.R. Jones, F.H. Jump, B.H. Mills, G. Morgan, J.G. Shearer, G.R. Thomas, G.P. Vaughan and J.M. Williams.

In attendance:

Jeremy Patterson – Chief Executive, Dale Boyington – Development Manager, Chris Lloyd – Area Traffic Engineer and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

Representatives from Severn Trent Water – Ann Beynon Sarah-Jayne O’Kane and Meirion Turner

Representatives from Future Fit – Katy Driver and Debbie Vogler

1.	APOLOGIES	MS12-2016
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors D. Bailey, L.V. Corfield, E.R. Davies, S.M. Hayes, P. Harris, E.M. Jones, D.R. Jones, W.T. Jones, P.E. Lewis, D.J. Mayor P.C. Pritchard, K.M. Roberts-Jones and W.B. Thomas.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 3RD FEBRUARY 2016	MS13-2016
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 as a correct record.

A member raised the issue of parking and the need to ensure that replacement permits can be provided to members to allow for parking at the offices of the Council. The Clerk would link with the relevant department.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	MS14-2016
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There were no declarations of interest made in relation to items on the agenda.

4.	CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS	MS15-2016
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The Chairman reported on having officiated at a number of citizenship ceremonies.

5.	FUTURE FIT PROGRAMME UPDATE	MS16-2016
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Members welcomed representatives from the Future Fit Programme to the meeting to update on matters. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Engagement** – those running the programme to re-shape the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust Emergency, Critical and Urgent Care estate had recognised the importance of input and engagement by the public, stakeholders, employees, patients and shire members and would continue to do so throughout the process

- b. **Pressures (Current Estate)** – there are particular pressures in relation to the current estate which mean that it is not maintainable or affordable for the longer term. Recruitment and retention of staff being a key issue to address
- c. **Sustainability and Transformation Plan** – alongside the Future Fit Programme there are requirements to be met in relation to the need to produce a sustainability and transformation plan for the next five years which will set out how services will be delivered across the NHS area
- d. **Public Consultation (Affordable Option)** – the Board had yet to confirm its options for public consultation. There had been issues with regard to proposed models being affordable which had been challenged by the Clinical Commissioning Group. Options had been reviewed in the light of the challenge and proposals had been re-submitted for a view. The outcome would be expected shortly. Members urged those running the programme to look to site Emergency Care as close to Powys as possible. The intention would be to move to public consultation towards the end of 2016/beginning of 2017. It's expected that there would be significant media attention during the public consultation period
- e. **Access** – access had, and would continue to be, recognised as an issue. It's accepted that there are concerns in relation to the distance to be travelled in order to access care, however, the outcome of the Future Fit programme would provide better access to specialist services at designated sites which would, in-turn, provide a better outcome. Public transport, road links and the siting of health and treatment facilities remain an issue for residents of Montgomeryshire. In most parts of the shire it would take in excess of 90 minutes to reach Telford for care
- f. **Powys teaching Health Board** – the Powys teaching Health Board has representation on the Programme Board and there's regular engagement in relation to the Future Fit Programme. There are significant opportunities for representatives from the Powys teaching Health Board to engage
- g. **Welsh Ambulance Service** – it is not clear whether systems which operate between ambulance services and hospital sites and across the Welsh/English border link. A member reported an experience where calls had been made to a hospital by a member of the public regarding a patient being transported by the Welsh Ambulance Service where no information could be obtained. The Chairman agreed to refer the matter to the CHC for response

Members thanked representatives for keeping the shire updated on the programme. It was agreed to circulate the presentation and members would welcome being kept updated when appropriate.

6.	ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	MS17-2016
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Members welcomed Dale Boyington – Development Manager and Chris Lloyd – Area Traffic Engineer to the meeting for this item of business.

6.1 Traffic Management – Developments and Impacts

Councillor Brown had requested a discussion at the meeting with regard to the imminent impact on the highway network of significant movements of heavy traffic to transport equipment for windfarm developments. The movements would coincide with significant works at Newtown to create a bypass. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Dialogue with the Welsh Government** – plans to create significant windfarm developments in areas of Powys had been the subject of discussion for the last nine years. The Authority had engaged but had very little influence over matters, including arrangements for transporting equipment to be used in developments. The needs of the developer to create sites and bring them into working order by 31st March 2017 had been driven by the subsidy deadline. Any influence over arrangements would be better driven by the police
- b. **Summer Movement Embargos- Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL's)** – in recognition of the importance, and use of, the highway network in Powys during the summer period the Welsh Government had restricted use for the movement of abnormal loads. However, this year the embargo would be lifted for windfarm development vehicles
- c. **Movement Schedule** – Russell George, Assembly Member reported that he had received the commitment of the First Minister back in February that the summer period would be avoided, however, plans being negotiated at the moment and a recent response by the Transport Minister to the Assembly Member had confirmed that there would be summer movements of AIL's. Options are currently being finalised and it is anticipated that there will be two convoys per day with two turbine components per convoy but this could be increased to three components per convoy if the police feel that safety will not be compromised and that delays are minimised. It is expected that convoys would operate from late July until near Christmas. The current plan is for the convoy(s) to travel from the east of England via Manchester and then be picked up by the Welsh police force at Wrexham and then travel south on the A483 with the convoy travelling through Welshpool at around midday, the second convoy would need to allow for the end of the journey to fall before nightfall. Deliveries to the Garreg Lwyd site south of Newtown would travel through the length of Newtown, then through the Mochdre Industrial Estate and access the A483 off a new ramp currently being constructed. The convoy movement through Newtown is likely to present significant challenges due to the high volumes of traffic that exists on a daily basis. All convoys travelling through Wales will require a police escort and be undertaken during daylight hours (in England night-time movement is often permitted along major arterial routes with self-escort vehicles but in many situations there is still a requirement for the police to escort). Trial runs undertaken a few years ago had proved that the route could accommodate the convoys and that the runs had worked well, however, it's felt locally that the conditions at the time of testing were not the norm. Prior to the movement of any convoys this year new trial runs will be required to ensure that the routes are suitable for AIL's. The two wind farm companies are currently constructing various highway improvements along all the roads that will be travelled by AIL's within Powys. These include large laybys that will allow the entire convoy to be moved off the trunk road which would allow for all delayed traffic to disperse. The modifications aim to restrict delays to a maximum of 10 minutes. Traffic along the A483 remains relatively constant regardless of peak times
- d. **Pre-Route Tests** – structural surveys would be undertaken prior to movements and where there are defects they would be addressed
- e. **On-going Maintenance** – the windfarms are expected to operate for up to thirty years, and during the period of operation the highway improvements constructed would remain in place in the event that turbine component parts needed to be replaced.

- f. **Newtown Bypass** – works had commenced, there had been increased traffic on all local roads as a result of the ongoing works along the trunk roads and the desire for motorists to find convenient alternative routes thereby avoiding the delays on the trunk road. It is anticipated that these highways will be subjected to increased maintenance issues.
- g. **Developer Engagement (Newtown Bypass)** – officers hold monthly meetings with the developer to discuss bypass issues. Outside of the meetings there's good engagement. Chris Lloyd, Area Traffic Engineer agreed to arrange a visit with the local member (Councillor Joy Jones)
- h. **Utilities (General)** – where there are claims of damage to utility networks which lie under or alongside areas of highway evidence would be needed to support any approach to fund repairs or to meet associated costs

Members would welcome regular updates and a further discussion in relation to detailed plans for traffic management at the June meeting. With regard to the windfarm developments, the developer, representatives from the police, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder and officers from the Welsh Government would be requested to attend the next meeting to update on plans.

6.2 20mph Restrictions (Machynlleth and Llanfair Caereinion)

Members were reminded of the Welsh Government commitment to provide funding to introduce 20 mph speed limits near all schools. Proposed modifications at Machynlleth and Llanfair Caereinion would be met from Welsh Government funding. Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To initiate the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure in accordance with The Local Authority's Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996
2. That consultation procedures be initiative and if no substantive objections are received the proposal be implemented

The local members for both areas would urge that works be undertaken as quickly as possible. A member requested that when undertaking works near high school sites that the local members for the catchment schools be informed in addition to the ward member in which the school lies.

6.3 Caereinion Footpath and Traffic Management

Members **RESOLVED**: that the scheme be approved and included in the Capital Programme for 2016/17

6.4 C2050 Prohibition of Driving Except for Access (Garthmyl Retail Garden Nursery)

Members **RESOLVED**: to authorise the local Highway Authority to commence the legal public consultation procedures for the proposed traffic regulation order, and if no substantive objections are received, implement the prohibition of driving Order.

It was noted that the applicant would provide a contribution towards the costs of undertaking works.

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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

7.1 Councillor Graham Brown – Deputy Leader/Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Commissioning and Procurement/Children’s Services

Members had been e-mailed an activity update prior to today’s meeting and were encouraged to raise any matters relating to portfolio activities direct with the Portfolio Holder. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Freedom Leisure** - a member raised an issue brought to him from a resident with regard to charges at a leisure centre having increased because they were no longer able to purchase single activity passes (the requirement was for a pass which allowed for full use of all facilities). The matter would be referred to the relevant officer for response. In general terms fee charges would be reviewed in consultation between the site operator and Council
- b. **Community Delivery / Asset Transfers** – communities would urge clarity in terms of the costs associated with the running of facilities being considered for asset/community transfer and in relation to specifications that they would be required to deliver to i.e. in Berriew the specification would hold the community to deliver three annual grass cuts, the grass had only previously been cut twice. The Portfolio Holder would ensure that officers are informed of the need for communities to have detail in order to allow consideration of matters
- c. **Car Parking Charges (Llanfair Caereinion)** - Councillor Viola Evans reported that she had requested to attend Cabinet when matters regarding charging for car parking at a park in Llanfair Caereinion would be considered. The member would welcome clarity with regard to whether the decision in relation to charges would be for Cabinet or for an individual portfolio holder
- d. **Planning (Consulting with Town and Community Councils)** – a member reported concerns from his community council with regard to the Authority no longer providing paper copies of information in relation to planning applications. Other members reported similar concerns. It was agreed to refer the matter to the portfolio holder and ask for an update/discussion at the next meeting. It was suggested that an update to a future meeting in relation to the above could also include information in relation to wider planning issues i.e. the functions undertaken by the planning office, roles and names of contacts and pre-planning advice etc.

7.2 Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Property, Buildings and Housing

Members had been e-mailed an activity update prior to today’s meeting and were encouraged to raise any matters relating to portfolio activities direct with the Portfolio Holder.

8.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES	MS19-2016
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

8.1 Community Health Council – Vacancy

Members agreed to defer appointing to a vacant position on the Community Health Council to the next meeting. Although the CHC would prefer a member to serve a non-member appointed by the shire would be accepted. The Clerk would advise the CHC of the above and e-mail members after today's meeting to request expressions of interest for the position.

8.2 Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Group

Members welcomed an update report, Councillor Williams urged members to view the final pages of his report which included detail in relation to the Welsh Government consultation document entitled 'Setting the Direction for Wales and Borders Rail'.

9.	CORRESPONDENCE	MS20-2016
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9.1 Town Park, Centenary Fields (Newtown)

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Newtown Town Council requesting that park land be identified as 'centenary' land which would protect the area from development and secure it for recreational use in memory of the millions who lost their lives in WWI. The Chief Executive informed members that the Authority was in the throes of reviewing the use of its assets and that it would not be the right time to consider the space for that purpose. However, once the review had been complete there could be further considerations. The Town Council would be updated and informed.

10.	SEVERN TRENT WASTE TREATMENT SITE – WELSHPOOL	MS21-2016
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Members welcomed an update in relation to the activities Severn Trent Water undertakes in Wales. Severn Trent Water is one of just three water authorities operating in Wales. It serves 33,000 Welsh households and 2000 businesses operating in Wales. There's an extensive and significant investment programme in the Powys area over the next five years and there is a strong focus on customer engagement/involvement (engaging with the public remains a key performance indicator). There are a range of promotional and education activities undertaken i.e. school visits and this year promotion will include attendance at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. During discussion a member referred to being a school governor and that there had been some difficulty in identifying a suspected water leak. It was reported that a free service had been withdrawn some time ago, however, Severn Trent Water hold a list of approved plumbers who could be approached in this regard. Information had been published on the web. Leak identification and prevention had been recognised as a priority, it's estimated that 23-24% of water in the network is lost due to leakage (this figure includes water drawn from the network for particular use i.e. firefighting).

Members were advised that significant works would be undertaken (mainly in mid Powys) to ensure that water supplies from the Elan Valley Reservoir to Birmingham are maintained (the reservoir being 73 miles long and it takes 1.5 days for water to travel its length).

In closing a member urged utility companies to link when undertaking works in areas so that they could plan for works better and together in order to limit local disruption.

Members were invited to view the Welshpool facility after the meeting and to take part in a guided tour. The following members attended for the tour of the site Councillors A.W. Davies, F.H. Jump, D.C. Jones, D.R. Jones, K.R.J. Jones, G.R. Thomas, G.M. Jones, R.I. George, J.R. Powell (Portfolio Holder).

11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	MS22-2016
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The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 8th June 2016.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR A.W. DAVIES
CHAIRMAN**