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Radnorshire 12th July 2016

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RADNORSHIRE HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2016

PRESENT: County Councillor PJ Medicott (**Chairman**)

County Councillors G R Banks, J H Brunt, K W Curry, D O Evans, H Lewis, P J Medicott, W J T Powell, GD Price and T Turner.

In attendance:

Councillor Barry Thomas, Leader
Councillor Arwel Jones, Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Education

Jeremy Patterson – Chief Executive, Tony Caine – Traffic and Travel Manager and Shane Thomas, Clerk.

1.	APOLOGIES	RS35-2016
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Apologies for absence were accepted from County Councillors J. Gibson-Watt, W.J. Evans, E.M. Jones, M.C. Mackenzie and G. Williams.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	RS36-2016
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 18th May 2016 as a correct record. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Flytipping** – a member had used the website for reporting as advised but there had been no action taken. It was noted that installing CCTV would require a number of requirements to be met and would need to operate under licence
- b. **Police and Crime Commissioner (Deputy)** – the Commissioner had decided not to appoint to a deputy position in order to make a saving
- c. **Cwmdauudwr Depot (Rhayader)** – the venue was not suitable for holding a shire meeting as suggested at the last meeting, however, a tour of the site could be arranged
- d. **Actions Taken from Meetings/Updates** – it was agreed that it would be a good idea to report on actions taken after meetings and to provide an update sheet to members with relevant information

There were no declarations received from members in relation to matters on the agenda for today's meeting.

3.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	RS37-2016
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The Chairman reported on:

- a. **Elan Valley (Bleddfa)** – attending an event held to launch the ‘mole’ which would carry out excavation work for tunnelling to allow pipework to be laid/installed so that water could continue to run from the Elan Valley damn to Birmingham. The project was significant for the area and there would be further works undertaken at Nantmel and Knighton as part of the project. The contractor had invited members to attend after a shire meeting to view operations on site and had agreed to attend a shire meeting to update on works. The clerk would link with the contractor in this regard
- b. **HRH The Queen’s Birthday** – having attended a local drop in afternoon tea held throughout the afternoon to recognise the Queen’s 90th birthday
- c. **Young Farmers Rally** – having attend the Radnorshire Young Farmers Rally
- d. **John Beddoes** – having recognised the 450th anniversary of John Beddoes who founded the John Beddoes School in Presteigne which is now the John Beddoes Campus of Newtown High School
- e. **Judge’s Lodgings, Presteigne** – the Chair could arrange for a shire meeting to be held in the Judge’s Lodgings, Presteigne if members would like to hold the meeting there (with the option of a tour after). A number of members had visited the site and been on the tour
- f. **Christmas Lunch** – members were asked to come back to the Chair with their view on having a Christmas lunch so that a decision could be taken at the next meeting with regard to holding one

4.	ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES	RS38-2016
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Members welcomed Tony Caine, Traffic and Travel Manager to the meeting for this item of business.

a. To consider a 20mph speed limit report for Llyswen

The Welsh Government had introduced a programme to reduce traffic speeds near school sites to a maximum of 20 mph. The scheme had been rolled out across most of Wales and there were only a few remaining limits to impose near school sites. The proposal for Llyswen (near Archdeacon Griffiths C in W School) would be to impose a mandatory maximum speed limit of 20mph which would operate during school hours in term time. Members **RESOLVED:**

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

b. To consider a Rhayader parking review report

Having considered the report and information provided by the Traffic and Travel Manger members accepted to amend the **RECOMMENDATION** and **RESOVLED**:

1. To sustain the objections to plans RH01, RH02 and RH06 and make the suggested changes as highlighted in the report
2. To sustain the objections to plans RH03 and RH04 and abandon the proposed changes
3. To implement the proposals identified on RHY05
4. To make the Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996

5.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	RS39-2016
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

5.1 Councillor Barry Thomas – Leader

The Leader encouraged members to approach him and/or his Cabinet Portfolio Holders to discuss matters (the Leader would welcome approaches). During an update particular reference was made to:

- a. **UEFA European Championships 2016** – the Leader joined the nation in congratulating the Welsh Football Team on their performance at the championships and getting through to the semi-finals (the best performance to date for a Welsh national football team)
- b. **Powys ‘An Events County’** – Powys continues to be a county where events seem to thrive i.e. the annual Royal Welsh Agricultural Show being just days away, the Greenman Festival (which attracts around 25,000 visitors a day) going to be held shortly and the Tour of Britain Cycle Race would finish at the Royal Welsh Showground in September. The Council would continue to support events which showcase Powys and contribute significantly to the local economy
- c. **Community Delivery** – officers continue to support efforts to engage with communities to look at how best to deliver services in order to retain them i.e. community delivery and asset transfers
- d. **Merger/Joint Working (Powys County Council/Powys teaching Health Board)** – closer and joint working remains a priority. Martin Brown had recently taken up position as Transformation Manager in order to identify areas for closer, joint working and to progress them at pace. A Joint Partnership Board had held two initial meetings and would drive the programme. There are areas, in particular support services, where very similar/same functions are undertaken and there could be opportunities to share or work jointly to improve practices and realise savings
- e. **Waste and Recycling** – operatives had recently been instructed to enforce where plastic was not being recycled in accordance with the scheme. Red recycling boxes which contained contaminated plastic had been left with advice on how to recycle. The requirement was not new and had been in

place for months. In a nutshell only harder plastics could be recycled. Putting film and softer plastics in the plastic recycling box had an impact on whether it could be accepted for recycling. Plastic which had been contaminated with softer and film plastic had been declined for recycling and sent to landfill, this had increased the cost of disposal and had meant that the Authority had not received funding for harder plastics which could have been recycled. The matter is a known and current issue. Officers are seeking to advise residents of the right way to recycle in accordance with scheme. There had been issues with regard to operatives not acting in accordance with the spirit of the scheme which had been dealt with. Members with examples were encouraged to raise them with the Portfolio Holder or relevant officers. A member suggested lobbying the Welsh Government with regard to the packaging used by retailers and looking to address waste issues through engagement with goods providers. The Leader welcomed the view and agreed to raise the issue as a matter for consideration by the Welsh Local Government Association. Members would be kept updated in relation to waste matters

- f. **Reductions in Service** – a member reported that the general perception he had received from the public regarding the Council had been that despite annual increases in taxes services were being reduced and in some cases withdrawn. The Leader reminded members that the UK had elected a government which had been committed to austerity and that positions would need to be accepted. The Cabinet had agreed to look to maintain levels of service via a number of routes including community delivery and asset transfers and would continue with this approach where there's an appetite from communities to engage to retain services
- g. **Rural Funding** – the Cabinet continue to press for the Welsh Government to recognise rural funding pressures and the additional costs of service delivery. The formula for providing funding does not recognise the additional costs
- h. **Joint Venture Company** – the Cabinet had not confirmed its position with regard to operating a Joint Venture Company and was in the options appraisal phase (all options would be considered i.e. in-house, partnership working and externalisation or a mix). Staff are being kept informed and updated, however, it's recognised that there are a number of reviews being undertaken i.e. depot and workshop reviews at the same time as JVC considerations would could be unsettling to staff. Members would welcome detail once available which, it is expected, would be during the autumn
- i. **Street Scene / General Maintenance/Upkeep** – a number of members had expressed concern regarding the condition of some areas with regard to weeds and general upkeep. The Chairman of Council reported that since having taken up the position he had travelled around Wales much more than usual and that in his view Powys was well served in terms of how it is being maintained in comparison to most other areas. Members with particular concerns were encourage to contact the Portfolio Holder direct

At this juncture the Leader and Chief Executive left the meeting.

5.2 Councillor Arwel Jones – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Education

- a. **Nantmel C in W School** – Cabinet had agreed to closure, due process would follow. A member expressed concern with regard to the potential for challenge for Judicial Review in relation to the process because there had been claims that the School Organisational Code had not be followed. The Portfolio Holder would seek re-assurance from officers but would expect that all requirements had been met
- b. **School Closures (Involvement/Engagement with the Local Member (s))** – the local member for Nantmel expressed his concern with regard to the approach taken by Cabinet in relation to engaging with him regarding such an important matter for the community. It was his opinion that his role had not been recognised and that Cabinet should have allowed him to provide input at relevant stages of the process. The member had not been invited to input into the final report and had only been permitted 5 minutes at the Cabinet meeting to address the Cabinet when considering the school for closure whilst officers and Cabinet members could talk freely and without restriction at the meeting. In the light of the issue being of concern to the local member and members of the shire committee in general it was agreed to refer the matter for review by the relevant Scrutiny Committee
- c. **Llanfihangel Rhydithon C P School (Dolau) and Llanbister C P School** – Cabinet would consider its position with regard to closure in September
- d. **Secondary School Review (Gwernyfed and Brecon High and Builth and Llandrindod High Schools)** – the closure consultation period had ended. Views were being considered and written contacts responded to in accordance with the School Organisation Code. 13 written responses and 767 questionnaire returns had been received in relation to Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools and 477 written responses and 1166 questionnaire returns had been received in relation to Brecon and Gwernyfed High Schools
- e. **Gwernyfed Project** – there had been pleasing progress with regard to creating five primary learning sites to replace the current estate. The Full Business Case would be submitted to the Welsh Government in November, it is hoped that building would begin early in the new year 2017
- f. **Welshpool Town Review** – Cabinet would be progressing, with significant local support, closing four primary learning sites and creating one English medium and one Welsh medium site for Welshpool town

6.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES	RS40-2016
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies. It was noted that the next Police Crime and Commissioner Board would be held a week Friday.

7.	CORRESPONDENCE	RS41-2016
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There were no items of correspondence.

8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	RS42-2016
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Having discussed the date for the next meeting and noting the request of the Chair to change it so that he could attend it was agreed that the meeting should be moved from Wednesday 14th September to Monday 12th.

**County Councillor PJ Medicott
Chairman**