

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL
CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY
2016**

PRESENT

County Councillor K F Tampin (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, PJ Ashton, D Bailey, G R Banks, R G Brown, J H Brunt, L V Corfield, K W Curry, DE Davies, M J B Davies, S C Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, S Davies, A W Davies, M J Dorrance, V E Evans, W J Evans, D O Evans, J Gibson-Watt, M R Harris, J C Holmes, G Hopkins, E A Jones, D C Jones, M J Jones, E M Jones, Eldrydd M Jones, G M Jones, D R Jones, J R Jones, W T Jones, F H Jump, P E Lewis, H Lewis, MC Mackenzie, D Mayor, S McNicholas, P J Medlicott, DW Meredith, G Morgan, W J T Powell, WD Powell, P C Pritchard, G W Ratcliffe, K M Roberts-Jones, J G Shearer, K S Silk, D A Thomas, W B Thomas, A G Thomas, R G Thomas, T Turner, T J Van-Rees, G P Vaughan, D H Williams, J M Williams and G I S Williams

1.	APOLOGIES	CC64- 2016
-----------	------------------	-------------------

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors G J Bowker, L Fitzpatrick, R I George, P Harris, S M Hayes, A Holloway, Eldrydd M Jones, ET Morgan, JG Morris, GD Price, D R Price, D G Thomas, S L Williams and E A York

County Councillor Pritchard reported that County Councillor Ann Holloway had sent her best wishes and the Chair advised that he had sent Councillor Holloway a letter wishing her a speedy recovery.

2.	MINUTES	CC65- 2016
-----------	----------------	-------------------

The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 20th April, 11th May, 16th May and 16th June as correct records.

County Councillor Joy Jones asked when she would have an answer to a question she asked in February regarding a sum of £25,000 given to Welshpool Town Council. The Solicitor to the Council advised that he would provide Councillor Jones with the information after the meeting.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	CC66- 2016
-----------	---------------------------------	-------------------

There were no declarations of interest reported.

4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	CC67- 2016
-----------	------------------------------	-------------------

The Chair outlined some of his engagements and thanked members for supporting his civic lunch.

5.	LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	CC68- 2016
-----------	-------------------------------	-------------------

The Leader congratulated the Welsh national team for their fantastic achievement in reaching the semi-finals of the European Football Championships. He advised that integration with Powys Teaching Health Board would be showcased at the Royal Welsh Show and that the Powys transport app giving live travel information would be launched at the show. He also highlighted the Green Man Festival in Crickhowell in August and noted that Powys would be hosting the finish of the Tour of Britain cycle race in September. He also informed Council that community delivery was continuing with services and amenities transferring to local communities.

6.	BUDGET VIREMENTS	CC69- 2016
-----------	-------------------------	-------------------

6.1 Capital Virement for Street Lighting

The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that this virement would bring forward the programme to introduce LED lights which would deliver £300,000 without having to turn out any lights.

The recommendation was passed by 52 votes to 0.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The Capital Virement of £776K is approved.	To monitor the Council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.

6.2 Revenue Budget Virement due to transfer of staff from Business Support to Service Areas

The Portfolio Holder for Finance explained that this virement was required following the transfer of staff from Business Support to service areas.

The recommendation was passed by 34 votes to 3 with 8 abstentions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the budget virements set out in the report.	In order to formally transfer staff from Business Support to relevant Service Area and action revenue budget virement requirements in respect of transfer of baseline budget and associated efficiencies.

7.	ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORTING FRAMEWORK	CC70- 2016
-----------	---	-------------------

The Strategic Director People presented her annual report as the Statutory Director of Social Services for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. In presenting her report the Director explained the legislative context in which the service was delivered, principally the Social Services & Wellbeing Act which put

individuals and their needs at the centre of their care. In putting individuals at the centre of their care, the service had to be clear about its objectives, ask what difference it was making and how this could be quantified. The Director outlined progress made against objectives set for the service and further work to be undertaken in 2016/17 including the roll out of integrated Older People's Teams and transformational change in Children's Services. She thanked the frontline and support staff for their work, the Cabinet and local members and Scrutiny.

In response to questions from members, the Director confirmed that the service was working to ensure that Welsh speaking clients were supported by Welsh speaking staff. She outlined progress on integration with the Health Board including the roll out of integrated Older People's Teams which would take place over the next 12 months followed by the integration of Learning Disability Services. She noted that the number of Looked After Children in Powys was amongst the lowest in Wales which meant that the Council's early intervention approach was working. She advised that there was no shortage of foster carers overall although it was a challenge to find carers for children with more complex needs and, given the rural nature of the county, to match carers where there was demand.

The recommendation was passed by 53 votes to 2.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Council endorse the report in Appendix 1 for full publication by end of September 2016.	To comply with the statutory requirements of the Director of Social Services to produce an annual report

County Councillors S McNicholas and DH Williams left the meeting.

8.	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016 - 19	CC71- 2016
-----------	---	-------------------

The Leader presented the Corporate Improvement Plan for 2016 – 2019 which brought together in a single document the One Powys Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the workforce Strategy.

The recommendation was passed by 46 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016/19 is approved.	This CIP clearly defines the council's vision, priorities and intended outcomes, clearly making links to the One Powys Plan, the MTFS and developing workforce strategy. To facilitate effective engagement with staff, elected members, the public and stakeholders such as regulators.

9.	MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES 2015/16	CC72- 2016
-----------	---	-------------------

Council received details of allowances and expenses claimed by Members in 2015/16. In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder for Finance acknowledged the efforts of members in embracing IT to cut down on the need to travel to meetings which meant that there had been a 13% saving on expenses on the previous year. The Council was required to publish the information by 30th September 2016.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the report is noted.	Ensuring the information is available in the public domain within the required timescale.

10.	DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 2017	CC73- 2016
------------	---	-------------------

Council was asked to consider the date of the Annual Meeting of Council following the local authority elections in 2017.

The recommendation was passed by 44 votes to 0.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
(i) that the date of the Annual Meeting of Council following the election be set at Thursday 18th May, 2017.	(i) To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of setting the date of the Annual Meeting of Council following an election.
(ii) that the draft Council diary for 2017 attached to the report be approved.	(ii) To approve the Council diary 2017.

11.	APPOINTMENTS MADE TO COMMITTEES	CC74- 2016
------------	--	-------------------

Council noted the following appointments made to committees by political groups and approved by the Monitoring Officer under the general power of delegation granted by Council:

County Councillor Graham Jones appointed to the Police and Crime Panel by the Conservative Group to replace County Councillor Tom Turner.

County Councillor Garry Banks appointed to the Democratic Services Committee, the Employment and Appeals Committee and the Place Scrutiny by the Non Political Group to fill vacancies.

County Councillor Peter Medlicott appointed to Audit Committee by the Independent Group to fill a vacancy.

County Councillor Phil Pritchard appointed to the Brecon Beacons National Park Committee by the Independent Group in place of County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe.

County Councillor Huw Williams appointed to the Place Scrutiny Committee by the Labour Group to fill an additional seat on the Committee.

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe appointed to the Employment and Appeals Committee by the Liberal Democrat Group to fill an additional place on the Committee.

12.	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION	CC75- 2016
-----	---	------------

12.1 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning from County Councillor Graham Jones

Knowing that a member of the Cabinet and officer(s) went to Brussels recently, I would like to know how many representatives attended and how was the trip funded i.e. did the Authority pay or did those who attended pay by either contributing or meeting the full amount?

Cllr Avril York and Susan Bolter Head of Regeneration, Property and Commissioning travelled to Brussels on Tuesday 1st March and returned on Thursday 3rd March, 2016. This visit was at the invitation of the Welsh Local Government Association's (WLGA) Brussels office. The WLGA covered all the costs associated with the trip with one exception. Powys County Council covered the return travel costs of car share between Llandrindod Wells and Birmingham railway station.

County Councillor Graham Jones' supplementary question was what positive gains were achieved by the visit. The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning was not at the meeting so the Leader offered to have a written response prepared and circulated to all members.

12.2 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education and the Chief Executive from County Councillor Gwilym Williams

Can the Cabinet member for schools Councillor Arwel Jones, and the Chief Executive Jeremy Patterson, inform me and the council members, when they were first became aware, that the Llanfyllin high school used its delegated budget to support school transport to their school? The reason that I am asking the Chief Executive is because he is head of Schools.

Portfolio Holder for Education

I refer to the question and would reply that I was only made aware of the issue in early January when the Wales Audit Office refused to sign off the accounts.

Chief Executive

I became fully aware that Llanfyllin High School had used their delegated budget to subsidise home to school transport when I was in receipt of an Internal Audit Report confirming this fact. The report was produced on 24th February 2016. I was first alerted to the likelihood that the school were using their delegated budget for this purpose in mid-December 2015. I was advised of the position by the Strategic Director for Resources.

In response to Councillor Williams' supplementary question about whether the Portfolio Holder for Education's children who had attended Llanfyllin High School had made use of the transport funded out of the delegated budget, the Portfolio Holder advised that they had attended a feeder school for Llanfyllin High School.

12.3 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Commissioning and Procurement from County Councillor Gwilym Williams

Can the Cabinet member for Commissioning and Procurement inform me and council members, how much savings have been made in the last 12 months for Commissioning and Procurement, and could you provide some details on these savings.

The amount of savings generated in 2015/16 was £1,324,117.96 with a full year effect of £2,173,941.88. The appendix attached sets out the details.

In response to Councillor Williams' supplementary question about savings on mobile phone bills, the Portfolio Holder for Commissioning and Procurement advised that the savings had been achieved by cancelling a number of contracts.

12.4 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Highways from County Councillor Graham Jones

Grass Cutting - I would like to know when the initial tenders were issued for the contract, how many bids there were and why the successful contractor was unable to continue with the contract which resulted in a re-tendering process. I would also like to know when the re-tendering process began, the number of bids received and the outcome.

The Grounds Maintenance tender was issued on 22nd January 2016 as an open process. 30 suppliers expressed interest in the tender and nine ultimately submitted bids against the various lots. With regard to the rural highway verges element of the contract, seven responses were received against at least one of the three lots.

A contract initiation meeting was held on the 2nd June 2016 where the successful contractor for the rural highways lots advised that they had priced incorrectly and would need to double their bid. This was not acceptable on the basis that it affected the quality : price ranking of the suppliers' responses, and so the contract was then issued the next best ranked supplier for the particular lots the following week.

In response to Councillor Jones' supplementary question as to whether there had been any extra expenditure as a result of retendering the Portfolio Holder for Highways said he did not believe there had been any extra expenditure as there had been no need to retender but that he would check and provide a written response.

13.	URGENT MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR ALED DAVIES AND SECONDED BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR GWILYM WILLIAMS	CC76- 2016
-----	--	-------------------

Council debated the following motion proposed by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor Gwilym Williams.

That Full Council meets to discuss recommendations relating to Primary and

Secondary School proposals that are affected by the Council's Transformation Policy and Schools Reorganisation Policy 2015, to inform the Cabinet of Council's views prior to any decision being taken by Cabinet.

County Councillor Aled Davies in proposing the motion and County Councillor Gwilym Williams in seconding the motion referred to the Cabinet decision to close Nantmel Church in Wales Primary School and said that full Council should have the opportunity to give their views on recommendations relating to primary schools.

County Councillor David Evans and County Councillor Kelvyn Curry asked if the decision on Nantmel Church in Wales School could be reconsidered. The Monitoring Officer advised that the Cabinet decision was properly taken in accordance with the Constitution. The decision could be challenged by raising objections during the objection period that was underway. The Leader reminded Council that he had offered to include primary schools in the motion considered at the meeting on 16th June. County Councillor Wynne Jones advised that his group was prepared to support the motion because there was a need to get on and take decisions and he referred Council to the report on School Balances considered by Cabinet which forecast that 70% of primary schools would be in deficit within three years.

The motion was passed by 47 votes to 5.

RESOLVED that Full Council meets to discuss recommendations relating to Primary and Secondary School proposals that are affected by the Council's Transformation Policy and Schools Reorganisation Policy 2015, to inform the Cabinet of Council's views prior to any decision being taken by Cabinet.

14.	URGENT MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH RATCLIFFE AND SECONDED BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAM POWELL	CC77- 2016
-----	--	-------------------

Council debated the motion proposed by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe and County Councillor William Powell.

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia. We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community.

Councillor Powell urged the Council to take a proactive approach through the Public Service Board and drew attention to the Safety Pin Campaign as a commitment to public safety. It was noted that the motion was timely with Syrian refugee families arriving in Ystradgynlais that day. The Leader confirmed that he would follow up ways of providing support with officers and he offered to discuss an approach to the Police and Crime Commissioner with Councillor Powell.

There was a request for a recorded vote.

RESOLVED that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia. We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community.

A number of members reported that the electronic voting system had not recorded their vote but the motion was passed unanimously by all members present.

County Councillor K F Tampin (Chair)