

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE HELD AT COUNCIL  
CHAMBER - NEUADD MALDWYN, WELSHPOOL, POWYS ON  
WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor K M Roberts-Jones (Chairman)

County Councillors D Bailey, G J Bowker, R G Brown, L V Corfield, A W Davies, D E Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, V E Evans, S M Hayes, D C Jones, M J Jones, E M Jones, G M Jones, D R Jones, J R Jones, W T Jones, F H Jump, P E Lewis, D Mayor, R H Mills, G Morgan, P C Pritchard, , R G Thomas, G P Vaughan and J M Williams

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors MC Alexander, R I George, P Harris, E A Jones, J G Shearer, W B Thomas and E A York.

**In attendance:**

David Powell – Strategic Director: Resources, Julie Harding - Resources Team Leader, Chris Lloyd - Area Traffic Officer and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>MS61-2016</b>
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors R.I. George, E.A. Jones, J.G. Shearer, G.P. Vaughan and E.A. York (Councillor York had been due to attend for a portfolio holder update slot but due to ill health had been unable to). Members wished Councillor Shearer a speedy return to good health.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<b>MS62-2016</b>
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 as a correct record subject to recording the presence of A.W. Davies in the main list of those being present and not as Chairman.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>MS63-2016</b>
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There were no declarations of interest made in relation to items on the agenda.

<b>4.</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>MS64-2016</b>
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The Chairman reported on:

- a. **Councillor Ann Holloway** – members stood in silence to remember County Councillor Ann Holloway who had recently passed away. Ann had been a County Councillor since the Council came into being in 1996 and a member of the shadow authority the year before
- b. **Womens Institute AGM** – having attended the recent AGM

- c. **60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** – having attended a 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at Powysland Museum. Members were reminded that Powysland could be used as a wedding ceremony venue
- d. **Montgomeryshire County Memorial** – the Chairman encouraged members to attend a Remembrance Service that would be taking place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 4 p.m. at the Montgomeryshire monument. Members were urged to allow 20 minutes to walk to the memorial given its location and were urged to we

<b>5.</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</b>	<b>MS65-2016</b>
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

### 5.1 Councillor Stephen Hayes – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care

During an update in relation to portfolio matters particular reference was made to:

- a. **Council Seminars** – the Portfolio Holder had held a number of Council Seminars and would continue to engage with members regarding arrangements for delivering and reviewing adult social care
- b. **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** – the Council and Health Board continue to work closely to deliver on requirements under the Act. The Act requires the Health Authority and County Council to work closer together. Powys had been at an advanced stage of joint working given previous attempts to collaborate on projects across the region
- c. **Joint Partnership Board** – unlike previous governance arrangements introduced to drive joint working between the Council and Health Authority the Joint Partnership Board (which had been tasked with moving forward on joint matters) had delegated powers. The Board has oversight of activities and functions which span both organisations and the voluntary sector
- d. **Integrated Service Team (Ystradgynlais)** – a pilot arrangement which had seen a flagship joint Council/Health team operating in the Ystradgynlais area would be evaluated shortly. The focus had been on supporting more independent living
- e. **Budget Position** – the Adult Social Care budget remains volatile and Council had agreed in February to including saving targets for the current and future years. In the light of the position Cabinet had agreed to a review of day care which included the operation of day care sites. The budget for 2016/17 had been set by Council at a standstill position i.e. there had been no increase in budget and Council had agreed 5% cuts to the budgets for the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19. The overspend for 2016/17 would be likely to be in the region of £4-5 million. Additional pressures had been in relation to increase in demand and meeting contractual arrangements to pay at the rate of the National Living Wage. The Portfolio Holder is confident that officers draw down the full entitlement of grant funding to support grant funded projects. The Welsh Government had recently announced an additional £25 million across Wales to support care needs, however, the detail was lacking and, to date, budgets from the Welsh Government didn't identify additional targeted funding
- f. **Consultant (Review of the Spend/Budget)** – in an effort to unpick the spend and identify areas where savings could be considered the Authority had

employed a consultant to scrutinise the budget i.e. there are some instances where the Authority provides funding direct to residents via Direct Payments and those payments are being banked by residents and unspent. A consultancy which had been working with Cardiff Council to review its residential care had also supported Powys with reviewing its arrangements (the BUPA contract)

- g. **Meeting the Need** – the Portfolio Holder confirmed that a range of arrangements are operating throughout Powys to meet areas of need. The focus had been on delivering services that are safe and secure and in meeting statutory obligations
- h. **Day Centres** – as a result of the poor budget position and the Council agreeing in February of this year that there should be saving targets for adult social care the Authority was consulting with regard to the operation of its day centres. Members were reminded that as the current estate stands there's inequality of provision across the county
- i. **Cabinet** – Cabinet would determine its position following the review on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016
- j. **Welshpool Day Centre** – before Council had agreed to include a cut in funding for Adult Social Care and Cabinet had moved forward with the day centre review links had been made to encourage communities to engage in activities to support community transfers/delivery. Welshpool Town Council had expressed an interest in operating the Welshpool facility and, subsequently, a contract had been entered into for a seven year period for the Town Council to run the facility. Due to the contractual arrangements and in the light of the above the Welshpool facility would sit outside of the review. The Portfolio Holder agreed that it would be timely to visit the site to learn of the experience so far
- k. **Consultation** – the Portfolio Holder accepted the view from two members that the consultation in relation to day centres had been lacking in terms of financial information. The Portfolio Holder encouraged members to respond to the consultation
- l. **Befriending Scheme** – it was felt that in some situations there would be a need for people to be appropriately trained to meet needs i.e. toileting, lifting, caring for those with dementia etc. The Portfolio Holder reminded members that the idea behind 'befriending' was not that someone should sit with someone alone for company but should take the wider role of helping the resident in engaging with the wider community and join in on activities
- m. **Assessed Need** – regardless of the budget position the Authority would have a duty to meet assessed need
- n. **Council Services** – it was felt by a member that the need to raise revenue through Council Tax to deliver services should be recognised and that pressures in delivering on care should not remove funding used to support other areas of spend across the Council
- o. **Llys Glan Yr Afon (Newtown)** – members had been invited to attend a tour of the new facility on Friday of this week. The facility would provide 49 residential units. The site could become a very important facility for community use in Newtown. A member expressed concern regarding there being just 29 car parking spaces at the facility
- p. **Respite Care** – a member urged consideration of the impact on those who care for people and respite should day centres close. Those who provide care would need to be supported for periods of respite
- q. **Residential Care (Post 2017)** – the Authority had entered into an agreement with BUPA (for an increased cost to the budget) to extend an agreement for one year (2016-17) with BUPA to provide residential care. The Authority would

continue working with BUPA to look to arrive at an agreement for the longer term but as things stands the offer from BUPA is not affordable. The option would be management via. a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) to meet the need and within budget

Members thanked the Portfolio Holder for his update and would welcome information from the outcome of the Ystradgynlais Integrated Care Pilot and information in relation to the Befriending Scheme.

## 5.2 Councillor Avril York – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Planning and ICT

Due to illness Councillor York had been unable to attend today's meeting. Councillor York had provided a written regeneration activity update report which had been circulated to the membership and would respond to any questions/queries directed to her.

6.	<b>FUTURE FIT PROGRAMME UPDATE (11.00 A.M.)</b>	<b>MS66-2016</b>
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Representatives from the Future Fit Programme had provided an update report which had been circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. Members were encouraged to attend a public engagement event which would be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 5.30 p.m. at the Wroxeter Hotel, Wroxeter, Shrewsbury where they would learn of progress and have the opportunity to raise issues. On behalf of the shire the Chair would link with those running the programme to request a local event when appropriate.

7.	<b>HOUSING (CONTACT MANAGEMENT/PERFORMANCE) - 11.05 - 11.30</b>	<b>MS67-2016</b>
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Members welcomed Julie Harding, Resources Team Leader to the meeting to provide an update in relation to how the Authority manages housing contacts (repairs and maintenance and general contacts). During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Resource** – there are 5.16 fte first contact officers who handle enquiries and heating calls and 6.5 fte repairs co-ordinators who handle repairs calls
- b. **Performance** – in line with industry standards the unit aim to answer 88% of all calls within 41 seconds. From April – October 2016 first contact officers answered 970 calls per week, the average speed of answer being 89 seconds. During the same period repair co-ordinators answered 7214 calls from tenants, the average speed of answer being 22 seconds. A member requested detail in relation to how many calls made would have been repeat calls, Julie agreed to review records and to provide updated information in this regard
- c. **Welsh Calls** – it's recognised that there's a need to improve provision in terms of providing a Welsh service
- d. **Voice Recognition** – members expressed concern regarding the voice recognition service used by customer service and how it often does not put members through to those they want to make contact with. Julie would report the concerns back to the Customer Services Manager

- e. **Further Developments** – as with all services there are reviews in an attempt to identify areas for improvement, it is likely that self-serving would be introduced and that arrangements for managing repair contacts would be transferred when the Authority moves to operating a Joint Venture Company
- f. **End to End Service** – members would welcome detail in relation to the time it takes from reporting defects to completion of the repair
- g. **Feedback** – members would find it very helpful to be provided with information in relation to works and in particular when works had been completed or where there were likely to be delays re: dwellings within their wards

<b>8.</b>	<b>ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES (11.30)</b>	<b>MS68-2016</b>
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Members welcomed Chris Lloyd, Area Traffic Officer to the meeting for the following items of business.

### **8.1 Coed-y-Lan Housing Development, Llanidloes (20 mph zone)**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure is initiated in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996; and if no substantive objections are received the proposal be implemented

### **8.2 Y Fan, Modification of 30mph Speed Limit Area**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure is initiated in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996; and if no substantive objections are received the proposal be implemented. It was agreed that the length of the proposed 30 mph restriction along the C2182 should be extended for the consultation from the visible village boundary to the far side of a car park which is used by visitors to the Van Lead Mine. The exact location to be agreed on site with the local member.

### **8.3 Permanent 18 tonne Amenity Weight Limit (Criggon Lane, Trewern – C2039 and C2040)**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure is initiated in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996; and if no substantive objections are received the proposals be implemented.

The officer confirmed that exemptions to the proposed limit would apply for those who need to access land and property along the route.

### **8.4 Welshpool Parking Review**

Members welcomed an update report regarding the Welshpool Parking Review.

During discussion members expressed concern with regard to the siting of established bus stopping places along the A458(T) Berriew Street, Welshpool on both sides of the trunk road between the Berriew Street car park access and the Morrisons supermarket access. The stopping places cause significant disruption to the flow of traffic and members feel that they are sited in the wrong places. Chris agreed to raise the matter with the Passenger Transport Manager, John Forsey. It was noted that the bus stops are sited on the trunk road which is the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

<b>9.</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b>	<b>MS69-2016</b>
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

**Montgomery Community Health Council** – the CHC had confirmed that members could nominate a non-member to serve, however, guidance would be provided to ensure that nominations are made in accordance with governance arrangements for the CHC.

<b>10.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<b>MS70-2016</b>
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There were no items of correspondence.

<b>11.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>MS71-2016</b>
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The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and not Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> as per the county diary.

The Chairman invited members to attend a Christmas service which would be held in her local church at Kerry on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 2 p.m. The Chair would send an invite closer to the date.

**County Councillor K M Roberts-Jones  
(Chairman)**