

# County Council

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Meeting Venue  
**By Teams**

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Meeting date  
**Thursday, 24 September 2020**

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Meeting time  
**2.00 pm**

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For further information please contact  
**Stephen Boyd**  
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County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

18 September 2020

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Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod, a bydd gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd ar gael.  
You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting, and a simultaneous translation service will be provided.

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## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 July 2020 as a correct record.  
(Pages 7 - 34)

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

<b>4.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
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To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

<b>5.</b>	<b>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
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To receive any announcements from the Leader.

<b>6.</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BRIEFING</b>
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To receive a briefing from the Chief Executive.

<b>7.</b>	<b>DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT</b>
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To receive and consider the annual report of the Director of Social Services.  
(To Follow)

<b>8.</b>	<b>AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE POWYS LOCAL PENSION BOARD</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.  
(Pages 35 - 50)

<b>9.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION - DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND CALL TO ACTION ON LOCAL ENERGY</b>
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This Council notes the IPPC Panel report on Global warming predicts severe impacts to health, home and environment, with the severe floods of October 2019 and February 2020 endangering Powys communities, clearly demonstrating that we are ill prepared for the challenges we face as a Council.

This Council notes that by declaring a climate emergency, councils are demonstrating their collective leadership and signifying the urgency which, as a publicly accountable body, they place on tackling climate change and decarbonising the economy as required by The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This Council notes that by supporting the Local Electricity Bill the council will remove the barriers to local energy supply, and could lead by example in reducing its corporate carbon footprint by using our farm estate to become a local renewable electricity provider, whilst also supporting communities to find innovative ways to reduce their carbon footprint and invest in, and support, their community facilities.

This Council notes Fay Jones' MP commitment to the cross-party effort to have the Local Electricity Bill passed into law, helping Councils kick-start a local energy revolution which has the potential to reduce Powys' carbon footprint once and for all whilst distributing the benefits to local communities perpetually.

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

1. Join with other councils across Wales in declaring a Climate Emergency
2. Support the implementation of Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (March 2019) to make Powys County Council a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.
3. Request the Leader to consider assigning roles within the cabinet to lead on Climate Change mitigation and to actively engage with all members and stakeholders by: A. setting up a cross-party working group and, B. establishing a

Powys-wide multi-stakeholder group, to develop a baseline picture @2020 and bring forward a strategy and action plan @2021 for a truly sustainable Powys.

4. Support our MPs to ensure the Local Electricity Bill succeeds in an Adjournment Debate to encourage and enable the local supply of electricity and facilitate more resilient Powys communities.

5. Ask Welsh and UK Governments to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions and transition to a green Powys economy.

Proposed by Cllr Jake Berriman

Seconded by Cllr Jackie Charlton

**The following motion is only to be debated in the event of the previous motion falling as the Proposer has agreed to withdraw this motion if the previous motion is passed.**

#### **10. NOTICE OF MOTION - CARBON EMISSIONS**

That this council will endeavour to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero, in line with the Welsh Government target of 2030 and, call upon the Welsh Government to provide adequate support and resources to achieve this target.

That this council, with the assistance of the appropriate portfolio holder, newly appointed climate change officer and climate change working group, builds on the achievements to date and develop a working strategy and associated action plans to achieve this target.

That this council reviews all relevant policies, strategies and plans, to include its corporate plan and local development plan, to support the achievement of this target.

That this council, together with appropriate support and resources from the Welsh Government, works with partners, other local authorities and organisations to help develop and implement best working practices to limit global warming and, publicise this declaration of a climate emergency.

That this council promotes and publishes best working practices in limiting global warming whilst encouraging residents and businesses to take their own suitable actions to also reduce their carbon emissions in line with the Welsh Government target of 2030.

Proposed by Cllr Iain McIntosh

Seconded by Cllr Lucy Roberts

#### **11. NOTICE OF MOTION - HOLIDAY HOMES**

Powys has circa 1262 holiday/second homes within the Council Tax list paying the current premium of 50% which generates circa £700k.

In view of the huge social concern about the effect of high numbers of such properties in many communities Council calls:

- for the current premium to be increased to 75% in the next financial year thus generating an extra circa 350k for the authority
- and for the authority to work with other rural authorities through the WLGA to ensure that Welsh Government and Valuation Office have a consistency of approach in assessing Business Rates applications for such properties in that they have to be let for 140 days in order to have a genuine business.

Proposed by Cllr Elwyn Vaughan  
Seconded by Cllr Bryn Davies

<b>12. NOTICE OF MOTION - SPEED LIMITS IN SMALL TOWNS</b>
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Power over national speed limits was devolved to Wales in 2018.

In 2019, First Minister Mark Drakeford said: 'Local authorities have to have discretion to retain 30mph zones on key arterial routes, but outside that, and in residential areas, we know that 20mph zones reduce speed of traffic, reduce accidents - particularly accidents to children, and we want to see that become the default position right across Wales.' Labour AM John Griffiths said there was cross-party support for a policy he felt had many benefits for society. 'Older people will feel happier if they're able to walk along the streets with 20mph limits in place and parents will feel much happier in enabling their young people to play outside.'

On 15<sup>th</sup> July this year, the Senedd voted to institute a default 20mph speed limit in residential streets, subject to consultation and final decision, with a target date of 2023 for implementation.

The current guidance document with respect to speed limits is contained in Welsh Assembly Government Circular No 24/2009 **Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales**, dated October 2009. It states *inter alia* that:

- The underlying aim should be to achieve a 'safe' distribution of speeds which reflects the function of the road and the impacts on the local community. The needs of vulnerable road users and communities must be fully taken into account.
- The characteristics of the road and the needs of the vulnerable road user should be considered as factors when setting a speed limit.
- The needs of vulnerable road users must be fully taken into account in order to further encourage their mobility and improve their safety. Setting appropriate speed limits is a particularly important element in urban safety management, with significant benefits for pedestrians and cyclists.

Motion:

Council welcomes the recent Senedd vote to introduce a default 20mph speed limit in residential areas from 2023. Recognising that Powys contains a number of small towns of exceptional historic interest where the speed of traffic adversely affects the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors, Council agrees to:

1. Work collaboratively with communities which wish to assess the potential benefit of, and if appropriate institute, a 20mph speed limit in their town centre area

2. Take full advantage of the opportunities offered in Circular 24/2009, to improve the safety of vulnerable road users and consider the impact of traffic speed limits on communities
3. Demonstrate and evidence proper regard to the needs of road users other than those in motor vehicles (for example, those on foot, on horseback and cyclists) and those with impaired mobility or sensory deprivation when designing and implementing new traffic orders.

Proposed by Cllr Stephen Hayes  
Seconded by Cllr Jackie Charlton

<b>13. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION</b>
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**13.1. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe**

Businesses in Hay are overwhelmingly positive about the impact that 2 hours free parking has had on trade throughout the month of August, with some businesses attributing between 20 and 30% increases on last year to the fact that visitors and residents can now park for longer, for free. This has been a hugely successful initiative - thank you very much for doing it. With this in mind and with many businesses also stating they need all the help they can get as we go into the quieter winter months, has PCC done any impact on the free parking for businesses in Powys and how are the council looking support businesses through the winter? Also, in light of the feedback would Powys County Council extend this at least through winter to give businesses the best possible support? It really could make or break things for some businesses in the town and support is vital to ensure we do not have ghost towns in mid Wales come early 2021.

(Pages 51 - 52)

**13.2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport from County Councillor Jeremy Pugh**

Who and which department is responsible for the failure to provide face masks for our young people travelling on Powys school transport to and from schools as they did not arrive at the schools until several days after?

(Pages 53 - 54)

**13.3. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport from County Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry**

Am I correct in my understanding that Powys County Council owns 10 Coaches used for Public Transport, that are used by Coach Operators? Having recently travelled on a contracted Coach used for Public Transport, in another Authority, I noticed the coach company itself, was able to advertise its full details on the outside of that particular Authority's Public Transport Coach and inside too, along with other advertisements.

As I am sure, my fellow County Councillors are also trying to identify

means of income generating to support revenue, do we have a Policy of charging for Advertisements on Coaches which we own? If not, could it possibly be a consideration?

(Pages 55 - 56)