

County Council

Meeting Venue
By Teams

Meeting date
Thursday, 23 September 2021

Meeting time
11.30 am

For further information please contact
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
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17/09/2021

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.

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting as a correct record.
(Pages 11 - 42)

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

4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
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To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

5.	LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
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To receive any announcements from the Leader.

6.	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BRIEFING
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To receive a briefing from the Chief Executive.

7.	CONSTITUTION
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To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

(Pages 43 - 136)

8.	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT (LAY) MEMBERS ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
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To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

(Pages 137 - 140)

9.	LLANDEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL - INQUORATE
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To consider a report by the Principal Elections Officer.

(Pages 141 - 144)

10.	PENSIONS AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR'S ALLOWANCES
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To consider a report by the Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer.

(Pages 145 - 148)

11.	NOTICES OF MOTION
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11.1. **Future motions presented to Council**

In recent years, a number of motions have been presented to full council meetings for consideration, by opposition groups, absent of any financial cost or resource analysis.

Elected Powys County Councillors recognise the importance of calculating and considering the financial and resource costs incurred by this council, when considering or proposing a motion, or amendment, to be presented to this council.

Elected Powys County Councillors recognise the importance of prudent spending of council tax payers money or, funding allocated to this council by central governments, on county council services and other statutory, or non-statutory, obligations.

Elected Powys County Councillors realise it would be irresponsible to put forward any motion, or amendment, without due consideration given to the financial or resource costs incurred to this council, should that motion, or amendment, be approved.

It would be the responsibility of the proposer to seek the appropriate assistance to evaluate the cost and resource implications within the council.

This council therefore resolves:

That all notices of motion, or any amendment to a motion, presented to this council for consideration, must be accompanied by a costed analysis of the financial and resource implications that motion, or amendment to a motion, would have on this council, should it be approved.

Proposer County Councillor Iain McIntosh
Seconder County Councillor Lucy Roberts

11.2. **Declaring an Ecological Emergency and Supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

The Climate Emergency Declaration, finally passed by Powys Council just 12 months ago was the first step on a journey to deliver services and actions in Powys which reach the ambitious target of Net Zero by 2030. The Cross-Party Working Group and all Councillors have been briefed on progress made to date designed to stem the catastrophic actions of the past and make a difference to the future, but more is still required. The UN's most recent IPCC report "Summary for Policy Makers", launched ahead of COP26, is a "code red for humanity" according to the UN Secretary. Alok Sharma COP26 President acknowledges that the next decade will be "decisive" as the UK Government prepares plans to reach net zero by 2050. To paraphrase the great Jeremy Clarkson, "forget climate change, if insects disappear so does all life on this Planet". The two, however, are inextricably linked; we face two crises, the rise in temperatures and decline in nature and yet only 15% of Councils (including neighbouring Herefordshire) have declared an ecological/biodiversity emergency responding to the threat to wildlife and ecosystems. Just by way of example of the nature of this crisis, the State of Radnorshire Wildlife Report (2017) indicates the loss of 40 plant species, 95% of our native European eel population and 63% of Welsh butterflies.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, initially presented to Parliament in September 2020, now has the support of over 100 MPs across eight political parties. The Bill asks the UK to take responsibility for its fair share of greenhouse gas emissions, to actively restore biodiverse habitats in the UK and to stop damage to the environment through the production, transportation, and disposal of the goods we consume.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare an ecological emergency to demonstrate the Council's commitment to protecting Powys' natural environment, biodiversity and wildlife;
2. Declare its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency

(CEE) Bill;

3. Inform the local media of this decision, including sharing information on social media;

4. Write to our local Members of Parliament asking them to support the CEE Bill in its passage through Parliament; and

4. Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill expressing our support (campaign@ceebill.uk).

Proposer County Councillor Jake Berriman
Seconder County Councillor Jackie Charlton

11.3. **Support a Simple Firework Licence**

During the pandemic there have been very few if any fireworks. This has provided a much needed respite for both animals and humans who cannot enjoy fireworks.

We may have differing opinions on whether fireworks should be banned completely but we can all agree that if they are used, this should be done responsibly. This motion sets out some measures that we can put in place to allow licensed, controlled, and safe fireworks displays.

The House of Commons Petitions Select Committee received a petition in 2019 which attracted over 750,000 signatures and as a result they recommended three things:-

- Local authorities should be empowered to limit the number of firework displays in their areas
- Government to fund and co-ordinate a national awareness campaign on the responsible use of fireworks which should include explicit information on the impact which fireworks can have on veterans and those with PTSD
- Make sure that age restricted products are not packaged in a way to attract and appeal to children.

This Council notes that:

- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) says the law is failing. It does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.
- That further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and people. In the meantime, several things can be done to improve the situation for wildlife and people at risk of being affected by firework explosions.

- Review of existing measures in place and encourage the licensing of all PUBLIC FIREWORK DISPLAYS is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals. Note the motion carried by Rhondda Cynon Taff Cabinet on 13 October 2020. This focuses on council owned land but is a commitment to regulate and inform.
- Raise awareness of the harm and distress that fireworks can cause with the level of noise and pollution of much more powerful fireworks sold for both private and public displays.

This Council resolves to:

1. Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks as the unintended consequences of legal fireworks.
2. Support the RSPCA in the work being undertaken to change the legislation on firework displays to enable and ensure all public firework displays are advertised in advance of the event, with appropriate information in respect of the size of the display, allowing residents to take precautions for people and pets.
3. Encourage, through awareness raising, local suppliers of fireworks to separate ‘quieter’ fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind.

Proposer County Councillor Jackie Charlton
 Secunder County Councillor Jake Berriman
 (Pages 149 - 152)

11.4. **Universal Credit: Cancel the Cut**

This Council notes:

UK Government plans to cut Universal Credit will hit the lowest paid hardest and hurt our economic recovery.

More than eight thousand families in Powys will lose £1,000 a year while out of work support will be left at its lowest level in decades.

In Powys, more than 40% of people receiving Universal Credit are in work.

Charities, Trade Unions, and the devolved administrations all oppose the planned cut to Universal Credit.

The planned cut to Universal Credit will take more than £8 million out of the Powys economy.

This council resolves to:

1. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Work and Pensions Secretary and the Prime Minister to oppose the planned cut to Universal Credit;
2. Call on Fay Jones MP and Craig Williams MP to stand up for families in Powys and oppose the cut to Universal Credit; and
3. Work in partnership with advice agencies to support residents impacted by the Universal Credit cut.

Proposer County Councillor Liz Rijnenberg
Seconder County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

11.5. Expansion of availability and awareness of Defibrillators in Powys

Council notes that on average 30,000 people each year suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and 20% of these incidents occur in public spaces. Council further notes only 10% of victims of cardiac arrests survive when the incident occurs outside hospital.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can play a significant role in saving the lives of people who suffer heart attacks in public. It is estimated that a shock from an AED, alongside CPR treatment, increases survival rates to 75-80%.

Council notes the tragic events in Machynlleth and elsewhere in Wales this summer where individuals could potentially have been saved by defibrillator use but devices were either unavailable or not known about.

Council notes the existing web sites heartsafe.org.uk, calonhearts.org, 111.wales.nhs.uk and the “staying alive” mobile app have either incomplete coverage in Powys or have no location based location search facility.

Council commends the work of Llandrindod Wells Town Council, the local group in Rhayader and others across the county in establishing new defibrillators across their areas and providing cabinets to organisations to enable them to place existing defibrillators in a place accessible to the public.

Council welcomes moves by Alun Davies MS to introduce a cross party Bill to the Senedd to deliver “Universal Coverage” of defibrillators in Wales which would address some of these issues including the vital issue of the maintenance obligations around AEDs across Wales.

However Council expresses its concern that, though there are public

defibrillators in various places across the county, including many council premises and assets, there are gaps in the provision of publicly accessible AEDs and at present there is no holistic mapping system listing all AEDs in Powys.

Therefore Council requests Cabinet to consider the following :

- The compilation of a list, and subsequent publication and updating of, all defibrillators that are maintained on council premises with information on how to access them.
- Undertaking a review of, and, where appropriate, and increase in, the public accessibility of defibrillators that are located within council-owned properties including public parks, community centres, schools, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall.
- The Chair of Council sending a letter on behalf of the Council the Health and Education Secretaries in the Senedd urging them to support moves to extend the availability of AEDs and promote their use though especially though training within the education system.

Proposer County Councillor Pete Roberts
Seconder County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

12.	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION
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12.1. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Economic Regeneration and the Portfolio Holder for Education and Property from County Councillor Timothy Van-Rees**

Having benefitted from the assistance of interpreters and other locally enlisted personnel during my service overseas I would commend the Cabinet in deciding to offer accommodation to six families of refugees from Afghanistan.

Having regard to the state of affairs in that unhappy country there is likely to be a requirement for accommodation for a significantly larger number of refugees and indeed provision for the education of their children. What contingency plans has the Cabinet made in an event of an approach from HMG / Welsh Government for additional assistance?

(Pages 153 - 154)

12.2. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture from County Councillor James Gibson-Watt**

Could the Portfolio Holder provide figures in actual and percentage terms for the total annual reductions in Powys County Council's grant funding to

arts and cultural organisations included in the Council's Budget in each year from 2017/18 to 2021/22?

(To Follow)

12.3. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Economic Regeneration from County Councillor William Powell**

Will the Portfolio Holder for Housing please update Council on the latest proposals for reorganisation of the Powys County Council Housing Service, currently subject to consultation?

At a time of intense housing pressure - and given the renewed emphasis by Welsh Government Climate Change Minister, Julie James MS, on the importance of the timely reinstatement of Empty Properties, can the Portfolio Holder please reassure Members that the prize winning Private Sector Housing Team will not be disbanded or eroded in any way?

(Pages 155 - 156)

12.4. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care from County Councillor Jon Williams**

As councillors we are constantly being told that staff are being seconded to other service areas because of Covid. Due to the extra workload adult social services are having to deal with and the huge amount of pressure they are facing on a daily basis, could the portfolio holder please tell me how many staff have been seconded to support adult social services, how many staff from this service area are on furlough and what steps are the council taking to ensure the welfare of the staff in this service area?

(Pages 157 - 158)

12.5. **Question to the Leader from County Councillor William Powell**

The Mid Wales Growth Deal has the potential to be an enormous driver for the Mid Wales economy in the challenging years ahead and the efforts made by Members and Officers, working with UK and Welsh Government actors, need to be recognized.

However, the Welsh experience of other Growth Deal initiatives in recent years, notably in the Swansea Bay Region, has demonstrated the vital importance of scrutiny in testing the soundness and viability of particular strategies.

With this in mind, what consideration has the Leader given to promoting joint scrutiny by Members, drawn from Ceredigion and Powys County Councils, so as to provide reassurance and transparency, and thus gain greater buy-in, from the wider public?

(Pages 159 - 160)

12.6. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor Pete Roberts**

Progress of the Covid Recovery fund Pothole repair scheme

As we are now almost half way through the financial year and hence the duration of the covid recover fund cycle. Could the portfolio holder provide a breakdown by council ward of the cost and scope of pothole repair schemes that have been undertaken to date as a result of this investment and provide a similar breakdown of the works that are scheduled to be undertaken throughout the rest of the year?

(To Follow)

The following item will be taken at 2.00 pm

13. WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST

Briefing by Jason Killens, the Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust.