

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022

PRESENT

County Councillors B Baynham, D Bebb, M Beecham, S J Beecham, B Breeze, G Breeze, J Berriman, L Brighthouse, A Cartwright, J Charlton, R Church, T Colbert, S Cox, A W Davies, A Davies, B Davies, B Davies, S C Davies, M J Dorrance, D Edwards, J Ewing, L George, J Gibson-Watt, K Healy, H Hulme, P James, A Jenner, A Jones, E A Jones, E Jones, G D Jones, G E Jones, J R Jones, A Kennerley, C Kenyon-Wade, P Lewington, K Lewis, W Lloyd, I McIntosh, S McNicholas, DW Meredith, C Johnson-Wood, G Mitchell, G Morgan, G Morgan, WD Powell, G Preston, G Pugh, J Pugh, G W Ratcliffe, L Rijnenberg, L Roberts, P Roberts, C Robinson, E Roderick, D Selby, D A Thomas, RG Thomas J Thorp, E Vaughan, C Walsh, J Wilkinson, A Williams, D H Williams, J M Williams and S L Williams

1.	ELECTION OF CHAIR
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The outgoing Chair, County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas, welcomed new and returning members following the elections. He expressed best wishes to the Caereinion High School community following a recent accident and his thanks to the services who had responded. He advised that he had made donations of £9,000 from the Chair's Fund to the DPJ Foundation, Welshpool foodbank, the Friends of the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital Oswestry and YFCs in Powys.

Members paid tribute to Councillor Gwynfor Thomas for the way he had led the Council over the last 18 months.

Councillor Thomas presented Councillor Beverley Baynham with her past Chair's badge to mark her term as Chair.

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe was nominated by County Councillor Susan McNicholas and seconded by County Councillor William Powell. It was unanimously

RESOLVED that County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

Councillor Ratcliffe presented Councillor Thomas with his past Chair's badge to mark his term as Chair. Councillor Ratcliffe welcomed new members to the Council and thanked members who had not returned for their service to their communities. He advised that his priorities for the year would be mental health as the country came out of the pandemic, making a difference for those living with dementia and partnership with the third sector and health.

2.	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
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County Councillor Beverley Baynham was nominated by County Councillor Ange Williams and seconded by County Councillor Pete Roberts and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that County Councillor Beverley Baynham be elected Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF ASSISTANT VICE-CHAIR
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County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson was nominated by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas and it was unanimously

RESOLVED to elect County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson as Assistant Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Ian Harrison. County Councillors Jake Berriman, Anita Cartwright, Bryn Davies, Gary Mitchell and Michael Williams were attending remotely.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer advised that all members had a personal but non-prejudicial interest in item 10 Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses but that there was an exemption in the Members' Code of Conduct which allowed Members to speak and vote on this item.

6. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT - ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Council received the report of the Returning Officer setting out details of the Councillors elected on 5th May 2022. The Chief Executive congratulated everyone elected and thanked the Elections team and everyone who had assisted in the running of the elections.

RESOLVED that the details of Councillors elected on 5th May 2022 be noted.

7. ELECTION OF LEADER

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt was nominated by County Councillor Matthew Dorrance and seconded by County Councillor Gareth Morgan. By 56 votes to 1 with 8 abstentions it was

RESOLVED that County Councillor James Gibson-Watt be elected as the Leader of Powys County Council.

8. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Councillor Gibson-Watt thanked Members for placing their trust in him. He thanked the outgoing administration under Rosemarie Harris for their work undertaken during the difficult circumstances of the pandemic. He also thanked staff who had provided services throughout the pandemic. He referred to the Progressive Partnership Agreement which had been sent to all Members and which set out the direction of travel for the incoming administration. He advised that the Cabinet would work in a collaborative way, seeking to involve all members of Council. He invited group leaders to nominate a member to a working group to review and refresh the Corporate Plan.

Councillor Gibson-Watt advised that the members of his Cabinet would be:

County Councillor Matthew Dorrance, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys

County Councillor David Selby, Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys
County Councillor David Thomas, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation

County Councillor Sian Cox, Cabinet Member for a Caring Powys

County Councillor Richard Church, Cabinet for a Safer Powys

County Councillor Pete Roberts, Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys

County Councillor Jackie Charlton, Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys
County Councillor Sandra Davies and County Councillor Susan McNicholas, Cabinet Member for Future Generations (Shared post)

County Councillor Jake Berriman, Cabinet Member for a Connected Powys.

County Councillor Aled Davies, the Leader of the Conservative group, congratulated Councillor Gibson-Watt on his election as Leader and said that he would look to provide positive opposition. He paid tribute to Rosemarie Harris and the colleagues he had served with on the outgoing Cabinet.

County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan, the Leader of the Plaid Cymru group congratulated Councillor Gibson-Watt. He said he would support the Cabinet in strengthening the Welsh language and would be reminding them of the commitments made on Council Tax.

9. ALLOCATIONS, ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED TO BE MADE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
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Council considered the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the allocations and appointments to be made to committees and outside bodies.

Politically Balanced Appointments to Council Committees

Appointments to the Standards Committee

It was proposed by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor William Powell and

RESOLVED

- (i) **To appoint County Councillor Matt Beecham Welsh Liberal Democrats, County Councillor Iain McIntosh Welsh Conservatives, County Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Welsh Labour.**
- (ii) **To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make the fourth appointment in accordance with nominations received from the relevant Group Leader and to notify Council.**

Appointment of Co-Opted Members to the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

It was proposed by County Councillor Ange Williams and seconded by County Councillor Aled Davies and

RESOLVED

- (i) **To make appointments of Co-Opted Representatives to the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee for a period of four years to May 2026 as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report.**
- (ii) **To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appointments in accordance with nominations received from the Roman Catholic Church diocese representative.**

Appointment of Co-Opted Members to the Governance and Audit Committee.

Council noted that following the appointment of Gareth Hall and Lynne Hamilton as Lay Members of the Governance and Audit Committee at the last meeting on 3rd March, Mr John Brautigam had been appointed for a final term as the third Lay Member.

Politically Balanced Appointments to Council Committees

It was proposed by County Councillor Sandra Davies and seconded by County Councillor Pete Roberts and

RESOLVED to approve the allocation of seats on Council Committees to the different Political Groups in accordance with Page 3 of Appendix 3 of the report.

It was proposed by County Councillor Michael Williams and seconded by County Councillor Edwin Roderick and

RESOLVED to authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appointments in accordance with nominations received from the relevant Group Leaders and to notify Council.

Appointment of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

It was proposed by County Councillor Huw Williams and seconded by County Councillor Gareth Jones

RESOLVED

- (i) to appoint County Councillor Angela Davies as Chair of the Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee and County Councillor Amanda Jenner as Chair of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee;**
- (ii) to authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appointments in accordance with nominations received from the relevant Group Leaders and to notify Council.**

Appointment of Chairs to the Democratic Services Committee

It was proposed by County Councillor Karl Lewis and seconded by County Councillor Edwin Roderick and

RESOLVED that County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan be appointed as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.

Politically Balanced Appointments to Relevant Outside Bodies

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)

It was proposed by County Councillor Karl Lewis and seconded by County Councillor Michael Williams and

RESOLVED

- (i) to make appointments to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in accordance with the nominations of the political groups as set out below:
Welsh Liberal Democrats: County Councillors Gareth Ratcliffe and William Powell
Independent Group: County Councillor Edwin Roderick
Welsh Conservatives: County Councillor Iain McIntosh
Welsh Labour: County Councillor Huw Williams**
- (ii) to authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appointments in accordance with nominations received from the relevant Group Leaders and to notify Council.**

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (MWWFRA)

Confirmation was awaited from the Clerk to the Authority as to the number and political make-up of the Council's nominees. It was proposed by County Councillor Karl Lewis and seconded by County Councillor Michael Williams and

RESOLVED to authorise the Monitoring Officer to make appointments in accordance with nominations received from the relevant Group Leaders and to notify Council.

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel

It was moved by County Councillor Karl Lewis and seconded by County Councillor Pete Roberts and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillors Les George, Liz Rijnenberg and William Powell to the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel.

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

County Councillors Jackie Charlton, Aled Davies, Matthew Dorrance and James Gibson-Watt were nominated. Following a ballot it was

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillors Jackie Charlton, Matthew Dorrance and James Gibson-Watt to the Welsh Local Government Association Council.

Welsh Local Government Association Executive Board

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt was nominated by County Councillor Michael Williams and seconded by County Councillor Little Brighthouse.

RESOLVED that County Councillor James Gibson-Watt be appointed to the WLGA Executive Board.

Appointments to Other Outside Bodies and Council Working Groups

It was moved by County Councillor David Selby and seconded by County Councillor Ange Williams and

RESOLVED to make the following appointments

Outside Body/ Council Working Group	Nominee
Powys Community Foundation Grants Panel	County Councillors: David Meredith Edwin Roderick Gary Mitchell Joy Jones Little Brighthouse Angela Davies
Powys Community Health Council	County Councillors: Heulwen Hulme Ange Williams
Brecon University Scholarship Fund	County Councillors: Sarah- Jane Beecham

	Chris Walsh
Llandrindod Wells and Area Twinning Association	County Councillor Josie Ewing
Local Development Working Group	County Councillors: Jeremy Pugh Edwin Roderick Gary Mitchell Karl Lewis Gareth E Jones Corrina Kenyon-Wade
Powys Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE)	County Councillors: Jackie Charlton Michael Williams Ange Williams
Tenants Scrutiny Panel	County Councillors: Huw Williams Michael Williams Adam Kennerley Ange Williams
Theatr Hafren Management Committee	County Councillors: Gareth D Jones Glyn Preston Gwynfor Thomas

Wye Navigation Advisory Committee

It was moved by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt and seconded by County Councillor William Powell and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillor Tom Colbert to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee.

Welsh Books Council

It was moved by County Councillor William Powell and seconded by County Councillor Karl Lewis and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillor Edwin Roderick to the Welsh Books Council.

10. MEMBERS SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that they had a personal non prejudicial interest in this item but that there was a general exemption under the Code of Conduct.

Council noted the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) in respect of the amounts to be paid as Basic Salary, Senior Salary and Civic Salaries. Council was required to approve the number of Senior

salary positions which are remunerated and to approve the publication of the Members Schedule of Remuneration 2022/23.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by County Councillor Sandra Davies and seconded by County Councillor Ange Williams and by 51 votes to 2 with 7 abstentions it was

RESOLVED

- (i) **To approve the recommendation for the allocation of up to 17 Senior Salaries as detailed in section 4 of the report.**
- (ii) **To approve the publication of the Members' Schedule of Remuneration based on the report.**

11. WHITTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council was advised that no candidates had come forward to stand for Whitton Community Council at the elections on 5th May 2022. Until an election was held on 23rd June 2022, it was proposed that the County Councillors for Llangunllo with Norton, Knighton with Beguildy, Old Radnor and Presteigne act as temporary members. It was moved by County Councillor William Powell and seconded by County Councillor Karl Lewis and

RESOLVED to make the Whitton Community Council (Removal of Difficulty) Order 2022 as set out in Appendix A to the report.

**County Councillor GW Ratcliffe
(Chair)**