

# County Council

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Meeting Venue  
**Hybrid meeting - Zoom - County Hall**

Meeting date  
**Thursday, 20 July 2023**

Meeting time  
**12.00 pm**

For further information please contact  
**Stephen Boyd**  
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County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
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14/07/2023

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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 meetings held on 23 February 2023, 2 March 2023 and 18 May 2023 as correct records.  
(Pages 11 - 62)

<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>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</b>
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**7.1. Question to the Cabinet Member for a Connected Powys from David Williams**

What can residents do to stop P.C.C. giving Planning Permission for new and extensions to Intensive Poultry Units [IPUs], in the light of the damage they cause to watercourses and the potential for the spread of Avian Flu?

(Pages 63 - 64)

**7.2. Question to the Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys from Alison Jones**

This has no doubt been raised before. However, it never ceases to amaze me how little Powys do to support our local towns and businesses in the lead up to Christmas.

I regularly read/hear other councils that offer a free parking scheme for example on Saturdays in December. Could Powys not show some good will and do the same this year please?

(Pages 65 - 66)

**7.3. Question to the Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys from Colin Olivant**

Here in Powys we have great Schools that educate children with Special Needs, however, that is as far as it seems to go. Once children leave these schools options are limited in respect of residential colleges, we have to jump through alot of hoops and complete endless paperwork just to get a suitable place which is out of County. Have Powys thought about having a residential College like Coleg Elidyr in Llandoverly based in Powys where children with Special Educational Needs can attend? This would reduce the stress and strains parents have to be put through when applying and being told sorry it's out of County, this in my opinion limits the further education for SEN children. I understand Powys want their money to stay in Powys but NPTC just do not offer what is needed all the time plus as the title says "Neath Port Talbot" the money is still going out of County.

(Pages 67 - 68)

**7.4. Question to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys from Phoebe Jenkins**

Local residents are being priced out of the housing market, whether that's first time buyers or families who need to expand. There are no new

affordable home developments, nor any existing properties available.

Properties that are on the market exceed the financial capabilities of those working in the area. 3 bedroom properties in the town of Hay-On-Wye start at £300k, with most being nearer or over £400k. If you take the average salary of a two adult family, and a large deposit, it is still impossible to reach.

Properties that are within budget, typically ex council homes, are also incredibly difficult to mortgage, with most lenders rejecting applications. Reasons cited include infrastructure, location and proximity to industrial units. If the only houses that are affordable are unmortgageable, they aren't accessible!

On top of this, as most of these families have financial savings, they are unable to receive social housing (for many reasons). Also, private rental for larger family homes is way above affordability. Therefore, they are often left with little or no choice but to move out of the area, which will have huge social and economic effects on communities.

How will Powys County Council help local families stay in their home towns?

(Pages 69 - 72)

<b>8.</b>	<b>REVENUE VIREMENTS</b>
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To consider virements requiring Council approval.

(Pages 73 - 74)

<b>9.</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</b>
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To consider the annual report of the Standards Committee.

(Pages 75 - 94)

<b>10.</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT</b>
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To consider the Director of Social Services' annual report.

(Pages 95 - 144)

<b>11.</b>	<b>MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES 2022 - 23</b>
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To receive for information the report of the Head of Finance.

(Pages 145 - 154)

<b>12.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM - A SENSE OF PLACE</b>
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The Council has on a number of occasions, declared the importance of sustainability, and therefore notes and congratulates Bannau Brycheiniog National Park on adopting Bannau Brycheiniog as its official name, reflecting the importance of the Welsh language and the fragility of the language's sustainability as a

community language and through that, emulate this Council's policy, one that was proposed and passed following a proposal from the Conservative group.

We also welcome the fact that so many enterprises in the tourism sector in South Powys have recently said that they would like to see bilingual operations in the Bannau Brycheiniog area. However, we note that **not one of them** has a Welsh section to their websites neither do they have plans to develop bilingual services. The Council already believes that the Welsh language belongs to everyone in our communities, and that our local Welsh names reflect the historical wealth, our heritage, our habitat and that it reflects our current sustainability priorities and lends a Sense of Place to the locality in question.

This Council declares:-

1. In view of this new enthusiasm in favour of bilingualism, we encourage the tourism sector to use native Welsh names for new commercial enterprises in order to maximise the principle of a Sense of Place, and thereby make the most of what makes the area in question so unique and special. Also that they make use of the free Welsh translation service, 'Helo Blod' available through the Welsh Government, in order to provide a bilingual service and image, and that they use Welsh food and drink produce.
2. We ask the Powys council tourism department and the partners in that sector, such as the Wales Tourism Alliance, Mid Wales Tourism and others to draw the attention of all tourism sector providers to the existence of the Helo Blod service and that they practise this as a matter of good practice.
3. We ask the planning department to adopt this principle when dealing with planning applications in this service area and to draw the attention of agents and applicants to the Helo Blod service.
4. We remind all tourism enterprises which receive public grants or a contract from Powys or the public sector, of the expectation that they acknowledge the Welsh language, and that they act in accordance with the Council's Language standards.
5. We encourage citizens to use historical, current and new Welsh names on houses and buildings and stop the practice of getting rid of Welsh house names.

Proposer: Cllr Elwyn Vaughan

Seconder: Cllr Bryn Davies

### **Finance Response**

Having discussed the proposal with Tourism and Planning to check their ability/capacity to support the request to "encourage" and "draw attention to" greater use of Welsh language, they have confirmed much of what is proposed is already being undertaken and where there are some improvements that could be undertaken they have confirmed they could be taken forward within existing resources.



<b>13.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION - ARMED FORCES AND THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS</b>
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Our armed forces have a long and proud history of service and dedication to this nation. From deployments to NATO's eastern flank to keeping essential services running at home, service personnel continue to serve our country with courage and distinction. They are being let down by the UK Government. After a decade of real terms pay cuts, the cost of living crisis, and the delay to this year's Armed Forces pay award we now see Service Personnel forced to use food banks<sup>1</sup>, while forces charities and regimental associations continue to provide cost of living grants and food vouchers to veterans and their families<sup>2</sup>.

Service personnel are routinely called upon to cover for a lack of resilience across the public sector and to provide cover for some essential services during industrial action. They do this in the dedicated and professional way we would expect from our forces. Without a right to strike it is the moral duty of their leaders to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant, and the responsibility of elected bodies to uphold their part of this obligation and insist that our service personnel and their families receive the support they need and deserve.

**Therefore this council notes that:**

- It is deeply concerning that service personnel are forced to turn to food banks.
- It is deeply concerning that forces charities and regimental associations continue to have to provide cost-of-living grants and food vouchers to veterans and their families.

**This council believes that:**

- We should condemn in the strongest terms the UK Government's neglect of our service personnel.

**This council calls on the UK Government to:**

- Release the armed forces pay review board 2023/4 report and pay award that is already overdue.
- Provide additional basic financial support to service personnel by capping food and accommodation charges for the next 12 months.

Proposer: Cllr David Meredith  
Seconder: Cllr Sarah Williams

**Finance Response**

The motion proposed requests council to write to the UK Government, which will involve some officer time which can be managed within existing resources.

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<sup>1</sup> [Revealed: The military personnel turning to food banks as cost of living crisis hits | UK News | Sky News](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Cost of Living Grants \(britishlegion.org.uk\)](http://britishlegion.org.uk)

<b>14.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION - CAR PARK REVIEW</b>
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### Background

The County Council agreed to meet the £50,000 additional Income target for car parking charges within its 2023-24 budget strategy through increasing Car Parking charges by up to 40% in accordance with the table below,

Length of ticket	Cost per Ticket - 2022-23 £	Cost per ticket - 2023-24 £	Percentage Increase
Upto 1 Hour	1.00	1.40	40%
1 - 2 Hours	2.00	2.50	25%
2 - 4 Hours	3.00	3.25	8%
Over 4 Hours	4.00	4.00	0%

Applying these charges to the 2021-22 usage figures below would result in increased income to the authority of approximately £317,000, six times that of the identified target.

Alongside increasing the charges for the three lower time bands the proposal was made and accepted to remove the “up to one hour” ticket option in the many long stay car parks across the county, resulting in the increase in the charge for some one just popping to the shops for a few things or a quick coffee with friends from £1.00 to £2.50 an increase of 150%.

The table overleaf shows that 40% of the Car Parking tickets purchased between August 2021 and July 2022, a year when the Country was still emerging from the COVID 19 pandemic, was for stays of up to an hour, with around 80% of these tickets being purchased in long stay car parks would result in 272,000 tickets being subject to the 150% increase in cost and delivering a further increased income of £299,000 which when added to the £317,000 identified above gives an total additional income of £616,00 against the £50,000 target, before adjusting for any decrease in the number of tickets purchased. It is likely that the full year, non pandemic, ticket sales would be somewhat higher.

Length of ticket	Number of Tickets purchased (August 21 - July 22)	Percentage of purchases
Upto 1 Hour	340,562	40%
1 - 2 Hours	299,203	35%
2 - 4 Hours	124,803	15%
Over 4 Hours	86,166	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>850,734</b>	<b>100%</b>

With such a significant increase in charges, the authority has expected and accounted for a reduction in the number of tickets purchased, especially of those in the lower two time bands. Members who represent the larger towns in the authority

and as reported in the local press are fully aware of a increase in the number of vehicles being parked on the streets and within local estates and many shopkeepers in the towns have reported that they have seen a reduction in trade that coincided with the introduction of the new car parking charges.

### **Motion**

To support the economic life of our town centres, reduce the level of inappropriate car parking in our towns and estates and to increase the level of car parking income received by the county it is proposed that:-

1. There is no immediate change to the car parking charges in the designated short or long stay car parks.
2. A full review is undertaken of the Car Park charges and category of all County Council run car parks in the authority with the results and recommendations of that review being brought back to the next meeting of full Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.
3. Officers as part of the review detailed in 2 above provide member a fully costed estimate of the car park income for the 2023-24 compared to the base budget together with details of any budget virement required to realign the relevant budgets.

Proposer: Cllr Gareth E Jones

Seconder: Cllr Graham Breeze

### **Finance Comment**

In order to undertake a review by October the service advise that they would need to engage Consultants with a specialism in parking management at an estimated cost of £40k. This could be funded from any over achievement of the income within the service.

## **15. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS**

In October 2022 the Council unanimously supported my motion to allow for greater flexibility around free school transport where it could be provided at no additional cost to the council. Since then I have been fighting a number of individual cases for residents who already have siblings at the school of their choice and where, for geographical reasons, there are buses running in two directions. Officers have argued that if they are flexible in one place, they will have to be flexible elsewhere too (surely that is the point if the criteria of no additional cost can be met) and have turned down appeals. The splitting of families is causing huge anxiety for parents and children and will severely limit the pupils' opportunities to take part in after school activities. If members can't have some sort of influence on the council's decision-making process what is the point of being here.

I therefore call on members to support a motion to recommend to cabinet that school transport appeals are dealt with by a small cross-party group of councillors, supported by an officer who can guide members around any potential additional costs or issues that might arise from their decision, and that this should apply to any



outstanding appeals for 2023 admissions and allow for a re-hearing of any stage 2 appeals for this year which have already been turned down.

Proposer: Cllr Lucy Roberts

Seconder: Cllr Gwynfor Thomas

#### **Finance Comment**

The cost of holding the appeals is unlikely to change significantly as a result of who attends. The outcome of the hearing is directed by policy and where flexibility relies upon the principle of no additional cost the financial impact is nil.

#### **16. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSED WELSH GOVERNMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES WALES BAN ON THE RELEASE OF GAME BIRDS IN WALES**

Powys County Council calls on Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to withdraw their proposal to ban the release of gamebirds in Wales thus only allowing release by licence, which will hugely impact the people of Wales. There has not been sufficient evidence brought forward to warrant this proposal by NRW. We call on the Welsh Government to acknowledge the economic, conservation and well-being benefits game shooting brings to Wales, it's value to rural communities, our heritage, culture and the Welsh language.

Proposed by Cllr Aled Davies

Seconded by Cllr Iain McIntosh

#### **Finance Comment**

There are no financial implications for the council as a result of this request.

#### **17. NOTICE OF MOTION - PHOSPHATES**

This council and neighbouring authorities in Wales and England have faced severe planning restrictions due to the phosphate levels within our rivers. This is a national issue that is being passed around, and communities are being divided on who is responsible and how to deal with the issue.

We have heard numerous times that high concentrations of phosphorus in our rivers are due to agricultural practices, runoff from urban areas, leaking septic systems or discharges from sewage treatment plants, to name just a few that the public is citing as the cause. All of these systems are mainly operating within the laws that were granted to them, and that allows them to discharge into our rivers. We need to acknowledge they are operating within the rules set by the national government.

Whilst individually such developments are of minimal impact, collectively they cause massive damage to our environment, and impact the housing shortage issue facing our county as well as other developments.

We look at Natural Resources Wales, which, as the manager of our natural Welsh resources, should monitor our rivers. Its purpose is to "pursue sustainable management of natural resources" and "apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources" as stated in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The proper monitoring of water quality, and the enforcement of new environmental policy is going to be key in reducing the impact of phosphates on our rivers. NRW is said to need to employ an extra 85 staff to achieve the necessary robust monitoring service, but they need the funding from Welsh Government to be able to do this. Powys County Council itself does not have the power or capacity to effect change. Homes are not being built, communities in Powys are at a standstill, and something needs to be done to support them.

The motion

1. We call on the Welsh Government to set a clear monitoring framework for river pollution.
2. We call on National Governments to accelerate funding for our monitoring bodies like NRW to allow them to monitor and enforce safe levels within our rivers.
3. Call on Welsh Water to accelerate its investment in the sewage system and their upgrade programme.

Proposer: Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe  
Seconder: Cllr Corinna Kenyon-Wade

#### **Finance Comment**

It is assumed that the motion would be supported by correspondence to Welsh Government and the staff resource would be minimal and could be accommodated within existing budgets.

**Please note that a group photograph will be taken at lunch time or during the break between meetings if time permits.**