

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2018

PRESENT

County Councillors MC Alexander, M Barnes, B Baynham, G Breeze, J Charlton, L V Corfield, K W Curry, A W Davies, B Davies, D E Davies, P Davies, S C Davies, M J Dorrance, E Durrant, D O Evans, J Evans, L George, J Gibson-Watt, M R Harris, S M Hayes, H Hulme, A Jenner, E A Jones, D R Jones, E Jones, G Jones, J R Jones, E M Jones, M J Jones, D Jones-Poston, F H Jump, K Laurie-Parry, H Lewis, K Lewis, P E Lewis, I McIntosh, S McNicholas, D Meredith, G Morgan, JG Morris, N Morrison, R Powell, WD Powell, D R Price, GD Price, P C Pritchard, G Pugh, J Pugh, G W Ratcliffe, L Roberts, P Roberts, K M Roberts-Jones, D Rowlands, D Selby, K S Silk, R G Thomas, E Vaughan, M Weale, A Williams, G I S Williams, D H Williams, J Williams, J M Williams, R Williams and S L Williams

The outgoing Chair, County Councillor Dai Davies, thanked his wife, secretary and members for their support during his year of office. Members paid tribute to Councillor Davies.

1.	ELECTION OF CHAIR
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County Councillor David Meredith was nominated by Brecknockshire.

RESOLVED that County Councillor David Meredith be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

2.	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
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County Councillor Beverley Baynham was nominated by Radnorshire.

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

3.	ELECTION ASSISTANT VICE-CHAIR
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County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas was nominated by Montgomeryshire.

RESOLVED that County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas be elected Assistant Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

4.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors L Fitzpatrick, S Lewis, M Mackenzie, C Mills, T Van-Rees and J Wilkinson and the Acting Chief Executive and from County Councillors E Roderick and D Thomas who were on other council business.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members declared a personal but non prejudicial interest in relation to Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses pursuant to paragraph 12 (2) (b)(iv) of the Code of Conduct.

6. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE
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Council considered the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee on changes to the scrutiny committee structure, moved by the Chair of the Committee, County Councillor Matthew Dorrance and seconded by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt.

County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan moved an amendment, seconded by County Councillor Beverley Baynham.

- i. The Council should have 3 scrutiny committees as set out below:
 - Audit Committee (to include Making It Happen);
 - Learning Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee;
 - Health Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee;

In addition there will be a Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee which has been established under separate arrangements, comprising Members and representatives from other organisations.
- ii. The functions of each scrutiny committee shall be as set out in Attachment A to the resolution and that Rule 7.4 of the Constitution is hereby amended accordingly.
- iii. The Solicitor to the Council is required to consider whether consequential amendments are required to other parts of the Constitution, and if so to arrange for the amendments to be discussed at Democratic Services Committee and approved at Full Council.
- iv. The scrutiny structure set out in (i) above be reviewed after 12 months to ensure that the structure is fit for purpose
- v. That the role of the Finance Scrutiny Panel be reviewed with external assistance to determine a way forward.
- vi. That as a general principle all matters would be considered at a full meeting of a Scrutiny Committee with occasional time limited task and finish working group, for specific purposes
- vii. That the Scrutiny Committees (excluding the PSB Scrutiny Committee) should comprise 21 County Councillors, together with statutory co-opted Members where required (i.e. Learning and Skills, Economy, Residents and Community, and Audit Committees will have statutory co-optees).

- viii. That in accepting nominations for membership of a scrutiny committee, Members commit to attending at least 60% of the meetings arranged for their scrutiny committee.
- ix. That meetings of the Scrutiny Committees (excluding the PSB Scrutiny Committee) be held at least monthly (Except for August and December)
- x. That the role of the Joint Chairs and Vice-Chairs Steering Group be reviewed once the scrutiny committee structure had been agreed.
- xi. That scrutiny meetings should generally be held in public unless confidential matters were being discussed.
- xii. That the Council should investigate the possibility of webcasting scrutiny committee meetings in future.

The Solicitor to the Council advised that he did not anticipate that the scrutiny structure proposed in the amendment would cause an overspend in the members budget.

Council voted on the amendment and passed it by 41 votes to 20 with 3 abstentions. Council then voted on the substantive motion and by 40 votes to 20 with 3 abstentions

RESOLVED

- i. **The Council should have 3 scrutiny committees as set out below:**
 - **Audit Committee (to include Making It Happen);**
 - **Learning Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee;**
 - **Health Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee;**

In addition there will be a **Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee** which has been established under separate arrangements, comprising Members and representatives from other organisations.
- ii. **The functions of each scrutiny committee shall be as set out in Attachment A to the resolution and that Rule 7.4 of the Constitution is hereby amended accordingly.**
- iii. **The Solicitor to the Council is required to consider whether consequential amendments are required to other parts of the Constitution, and if so to arrange for the amendments to be discussed at Democratic Services Committee and approved at Full Council.**
- iv. **The scrutiny structure set out in (i) above be reviewed after 12 months to ensure that the structure is fit for purpose**
- v. **That the role of the Finance Scrutiny Panel be reviewed with external assistance to determine a way forward.**

- vi. That as a general principle all matters would be considered at a full meeting of a Scrutiny Committee with occasional time limited task and finish working group, for specific purposes
- vii. That the Scrutiny Committees (excluding the PSB Scrutiny Committee) should comprise 21 County Councillors, together with statutory co-opted Members where required (i.e. Learning and Skills, Economy, Residents and Community, and Audit Committees will have statutory co-optees).
- viii. That in accepting nominations for membership of a scrutiny committee, Members commit to attending at least 60% of the meetings arranged for their scrutiny committee.
- ix. That meetings of the Scrutiny Committees (excluding the PSB Scrutiny Committee) be held at least monthly (Except for August and December)
- x. That the role of the Joint Chairs and Vice-Chairs Steering Group be reviewed once the scrutiny committee structure had been agreed.
- xi. That scrutiny meetings should generally be held in public unless confidential matters were being discussed.
- xii. That the Council should investigate the possibility of webcasting scrutiny committee meetings in future.

Council adjourned from 11.20 – 12.23 for photographs and to appoint members to committees.

7.	MEMBERS' SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES
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Council considered the report of the Section 151 Officer on Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses together with the Schedule of Members' Remuneration. The Section 151 Officer explained that Council was required to approve the salaries, allowances and fees payable to Members and Co-Opted Members of the Council set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW).

The recommendations in the report were moved by County Councillor David Jones and seconded by County Councillor Hywel Lewis and by 51 votes to 9 with 4 abstentions it was

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>(i) to approve the allocation of up to 18 Senior Salaries as detailed in section 4 of the report subject to the amendment to</p>	<p>To take decisions relating to Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses in accordance with statute and the annual report and regulations</p>

<p>the scrutiny committee structure agreed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>(ii) to generally endorse the contents of this report.</p> <p>(iii) to approve the Schedule of Member Remuneration based on this report subject to the inclusion of any amendments to the Chairs of Committees (attached as an Appendix to the report).</p>	<p>of the IRPW.</p>
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County Councillor Sandra Davies left the meeting at 12.32.

8.	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 Solicitor to the Council on the allocations and appointments to be made to committees and outside bodies.

Politically Balanced Appointments to Council Committees

It was moved by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan and seconded by County Councillor Michael Williams and by 63 votes to 0 it was

RESOLVED	Reason for decision:
To approve the allocation of seats on Council Committees to the different Political Groups.	To comply with statutory requirements (including those concerning the need for political balance) and the Council's Constitution in relation to the allocation and appointment of committee seats and Chairs.

The Solicitor to the Council advised that not all of the political groups had advised of their nominations to committees and he asked to be given delegated authority to receive nominations. This was moved by County Councillor Michael Williams and seconded by County Councillor Phil Pritchard and by 62 votes to 0 it was

RESOLVED:	Reason for Decision:
To authorise the Solicitor to the Council to receive nominations from the political group leaders and approve appointments to committees in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.	To comply with statutory requirements (including those concerning the need for political balance) and the Council's Constitution in relation to the allocation and appointment of committee seats and Chairs.

Appointments of Chairs to Scrutiny Committees

The Independent Group and the Conservatives, making up the executive, were entitled to the Chair of one of the Scrutiny Committees and the Liberal Democrats to the other.

Health, Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee

The Independent Group and Conservatives advised that their nominee was County Councillor Gwilym Williams. By 62 votes to 0 it was

RESOLVED that County Councillor Gwilym Williams be appointed as Chair of the Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee

The nomination from the Liberal Democrat group was County Councillor Pete Roberts. Councillor Roberts made a personal statement explaining health issues that had prevented him from attending a number of meetings. There were 20 votes for and 33 against Councillor Roberts' nomination with 9 abstentions.

Council adjourned from 12.50 – 13.30.
County Councillor Phil Pritchard left the meeting.

When Council reconvened the leader of the Liberal Democrat group advised that the group would not be putting forward another nomination at the meeting and asked for this item to be deferred. He noted that it had not been the practice in the past to vote against a group's nominee and questioned why a vote had been taken. In the absence of a nomination from the Liberal Democrat group, the Solicitor to the Council's advice was that the Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee should appoint the Chair. County Councillor Jackie Charlton expressed her dismay that Councillor Roberts' nomination had not been supported and contended that this was a discriminatory and backwards step in the Council's treatment of disabled people.

Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

County Councillor Matthew Dorrance was proposed by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt and seconded by County Councillor Susan McNicholas and by 58 votes to 1 it was

RESOLVED that County Councillor Matthew Dorrance be appointed as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

By 59 votes to 0 with 1 abstention it was

RESOLVED to make the following appointments to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Independent Group	County Councillors: Michael J. Jones Karen Laurie-Parry Phil Pritchard Edwin Roderick
Welsh Conservatives	County Councillor: Iain McIntosh
Welsh Liberal Democrats	County Councillors: Gareth Ratcliffe Emily Durrant
Welsh Labour	County Councillor: Susan McNicholas

Welsh Local Government Association

County Councillors Aled Davies, Matthew Dorrance, Rosemarie Harris, Stephen Hayes and Roger Williams were nominated. Following a ballot it was

RESOLVED that County Councillors Aled Davies, Rosemarie Harris and Stephen Hayes be appointed to the WLGA Council.

Welsh Local Government Association Executive Board

By 50 votes to 7 it was

RESOLVED that County Councillor Rosemarie Harris be appointed to the WLGA Executive Board.

9.	APPOINTMENT TO THE FOSTERING PANEL
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On behalf of Council, the Chair expressed his appreciation to County Councillor Maureen Mackenzie who was standing down from the Fostering Panel after years of service. County Councillor Amanda Jenner was nominated and indicated that she would like to accept subject to speaking to Councillor Mackenzie about the role. By 57 votes to 0 it was

RESOLVED that County Councillor Amanda Jenner be appointed to the Fostering Panel.

10.	APPOINTMENT TO THE HEART OF WALES LINE FORUM
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RESOLVED that County Councillor Maureen Mackenzie be appointed to the Heart of Wales Line Forum.

County Councillor DW Meredith (Chair)