

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL  
CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON THURSDAY, 16 JUNE  
2016**

**PRESENT**

County Councillor K F Tampin (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, D Bailey, G R Banks, R G Brown, J H Brunt, L V Corfield, K W Curry, M J B Davies, S C Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, S Davies, A W Davies, M J Dorrance, V E Evans, W J Evans, D O Evans, L Fitzpatrick, R I George, J Gibson-Watt, M R Harris, A Holloway, G Hopkins, E A Jones, D C Jones, M J Jones, E M Jones, G M Jones, J R Jones, W T Jones, F H Jump, H Lewis, MC Mackenzie, P J Medicott, DW Meredith, ET Morgan, G Morgan, JG Morris, W J T Powell, WD Powell, GD Price, D R Price, P C Pritchard, G W Ratcliffe, K M Roberts-Jones, K S Silk, D A Thomas, W B Thomas, A G Thomas, D G Thomas, T J Van-Rees, G P Vaughan, J M Williams, G I S Williams and E A York

On behalf of the Council, the Chair condemned the attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida and expressed sympathy to the families of those killed or injured.

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>CC64- 2016</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors PJ Ashton, GJ Bowker, P Harris, SM Hayes, JC Holmes, DR Jones, Eldrydd Jones, PE Lewis, DJ Mayor, S McNicholas, RH Mills, JG Shearer, RG Thomas, TG Turner, DH Williams and SL Williams.

**Urgent Question**

The Chair advised that the Portfolio Holder for Finance had agreed to answer an urgent question from County Councillor Gary Price on the break in at Southfields. The Portfolio Holder explained that the postal ballot papers found were from the 2011 Welsh Assembly elections and were in no way connected to the EU referendum. The papers should have been retained for one year then destroyed. The ballot papers had since been destroyed and the Portfolio Holder said he would look at the procedures with officers. He had issued a public apology and he also advised that the Council had self reported under the Data Protection Act. Councillor Price placed on record his thanks to the Elections staff and he said that no blame attached to them. In response to Councillor Price's supplementary question the Portfolio Holder said he accepted responsibility and that he was happy to provide Members with a further update.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>CC65- 2016</b>
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The Monitoring Officer advised that there was a dispensation for Councillors who were school governors to speak and vote provided that their interest was not pecuniary. County Councillor JH Brunt declared a personal non pecuniary interest as a governor of Neath Port Talbot College.

3.	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARY PRICE AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR ALED DAVIES</b>	<b>CC66- 2016</b>
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Council debated the following motion proposed by County Councillor GD Price and seconded by County Councillor AW Davies:

“The Cabinet of Powys County Council is, and will be making substantial changes to the provision of Primary and Secondary Schools within the County.

Many Members of the Council have been contacted by residents who have expressed concern that the Cabinet (Maximum of 10 members) are the only Councillors involved in taking the final decision about the future of Powys schools. These decisions are of such significance to Powys it is important that the whole Council should share that responsibility.

Council therefore calls for the constitution to be amended as a matter of urgency to allow for all decision in relation to Primary and Secondary Schools proposals under the Council’s Schools Transformation Policy and School Reorganisation Policy 2015 to be undertaken by all members of Council.”

The Monitoring Officer explained why a second motion proposed by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe and seconded by County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick had been rejected.

In proposing the motion Councillor Price argued that all Councillors were elected to take decisions on behalf of their communities and that decisions on school reorganisation, both primary and secondary, were of such importance that they should be taken by all members and not just by the Cabinet.

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt proposed an amendment, seconded by County Councillor William Powell, adding the following words to paragraph 2 of the notice of motion after “responsibility” “In addition, the newly appointed Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education has signalled that the Welsh Government will be developing a rural schools policy, which Wales currently does not have” and deleting paragraph 3, replacing it with “In light of the above, Council calls for a moratorium on any further decisions in relation to primary and secondary schools under the Council’s Schools Transformation Policy, pending further guidance and policy developments by Welsh Government.”

Councillor Gibson-Watt argued that the public had lost confidence in the schools reorganisation process and that it would be sensible to wait until the Cabinet Secretary for Education had produced a rural schools policy.

County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander proposed an amendment, seconded by County Councillor Phil Pritchard, deleting the word “Primary” from the notice of motion.

County Councillor David Price proposed an amendment, seconded by County Councillor Michael Williams, “That full Council has the opportunity to meet and discuss recommendations relating to secondary schools affected by the Council’s transformation policy, to express an opinion ahead of decisions taken by Cabinet”.

A number of Councillors expressed concern at any further delay to the schools reorganisation process.

Council adjourned for political groups to consider the amendments and reconvened at 11.30 a.m.

More than 10 members present called for a recorded vote.

Council voted on the amendment proposed by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt and seconded by County Councillor William Powell.

The amendment was lost by 12 votes to 43 with 1 abstention.

<https://powysintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b9031/2016-06-16%20Voting%20Results%2016th-Jun-2016%2010.00%20County%20Council.pdf?T=9>

Council voted on the amendment proposed by County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander and seconded by County Councillor Phil Pritchard.

The amendment was lost by 20 votes to 33 with 3 abstentions.

Council voted on the amendment proposed by County Councillor David Price, seconded by County Councillor Michael Williams.

The amendment was passed by 28 votes to 27 and became the substantive motion.

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Council voted on the substantive motion and it was passed by 38 votes to 10 with 2 abstentions.

**RESOLVED that full Council has the opportunity to meet and discuss recommendations relating to secondary schools affected by the Council's transformation policy, to express an opinion ahead of decisions taken by Cabinet.**

**County Councillor K F Tampin (Chair)**