

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNTY HALL
AND ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2023**

PRESENT

County Councillor B Baynham (Chair)

County Councillors G W Ratcliffe, D Bebb, M Beecham, B Breeze, G Breeze, J Berriman, L Brighthouse, J Charlton, R Church, 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, I Harrison, 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, P E Lewis, W Lloyd, I McIntosh, S McNicholas, DW Meredith, C Johnson-Wood, G Mitchell, G Morgan, G Morgan, WD Powell, G Preston, G Pugh, L Rijnenberg, L Roberts, P Roberts, C Robinson, E Roderick, D Selby, D A Thomas, R G Thomas, J Brignell-Thorp, E Vaughan, C Walsh, J Wilkinson, A Williams, D H Williams and J M Williams

1.	ELECTION OF CHAIR
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The outgoing Chair, County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe, thanked Members for giving him the honour of representing the Council over the last twelve months. He presented County Councillors Sandra Davies, David Meredith, William Powell, Susan McNicholas, Arwel Jones, James Gibson-Watt and Peter Lewis with long service badges in recognition of over 15 years of service to the Council and their communities. He would also be writing to those long serving members who had not returned following the elections in 2022. He paid special tribute to Councillor Gareth Morgan who had been a member since 1973 and Councillor Michael Williams who had served since 1980 and presented both with gifts and badges. He also made a presentation to Wyn Richards, the Scrutiny Manager, who was retiring from his post in July.

Councillors paid tribute to Councillor Ratcliffe for the way he had led the Council over the past year.

County Councillor Beverley Baynham was nominated by County Councillor Ange Williams and seconded by County Councillor Pete Roberts. It was unanimously

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

Councillor Baynham thanked Members for their support. She advised that she would be supporting several Powys charities in year of office and invited Members to notify her of any causes in their wards.

2.	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
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County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson was nominated by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor Heulwen Hulme. It was unanimously

RESOLVED that County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson be elected Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF ASSISTANT VICE-CHAIR

County Councillor William Powell was nominated by County Councillor Susan McNicholas and seconded by County Councillor Jackie Charlton. It was unanimously

RESOLVED that County Councillor William Powell be elected Assistant Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors S J Beecham, A Cartwright, T Colbert, J Pugh and S L Williams. Council was advised that Councillor Cartwright had asked for a leave of absence.

RESOLVED to grant a leave of absence to Councillor Anita Cartwright to 31 August 2023.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members had a personal but non prejudicial interest in item 9, Members' Schedule of Remuneration.

6. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked County Councillor Susan McNicholas who was stepping down from her role as joint Cabinet Member for Future Generations and paid tribute to her work in that role. He introduced Jack Straw who had agreed to act as interim Chief Executive whilst Dr Caroline Turner was on ill health leave.

7. UPDATE FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The interim Chief Executive said that he would be focused on performance in key service areas and assisting the Directors. He would also be working with colleagues on preparing for the future and developing a positive relationship with the Health Board. He also reported the appointment of Sharon Powell as Head of Children's Services and Sharon Frewin as Head of Adult Services.

8. ALLOCATIONS, ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED TO BE MADE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Council considered the report of the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer on the allocations and appointments to be made to committees and outside bodies.

**Non-Politically Balanced Appointments to Council Committees
Appointments to the Standards Committee**

It was proposed by County Councillor Gareth Morgan and seconded by County Councillor Matthew Dorrance and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillors Beverley Baynam and William Powell to fill the vacant seats to serve on the Standards Committee until the next ordinary Council elections in 2027.

Politically Balanced Appointments to Council Committees

It was proposed by County Councillor Huw Williams and County Councillor Gareth E Jones 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 Susan McNicholas and seconded by County Councillor David Thomas and

RESOLVED to make appointments to Committees in accordance with the wishes of the different Political Groups as set out in Appendix 5 of the report.

Politically Balanced Appointments to Relevant Outside Bodies

County Councillor Aled Davies advised that the Conservative group would not be making an appointment to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillors Ed Jones, William Powell, Gareth Ratcliffe, Edwin Roderick and Huw Williams to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

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

Welsh Local Government Association Executive Board

It was proposed by County Councillor Matthew Dorrance and seconded by County Councillor Jake Berriman and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillor James Gibson-Watt to the WLGA Executive Board.

Appointments of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

It was proposed by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor Lucy Roberts and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillor Angela Davies as Chair of the Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee, County Councillor Amanda Jenner as Chair of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and County Councillor

Gwynfor Thomas as Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

Appointment of Chair to the Democratic Services Committee

County Councillor Pete Lewington was nominated by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor Ian Harrison. County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan was nominated by County Councillor Bryn Davies and seconded by County Councillor Graham Breeze. Following a ballot it was

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

Tenants Scrutiny Panel

It was proposed by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe and seconded by County Councillor Gareth Jones and

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillor Joy Jones to the Tenants Scrutiny Panel.

9. MEMBERS' SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION

The Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer reminded mem that they had a personal but non-prejudicial interest in this matter which meant that they should record their interest but were able to speak and vote.

It was moved by County Councillor Gareth Jones and seconded by County Councillor Edwin Roderick and by 55 votes to 0 with 6 abstentions it was

RESOLVED

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

10. CONSTITUTION - SECTION 4

Council considered the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee proposing amendments to the Constitution.

Seconding of Motions

It was proposed by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan and seconded by County Councillor Pete Lewington and

RESOLVED

- (i) **That Rule 4.41 of the Constitution be amended to the effect that a Councillor cannot second more than two motions to Council for any single Council meeting;**
- (ii) **that the suggested amendment to Rule 4.41 in the Constitution as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report be approved.**

Urgent Motions

It was proposed by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan and seconded by County Councillor Gareth E Jones and

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the requirement for a costed analysis be excluded for urgent motions;**
- (ii) **That the suggested new Rule 4.43.5 for the Constitution as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved.**

Amendment to Motions

It was proposed by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan and seconded by County Councillor Danny Bebb and

RESOLVED

- (i) **To remove Rule 4.49.1.5 from the Constitution so as to remove the opportunity for a substitute amendment which negates or would otherwise change the material substance of the original motion.**
- (ii) **That the Head of Legal Service and the Monitoring Officer is authorised to remove Rule 4.49.1.5 from the Constitution revise and to make such other consequential amendments as may be required.**

11. NEW WAYS OF WORKING - MEMBER MEETINGS
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Council debated the new working model which allowed members the flexibility to participate in meetings remotely, introduced as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The report noted the advantages of the current arrangements whilst acknowledging the value of meeting in person from time to time.

It was recommended to:

- continue with the current working arrangements.
- task Scrutiny Chair's to determine, with their committee, how they would like to work.
- that each Committee meet at least twice a year face to face.

County Councillor Graham Breeze proposed the following amendment seconded by County Councillor Heulwen Hume

That the recommendation is reworded as follows:

From:

- continue with the current working arrangements.
- task Scrutiny Chair's to determine, with their committee, how they would like to work.
- that each Committee meet at least twice a year face to face.

To:

- Continue with current working arrangements with an annual review to be discussed at Democrats Service Committee.
- Task Scrutiny chairs to determine, with their committee, how they would like to work.
- That each committee meet at least twice a year face to face.
- That the chair of Planning Committee can also determine when meetings need to take place on a face-to-face basis based on the content of planning applications.

The amendment was lost by 19 votes to 30 with 2 amendments.

It was proposed by County Councillor Graham Breeze and seconded by County Councillor Jake Berriman that the report be referred back to the Democratic Services Committee for further consideration. By 60 votes to 2 it was

RESOLVED to refer the report back to the Democratic Services Committee for further consideration.

12. BUDGET VIREMENTS

Council considered requests for budget virements in respect of school and public transport and Adult Social Care. The recommendations were proposed by County Councillor David Thomas and seconded by County Councillor Sandra Davies and by 52 votes to 0 with 6 abstentions it was

RESOLVED to approve the virements set out in section 2.3 of the report to comply with the relevant financial regulations.

13. INTERIM EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE CHANGES

Council considered a report by the Interim Chief Executive proposing to extend the interim appointments to the following posts for a further period of up to a further twelve months: -

- Director of Social Services and Housing
- Director of Education and Childrens services

- Director of Corporate Services
- Head of Transformation and Democratic Services
- Head of Housing
- Head of Community Services
- Head of Commissioning and Partnerships

RESOLVED to approve the extension of the interim arrangements for the posts outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the report for a further period of up to a further twelve months.

14.	BUDGET VIREMENT TO SUPPORT THE HOUSING SERVICES 'CREATING AREA FOCUSED TEAMS' PROJECT
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The Chair advised that she had agreed that this item could be taken as an urgent item so that the Council did not miss the opportunity to employ additional tradespeople to join the Council.

Council was advised that Housing Services had run a very successful recruitment exercise for tradespeople and operatives to join the Council to provide a localised Housing Repairs and Maintenance Team for each housing management area.

It was moved by County Councillor Matthew Dorrance and duly seconded and by 60 votes to 0 it was

RESOLVED to approve the virements, within the HRA Business Plan 2023-2024 as set out in table 9.1. of the report.

County Councillor B Baynham (Chair)