

NORTH MONTGOMERYSHIRE LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM

MINUTES

of a meeting held at Welshpool Town Hall on

Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 7pm

Present were:

Frances Buckingham	Llandysilio Community Council and Chair
Robert Robinson	Welshpool Town Council & Secretary
Cllr E Bleivas	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr H Evans	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr F Veenstra	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr S Kaye	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr M Jerman	Castle Caereinion Community Council
Cllr Williams	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council
Vicki Griffiths	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

1. Elections

The meeting elected the following to service for the next election period.

Frances Buckingham Chair

Robert Robinson Secretary

2. Minutes of last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Remuneration Panel for Wales

The meeting considered a short presentation on the allowances available for Town and Community Councils if they elect to adopt them. (see attached paper) – Local Councils were urged to consider the allowances at a Council meeting so that a decision is made one way or the other.

4. Town and Community Plan for Welshpool

The meeting considered a presentation on the first draft of the Town and Community Plan for Welshpool for the period 2017 to 2022. A chance for local Communities to comment and take part in the consultation being held from 1st July to the 7th September 2017.

The plan will be online from 1st July 2017 at

www.welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

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The Councils present were issued with a copy of the plan and survey forms. All were encouraged to get involved and get their communities views to Welshpool during the consultation period.

5. Renewable energy

The meeting was update on wind farms and solar panel farms with regards to the LDP.

News will be issued when it is clear what the possible effects of the latter development proposals might be.

6. Local Government re-organisaiton

An update on local government re-organisation was given.

An announcement by Mark Drayford is expected in September. Combining Town and Community Councils is being considered.

7. Election Count

The Councils present were not impressed with the election count arrangements at Bluith Wells. A letter is to be sent to PCC setting out the Forum's views.

8. Arthur Walpole

The meeting noted that Arthur Walpole had stepped down as a Councillor in Shropshire. A letter of thanks for his work with the Forum is to be sent.

9. Boundary Commission

An update was given on the boundary commissions progress with regards to the common sized wards.

10. Recycling Centres

An update was given on the re-cycling review taking place. Welshpool Town Council will publish the results of any vote with regards to opening re-cycling centres 7 days a week. The views of those persons elected as PCC Councillors have been published already.

11. Letter to PCC on Liaison Meetings

The meeting considered the email from the Chair to PCC and the lack of response from PCC in return. The Chair is to chase up a satisfactory reply.

12. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Tuesday 5th September at 7pm in Welshpool Town Hall

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RENUMERATION PANEL FOR WALES

To consider a presentation on the allowances available to Town Councillors (if the Council elects to adopt the scheme) as follows:

Basic Allowance

To consider paying allowances of £150 pa to each Member towards the costs of telephones, paper, stamps, broadband etc.

Special Allowance

To consider paying allowances of £500 pa to up to 3 Members who carry out more extensive duties.

Mayoral Allowance

To make available an annual allowance to the Mayor. (currently £1,600pa)

Deputy Mayoral Allowance

To make available an annual allowance to the Deputy Mayor.

Travel Costs

To consider allowing travel expenses (supported by receipts) for any Member when on official business with prior approval by the Town Clerk.

Loss of earnings

To consider paying loss of earnings when a Member has time off work to attend Council Meetings.

Cost of Care

To consider paying the cost of care of children or care of dependants in the sum of up to £403 per month per Member to enable them to attend Council Meetings.

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An example of cost of the above applied to a council of 12 members. If adopted (any part) an allowance would need to be included in the budget:

No	Allowance	Estimated cost of each if all adopted (pa)
1	Basic Allowance	£1,800
2	Special Allowances	£1,500
3	Mayor Allowance (say)	£1,000
4	Deputy Mayoral Allowance (say)	£200
5	Travel Costs	£200
6	Loss of Earnings	£2,000
7	Cost of care	£58,000
	Total	£64,700