

NORTH MONTGOMERYSHIRE LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM

MINUTES

of a meeting held on **Tuesday 27th March 2018**
at 7pm in the Town Hall Broad Street Welshpool

1. Record of attendance

Cllr F Buckingham Chair	Llandysilio Community Council
Cllr E Blevias	Welshpool Town Council
Christine Davies	Llandysilio Community Council and Llandrino & Ardleen Community Council
Cllr R Dawe	Forden Community Council
Cllr H Evans	Welshpool Town Council
Vicki Griffith	Llanfair Caereinion Town Council
Cllr M Jerman	Castle Caereinion Community Council
Cllr F Veenstra	Welshpool Town Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary & Welshpool Town Council

Apologies received from Cllr J Kimble Montgomery Town Council

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

The actions taken since the last meeting were covered under each agenda item.

4. Independent review panel for Wales

The meeting noted the final report from the Independent Review Panel for Wales. There are three levels of Council from A (over £200,000 budget), B (30,000 to 199,999 budget) and C (under £30,000 budget).

- a) The Council MUST make available a payment to each of its members a sum of £150 to cover general costs incurred in their work as a Councillor. (Compulsory for groups A and B)
- b) The Council MUST make available an annual payment of £500 to at least one and no more than 5 Councillors for the carrying out of extra duties. (Compulsory for groups A and B)
- c) The Council is authorised to pay up to £34 (up to 4 hours) and £68 (for each period beyond 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours) to Councillors to allow them to perform their duties.

- d) All Town and Community Council MUST make available funds for reimbursement of costs for care of dependent children or adults (provided by formal carers) to allow Councillors to perform their duties. Such sums MUST be made available up to a maximum of £403 per month. (Compulsory for all groups)
- e) The Council is authorised to provide a Mayoral allowance up to £1,500pa for civic duties which is in addition to any sums noted above.
- f) The Council is authorised to provide a Deputy Mayoral allowance up to £500pa for civic duties which is in addition to any sums noted above.

All Councils are encouraged to make appropriate allowances.

There is a requirement to public expenses claimed by Councillor with such information being posted on the web site.

Members may each year waive their rights to any allowances by stating such to the Town Clerk in writing.

5. Data Protection Act 2018

The meeting consider an update on the introduction of the new act. Members were advised to take professional advice relating to their Council and what is needed. All Councils will be affected to one level or another.

6. Future of Local Councils

The meeting received an update on the latest news.

The County Council proposals were noted with some concern expressed about the viability of Powys County Council being on its own.

Councils were urged to make their views known via the Green Paper Consultation.

There should be more news about the future of Town and Community Councils at the July meeting. The final report is due in October 2018.

It is likely that changes will come in starting with elections for shadow councils in 2021.

7. Transport

The meeting consider an update on the rail services, franchise and the initial stages of plans for station improvements. There are some more coaches available to strengthen existing services.

The meeting noted an update on local bus services – the secretary has been informed by PCC that there no changes to the local bus services in the forthcoming tender process.

8. Boundary Commission for Wales

The meeting note any issues raised by the Boundary Commission report on Powys. If any community is unhappy with the proposals affecting them they should approach the Boundary Commission asap.

It was noted that only two Councils in Montgomeryshire had responded to the initial consultation. Members were urged to get involved with consultations as any proposals may affect them.

9. Powys County Council Meetings

The meeting consider the issues surrounding all meetings, particularly Planning, being held in Llandrindod Wells.

The meeting **AGREED** to write as a Forum to object to all meetings being held in Llandrindod Wells on a number of grounds including equality, democracy and ability to access meetings by the public.

10. Fly tipping

A discussion took place around the latest enforcement procedure in place within Powys. The meeting noted that PCC as fined persons for fly tipping in recent weeks.

11. Welshpool Gyrotory System

The meeting noted the alterations planned later in the year.

12. Service Delivery Transfer

It was noted that the service delivery programme had changed with regards to asset transfer and service delivery with little money being available.

13. Hospital campaign

The meeting was apprised of the plan by Welshpool to put together a hospital survey seeking a new unit for Mid Wales. Welshpool Town Council will be discussing the matter at its meeting on 28th March. Letters inviting Community Councils to take part are expected to be issued on Thursday.

Welshpool Town Council will pay for the leaflets and web site survey monkey, all Community Councils need to do is to get the leaflets out and return them.

14. Potters recycling

The issue of not being able to walk into Potters to take waste in was considered. The Secretary will find out why and if this issue can be addressed, particularly taking into account the number of people without a car living in the Towns.

15. PCC Planning Liaison Meetings

The Chair outlined an email from PCC and David Powell suggesting that maybe these meetings will take place soon. The meeting awaits developments.

16. Welshpool and the Street Scene Service

Details of the workings of Welshpool's Street Scene were outlined.

Other Councils were experiencing difficulties in gaining any costs for this service from PCC. However, the cost of equipment and the provision of at least a store were considered a major stumbling block for most.

The secretary was asked if Welshpool's street scene team would offer a service to other Councils – this is unlikely at this time.

17. Date of the next meeting

The dates for 2018 meetings were confirmed as:

<u>22nd May</u>	17th July
25th September	27th November

All meetings are at 7pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall Welshpool.