

NORTH MONTGOMERYSHIRE LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM

MINUTES

Of a meeting held on **Tuesday 25th September 2018**
at 7pm in the Town Hall Broad Street Welshpool

1. Record of attendance

Present were	Apologies received from
Cllr F Buckingham Llandysilio CC	Cllr F Veenstra Welshpool TC
Cllr E Bleivas Welshpool TC	Vicki Griffiths Llanfair Caereinion TC
Cllr H Evans Welshpool TC	
Cllr R Dawe Forden CC	
Cllr M Jerman Castle Caereinion CC	
Cllr W Williams Llanfair Caereinion TC	
Chris Davies Llandrinio/Llandysilio CC	
Robert Robinson Welshpool TC	

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

To meeting considered actions taken since the last meeting.

Powys County Council Local Forums

The Secretary reported that nothing had happened. There was no indication that there will be any new forums. The County Council is now holding all meetings in Llandrindod Wells.

The Forum **AGREED** to publicise its disappointment in the local press and social media.

Planning Portal and Information

A discussion took place around this subject with the following points of note:

- a) The plans on the Portal are still of poor standard.
- b) Not all applications are notified to the Town or Community Council.
- c) Minor applications are not be notified at all.
- d) The new Planning Portal has not yet proved to be better than the old one.

Cont...

The legislation states that Town and Community Councils are statutory consultees. There is no distinction between one application and another.

It was agreed that the **SECRETARY** writes to Powys pointing this out and seeking their assurance that notifications will continue at whatever level.

4. Future of Local Councils

The meeting noted that the Panel's report has been presented to the Ministers Office. An announcement is expected in October 2018 but it is not likely to say much. It is expected that a paper will be issued in March with more detail for consultation. A formal announcement is not likely before October 2019.

5. Transport Welshpool

The meeting considered an update on the following:

a) Welshpool Station

Progress is being made with the development at Welshpool Station and the land needed is being procured. Meetings with Network Rail and other Rail Industry people continue.

b) Cardiff Bus

The Wrexham bus has been suspended until July due to Shropshire Council objections.

The new Cardiff link from Welshpool will stop at the main line station.

c) New Rail franchise

The arrangements for the new train operations from 14th October were explained.

d) Local buses

These are likely to be up for review in the spring of 2019. With further budget cuts being announced these are likely to be affected.

6. One Way System Review

The plans for the one way system review were tabled and explained.

The Forum made not comment but was in general support of the proposals.

7. County Council and Budget restraints

A short discussion took place around expected further budget and service delivery cuts.

8. Shrewsbury Telford Hospitals

The Future Fit consultation has now ended. A decision is expected in March 2019 with support for option 1 (Critical Care at Shrewsbury). However implementation will not be for a few years – possibly by 2023.

9. Business Rates

A short update was given on business rates.

In particular the effect on Town and Community Councils was considered.

10. Rural Development Plan

There was some discussion around what the money for the Rural Development Plan in Powys has been spent on if at all.

It was **AGREED** that the secretary should write to Powys seeking clarification.

11. Dates for future meetings

The dates for 2018/19 meetings were confirmed as:

27th November 2018

15th January

16th April

16th July

21st October

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