

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RADNORSHIRE COMMITTEE HELD AT POWYS COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2013

Present: County Councillor K. Tampin (Chairman)

County Councillors K. Curry, C. Davies, D. O. Evans, J. Evans, E. M. Jones, H. Lewis, Mrs. M. Mackenzie, P. Medicott, W. J. Powell, G. Price and T. Turner.

In attendance: Councillor G. Brown - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning, Janet Kealey – Head of Legal , Scrutiny and Democratic Services, Mike Green – Procurement and Business Manager, Rob Brown – Solicitor, Stuart Mackintosh – Senior Manager Countryside and Contracted Services, Mark Stafford-Tolley – Countryside Access Officer and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	RS11-2013
----	------------------------------	------------------

Members accepted apologies for absence from Councillor G. Banks, J. Brunt and G. Williams.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 16th JANUARY 2013	RS12-2013
----	---	------------------

Members authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 16th January 2013 as a correct record. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Aveling Porter Steam Roller Registration No: EP 3339 and Living Van** – members received an update in relation to restoration work being undertaken by Tarmac and hoped that the roller and living van would be restored in good time for the 2013 show season
- b. **Council Tax Reduction Scheme** - the Welsh Government had recently decided to fully fund the current scheme despite having previously suggested that it would have introduced a scheme which would have put in place obligations for those of working age, and in receipt of council tax benefit, to have made financial contributions of at least 10% towards their council tax bill. It is, however, expected that current funding levels would be capped and that there would be shortfalls in terms of supporting this benefit in future
- c. **Planning Enforcement** – members re-iterated the need for information regarding the number of planning enforcements served and prosecution information
- d. **Calling in of Planning Applications** – members requested an update in relation to the request from the shire to change the process for the ‘calling in’ of planning applications so that town and community councils receive information at the same time as the local member/members to allow more time for considerations/discussion
- e. **Signage at County Hall** – two members had visited a Council building in another Authority and had been impressed by internal signage. The matter had been discussed by the shire before and it was agreed to re-visit options
- f. **Domiciliary Care** – it was agreed to request that an appropriate officer attend the next shire meeting to discuss concerns regarding the delivery of domiciliary care in Radnorshire

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RS13-2013
----	---------------------------------	------------------

Councillors H. Williams and E. M. Jones declared an interest in relation to item 8 on the agenda 'by-way closures' and Cllr. G. Price declared an interest in respect of item 11.1 on the agenda 'post office changes'. There were no other declarations of interest made in relation to items on the agenda.

4.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	RS14-2013
-----------	---------------------------------	------------------

The Chairman reported on having attended the following:

- a. **Welsh Guards Homecoming Parade** – the homecoming parade for the Welsh Guards held in Ystradgynlais
- b. **Radnor YFC Entertainment** – the final of the recent YFC entertainment competition. The standards this year being particularly high

5.	TENANTS LIAISON	RS15-2013
-----------	------------------------	------------------

Members appointed Councillor Tampin as the reserve member to Cllr. Banks on the Tenants Liaison Committee.

6.	BUS SERVICES IN RADNORSHIRE	RS16-2013
-----------	------------------------------------	------------------

Members thanked John Forsey, Interim Joint Passenger Transport Manager for attending the meeting. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Disserth and Trecoed** – before today's shire meeting residents from the Dissert and Trecoed area had presented a petition to the Portfolio Holder for Highways (Cllr. B. Thomas) because of concerns arising from recent changes
- b. **Llandrindod Service Bus** – there had been some concern regarding the height of the steps to access the service bus. Members were informed that the operator was in the process of purchasing a DDA compliant vehicles and that it was a condition of contract for all operators to work towards becoming DDA compliant by 2015
- c. **Home to School Transport (Travel Times)** – the Authority had been mindful of Welsh Government guidance in respect of maximum home to school travel times (up to 1 hour for secondary school aged children and 45 minutes for primary aged children). Operators aim to provide home to school transport within the guidelines but it is not always possible
- d. **Savings from Tendering Exercise** – the recent re-tendering exercise is expected to deliver savings of in the region of £900k per annum during the life of current contracts
- e. **Funding** – future funding allocations would be delivered to regions as opposed being delivered direct to authorities and the funding available would be 25% less. Members would welcome being kept informed of the funding position and any likely impact on service delivery

7.	LOCAL EMPLOYMENT MATTERS	RS17-2013
-----------	---------------------------------	------------------

7.1 Use of Local Contractors

Members welcomed Mike Green, Procurement and Business Manager to the meeting to provide an update in relation to the use of local contractors. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Procurement and Commissioning of Services** – as at 2010 (the most recent information available) the Powys spend for the procurement and commissioning of services had been £140 million. 51% of the £140 million had been spent within Wales, 28% within Powys which is about average when compared to the position of other Welsh authority spends
- b. **Procurement and Commissioning Board** – in the light of the stance taken by Cabinet to maximise the spend within Powys the Cabinet had recently agreed to establishing a Procurement and Commissioning Board. All projects with a spend above a threshold would be required to be considered by the Board. The Board would consider how best to support local businesses in bidding for tenders for works for projects etc.
- c. **Procurement and Commissioning Services** – each service has its own budget and is responsible for procuring and commissioning the services it provides i.e. there is no central procurement function, however, officers from the Procurement Unit support services during the tendering process etc.
- d. **Procurement Legislation** – publicly funded organisations have to tender for works in accordance with European legislation i.e. the Authority has to advertise and consider tenders for works that are above a certain threshold from companies that operate outside of the UK
- e. **Regeneration Strategy** – there is a strong focus on delivering on the Regeneration Strategy which hopes to make Powys a place of choice to live, work from/in and run businesses from. Supporting the local economy to deliver to current and future needs is a priority
- f. **Employment** – the Powys workforce is in excess of 8000 (the largest employer in Powys)
- g. **Awarding of Tenders for Works** – tenders for works are considered on the basis of quality and cost. Increasingly tenders have included community benefit requirements i.e. the requirement to use local tradesmen, run local apprenticeship schemes, create community space i.e. playing areas etc.
- h. **Facilities Management** – it was agreed to clarify whether it's a requirement for departments to approach the Authority's Facilities Management Service before being able to approach local tradesmen/businesses

7.2 Supporting Local Employment/Regeneration Activities

Matters relating to this item had been discussed at point 7.1 above.

8.	BY-WAY CLOSURES – MOELFRE CITY/WATER BREAK ITS NECK	RS18-2013
----	--	------------------

Members were reminded that decisions in relation to Traffic Regulation Orders had been delegated to shire committees. At this juncture, and on the advice of the Monitoring Officer, the Committee

RESOLVED to exclude the public for the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 5 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

Having considered the position and received legal advice the Committee went back into open session.

Being mindful of the outcome of an appeal against proposed actions and following a vote with one abstention it was **RESOLVED**:

8.1 Moelfre City By-way

To permanently suspend the use of horse drawn and four wheeled mechanically propelled vehicles through the year in accordance with the draft order on the understanding that the by-way would be available for two wheeled mechanically propelled vehicles during two months of the year weather dependant.

8.2 Wate Break its Neck By-way

To permanently suspend the use of horse drawn and mechanically propelled vehicles through the year in accordance with the draft order.

Members were reminded that permanent as stated above would mean for a period of four years during which maintenance work would be undertaken to bring the by-ways up to a standard fit for the above activities. It was agreed to receive an update on matters at the next meeting.

9.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS	RS19-2013
----	--	------------------

The following Cabinet members were in attendance:

Councillor G. Brown – Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Highways
Councillor G. Price – Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance

Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and put questions to, Cabinet members. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Horsemeat in Beef Burgers** – officers from the Authority's Trading Standards and Catering Departments are investigating whether the Authority had sourced beef burgers from companies where traces of horsemeat had been found (a recent national matter of concern)
- b. **2013/14 Budget** - it was felt that Council should not set it's 2013/14 budget until the outcome of a recently agreed review had been considered. It was reported that the savings identified in the draft budget had been rolled over from previous years
- c. **Community Grant Reduction Scheme** – the proposal in the budget to reduce the funding provided to community organisations via. the Community Grant, if approved by Council and subject to point b. above, would deliver a phased reduction of 75% to organisations over a three year period. At the same time there would be a review of the organisations that receive grant funding. It was felt by a member that community organisations should be involved when drafting criterion for access to the 25%. It was felt by a member that the review should include use of organisations to administer funds on behalf of the Authority
- d. **Public Toilets** – it was felt that in order to qualify for rate relief that Town and Community Councils should continue to operate the same opening times for public toilets as they had done when management responsibility had been handed back to them from the Authority
- e. **E-mail** – since having migrated to a new e-mail system there had been significant issues regarding loss of e-mails, sending of e-mails etc. Members were informed that

the Authority had entered into a contract with Enwiz to operate its system and performance would be monitored

10.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES	RS20-2013
------------	--	------------------

Members were informed that the Chair had recently attended a Victorian Festival Committee meeting when concerns had been expressed regarding funding to support activities.

11.	CORRESPONDENCE	RS21-2013
------------	-----------------------	------------------

11.1 Post Office Changes

Councillor G. Price declared an interest in respect of this item of business. Members welcomed an update in relation to sorting office/post office changes which included moving sorting office functions from Knighton and Bulth to Llandrindod and refurbishment plans which had been put on hold for Llandrindod Post Office.

12..	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	RS22-2013
-------------	-----------------------------	------------------

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20th March 2013. Members wanting to discuss matters for the agenda were encouraged to contact the Chair and/or clerk.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR
KEITH TAMPIN
CHAIRMAN**