



Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 14th January. 2026, 7.30pm. Churchstoke Community Centre, Churchstoke.

Present: Cllr. Carmen Seal (Chair- Kerry): Cllr. Susan Robertson (Kerry): Cllr. Phil. Bettley (Berriew).: Cllr. Debbie Kent- (Berriew): Cllr. Mike Whitall (Churchstoke), Cllr. Alan Meredith-Jones (Abermule with Llandyssil)

Cllr. Eve Meredith-Jones (Clerk – VMRC):

Members of the public: Cllr. Veronica Wildish: Brett Kibble:

1. **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR.** The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Gwyneth. Jones (Abermule with Llandyssil): Cllr. Jane Rees (Abermule with Llandyssil): Cllr. Johnny Jones (Churchstoke).
Cllr. Julie Lock (Montgomery): Barry Kemp (Montgomery).
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were **NO** declarations of interest.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 8TH, OCTOBER, 2025.** Some amendments required prior to approval.
5. **MATTERS ARISING** – N/A
6. **FOOTPATH UPDATE** - Brett Kibble announced that 2025 was a good year. The list of 12 projects was finished except for the stile near gate adjacent to Moat Farm in Kerry. As for the Uchel Dre issue an enforcement notice needs to be pushed forward on this. So far, the list for 2026 includes-
 - **Sarn** issues on 8+stiles, funding will be needed.

- **Kerry** No.1 Walk has issues with the stiles. 1. The stile at the entrance to Penarron Wood needs replacing. 2. The stile at Penarron Cottage also requires replacing.
Nook Lane - Christmas tree blocking footpath.
Signs missing both ends of Common Road/Brynlywarch footpath.
Footpath sign near Brynlywarch path which leads to pumphouse.
Footpath up near the Moat overgrown.
- **Montgomery** - 2 stiles needed
- **Berriew** – Help requested with access problems with circular walk near the new houses.
- **Llandyssil** list supplied
- **Churchstoke** – None reported but MW will ask Churchstoke Community Council and report to directly to Brett.

Commented [VW1]:

Circular walks funding only for paths that are open, so we need to identify further circular walks. Brett informed us of how many paths were open in our council areas - Montgomery 90%, Berriew 40%, Dolfor not much done, Kerry 70%, Abermule 30% and Churchstoke 75%. As for the Caerhowel bridge to Montgomery footpath Brett will be checking the signposts.

Brett's offer to group together the "Sustainable Powys Locality Areas" so VMRC areas are not split looks like it could be a slow process.

7. **BEE EVENT**

After discussion it was **DECIDED** to avoid possible confusion to re-name the event Nature Day. Sub committee members reported on their progress since the first meeting in December.

- CS- reported Curlew Connections happy to attend but are due to close and were awaiting confirmation of funding, they were reasonably sure of a positive outcome. Havenmore Hedgehog Rescue have informally said they can attend. Welshpool Beekeepers still awaiting a response. Entomologist no reply.
- PB - Wild Welsh Wool said yes to wool weaving. Ornithologist said yes. RSPB have been invited. Woodland Trust - Not heard back from them yet. Montgomery Wildlife Trust – All sorted.
William Hague could not be contacted re: opening events.
- EMJ – suggested Alison Alexander might open events she has a new position with MWT that was relevant. EMJ will soon make enquiries with other groups listed and email her findings to the rest of the committee.
- MW - not able to contact Hurdley Hall yet.

After further discussion it was **DECIDED** that Kerry's Nature Day would be on June 6th, Berriew's Nature Day is on June 7th. Churchstoke have not decided yet and we are still waiting to hear from Montgomery. Schools already on board are Berriew and Kerry. SR is still finding out about a lichen expert and will be making contacts regarding beetles soon. Contacting the Canal & Rivers Trust was suggested and as a result PB will be contacting Friends of Montgomery Canal, also Steve Witherden (local MP). VW will make enquiries regarding anaerobic digesters. BK to approach Jeremy Thorpe with reference to upcycling. The bags Kerry had at the previous event were discussed and SR could do a

new design for us with a VMRC logo on one side. Other suggestions were stickers, a children's nature passport/passbook and ice cream van selling locally produced ice-cream.

Next sub-committee meeting Tuesday 10th February, 2026 at the Nags Head, Garthmyl at 7.30pm

8 VMRC WEBSITE.

This was fully discussed as the concept has not previously progressed.

MW can host website for £20 annually using Word Press publishing.

MW explained the hardest work is creating the content and the pictures.

Purpose public face or depository

PB suggested we have a web site in approximately 3 years. when VMRC will have developed more fully. This was **AGREED**.

In the meantime, community councils that are members of the VMRC will add links to the VMRC webpage to their respective websites.

https://www.kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk/VMRC_45498.aspx

MW will set up a What's App group.

9 FINANCES, BANKING UPDATE.

£4097.45 balance signed and **ACCEPTED**.

10 REPORTS FROM EACH COUNCIL:

Berriew- The two community council vacancies will be filled at the next meeting.

The community council is helping with funding for AV equipment for the community hall.

The history project has started, various walks with leaflets are planned around Berriew including woodland, history/and village walks.

The Woodland walk signs are being replaced because of spelling mistakes in the Welsh versions.

Churchstoke

Marsh land near White Grit has been purchased for conservation purposes.

Abermule with Llandyssil

Waste transfer station: permission for black bin waste was passed by 9 votes to 3 despite the community council's best efforts and they are launching an appeal against the decision.

The Afterschool club continues to thrive serving 16 families, the £2.5K funding from the community council will provide a good amount of working capital.

Kerry

River Mule- Work done previously was destroyed by the recent storm. Sheet piling is needed to solve the problem, Funding has been secured, just waiting for the ideal weather opportunity.

The lease on school playground has been completed

The football club lease is currently being arranged.

The Powys Farmers' campaign opposing PCC selling off farms has now ended.

Montgomery

No report – no attendees.

11 FUTURE SPEAKERS. Despite the Clerk's best efforts there was no answer to emails trying to arrange a speaker for this meeting. PB to arrange a speaker with PCC planning.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, venue and agenda items for future meetings.

Next meeting Tuesday, 14th April, 2026.7.30pm Churchstoke Community Hall, Churchstoke which will be paid for by VMRC, **AGREED** .

At the end of the meeting CS informed the meeting that due to an ever- increasing workload, the clerk was unable to continue in that role. It was suggested by CS that the current clerk to Kerry Community Council might be willing to take over the role. This suggestion was discussed and **ACCEPTED**. CS will approach the Clerk to KCC and update members with details in due course.

CS expressed the gratitude of all members of the VMRC to Eve Meredith-Jones for all the work she has done for us in her role as Clerk and wished her the very best for the future.