

Annual General Meeting and Quarterly Meeting minutes

Tuesday, 30th June, 2026, 7.30pm. Berriew Community Centre, Churchstoke

Clerk: Sarah Reast, Ysgubor Crugnant, Pennant, Llanbrynmair SY19 7BN.
Tel: 07743 689912 Email: clerk@kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Present: Cllr. Carmen Seal (Chair- Kerry), Cllr. Susan Robertson (Kerry), Cllr. Gwyneth Jones (Abermule and Llandyssil), Cllr. Phil Bettley (Berriew) and Brett Kibble (CS&ODR Liaison)

AGM

1) **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

2) **APOLOGIES**: Cllr. Debbie Kent (Berriew), Cllr. Eddie Evans (Churchstoke)

3) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were **NO** declarations of interest.

4) **APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from 9th July 2025**
Approved by all

5) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS –** The Chair and Vice-Chair should be elected every year and may preside for a maximum of 2 but both Carmen and Phil have done 3 and wish to step down. None of the other members present were willing to put themselves forward for the role. There was a discussion about the roles. Although with only quarterly meetings and less statutory obligations than the Community Councils themselves, the jobs are not onerous but there is a need for the Chair and Vice-Chair to be a guiding spirit as well as the formal managers of meetings. It was decided that the matter would be postponed until the following meeting when effort will be made to ensure better attendance and a focus on a more ambitious vision for the group

6) **UPDATE OF STANDING ORDERS, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MOA for Community Liaison (Public Access) Partnership**
Approved by all

The Terms of Reference state that “County Councillors may be invited as observers”. It was decided that this should be more actively encouraged as County Councillors may have much to both contribute and glean

7) FINANCES

a) 30/06/2026 Current Account holds £638.25 and Savings Account holds £3070.79. It was agreed that the Current account should hold a maximum float of £500.00.
b) Currently Carmen and Phil are signatories and there needs to be a third.
c) Only one authoriser needed in addition to RFO

8) MEMBERSHIP

a) It was agreed that Subject Matter Experts such as Brett Kibble could be co-opted for voting rights – to be discussed at the next Ordinary Meeting

QUARTERLY ORDINARY MEETING

1. **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

2. **APOLOGIES** - Cllr. Debbie Kent (Berriew), Cllr. Eddie Evans (Churchstoke)

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were **NO** declarations of interest

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 14TH APRIL 2026 MEETING** – The inclusion of Cllr. Jane Rees in list of members present to be removed otherwise all approved

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

6. **FOOTPATH UPDATE**

i. Brett Kibble gave an update on the significant delays in getting the footpath volunteer networks up and running at County level since the policy was launched in October 2025. To date, only 2 groups in the whole of the County are known to exist including the VMRC. Sian Barnes is anxious to have systems in place for July this year.
ii. More volunteers are expected to come on board from Churchstoke
iii. There have been 2 work days this year and the list of projects to be done in the workplan are in **Appendix1**

7. **POSSIBLE VMRC WEBSITE**

It was agreed that the VMRC page on the Kerry Community Council web-site will suffice for now

8. **FINANCES**

i. Accounts up to 31/06/26 approved and signed by Chair including Bank Statements, Bank Rec and Payments and Receipts
ii. Subscriptions to go out and remain at £250.00 per Council
iii. Expenses for Nature Days in **Appendix 2**
iv. Clerk’s salary and expenses – Submitted and approved. Clerk to keep timesheet to assess workload
v. Pen Drive for remote saving of documents – Clerk to organise Dropbox folder as an initial and alternative experiment
vi. Clerk to send finance reports to all members prior to next meeting

9. REPORTS FROM EACH COUNCIL INCLDING REVIEW OF NATURE DAYS IN BOTH KERRY AND BERRIEW

Berriew

i) Woodland walk has been completed
ii) Interactive speed signs being installed in the village
iii) Bus routes and times under review
iv) Circular walk and heritage trail comprising stories of buildings and people with audio commentary accessible via QR code
v) New headteacher at the school
vi) Most community assets are devolved into independent committees which draw upon a very broad spectrum of volunteers and energy
vii) The Nature Day was really successful with 25 stalls and at least 200 attendees. The initiative had built on last year's achievement and there is enthusiasm for repeating it in 2 years' time. Lord Hague, Steve Witherden MP, Elwyn Vaughan MS and Adrian Jones (PCC) all attended. One of the favourite activities was the nature promise tree with paper butterflies to write on
viii) Clerk to share photos and report on VMRC web-site page

Kerry

i) Nature Day was also very successful. Carmen shared some of the remaining cloth bags designed by the school children which acted as quite a draw for those families. The art work and production was co-ordinated by Susan. There was a last minute decision to hold the majority of the event indoors due to unpredictable weather. Russell George opened the event with great aplomb and proceeded to attend all the stalls and engage enthusiastically with the activities and participants and took a little jar terrarium home at the end of it. All stall holders said they would be happy to repeat the experience next year. One really big problem was the parking especially as there had been a funeral in the morning. This issue is a major impediment to any scaling up of such an event again.
ii) Clerk to share photos and report on VMRC web-site page
iii) Carmen attended the Powys Teaching Health Board drop-in session in Newtown last week. There is also an intention to have online sessions for Community Councils to be appraised of developments. There was a suggestion that the current library will close and there will be a new smaller library contained within the health hub. The parking for the health hub will be minimal and so for both the hub and the library people will be forced to use and pay for parking to use the facility. It is unlikely that the new library will be able to house many of the events that take place in the library at present.
iv) The Council continue to work on the new Football Club lease renewal
v) The river bank re-build is inching forward with sheet piles having been bought at a good price following attention to global steel markets
vi) There are proposals for the shop to be re-located to a site near the Village Hall in a prefabricated modular bank unit. It is anticipated that the Post Office salary will aid financial sustainability

Abermule and Llandyssil

i) A Deed of Dedication is being organised for the new play area. Equipment has been ordered and will be installed after the summer holidays

ii) It has been noticed that very few planning applications are being submitted which may reflect problems with the local and national economy

10. FUTURE SPEAKERS

Elwyn Vaughan MS has agreed to share his political vision in his new role at the Senedd at the next meeting providing it falls on a Thursday or Friday as he has to be in Cardiff the rest of the week – Clerk to co-ordinate

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING, VENUE AND AGENDA

Thursday, 15th October 2026 Abermule Village Hall.
Phil to prepare and lead a brainstorming session about future purposes (including use of accumulated funds). Ideas to be invited and submitted prior to the meeting and emphasis to put upon attracting County Councillors to attend

Meeting ended 9.45pm

Signed by the Chair: Date:

Appendix 1

VMRC workplan 2026 – Brett Kibble

- Llandyssil 'Old Road' U2657 2 stiles to change to gates.
- Kerry promoted walk to Penaran Cottage 3 stiles to convert to gates on 217/128/3&4
- Kerry promoted walk Nook Lane stiles to replace on 217/123/1
- Kerry near Moat footpath gate long outstanding on 217/124/2
- Churchstoke bridges to sort on 210/29/2 and 210/62/2 and 210/62/1
- Roundton stile near collapse at entry to MWT reserve on 210/96/1
- Berriew promoted walk awkward stile replace with gate on 203/6/1
- Berriew promoted walk above Pant-y-ffridd pedestrian gate at awkward fieldgate on 203/18/1
- Gates to be installed at Wernllwyd etc on 261/C18/5 and 261/C16/1
- Stile on Montgomery Kerry road to replace on 210/54/3
- Path from New House (near Llandyssil) to complete to Cuckoo Hall 223/16/1
- Path Cwm to Cwm Badarn near Llandyssil to install 3 gates on present alignment. Path 223/23/1
- Path off Common Road in Kerry to sign both ends on 217/214/1
- Vegetation clearance All Montgomery promoted walks, All Kerry, Sarn and Abermule promoted walks. Churchstoke walks Roundton area

Projects:

- Kerry Llanmerewig/Hodley and Abermule area circular walks.
- Churchstoke circular walks.
- Berriew circular walk- Berriew-Refail-Cwmgywydd-Gwern-goch-Ty'n-g-coed-Lower

- Cefn-Pen-y-Parc wood - Berriew
- Sarn stile replacements and blocked paths
- Path from near Gaer Mill to Lower Munlyn 212/42/1

Other projects suggested and matters arising during the meeting:

- Bridge over brook at Llandyssil – surveyors have decided the bridge is a pinch point for potential flooding so have proposed it be removed
- Path between New House and Tannws – stile does not meet requirements
- Berriew veg clearance between the river and main road – concerns about presence of Giant Hogweed. Phil thinks it has been attended to
- Vegetation clearance on Sarn circular walk
- Kerry – locked gate on walk to Moat off Common Road

Appendix 2 – Nature Day expenses

Kerry flyers/posters	£108.80
Berriew flyers/poster	£107.60
Berriew flyers/posters	£37.00
Stickers	£34.00
Berriew expenses	£51.95
Berriew expenses	£17.58
Kerry expenses	£90.80
Total	**£447.73**

Cloth Bags were funded by Kerry Community Council for £384.59