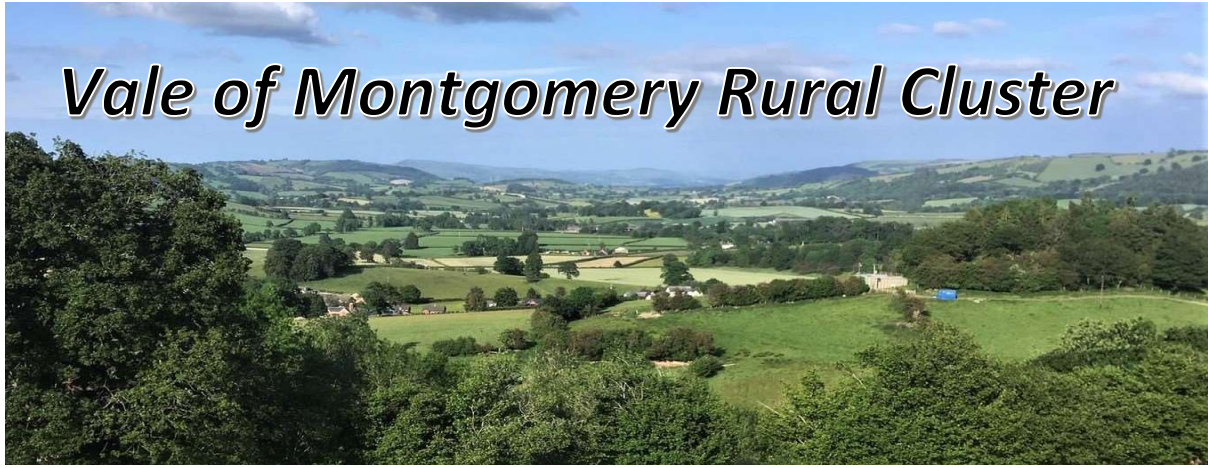


Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster



VMRC MINUTES OF AGM & QUARTERLY MEETING 8th JULY 2024 7.30 HELD AT LLANDYSSIL HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Carmen Seal (Chair- Kerry): Cllr. Susan Robertson (Kerry): Cllr. Gwyneth. Jones (Abermule with Llandyssil): Cllr Jane Rees (Abermule with Llandyssil): Cllr. Debbie Kent- (Berriew): Claire Weston (Montgomery): Cllr. Eve Meredith-Jones (Clerk – VMRC):

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/VISITORS: Brett Kibble, Cllr. Veronica Wildish.

AGM

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Phil. Bettley (Berriew).
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were **NO** declarations of interest.
4. **MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM ON 3rd JULY, 2023.**

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Cllr. Carmen Seal (Kerry) was re-elected chair for a further year and Cllr. Phil. Bettley (Berriew).as vice chair.

6. UPDATE OF STANDING ORDERS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

. Item 4 – No meetings on licenced premises to be removed. Financial year **AGREED** as running AGM to AGM.

7. FINANCES

Accounts – **AGREED** and **APPROVED**.

8. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary will contact Bettws Cedewain, Forden, Churchstoke and Castle Caereinion regarding this offer. She apologised for not doing this as previously stated at the previous meeting.

.**AGM** closed 7.40pm

QUARTERLY MEETING

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 8TH APRIL, 2024:

The minutes were **APPROVED**

10. BRETT KIBBLE – FOOTPATH PROJECT UPDATE:

The draft version of the Community Liaison (Public Access) Partnership constitution/memorandum, was discussed and it emerged that nothing has been formerly agreed between councils. Berriew noted they have a footpath committee, AwL stated they need to take this issue back to full council to discuss further. The project using sets of volunteers works on clearing footpaths and installing gates and stiles and signposting. Under officer P. Johnson lot of work has been done in the last eighteen months. PCC's role is to provide backup in the form of insurance, training and tools. The PCC officer working with the project can facilitate agreements with land owners. No agreements in place means no work can be done. At the start of the scheme in 2018 PCC believed an agreement was in place. Pre-covid a lot of work was done including lots of repairs and establishing circular routes but not SO much has been done since Covid.

The VMRC footpath workload for 2024 was circulated. Community councils have this work done for nothing. 15-20 stiles or bridges were installed and 2 circular walks were established in the Abermule area.

Following on from Brett's sharing of information various points were raised

- An updated version of the agreement documentation is imperative for moving forward, Cllr. J Rees and Cllr G Jones stressed this issues importance.
- The VMRC insurance situation is not clear and needs sorting out since PCC recruits the volunteers.
- AwL felt strongly liaising with landowners must be done ahead of work commencing by PCC, workers liaising with owners on the day could pose a safety for workers. Cllr. G Jones was particularly concerned about this point as she pointed out that some landowners were very anti any use of their land for public footpaths.

It was **AGREED** that going forward that it was *imperative* all agreement documentation was updated.

11. BIG NATURE EVENT 30TH JUNE:

LLANDYSSIL –Run single handedly by Cllr. G. Jones. Cllr. Jones reported that this went well, plenty of posters had been distributed. Activities included a delicious picnic in the church and a visit to Cllr. Jeremy Brignell-Thorpe's property where uses for old and new wooden pallets were shown. Growing of potatoes/runner/herbs was also explained. Twenty water bottles at £3 each were sold the proceeds going to support provision of clean water facilities in overseas countries.

MONTGOMERY – Took place along with the Open Gardens scheme. Events included willow-weaving and butterfly counts. Loads of positive feedback but less families than expected.

BERRIEW – Berriew event was attended by 70-80 families, the weather deterred some people and others seem to think it was only meant for children. There were plant stalls with plants for companion planting. Activities included making leaf prints and examining items such as small pond life and owl pellets contents under a microscope. A lovely atmosphere was reported with tea and cakes provided. It may be repeated in the future if more volunteers can be recruited.

KERRY/SARN/DOLFOR – KCC funded some very attractive cotton tote bags for the occasion. Taking place around the church/churchyard it was well attended by 100 + people. Refreshments

were provided in the Belltower and enjoyed by 75 +people. There lots of stalls & activities including homes for insects, making fat-balls for bird-feeding, birdfeeders, there was a pollinator friendly plant swap, beekeeping, hedgehog awareness and preservation, turning unwanted t-shirts into shopping bags, curlew preservation. A large bug hotel was built from pallets and will be permanently sited in the churchyard. An enjoyable and instructive day was had by all who attended.

Any expense forms to be submitted please. A combined event to be discussed for the future. The event with photos to be on VMRC section of KCC website.

12. FINANCES, BANKING UPDATE. WEBSITE:

Finances & Banking both as noted for AGM. Ria has updated all leaflets.

13. REPORT FROM EACH COUNCIL:

AWL – No further progress on playground/equipment. Grant received from Football Association for Wales for 160K for all weather pitch.

MONTGOMERY – Town criers' event in September. New LDP - awaiting news

BERRIEW – Berriew Recreational Association - multi-sports complex opened including tennis courts with new surface. Tennis available to public as visitors for just £3.

KERRY Funding received for solar panels for toilets). Kerry was fortunate to receive £3800 Herbert Arms changing hands. Kerry Shop continues to face a problematic future.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING, VENUE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Next meeting is on Monday 7th October at the Montgomery Institute, Arthur Street, Montgomery at 7.30pm.