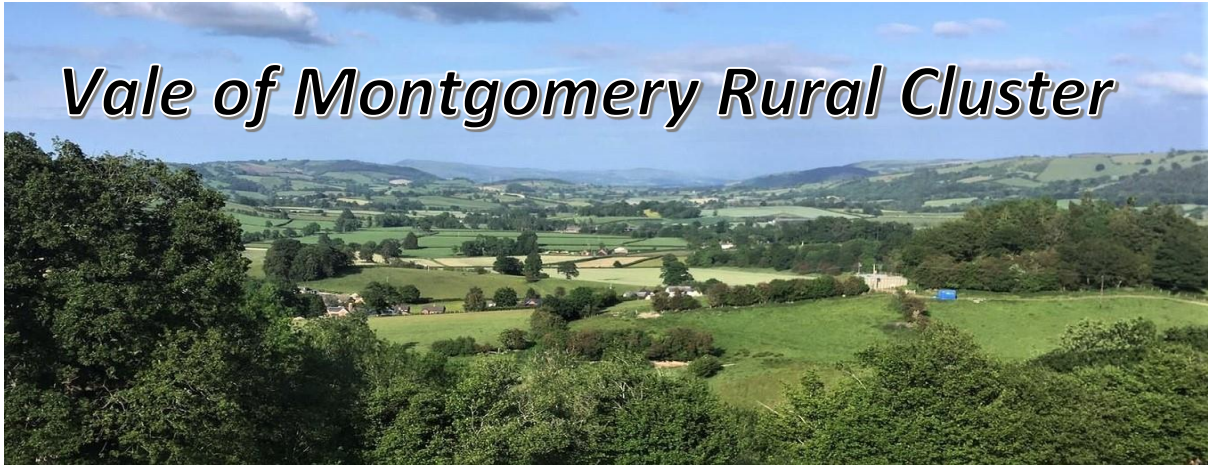


Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster



VMRC MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING 7th OCTOBER 2024 7.30 HELD AT MONTGOMERY INST ITUTE

PRESENT: Cllr. Carmen Seal (Chair- Kerry): Cllr. Susan Robertson (Kerry): Cllr. Gwyneth. Jones (Abermule with Llandyssil): Cllr Alan Meredith-Jones (Abermule with Llandyssil): Cllr. Debbie Kent- (Berriew): Cllr. Sarah Brian (Montgomery): Cllr. Jules Lock (Montgomery): Cllr. Eve Meredith-Jones (Clerk – VMRC):

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/VISITORS: Cllr. Veronica Wildish (Kerry).

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Phil. Bettley (Berriew). Cllr. Jane Rees (Abermule with Llandyssil)
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were **NO** declarations of interest.
4. **MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING FROM 8TH JULY, 2024**

The minutes were **APPROVED** (subject to small alterations requested by the Chair)

5. POWYS REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2022-2037)

Initial responses were as follows

Montgomery – From a meeting in the previous week lots of valid points were raised, flooding was raised as a special issue.

Abermule with Llandyssil – A sub committee was formed reporting to the main planning committee. It was found that there was limited room online to fully answer so the response was made on paper. Issues raised included flooding and the large size of the proposed development area.

6. THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP

Calum Carr responded to all concerns raised. The draft memorandum of agreement has been considered by Calum and he is happy for it to be signed. Abermule with Llandyssil is now happy with Calum's responses and Cllr. Gwyneth Jones is taking it back to full council for their approval in accordance with this signing of the document is deferred until the next VMRC meeting. Cllr. Gwyneth Jones has had positive feedback from walkers on the issue of stiles replaced by gates that are now in situ. It was suggested that close liaison between walking group members and PCC/working groups could be a positive way forward. Thanks were expressed by all to Calum Carr for his help and feedback. **ACTION: AwLLC**

7. FINANCES, BANKING UPDATE. WEBSITE:

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

Invoice for £66.15 from Ria Roberts **ACCEPTED**

8. UPDATE OF STANDING ORDERS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Copies to be sent to Cllr. Sarah Brian and Cllr. Jules Lock.

9. ONE VOICE WALES, ATTENDANCE AT THEIR QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Pre-covid average attendance was 35-40 people. Since Covid the attendance has gone down to about 12 people. The meetings are quarterly with 2 meetings face to face and 2 meetings online held in the winter months. Councillors were encouraged to attend as it was felt that these meetings could be of value to them.

10. REPORT FROM EACH COUNCIL:

BERRIEW – The renovation of the bus shelter on A483 is now complete. The work on the toilets has also been finished. The application for funding from Tesco for the slide is ongoing. The woodland walk has received a thorough autumn clear up.

AwLL – Playground refurbishment fundraising - is ongoing. The playground by the school is functioning but the Millrace playground is closed completely. The phone-boxes are in the process of being re-painted. Two of three of the council vacancies have been filled and it is hoped the third will be filled at the next meeting. There has been training held on how to effectively use a defibrillator of which the village has two, one at the community centre and one at the Gareth Pugh's premises (Agrimont depot). The traffic humps have been renewed and the school has a new roof.

KERRY – The 20mph speed limit signage is now in place. Three councillor vacancies have been filled. A successful Kerry Fun Day was held. Kerry Lamb chef is leaving and the Herbert Arms has a temporary tenancy at present. Kerry Shop still has long term operational issues.

MONTGOMERY – The Town Criers Guild Championships were held in September and proved to be a successful event. A questionnaire regarding equipment for the new playground is being circulated, meanwhile the old playground equipment is being checked out. The Gaol Road play area is also under review. The town's benches and bins are also being reviewed and it has been proposed that extra bins should be purchased. Recycling bins/facilities for town events are also being considered. New fences have been erected at the primary school. Biodiversity funding is being investigated for the White Gates Pool area. Wendy Able bidding officer for Nature Recovery Programme for Powys was referenced, Sarah Brian will try to invite her to the next VMRC meeting as this may have benefits for all councils. **ACTION: SB**

KERRY The subject of training with Planning Aid Wales was raised. Training is available for up to 20 people for a one-off cost of £175, KCC await clarification as to whether this can be shared between councils or whether this relates to members of one Council only.

11. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk has contacted Bettws Cedewain, Forden, Churchstoke and Castle Caereinion regarding this offer. So far, the only response is from Churchstoke, their clerk will raise the subject of Associate Membership of VMRC at their next monthly meeting. The clerk will follow up with the other councils that have not responded yet. **ACTION: EMJ**

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

Next meeting is on Wednesday 15th January, 2025 at the Talbot Inn (back room) Berriew, at 7.30pm.

Suggested invitees Wendy Able Bidding Officer and a representative of a Walking Group.