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Title	Motion for Debate - Car Parking Charges
Date	18th July 2025

Proposed By: Cllr Sally Fitzgerald
Seconded By: TBC

Background

On Tuesday 24th June 2025, Powys County Council's Cabinet approved a set of changes to the county's car parking arrangements following a cross-party review. Among the changes, new charges will apply to long stay car parks from 1st August, including:

- Up to 1 Hour – £1.50 (previously £2.50 as 1-2 hours)
- 2–4 Hours – £3.50 (previously £3.25)
- Over 4 Hours – £5.00 (previously £4.00)

Additionally, Blue Badge holders will now be required to pay for parking but will receive one extra hour in addition to the time paid for. Previously, they were exempt from charges. The charges for vehicles with trailers and/or caravans and motorhomes will also increase.

While the reintroduction of the one-hour tariff has been welcomed by some, the overall increase in longer stay charges—particularly the rise in all-day parking from £4.00 to £5.00—has raised concern about the potential negative impact on local residents, workers, and visitors.

The changes risk discouraging footfall in town centres and placing additional financial pressure on vulnerable groups, despite the introduction of mobile phone payment options and new permit schemes.

Motion

Welshpool Town Council calls on Powys County Council to cancel the increased charges and consider the impact on residents, workers and visitors and instructs the Town Clerk to write to the appropriate Cabinet Member expressing the above.

Town Clerk's Additional Note

The motion would require the Town Clerk to write to Powys County Council. Whilst the town council has the powers to run and operate a car park, it does not own or manage the Powys County Council car parks in the town. The implementation of the motion would not incur any expense, other than staff time.

In conclusion, the Council would have sufficient legal powers to carry out the motion.