Welshpool Town Council, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DD
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DRAFT

Minutes of the Tour de France Special Committee held on 11/11/2026 9:00am in Council Chamber, Welshpool Town Hall.

PRESENT:

Cllr Alison Davies
Cllr Jackson Quarrell
Cllr Phil Owen
Cllr Richard Church
Cllr Revd William Rowell

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Dr Ben Gwalchmai
Shane Logan

Absent:

Cllr Phil Pritchard
Tony Brookes

Also in attendance:

Richard Williams - Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

TDF111126/1. WELCOME, CODE OF CONDUCT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and reminded members of their obligations under the Code of Conduct. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dr Ben Gwalchmai and Shane Logan.

TDF111126/2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

TDF111126/3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

TDF111126/4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

TDF111126/4.1 Previous Minutes

RESOLVED
That the minutes from the meeting of the Tour de France Special Committee on 23/09/2026 be approved.

WTCM993 - Proposed by Cllr Alison Davies, seconded by Cllr Revd William Rowell

TDF111126/4.2 Matters Arising

The Town Clerk confirmed that recommendations arising from the previous meeting had been considered and approved by Full Council.

TDF111126/5. DRAFT 2 BUDGET 2027/28

TDF111126/5.1 Budget Consultation 2027/28

Members considered the results of the Council's budget consultation, circulated at Appendix C. It was reported that 13 responses had been received and that feedback concerning additional expenditure on the Tour de France was inconclusive.

The Committee noted the consultation findings.

TDF111126/5.2 Draft 2 Budget 2027/28

The Town Clerk provided an update on discussions with Powys County Council concerning financial support and the arrangements for the Tour de France Grand Depart in 2027.

Members were informed that anticipated funding for host towns remained uncertain. In particular, the increased cost of providing large screens had affected the funding potentially available for distribution to towns. Although Powys County Council was arranging event management support and infrastructure, the extent of the Town Council's financial and operational responsibilities had not yet been confirmed. It was emphasised that the Council needed clarity on the responsibilities of the respective organisations before committing public funds.

The Committee recognised the exceptional opportunity presented by the Tour de France to promote Welshpool, support local businesses and attract visitors. Members considered that the Council should make appropriate financial provision to maximise these benefits while protecting its financial position.

Members also discussed the importance of identifying sponsorship, external funding and potential income-generating opportunities to offset expenditure. It was suggested that sponsorship should be sought for identifiable activities, infrastructure or legacy projects, rather than as a general contribution towards the Council's costs.

The Committee considered the need to establish a deadline by which Powys County Council must clarify its financial contribution and the support it would provide, allowing the Town Council to finalise its own budget and event arrangements. Members also suggested engaging with other affected towns to encourage a coordinated approach to obtaining clarity from Powys County Council.

RESOLVED
That the Tour de France expenditure budget (5461/237) be increased to £15,000.

WTCM994 - Proposed by Cllr Revd William Rowell, seconded by Cllr Alison Davies

RECOMMENDED
That Powys County Council be formally requested to confirm its financial contribution and proposed support arrangements by 8 January 2027 and opportunities for sponsorship, external funding and income generation be actively explored to offset the Council's expenditure.

WTCM995 - Proposed by Cllr Alison Davies, seconded by Cllr Revd William Rowell

TDF111126/6. CYCLE HUBS & POLA BIKES

The Town Clerk provided an update on the Cycle Hubs & Pola Bikes project, supported through Welsh Government funding administered by Powys County Council.

Members were advised that the project was progressing, with further discussions required with Powys County Council regarding delivery arrangements and timescales.

The Committee discussed the proposed cycle hub facilities and the potential for the project to provide a lasting legacy from the Tour de France. Members also discussed opportunities to improve cycling facilities more widely, including additional cycle parking, potential improvements around the railway station and the provision of facilities for young people.

Particular interest was expressed in exploring the feasibility of a pump track or BMX facility as a longer-term legacy project. Members discussed possible locations, funding opportunities and the potential to secure commercial sponsorship. It was recognised that further investigation would be required into the suitability of potential sites and the likely costs.

TDF111126/7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members requested that the following matters be included for further consideration at the next meeting:
- Progress on events and activities associated with the Tour de France.
- Sponsorship opportunities and potential income generation.
- Further consideration of cycling-related activities and legacy opportunities.

The Committee discussed the possibility of borrowing cycling-related exhibits and equipment from the Cycle Museum, noting that availability would be limited and that early contact would be beneficial. Members supported an early approach to relevant organisations, including potential providers of display screens and cycling exhibits, with developments to be reported back to the Committee.

The next meeting was confirmed for 9th December 2026 at 9:00am.

TDF111126/8. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - EXCLUSION

RESOLVED
That members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

WTCM996 - Proposed by Cllr Revd William Rowell, seconded by Cllr Jackson Quarrell

TDF111126/9. TOUR DE FRANCE - FANZONES [CONFIDENTIAL]

The Town Clerk provided an update on ongoing discussions with Powys County Council regarding spectator arrangements, access, parking and associated facilities for the Tour de France.

Members discussed the potential impact on Welshpool and opportunities arising from the event, including arrangements for visitors and local businesses.

The importance of timely communication with residents and businesses was emphasised, and consideration was given to holding a public information meeting in February 2027, involving relevant partner organisations.

TDF111126/10. TOUR DE FRANCE PLANNING - OTHER [CONFIDENTIAL]

The Town Clerk provided an update on wider preparations for the Tour de France, including ongoing engagement with Powys County Council and other partner organisations.

Members discussed potential community activities, promotional opportunities and legacy initiatives associated with the event.

An update was provided on the schools' logo competition, and members considered arrangements for its progression.

The Committee also discussed matters relating to local infrastructure and facilities, including areas that may be required to support the event.

The meeting finished at 10:23.

Signed: Dated:

Councillor (Chair)

Decision/Action Log

ID		Assigned
WTCM993	**RESOLUTION** **TDF111126/4.1 Previous Minutes** That the minutes from the meeting of the Tour de France Special Committee on 23/09/2026 be approved.	Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
WTCM994	**RESOLUTION** **TDF111126/5.2 Draft 2 Budget 2027/28** That the Tour de France expenditure budget (5461/237) be increased to £15,000.	Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
WTCM995	**RECOMMENDATION** **TDF111126/5.2 Draft 2 Budget 2027/28** That Powys County Council be formally requested to confirm its financial contribution and proposed support arrangements by 8 January 2027 and opportunities for sponsorship, external funding and income generation be actively explored to offset the Council's expenditure.	Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
WTCM996	**RESOLUTION** **TDF111126/8 Confidential Session - Exclusion** That members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.	Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer