

11 February, 2016.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 400 – 409

At a Special Meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 11 February, 2016, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	S. M. Donoghue
T. Bowen	R. E. Evans
M. V. Davies	J. S. Phillips
S. L. Davies	C. A. Rees
A. J. Rogers	

400. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Evans, S. N. Lewis (Cllr. A. J. Rogers deputising) and G. H. Wooldridge.

401. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
405	T. Bowen	Personal interest – a family relative lived behind the recreation ground
407	C. A. Rees	Personal and prejudicial – donating money from the ward allowance to give to Ponthenri AFC

402. RUGBY HUB OFFICER

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Arthur, Rugby Regional Manager (Scarlets), Welsh Rugby Union Group to the meeting and invited him to address Members on the role of Rugby Hub Officers in secondary schools.

Mr Arthur informed Members that during the last 12 months the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) had changed the way it worked in partnership with local schools and clubs. There were now Rugby Hub Officers employed by the schools. The WRU contributed £10,000 towards the salary costs for each and every Rugby Hub Officer (RHO).

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RHO's had a variety of backgrounds including former professional rugby players, coaches, teachers and development professionals and their key objective was to increase the amount of rugby played at schools and clubs.

The schools were working closely with the WRU and had subscribed to a set of criteria which would ensure the RHO's offered opportunities to play the national sport to both boys and girls of all abilities throughout schools and furthermore, for them to provide an effective communication and interface between the school and neighbouring rugby clubs. The WRU had provided funding to the schools to enable them to make the appointments.

There was evidence now emerging that a disciplined sports programme could contribute to improved academic results, attendance statistics and pupils' confidence and self-esteem. By focussing on the game's core values and designing the seasonal structure to support the academic timetable, it was hoped the initiative would contribute to the development of well-balanced and healthy young people who would be good role models within their school and communities.

The ideal situation would be to have one RHO in each school, therefore giving maximum attention to that school rather than splitting their time between local schools and clubs as was the case in the Llanelli area currently with two RHO's covering five schools and Coleg Sir Gar.

Mr Arthur gave a lengthy presentation and referred to key areas of development and the current success achieved with various schools in the Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire area.

Mr Arthur commented that the arrangements in Llanelli could be working a little better. He felt at least another RHO ought to be appointed between the schools to provide additional and necessary support. Schools however, were experiencing financial difficulties and so funding for an additional post was not readily available. Mr Arthur informed Members that the Council might be contacted by the schools for potential financial assistance. However, Mr Arthur was keen to stress he was not lobbying on behalf of the schools in anticipation of the Council receiving a funding request.

The Chairman thanked Mr Arthur for his presentation and Mr Arthur thereupon withdrew from the meeting. Members then went on to discuss the difficulties in matching secondary school catchment areas with town and community council boundaries in the Llanelli area. Schools served a number of areas across Llanelli and district so if a funding request was to be made to the Council then how could this be reconciled against tangible benefits being realised for school pupils residing in the Council's administrative area. Members also referred to other town and community councils being served by the same schools. In this instance this included Llanelli Town Council, Llangennech Community Council and Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council. Depending on the catchment area of the schools and the remit to engage local rugby clubs, the boundaries could be expanded to include Kidwelly and Trimsaran. The Council should be mindful of this if ultimately schools approached the Council for financial support and it was

RESOLVED that the presentation from Mr Arthur be noted.

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403. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

RESOLVED that the report of the Technical Services Officer on work undertaken be noted.

404. PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED that the report of the Community Development Officer be noted.

405. PLAY AREA AND DEPOT - FELINFOEL

Cllr. T. Bowen declared a personal interest in the following matter as a family relative lived behind the recreation ground.

Members considered the report of the Technical Services Officer on a proposed scheme for a play area and depot in Felinfoel.

At present, Felinfoel recreation ground did not have a play facility because the original play facility was removed to accommodate the Community Resource Centre. There was intent to provide a new facility on the location of the old changing rooms, however, representations were made to retain the hardcore area as an overspill carpark. Representations had been received by parents expressing their concerns at the lack of play facilities. It was important for the Council to make provision for safe play to contribute to the well-being of the community.

The Technical Services Officer stated that at present there was an opportunity to acquire additional land adjacent to the park which formed part of the old Ysgol Y Babanod site. The land could be conveyed under a lease or acquisition for a new play area and depot while retaining the overspill carpark in its present location.

Moreover, the White Lion Depot lease was due to expire in March 2023 and there remains uncertainty about the renewal of that lease arrangement leaving the Council in a vulnerable position. The Technical Services Officer had been seeking an alternative sustainable location for some time and reported to Members previously that suitable sites had not been available. The location at Felinfoel would be ideal next to the Council's largest recreation ground.

Following discussion, whereby Members welcomed the proposals, it was

RESOLVED that Officers discuss potential acquisition terms with Carmarthenshire County Council, the land owners and the matter be the subject of a further committee report in due course.

During discussion of the above, Cllrs. M. V. Davies and S. L. Davies withdrew from the meeting.

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406. MEN'S SHEDS

Members received information from the Community Development Officer on Men's Sheds which was a pan Wales initiative.

Men's Sheds Cymru was a Big Lottery funded project that had been created to help communities across the country set-up their own Men's Shed. Two regional advocates had been appointed and were now busy responding to the huge amount of interest coming from the Welsh communities. The idea originated in Australia 11 years ago and was developed by the health board to tackle growing concerns of social isolation amongst the male population. Men's Sheds were a social group or enterprise set up in local communities for the benefit of men. They were self-governed, self-supported and sustainable with a small committee; their own individual constitution, their own income and eventually their own premises.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be forwarded to all Members for appropriate feedback to the Community Development Officer in order to deduce whether the Men's Sheds initiative could be developed in the Council's administrative area

During discussion of the above, Cllr. S. M. Donoghue withdrew from the meeting.

407. PONTHENRI CHANGING ROOMS

Cllr. C. A. Rees declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as she was donating money from the ward allowance to Ponthenri AFC to support the club in purchasing the washing machine and left the meeting before discussion commenced on that matter.

Members considered email correspondence from the Secretary, Ponthenri AFC requesting permission to install a washing machine at the changing rooms in order for the football kit to be washed after the football games.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the request be accepted on the understanding that the Council would retain the responsibility for authorising and changing the configuration of the pipework of the hot and cold water system.

Cllr. C. A. Rees returned to the meeting.

408. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

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**409. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR 2016/17**

Members were presented with a preliminary report on estimates of income and expenditure for the Committee for 2016/17 and it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) virements made for 2015/16 be approved;
- (2) the report recommendation not to replace the safety bark with a wet pour rubber surface at Trallwm play area be supported for the time being, with it being deferred until such time as the play equipment was renewed;
- (3) approval be given to meeting the costs associated with legal searches in connection with the potential asset transfers of Dafen Park, Pwll Recreation Ground and Trallwm Playing Fields.
- (4) the list of expenditure items annotated in the report be included within the Committee's draft estimates of expenditure for 2016/17;
- (5) the report be accepted;
- (6) to await a Special Meeting of Council to discuss same.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.15 p.m.

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The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 8 March, 2016, adopted by the Council.