

18 November, 2015.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 272 – 281

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 18 November, 2015 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. M. Donoghue (Vice Chairman in the (Chair))

Cllrs

F. Akhtar H. J. Evans
L. A. Beer S. N. Lewis
J. S. Phillips

272. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. J. Butler, D. M. Cundy, M. V. Davies, T. Devichand (Cllr. L. A. Beer deputising), T. J. Jones, A. G. Morgan, C. A. Rees and A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising).

273. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

274. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman referred to the tragic events in Paris on 13 November and as a mark of respect the Chairman requested all present to stand and observe a minute's silence.

275. CYMRU SPICE TIME CREDITS

The Chairman welcomed Rachel Gegeshidze, Spice Senior Project Manager, South West Wales and invited her to address Members.

Ms Gegeshidze began by explaining that Spice was an organisation already well established in Carmarthenshire. Spice had co-ordinated the Time Banking delivery for almost three years for Communities First and Carmarthenshire Housing Services. During this period Spice had worked with over 800 people who have all given time to their community and had established good working practice with these groups of people.

Time Credits, also known as 'Time Banking', was a method of rewarding volunteers for their time and contribution to their community. Each hour volunteered by an individual could be

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exchanged for a time credit voucher which could be spent in many ways. The voucher could be spent in the community via corporate partners and person to person. Time credits could be spent at over 500 partners across the country not just in Wales.

Ms Gegeshidze gave some examples of the way people could earn time credits by perhaps litter-picking in the park, driving a mini-bus for the local day centre, helping out at a local youth club. People could then spend their time credits at a venue across the UK network, this could even be at the Tower of London or Cardiff or local community venues.

Time Credits were a proven tool for building stronger communities and co-produced services where people were active and equal participants. It encourages new people to get involved and outcomes were transformed for individuals and services. Impact is measured through ongoing investment in rigorous evaluation, but also through the wonderful stories shared from partners and members.

Ms Gegeshidze then assessed the impact the intervention had on people. She stated that:

- 81% said Time Credits had a positive impact on their quality of life;
- 58% feel healthier since earning and spending Time Credits;
- 23% reported having less need to go to the doctor;
- 46% have learned a new skill;
- 60% said their level of social contact had increased as a result of Time Credits; and
- 6% had gone into employment as a result of Time Credits.

Members welcomed the idea of Time Credits and the benefits it could have on the community. The Chairman thanked Ms Gegeshidze for attending and she withdrew from the meeting.

Members then discussed the Community Development Officer's (CDO) report on expansion of Time Credits into the Llanelli Rural area.

The CDO was looking for the assistance of volunteers in order to implement the Llanelli Rural Whole Place Plan. There were already people engaged with volunteering in the Rural area but engaging new volunteers proved difficult. With the rewards available from time credits, it was hoped that the engagement could be managed easier. The project would be a one year long pilot project that would help shape how time credits complement the delivery of the Whole Place Plan which had just started.

The time credits would help local community groups grow or form and increase community cohesion. The time credits would help recruit and reward the volunteers contributing to other Whole Place Plan interventions like Community Flood Wardens, Keep Llanelli Tidy, Village Buddies and so on.

The proposal received from Spice was for twelve months at a cost of £8,114. This would be for design and training and implementing the scheme in the Rural area. The Council had applied for grant funding to cover the costs and had been successful in obtaining a £5,000 grant so far. The cost would lessen in subsequent years as less support would be required from Spice on design and training.

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Time Credits was a priority intervention for the Llanelli Rural Whole Place Plan.

Following discussion, during which Members supported the proposal for the Council to introduce time credits from 1 February, 2016, it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and further developments on the intervention be reported to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

**276. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

Members were circulated with the Draft Annual Report 2016/17 received from the Chairman, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Panel's draft annual report (which included proposals which would take effect for the financial year 2016/17) had now been published on its website.

Members' attention was drawn to section 10 of the report wherein it stated the payments to members of community and town councils. Members were informed unlike principal authorities where determinations were mandatory, community and town councils must firstly decide by resolution which determinations, if any, were to be adopted by the council. The rates specified, if adopted, could not be amended although individual Members could opt out of receiving payments by advising the Deputy Clerk (Administration) in writing of their individual wishes.

The determinations affecting community and town councils fell into five categories:

- To ensure at least some expenses involved in representing the community could be met – up to £100 per year.
- To allow expenses of partnership and engagement outside the Council to be met.
- To ensure costs of holding civic office were catered for.
- To allow for particular senior/demanding roles to be recognised – up to three posts at £500 per post per year.
- To permit the payment of an allowance for the care of dependants to be met where necessary in order to allow members to attend meetings.

The last two categories referred to above were newly introduced to take effect from the 2016/17 municipal year.

Furthermore, as part of the Panel's determinations for 2016/17, relevant authorities must make arrangements for the publication within the authority area of the remuneration received by its members and co-opted members. This information must be published and provided to the Panel no later than 30 September following the end of the year to which the payments relate. For community and town councils the following payment information to named members must be provided:

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- Costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.
- Responsibility payments.
- Allowances made to a mayor/chair and deputy mayor/chair.
- Attendance Allowance.
- Financial Loss Allowance.
- Costs incurred in respect of travel and subsistence.
- Care allowance.

The Clerk then invited Members as in previous years to decide by formal resolution which if any of the Panel's determinations shall be adopted in advance of the 2016/17 municipal year assuming the draft Annual Report would not be subject to change prior to it being published on 28 February, 2016, and it was

RESOLVED that the following determinations be adopted by the Council:

1. 45 - Community and town councils were authorised to make a payment to each of their members of a maximum amount of £100 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.
2. 47 - Community and town councils were authorised to provide a civic allowance to the mayor/chair and deputy mayor/chair of the council at an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of that office.
3. 48 - Community and town councils were authorised to make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties both within the outside the area of the Council. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:
 - 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
 - 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
 - 5p per passenger per mile – passenger supplement.
 - 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
 - 20p per mile for bicycles.
4. 49 - Community and town councils were authorised to reimburse subsistence expenses to their members for attending approved duties outside the area of the Council at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:
 - £28 per day allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
 - £200 – London overnight.
 - £95 – elsewhere overnight.
 - £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.
5. 50 - Community and town councils were authorised to pay an Attendance Allowance to each of their members for attending approved duties outside the area of the Council as follows:
 - £16.23 for a period not exceeding 4 hours.
 - £32.46 for a period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.
6. 51 - Community and town councils were authorised to pay a Financial Loss Allowance to each of their members where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties outside the area of the Council as follows:
 - £30.05 for a period not exceeding 4 hours.
 - £60.11 for a period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

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- £60.11 plus such amount as was payable under (a) and (b) above as appropriate for a period exceeding 24 hours.

7. 52 - Community and town councils were authorised to provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

FURTHER RESOLVED that determination 46 as referred to below shall not be adopted by the Council:

46 - Community and town councils were authorised to make an annual payment not exceeding £500 to up to three members in recognition of specific responsibilities.

277. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – CARMARTHENSHIRE

Further to Minute No. 484 (14 April, 2015), Members considered a questionnaire document from the Environmental Enforcement Policy and Strategy Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council following concerns regarding dog fouling and dog related anti-social behaviour issues in and around Carmarthenshire.

Carmarthenshire County Council was proposing applying a ‘Public Spaces Protection Order’ within the County. This was in accordance with Chapter 2, Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

It was proposed that the following order be implemented:

- Dog fouling – the order would require the person in charge of a dog to clean up after it immediately, if their dog defecates on any land where the order applies;
- Dogs on Lead by Direction – this part of the order allowed an authorised officer of the council to issue a direction requiring the person in charge of a dog to place it on a lead of no more than 2 meters in length. Such a direction could only be issued in limited circumstances;
- Dog Exclusion – this part of the order applied to all enclosed children’s play areas within Carmarthenshire that are open to the air and would be enforced where the authority had erected signage to say that dogs were prohibited.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Order be supported and the Clerk be authorised to complete the accompanying consultation questionnaire articulating Members’ views and observations.

278. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-2017

Members were circulated with the Draft Annual Improvement Plan 2016-2017 received from the Chair of the Fire Authority, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA).

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During 2016-17 the Mid and West Wales FRA had set out 12 objectives for the year. The twelve objectives were:

1. To deliver a holistic home safety intervention to those most at risk within the communities of mid and west Wales.
2. To reduce the incidence of arson across mid and west Wales.
3. To deliver its part of the Welsh Government Road Safety Framework.
4. To conduct a thorough, evidence based and robust review of the risks facing the communities; including the disposition of the fire stations; vehicles; equipment; and the associated staffing models;
5. To provide a Joint Control Room for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service in a shared facility at South Wales Police's Public Service Centre in Bridgend.
6. To conduct a detailed and strategic assessment of the area that the FRA served analysing development plans, growth areas, labour market statistics, the economy and demography.
7. Contribute towards the requirements of The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
8. To support economic sustainability within its business community.
9. To invest in its people.
10. To make best use of its assets and resources.
11. To use technology to connect, collaborate, innovate and empower.
12. To improve the way it resolved operational incidents through innovation of the use of new technology.

During the discussion, Members expressed views about objective 4 and the potential impact on the district of Llanelli and also expressed an element of concern with objective 5. It was hoped that experienced staff would have knowledge of the local areas in order that no mistakes would be made when emergency vehicles were responding to calls.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to respond highlighting Members' views and opinions to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr M Crennell, Deputy Chief Fire Officer be invited to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the impact the objectives might have on Llanelli Fire Station.

279. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF BYNEA WARD AND LLANGENNECH WARD

Further to Minute No. 406 (18 February, 2015), Members received correspondence from the Electoral Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council informing that the review process had been completed and the findings had been forwarded to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. The review had been presented to the Carmarthenshire County Council meeting on 14 October, 2015, where it was accepted that all the electors of the Bryn Uchaf estate fell within the boundaries of the Llangennech Community Council and Llangennech electoral division.

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The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales would now consider the report and ensure that Carmarthenshire County Council had conducted the review in accordance with procedures set out in the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

280. DAFEN POST OFFICE

Further to Minute No. 218, Members received correspondence from the Regional Network Manager, Post Office confirming that Dafen Post Office would be moving premises to Dafen Stores, 3 Maescanner Road, Llanelli, where it would operate as one of the new local style Post Office branches.

Final preparations were being made for the move and information posters would be provided in branch soon to let customers know the actual date the move would take place.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**281. PWLL POST OFFICE
TEMPORARY BRANCH CLOSURE**

Further to Minute No. 408 (18 February, 2015), correspondence was received from the Field Change Advisor, Post Office updating Members with the Post Office service at Pwll branch.

Pwll Post Office closed because the Postmaster resigned and withdrew the premises for Post Office use. Since the closure, the Post Office had been exploring options for restoring a Post Office service to the customers in the area.

Members were informed the Post Office was planning to introduce an outreach service. The outreach service was an innovative way to provide customers with access to Post Office products and services in communities where a traditional Post Office was not viable or practical. For the majority of outreach services, an established Postmaster would travel to, or oversee service at a nearby community to provide a local Post Office service in addition to running their own Post Office. The vacancy was advertised on the Post Office website and there had been some local interest but negotiations were at an early stage.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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The meeting concluded at 6.00 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 December, 2015, adopted by the Council.