

9 July, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 128 – 138

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 9 July, 2013, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Chairman)

Cllrs.

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| F. Akhtar | H. J. Evans |
| T. Bowen | R. E. Evans |
| L. J. Butler | S. N. Lewis |
| D. M. Cundy | A. G. Morgan |
| M. V. Davies | A. J. Rogers |
| S. M. Donoghue | W. V. Thomas |
| G. N. R. Edwards | G. H. Wooldridge |

128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. A. Beer, S. M. Caiach, S. L. Davies, T. Devichand, M. L. Evans and C. A. Rees

129. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

130. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the recent demise of Cllr. T. Devichand's sister; aunty to Cllr. S. L. Davies and as a mark of respect Members and Officers stood in silent tribute.

The Chairman referred to an email that had been received from Cllr. S. M. Caiach stating that her daughter had attained a first class honours degree in English and Creative Writing and had been offered a postgraduate MA in English and Law at Aberystwyth University.

The Chairman also congratulated the Vice Chairman, Cllr. L. J. Butler and her husband on their 32nd wedding anniversary today.

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131. ONE VOICE WALES

Further to Minute No. 493 (9 April, 2013), the Chairman welcomed Mr Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales (OVW) and invited him to address Members about the work of OVW and the benefits of membership.

Mr Cadwallader informed Members that he had been the Chief Executive of OVW for the past three years during which time there had been a significant improvement in the services provided. Three quarters of Welsh community and town councils had subscribed to OVW membership and this was still growing strong. OVW had expanded its activities and was now providing a quality service. OVW's aim was to act as a single representative voice for community and town councils in Wales and the development of OVW was necessary to meet this aim.

Members were informed that OVW provided a telephone support service to member councils with very good response times. A legal service team also provided quality legal advice. Furthermore OVW had secured more locations for training events, which had risen from four to twelve training locations.

The core aims that OVW wished to achieve were:

- To act as the single representative voice for community and town councils in Wales, developing OVW as necessary to meet this aim;
- To promote a wider understanding and awareness of the role and contribution of community and town councils;
- To develop and advise on policy relating to the sector;
- To provide high quality information and advice services to the member councils of OVW;
- To provide training to develop the knowledge and skills of councillors and officers;
- To promote the sustainable delivery of services by community and town councils.

Mr Cadwallader explained that he would like OVW to be a 'one stop shop' providing all the services under one roof, thereby providing a better deal for community and town councils. He hoped to have a productive team in helping to move OVW forward in the following years. He would like to see the following organisational developments:

- Further development of the role of the Larger Councils Committee;
- Increased lobbying role;
- Seeking out collaboration partners;
- Grow services – supplier directory, consultancy offering;
- Grow membership levels/new partnerships – insurance, procurement;
- Develop Charters – 11 local authorities did not have one in place with community and town councils.

Opportunities over the next few years would be for OVW to be a strong representative body and to keep the pressure on the Welsh Government to support the community and town council sector and on an equal footing as other public services.

Following Mr Cadwallader's presentation there then followed a brief question and answer session on the benefits of the Council taking up membership. Mr Cadwallader addressed

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questions covering the support on offer to the Council and the package of benefits; how OVW was perceived by Welsh Government Ministers; the unique selling point and attributes of OVW; voting rights of member councils; benefits afforded to larger local councils and finally the cost of entering into membership. Thereupon the Chairman thanked Mr Cadwallader for attending and he withdrew from the meeting.

Members then discussed whether the Council should become a member of OVW. During the discussion there was general consensus that OVW had made a great deal of progress since the Council last considered the question of membership. However, despite being impressed with the work OVW was now doing and the areas of national policy it was influencing, Members felt it was still a little premature to join. Members were keen to see how OVW's consultancy service developed and what other larger local councils thought about this service. Members agreed with the economies of scale achieved via grouping procurement under one umbrella. However, Members were conscious of OVW's role in influencing the current programme of legislative bills together with its aims for the sector and preferred to assess OVW's impact based on the outcomes achieved before committing to membership and in view of such, it was

RESOLVED that membership of OVW be declined for the time being.

132. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following Minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated to Members) be confirmed and signed as a true record of proceedings:-

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| Council | 11 June, 2013 |
| Recreation and Welfare Committee | 18 June, 2013 |
| Policy and Resources Committee | 19 June, 2013 |
| Planning and Liaison Committee | 24 June, 2013 |
| Finance and General Purposes Committee | 26 June, 2013 |

133. MATTERS ARISING

(1) LLANELLI TOWN AND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCILS

Further to Minute No. 88, the Clerk reported he attended a meeting at the Town Council offices on 4 July, 2013, with the Council Leader. The Clerk confirmed that the work of the Town Council's Task & Finish Group on Local Governance was coming to an end and this was partly because of the role and work of the Williams Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery which would outline possibilities for future local government reorganisation in the country whereby it was anticipated that the number of unitary authorities in Wales would be reduced. The upshot of the review might well affect the town and community council sector possibly with the sector's level of local service delivery being enhanced. Until the outcome was clear there was little merit in discussing areas of greater collaboration.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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(2) HMS TRENCHANT

Further to Minute No. 89, the Clerk informed Members that he had contacted Lt Rn Liam Baines about a Council delegation visiting HMS Trenchant this year. Unfortunately and to the Clerk's surprise the only date available for Members and Officers to attend HMS Trenchant was 18 July, 2013. No other dates could be accommodated because the submarine would be undergoing extensive refurbishment immediately after this date. It was anticipated that the refurbishment work would take 18 months to complete and so HMS Trenchant would make arrangements for a Council visit after this period. In the meantime, the Clerk confirmed the Council's best wishes had been extended to Commander Lindsay on his term of office ending and also congratulations to his successor, Commander Chris Cole upon his impending appointment as Commanding Officer of HMS Trenchant.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(3) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Arising out of Minute No. 109, the Leader of Council confirmed the decision to reduce the financial assistance budget would be reviewed in time for the 2014/15 budget.

RESOLVED accordingly.

134. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 86, the Clerk provided Members with a brief progress report on events and matters since the last meeting.

Members were informed that the case for Judicial Review against Hywel Dda Health Board's healthcare plans was being heard at an oral court hearing on 19 July, 2013, in Cardiff. Furthermore and in response to the Health Minister's request, the Hywel Dda Community Health Council (CHC) had sent additional information to the Minister in respect of its referral but there had been no further developments to report. There were no other matters to report at this juncture but Members would be kept informed of significant developments should any arise over the summer recess period.

RESOLVED that the progress report be noted.

**135. PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND OTHER
COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Pursuant to Minute No. 97, it was

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Recreation and Welfare Committee be accepted:-

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1. The information relating to Communities First Carmarthenshire leading a funding bid for the creation of a new play area at Felinfoel Recreation Ground for a capital sum in the region of £120,000 be noted for the time being on the basis that the matter may need to be revisited by the Council if the funding bid proves unsuccessful with the project then possibly being included on the Council's capital programme list instead;
2. The information relating to the transfer of Bryngolau play area and the small amount of remedial work required before the transfer can be formally completed be noted;
3. The transfer of the other play areas namely Cilsaig play area, Dafen, Pontyates Park off Heol Llanelli, Pontyates and Swiss Valley play area, Heol Nant, Swiss Valley be accepted in principle but subject to Carmarthenshire County Council handing over the assets to the Council in a good state of repair. This would require some form of capital investment by the County Council to bring them up to an acceptable standard;
4. Depending on the sequence and timing of the said transfers the Council was recommended to prioritize its own capital programme to further enhance the facilities. In this regard due deference be given to the acquisition and improvement of Pwll Pavilion as a priority but without prejudice to the transfer of the other assets identified in the report;
5. The terms for the transfer of Pwll Pavilion should take the form of a draft lease covering a term of 99 years at a peppercorn ground rent. Such lease to allow for the sub-letting of the pavilion to the Recreation Ground Management Committee with a licence being incorporated to permit the café proprietor to continue to run the café franchise. Furthermore, the rear car parking area should be tarmacadamed and marked out and general improvements be made including fencing and other boundary work to form part of the scheme as well as attention to the access road from the main highway on Pwll Road and also the provision of new footway lighting. It is recommended that a budget estimate of £120,000 is earmarked by the Council for the suggested capital works;
6. As part of a wider scheme concerning the transfer of Pwll Pavilion, the two tennis courts immediately located to the south of the pavilion be incorporated into the land transfer and included in the lease. The express intention being to convert one of the tennis courts into a play area and retaining the other court for public use;
7. The creation of the new play area at Pwll Pavilion should be considered alongside the potential capital enhancement of the other play areas identified as part of a phased programme of works. It is also recommended that a budget estimate of £80,000 is earmarked for the creation of the new play area;
8. The spending of £100,000 from the capital budget be approved to provide the anticipated expenditure associated with the transfer of the three County Council play areas namely:

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|---|----------|
| Cilsaig play area, Dafen | - 20,000 |
| Pontyates play area, Pontyates Park | - 60,000 |
| Swiss Valley play area, Heol Nant, Swiss Valley | - 20,000 |

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In the case of Cilsaig play area, this is subject to the successful completion of the third party land transfer to Carmarthenshire County Council from the private housing developer in order for the said play area to then be transferred to the Council.

9. The Council also approves a capital budget estimate of £53,580 for the anticipated shortfall in capital expenditure identified to provide further works to the Cilsaig play area (£1,520) and the play area at Pontyates Park (£52,020).

10. To promote the principles of sustainability and to aid the Council's capacity to maintain resources the inclusion of the additional annual revenue expenditure of £22,860 be approved for the financial year 2014/15 onwards with any expenditure undertaken during 2013/14 being absorbed.

11. The potential procurement of a second hand front rotary mower from Carmarthenshire County Council to maintain the grassed area at Pontyates Park be investigated otherwise it is recommended a budget estimate of £20,000 to purchase a brand new machine shall be provided.

136. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

137. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 8 May, 2013:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 8 May 2013 at 4:00 pm.

Present: L. A. Beer (Chairman)

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar
T. Bowen

M. J. P. Burns
P. J. Edmunds

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. L. Davies, S. N. Lewis and C. Reed, MBE.

108. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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109. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated) be confirmed and signed as a true record of proceedings.

Ordinary Meeting - 10 April 2013

110. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for March 2013 and the provisional report for April 2013 be noted.

111. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for April 2013, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £58,555.21.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

112. 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.

113. LAND REGISTRY

Members considered copy correspondence sent to Carmarthenshire County Council from the Land Registry Wales Office. After a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that the Burial Authority accepts the contents of the correspondence and the Secretary confirm this in writing to Carmarthenshire County Council so that it may in turn respond positively to the points raised by the Land Registry Wales Office.

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The meeting concluded at 4:20 pm
.....”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

138. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

RESOLVED that the letters of appreciation for the Council's assistance received from the following, be noted with pleasure:

- (1) Cruse Bereavement Care;

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- (2) Guide Dogs – Llanelli & District Branch;
- (3) Immediate Past Chairman of Council;
- (4) Kidney Wales Foundation;
- (5) Llanelli Ramblers Festival of Walks 2013;
- (6) Pontyates Rugby Football Club;
- (7) University Hospital of Wales;
- (8) Wales Air Ambulance.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.20 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 10 September, 2013, adopted by the Council.