

11 June, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 82 – 93

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 11 June, 2013, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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| F. Akhtar | T. Devichand |
| L. A. Beer | G. N. R. Edwards |
| T. Bowen | H. J. Evans |
| L. J. Butler | M. L. Evans |
| S. M. Caiach | S. N. Lewis |
| D. M. Cundy | A. G. Morgan |
| M. V. Davies | C. A. Rees |
| S. L. Davies | W. V. Thomas |
| G. H. Wooldridge | |

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R. E. Evans and A. J. Rogers.

83. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

84. 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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| Annual Meeting | 14 May, 2013 |
| Adjourned Annual Meeting | 16 May, 2013 |
| Council | 16 May, 2013 |
| Finance and General Purposes Committee | 16 May, 2013 |
| Recreation and Welfare Committee | 16 May, 2013 |
| Planning and Liaison Committee | 16 May, 2013 |
| Policy and Resources Committee | 16 May, 2013 |
| Civic and Ceremonial Committee | 16 May, 2013 |
| Community Development Grants Panel | 16 May, 2013 |
| Learning and Development Consultative Committee | 16 May, 2013 |
| Recreation and Welfare Committee | 21 May, 2013 |
| Policy and Resources Committee | 22 May, 2013 |

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Finance and General Purposes Committee
Planning and Liaison Committee

29 May, 2013
3 June, 2013

85. CORRECTION OF MINUTES

(1) CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Further to Minute No 3, Cllr. T. Devichand requested her thanks to Wendy Evans, Moira James, Helen Williams and Victoria Allen for the conscientious secretarial support received during her term of office and for the successful charity events organised be formally recorded in the said Minute, along with her thanks to the Clerk and Cllr. D. M. Cundy for finding the time to attend her mother's funeral in Tonypany; this meant a lot to her personally.

RESOLVED accordingly.

(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Further to Minute No. 73, Cllr. W. V. Thomas stated that the 'Further Resolution' contained in the said Minute did not reflect the true meaning of what was discussed and agreed and that it should read as follows:

"FURTHER RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee be requested to review the policy for awarding financial assistance so as to allow greater flexibility under the scheme",

RESOLVED accordingly.

86. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 20, the Clerk provided Members with a progress report on events and matters since the last meeting.

Members were informed that Unison had commissioned an independent report on Hywel Dda Health Board's proposed healthcare changes. The report author, much in the same vain as the Council's management consultants (Bellis Jones-Hill), raised similar points in identifying gaps and omissions, as well as raising a number of questions over delivery of the plans.

The Clerk then referred to a letter sent from the Health Minister to the Hywel Dda Community Health Council (CHC) dated 31 May, 2013, which he read out to Members. The letter informed of the intention of setting up a service change scrutiny panel to be convened by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales. The panel would examine evidence and provide detailed advice and recommendations on the services in question. This in turn would form the basis of the Health Minister's determination over neonatal services specifically in relation to Glangwili and Wthybush Hospitals and A&E services at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH). No other service areas would be considered.

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The letter offered the CHC the opportunity to submit further information to the Minister in respect of its referral; this needed to be done by 21 June, next. In this regard the Clerk confirmed that he had met with an officer of the CHC to furnish that body with additional information as a means of assisting it. The letter also made reference to Judicial Review proceedings in respect of A&E services at PPH. The letter informed that the application for Judicial Review had been refused by the High Court but the claimant might ask for the decision to be reconsidered at a hearing in open court. Accordingly, the Health Minister might defer his consideration of the A&E service, depending on how the application progressed.

Finally, the letter addressed, in general terms, the points made by the CHC about the Health Board's consultation. As the points centred around the Health Board's consultation with the wider public and other bodies as opposed to its consultation with the CHC, the points raised did not appear to be within the scope of the CHC Regulations. Therefore, because the points fell outside the remit of the regulations, the Minister was unable to make a determination about them. However, once the current round of consultation across Wales had been completed, the Minister intended to commission a 'lessons learned' review of the different consultation exercises and would ensure the CHC's points were considered as part of that process.

General discussion thereupon ensued and Members expressed their frustration that the public was not being listened to and the Health Minister appeared only to be guided by medical opinion and it was

RESOLVED that the progress report be noted and to await further developments.

**87. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE
MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AUTHORITY**

Members considered the following notice of motion received from Cllr. W. V. Thomas that:

"Llanelli Rural Council expresses its disappointment that Mid and West Wales Fire Authority cut the number of Fire Fighters in Llanelli by half, and voted against the motion to renegotiate a compromise with unions".

In support of the motion, Cllr. Thomas provided further clarification on the rationale behind the motion and commented on the voting pattern of the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority Members in arriving at its decision not to renegotiate with the unions. The decision was disappointing and demonstrated little consideration or support for the valuable service provided by the whole time crew based at Llanelli.

General discussion ensued during which Members were generally supportive of the motion but were mindful of pending actions confirmed at previous Council meetings namely: to meet with the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) to receive its views about the changes to the crewing arrangements in Llanelli and the subsequent impact on the front line service; also the desire to meeting with ACFO Derek Masson once again following the Fire Service's written confirmation that ACFO Masson would return to the Council Chamber in the autumn to review with Members the impact of the changes and to discuss how the new crewing arrangements had bedded in (to which Minute No 407, 12 February, 2013 refers).

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In view of these pending actions and notwithstanding the decision made by the Fire Authority, Members felt determination of the Notice of Motion was premature. Accordingly, the Leader of Council put forward an amendment which having been put to the vote was agreed upon; the affect of which was to defer determination of the motion until a later date whereby it would be kept in abeyance until such time as the two courses of action outlined earlier had been resolved to the Council's satisfaction. The Council would then reconsider the matter based upon information garnered from those meetings with the FBU and ACFO Masson, following which, the Notice of Motion would be re-presented for Council determination and it was

RESOLVED that determination of the Notice of Motion be deferred and that the matter is kept in abeyance with it being re-presented to the Council once the said meetings had taken place later in the year.

88. LLANELLI TOWN AND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCILS

Further to Minute No. 494 (9 April, 2013), Members considered a letter received from the Clerk, Llanelli Town Council inviting up to seven representatives of the Council to attend and serve upon its Task & Finish Group on Local Governance. Its next meeting was taking place on 14 June, 2013 at 6.00 pm.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED that as a precursor to attending any meeting, a meeting be convened between respective Council Leaders and Clerks.

89. HMS TRENCHANT

Correspondence was received from the Commanding Officer, I G Lindsay, Commander Royal Navy, informing that HMS Trenchant would be soon returning from its deployment to Devonport after what had been the longest ever deployment for a Royal Navy SSN.

Commander Lindsay would be relieved as Commanding Officer of HMS Trenchant upon return to Devonport by Commander Chris Coles but extended an invitation to Members to visit the submarine towards the end of the year.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the invitation be accepted and the Chairman of Council, Leader of Council and Clerk be nominated to attend.

90. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

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104. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for March 2013, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £62,709.64.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

105. 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.

106. EMPLOYING AUTHORITY DISCRETIONS

Members considered whether to adopt an injury allowance under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011 and it was

RESOLVED that an injury allowance not be adopted under the said regulations.

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The meeting concluded at 4:15 pm
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

92. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Bynea & District Forum;
- (2) Carmarthenshire Youth and Children’s Association;
- (3) Dafen Welfare AFC;
- (4) Dafen Welfare Crusaders Bowls Club;
- (5) Eglwys Libanus;
- (6) Felinfoel Cricket Club;
- (7) Guide Dogs – Llanelli Branch;
- (8) Halfway Primary School;
- (9) Llanelli & District Association for Spina-Bifida and Hydrocephalus;
- (10) Llanelli Woodturning Club;
- (11) Pwll Action Committee;
- (12) South Wales Junior Cricket League;
- (13) St. David’s Church, Llwynhendy;
- (14) Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal.

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93. MEMBERS FELICITATIONS

Members conveyed their congratulations to the Clerk's daughter for representing Swim Wales in an international swimming competition held in Bellinzona, Switzerland and for winning a silver medal and it was

RESOLVED that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Miss T Galbraith.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.30 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 9 July, 2013, adopted by the Council.