

**11 September, 2012.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 167 – 175**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 11 September, 2012, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Devichand (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

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

**167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. J. Butler, S. M. Donoghue and S. N. Lewis.

**168. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**169. 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:-

Council	10 July, 2012
Recreation and Welfare Committee	17 July, 2012
Policy and Resources Committee	18 July, 2012
Finance and General Purposes Committee	25 July, 2012
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	26 July, 2012
Special Council	1 August, 2012
Planning and Liaison Committee	13 August, 2012
Planning and Liaison Committee	3 September, 2012

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**170. MATTERS ARISING**

**(1) PRESS COVERAGE**

Further to Minute No. 116 (2) discussion arose over recent Council press releases concerning Prince Philip Hospital not being reported by the Llanelli Star newspaper. Following a short discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Leader of Council meet with the newspaper editor to discuss the matter further.

**(2) RAINWATER MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

Further to Minute No. 156, and in response to a request made by Cllr Caiach for the said minute to be elaborated upon to highlight specific questions of importance that were put to Mr Fergus O'Brien, Contract Waste Manager, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water during his presentation over water quality issues, it was

**RESOLVED** that the questions and answers annotated below be included as part of minute No. 156 for future reference purposes:

“Question 1

Will the Rainwater Management Scheme as planned allow the local sewage treatment to be compliant with the E.U. Urban Waste Water Directive.

Response: No. The water quality will be improved but will not meet the regulatory standard.

Question 2

Local people would like Llanelli beach to be designated a bathing beach. The County Council has stopped sampling the beach and previous readings showed high coliform bacteria readings. If the beach is designated a bathing beach the beach would have to be sampled regularly and there would be an incentive to improve the water quality.

Response: There is no reason why the beach should not be designated a bathing beach if it is used for bathing. There have been many Welsh beaches designated as such in the last year, especially in Pembrokeshire whose examples you may wish to look at. However, because of the geographical position of Llanelli beach it is likely that the water quality will always be “poor” on testing.

Question 3

In order to overcome sewage flooding in Nelson Terrace it was decided to regularly pump untreated sewage from this street into the Lliedi river close to Llanelli beach. Are there any plans to put this sewage into the treatment system?

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Response: No. There are no plans. We hope that the Rainwater Management Scheme will decrease the number of times the pumping is required, but there are no plans to change this arrangement.”

**171. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL**

- (1) TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION EVENT  
HALLIWELL CONFERENCE CENTRE, CARMARTHEN**
- (2) CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGED WITH HYWEL DDA HEALTH BOARD**
- (3) CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGED WITH HYWEL DDA COMMUNITY  
HEALTH COUNCIL**
- (4) INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE  
NHS TRUST (WAST)**
- (5) HYWEL DDA HEALTH BOARD’S CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND  
PLANS REGARDING PROPOSALS TO RECONFIGURE HOSPITAL  
SERVICES**

The Clerk reported he had used delegated powers to respond to an invitation received from the health board for the Council to nominate two representatives to attend a forthcoming consultation event for Carmarthenshire Town and Community Councils to be held on Thursday 13 September at 7:00pm, Cothi Suite, Halliwell Conference Centre, Carmarthen (to which item (1) above refers). The Clerk confirmed that both he and the Leader of the Council would be attending. The event was being used by the health board as an opportunity to have an in depth discussion as to why it considered health services had to change and for it to outline its proposals.

The Clerk then summarised various actions and activities that had arisen since the Special Council meeting held on 1 August 2012 and the subsequent issue of his information report to Members dated 10 August 2012. He proceeded to update Members and in doing so referred to the bundle of correspondence and information despatched with the Council agenda and which was listed in items (2), (3), (4) and (5) above. There then followed a general discussion of the said enclosures.

In support of the Clerk’s information update, the Leader confirmed that the planned joint meeting with local GPs (being organised by Llanelli Town Council) was to be held on 20 September next and he referred to his attendance at the health board’s public consultation event which was held at Parc Y Scarlets on 4 September 2012. During the ensuing discussion Members’ attention was drawn to WAST’s operational directive 41 which formed part of its information response in item (4) above. The directive was quite revealing and had been issued to paramedics to help determine where they ought to transfer emergency care patients given the current restrictions placed on the A&E service at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH). It was noted the directive had not been updated since 2007 and misgivings were expressed as to whether PPH would have on site resuscitation facilities in place and available going forward. The role and the amount of pressure placed on the paramedics was also briefly discussed together with the life decisions they were presented with on an on-going daily basis. This tied into the need for a robust risk assessment process which Members felt was sadly lacking at the present time given that no other documented procedures had been

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provided by either the health board or WAST to support the health board's arguments about clinical safety.

*Cllr R. E. Evans withdrew from the meeting.*

Members also raised the important issue of self presenting emergency care patients not knowing which hospital was the most suitable to receive the patient in order to administer the correct care arrangements under current and planned A&E restrictions: Signposting the patient was critical. The nurse led A&E service proposed for PPH had already been introduced in Rochdale, where apparently there was so much patient confusion the Ambulance Service was being used as a triage service. It was felt the same would happen in Llanelli and the Ambulance Service would be overwhelmed. Mention was also made that staff at PPH didn't support the health board's plans for PPH, it was alleged the doctors and nurses felt the proposals were unsafe and wouldn't work.

The Clerk referred to the health board's consultation documents and supporting evidence listed in item (5) above, He commented that while the documents had been presented to today's meeting they would be re-presented during the course of the consultation process which would end on 29 October 2012. Prior to determining the next steps it was important to garner an initial opinion about the documents from the Council's management consultants; this would influence the courses of action available to the Council. Members concurred but felt ultimately the reconfiguration proposals would be taken up with the Health Minister, Welsh Government.

In summarising the discussions, the Leader stated the Council needed to continue to press ahead with its approach. The questions raised at today's meeting would be raised at the consultation event to be held in Carmarthen on Thursday evening. However, it was still important to receive the views of WAST, by it agreeing to send a representative to one of the Council's up and coming meetings. He felt if WAST continued to decline the Council's reasonable invitation requests then perhaps the matter ought to be referred for the attention of the Health Minister and or possibly the Community Health Council. It was also important to encourage the public to respond to the consultation process by completing the questionnaires and it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) The Clerk's and Leader's attendance at the consultation event being held in Carmarthen on 13 September 2012 be noted and that an information report or similar be fed back to Members in due course.
- (2) The correspondence exchanged with Hywel Dda Health Board, the Community Health Council and WAST be noted.
- (3) The consultation documents and plans published by the health board be revisited once a response had been received from the Council's management consultants.
- (4) Continue to liaise with WAST over the Council's previous invitations for it to attend one of the Council's up and coming meetings.

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**172. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS – TIR EINON PARK, LLWYNHENDY**

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised in affixing the Council’s Seal on the Lease of Tir Einon Park, Llwynhendy.

**173. MATTERS REPORTED**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**174. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of meetings of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 13 June and 28 June, 2012:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 13 June, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Present: J. Williams (Chairman)

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar	S. L. Davies
L. A. Beer	R. M. Davies
T. Bowen	P. J. Edmunds
C. C. Lucas	

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Members proceeded to appoint a Chairman and following the motion of Cllr. S. L. Davies, seconded by Cllr. T. Bowen, it was

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. L. A. Beer be appointed Chairman.

**2. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Cllr. L. A. Beer thanked Members for appointing her as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Following the motion of Cllr. C. C. Lucas, seconded by Cllr. J. Williams, it was

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. P. J. Edmunds be appointed Vice Chairman.

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**4. VOTE OF THANKS**

RESOLVED that the Committee place on record its appreciation and gratitude to Cllr. J. Williams the retiring Chairman, for successfully fulfilling her term of office and for the valuable service provided.

**5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. N. Lewis and M. J. P. Burns.

**6. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**7. 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 - 24 May 2012

**8. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for April 2012 and the provisional report for May 2012 be noted.

**9. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for May 2012, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £27,587.64.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**10. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31  
MARCH 2012**

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2012, (copies of which had been previously circulated) and it was

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts be accepted.

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11. DATE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Further to Minute No. 80 (8 February 2012), Members were informed that due to the new deadline for submitting the Annual Return it was necessary to hold a special meeting to confirm the accounting statements in sections 1 and 2 of Annual Return and that a special meeting would take place on Thursday 28 June 2012 at 4.00pm.

RESOLVED that the revised date be noted.

12. 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.

13. STAFFING MATTER

The Secretary presented Members with a report on a staffing matter and it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 4:20 pm  
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At the special Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 28 June 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Present: L. A. Beer (Chairman)

Cllrs.

M. J. P Burns                      S. L. Davies  
C. C. Lucas

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar, T. Bowen, R. M. Davies, P. J. Edmunds and S. N. Lewis.

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15. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

16. AUDIT ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2012

Members considered the Audit Annual Return document for the financial year ending 31 March 2012 and it was

RESOLVED that the general preparation of the document which included a summary of the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 and the Annual Governance Statement provided in Section 2 be approved accordingly.

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The meeting concluded at 4:05 pm”  
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**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be noted.

**175. LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

**RESOLVED** that a letter of appreciation for the Council's assistance received from Macmillan Cancer Support be noted with pleasure.

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The Meeting concluded at 7:00 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 9 October, 2012, adopted by the Council.