

13 September, 2011.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 158 – 171

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 13 September, 2011, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. N. Lewis (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	T. Devichand
S. M. Caiach	H. J. Evans
D. J. Davies	T. Rh. Ifan
M. L. Davies	A. G. Morgan
M. V. Davies	C. A. Rees
S. L. Davies	B. C. M. Reynolds
A. C. Thomas	

Together with Inspector James Davies, Dyfed Powys Police.

158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue, M. L. Evans, T. J. Jones, M. J. Lewis and V. R. Thomas.

159. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. T. Devichand declared a personal interest in Minute No. 163 as she was a member of the Hywel Dda Community Health Council.

160. FELINFOEL POLICE STATION

The Chairman welcomed Inspector James Davies, Dyfed Powys Police to the meeting and invited him to address Members regarding the anticipated closure of Felinfoel Police Station.

Inspector Davies informed Members that the decision to close Felinfoel Police Station was earmarked over a time frame of 3 – 15 months but unfortunately he had no additional information to comment further at this stage. Inspector Davies gave an assurance the closure would have no effect on the community; the four police officers would remain on duty in Felinfoel with a possibility of them being stationed at Llwynhendy Police Station. He confirmed the Felinfoel Community Resource Centre was being considered for holding police surgeries.

13 September, 2011.

However, Inspector Davies believed that Felinfoel Community Resource Centre could not be used as a permanent operational base because of the range of I.T. equipment required to be installed. If it was used, it was likely that officers would not be stationed there on a permanent basis. He commented that Felinfoel police station was not always manned. He reassured Members that whilst the building might be going, police presence in Felinfoel would remain the same as it is now.

The Clerk informed Members that a meeting had been arranged for 7 October with Chief Inspector Lewis to discuss the possible use of Felinfoel Community Resource Centre as an alternative police base in Felinfoel, whereupon it was suggested that the Leader of Council also attend the meeting to offer Member support to the Clerk.

Following a number of questions from the floor, Members conveyed their concern over the closure of Felinfoel Police Station and thanked Inspector Davies for attending and he thereupon withdrew from the meeting and it was

RESOLVED that the outcome of the Clerk's meeting planned for 7 October, be the subject of a further report at the next ordinary Council meeting prior to determining any further course of action.

161. 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	12 July, 2011
Recreation and Welfare Committee	19 July, 2011
Planning and Liaison Committee	25 July, 2011
Finance and General Purposes Committee	27 July, 2011
Planning and Liaison Committee	15 August, 2011
Planning and Liaison Committee	5 September, 2011

162. MATTERS ARISING

Arising out of Minute No. 129, Cllr. C. A. Rees thanked Members for their good wishes.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

163. HEALTH ISSUES

Cllr. T. Devichand declared a personal interest in the following items as she was a member of the Hywel Dda Community Health Council.

(1) ENDOSCOPY UNIT AT PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

The Clerk stated the item had been put on the agenda at the request of the Leader of Council following concerns raised in a press article published in July 2011 which stated the Endoscopy Unit at Prince Philip Hospital was currently generally classified as not fit for

13 September, 2011.

purpose. Contact had been made with the Hywel Dda Health Board over the matter but unfortunately no representative was able to attend today's Council meeting to answer questions regarding the condition of Endoscopy Unit and moreover, what might be planned for the Unit in the future. However, a press release had been forwarded from the Health Board's headquarters over the matter (copies of which were circulated to Members at the meeting).

Members voiced their concerns over the importance of retaining the Unit at Prince Philip Hospital and emphasized the need for a representative from the Hywel Dda Health Board and possibly the Community Health Council to attend a future meeting to provide reassurance the Endoscopy Unit was fully functional and fit for purpose. Furthermore, that it featured in any reconfiguration plans affecting hospital services at Prince Philip Hospital in the future, and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the Health Board extending and invitation for a senior health representative to attend the next Council meeting.

(2) TALKING HEALTH

Correspondence was received from the Director of Corporate Services, Hywel Dda Health Board informing of a new involvement and engagement scheme called Siarad Iechyd/Talking Health. The new scheme was to give staff and local people an opportunity to have their say in how local health services were planned, developed and delivered.

People could join Talking Health as individuals or as a representative of an organisation. Members would receive regular newsletters and updates on their health services and would be able to choose to take part in ongoing discussions about health matters through events, readers' panels, interest groups, surveys and volunteering according to their interest.

Cllr. Devichand as a member of the Community Health Council advocated the initiative to the Council and encouraged all Members to sign up to the scheme as it was imperative that as many people as possible had a say in shaping Llanelli's future health service provision. In addition to the 'Talking Health' scheme, the Community Health Council was planning a series of consultation seminars in the local area which would hopefully be accessible to all.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

164. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES – JOINT NOMINATION – YSGOL GYMRAEG DEWI SANT

Members considered correspondence from the Director of Education and Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council stating that Cllr. K. D. Rees' (Llanelli Town Council) term of office was due to cease on 9 December, 2011. Given the vacancy was a joint nomination it was therefore necessary for the Rural Council in conjunction with Llanelli Town Council to agree upon a nomination in order to fill the said vacancy.

13 September, 2011.

The Clerk reported that he could not recall the Council being consulted over this matter previously and no records were held on file to suggest that the vacancy had been treated as a joint nomination in the past. Nevertheless, he had held initial discussions with the Town Clerk over the vacancy and it was confirmed that Cllr. Rees had held office since 1999 and it was likely that Cllr. Rees would wish to be re-nominated to the position when his term of office came to an end in December.

Members recognised Ysgol Dewi Sant was located in the Town Council area and also Cllr. Rees' long standing service to the school and as such felt that Cllr. Rees ought to be given first refusal over the vacancy. However, in the unlikely event that Cllr. Rees did not wish to continue in office then the Council would wish to reconsider whether it ought to put forward a new nomination from one of its own Members to fill the vacancy and it was

RESOLVED that Llanelli Town Council be notified of Members' views and to await its reply before responding to the letter received from Carmarthenshire County Council about filling the vacancy.

165. EXTERNAL EVENTS

Members considered an invitation for the Council to be represented at a Gala Lunch at Stradey Castle on 24 September, 2011, in aid of Plant Dewi. It was confirmed that the Chairman of Council was attending but should other Members wish to attend they were perfectly welcome to join her and it was

RESOLVED that interested Members do attend and that bookings for the event be made through the Council's administration office.

166. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

167. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 8 June, 2011:-

“At the Annual Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 8 June 2011 at 4:00 pm.

Present: A.G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

M. J. P. Burns
L. J. Butler
M. V. Davies

W. J. Lemon
K. D. Rees
J. Williams

13 September, 2011.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Prior to appointing a Chairman, Cllr. A. G. Morgan thanked fellow members for their support over the last two years whilst acting in his capacity as both Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Burial Authority. Members thereupon proceeded to appoint a Chairman and following the motion of Cllr. W. J. Lemon, seconded by Cllr. M. J. P. Burns, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. J. Williams be appointed Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr. J. Williams extended her appreciation to Cllr. A. G. Morgan the outgoing Chairman and thanked Members for appointing her as Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Following the motion of Cllr. A. G. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. M. J. P Burns, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. L. J. Butler be appointed Vice Chairman.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. M. Donoghue and C. A. Rees.

5. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

6. 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 - 11 May 2011

7. MATTERS ARISING

CEMETERY LAND

Further to Minute No. 116 (11 May 2011), Members were informed that the Cemetery Manager had met with AJW and reaffirmed the Burial Authority's decision. However AJW's property had yet to be removed from cemetery land. Members were informed that the situation would be monitored and if there was no satisfactory progress, the matter would be formally escalated.

13 September, 2011.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

8. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for April 2011 and the provisional report for May 2011 be noted.

9. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for May 2011, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £19,363.69.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matters 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.

11. HAND ARM VIBRATION (HAVS)

The Cemetery Manager presented Members with a report regarding the various HAVS monitoring systems available. After a lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Reactec Havmeter be approved for purchase at a cost of £3,398.00 and the funds be vired from general reserves.

12. 1911 RAILWAY STRIKE RIOTS – CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Further to Minute No. 33 Resolution 3 (8 September 2010), the Cemetery Manager presented Members with five quotations for the refurbishment work needed on the two memorial stones in connection with the planned centenary celebrations. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the quotation provided by Mr Mike Matthews, Monumental Mason of Cwm Yard, Cockett, Swansea for the sum of £645 plus VAT be accepted and the money be vired from ear marked reserves code 328 (Repairs to Monuments).

13. CEMETERY BOUNDARY

Members considered a letter from RT regarding the refurbishment of the cemetery boundary in connection with an overgrown hedgerow which had been removed. Members referred to the recent site visit to the cemetery and noted that the hedgerow had been cut back to

13 September, 2011.

facilitate the on-going maintenance programme and that it was always intended to re-plant a new section of hedgerow in its place. To aid health and safety a section of climb proof fencing had been positioned in front of the exposed embankment until the new hedgerow had grown back.

The Cemetery Manager informed Members of the numerous attempts to contact RT about what was planned but to date he had been unsuccessful in making contact with the individual and it was

RESOLVED that the Cemetery Manager’s actions be noted and that plans to replace the hedgerow be actioned as soon as possible.

.....”
The meeting concluded at 4:35 pm
.....

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of the above Cllrs. S. M. Caiach and M. V. Davies referred to Minute No. 12 and the centenary celebrations in respect of the railway riots. Both Members wanted to place on record their thanks and appreciation to the Burial Authority for its kind generosity in paying for the refurbishment of the two memorials of the men killed in the riots and remarked that the memorials had been restored to an excellent standard.

168. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Carmarthen County Bowling Association;
- (2) Holy Trinity Felinfoel Church Hall Committee;
- (3) Llanelli Writers’ Circle; and
- (4) Marie Curie Cancer Care.

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

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter in Minute No. 170 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.

170. COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

Further to Minute No. 73, Members received the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) in respect of Vauxhall Buildings and it was

13 September, 2011.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and Officers proceed as requested over the legal matters raised.

171. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman informed Members of the recent demise of Jamie Phillips, the Welsh International Fly Fishing Member from the Dafen Ward and stated that a condolence card had been sent to his family.

.....

The Meeting concluded at 6.55 p.m.

.....

The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 11 October, 2011, adopted by the Council.