

17 July, 2012

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 121 – 133

At a Meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 17 July, 2012, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. H. J. Evans (Chairman)

Cllrs.

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| F. Akhtar | G. N. R. Edwards |
| L. J. Butler | T. J. Jones |
| D. M. Cundy | M. L. Evans |
| S. L. Davies | W. V. Thomas |
| G. H. Wooldridge | |

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Bowen, T. Devichand (Cllr F. Akhtar deputising) and A. G. Morgan.

122. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

123. PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED that the report of the Technical Services Officer on work undertaken be noted.

124. TIR EINON PLAY AREA

Members considered the Technical Services Officer's report regarding the new play equipment at Tir Einon Park together with supporting comments from the Clerk. The report had been prepared following the reporting of a playground accident and subsequent Council investigation after a member of the public expressed concern that some of the play equipment might be unsafe.

On completion of the new playground, the playground contractor commissioned an independent inspection to risk assess the play equipment; the overall risk rating of the park was low. However, as part of the investigation process the playground contractor had been

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recalled to site to further assess the equipment and safety surfaces which were subject to the investigation. It was confirmed that all the equipment and safety surfaces conformed to current play safety standards and in support of the findings, and the equipment under investigation, the playground contractor also presented the Council with additional design certificates confirming compliance.

ROSPA had also carried out its annual inspection of the play area. The Play Safety Inspector had rated the play area as medium risk because the adult gym area had not been segregated from the remainder of the children's play area with a fence to prevent children accidentally straying into it. However, this general observation had nothing to do with the reported accident which occurred in a different part of the playground. ROSPA had also confirmed the playground installation conformed to current standards.

Members were informed that despite having the necessary assurance from the risk assessment process and having the safety certificates in place, the Council wanted to be thorough with its investigation process. Consequently, ROSPA had been invited to revisit the site to perform impact tests (from intended usage height) on the equipment subject to the investigation. The results revealed compliance with current safety standards. Reassuringly, the Play Safety Inspector commented the overall installation of the equipment was carried out to a very high standard, with the equipment being supplied by a well known and credible playground company. In particular the wet pour surface was of a nice tight crumb with no cracking or areas that felt hard underfoot. Furthermore, the type of units installed were used all over the country and if used as designed posed no major issues and offered a good range of play value for all age groups.

As part of the investigation process the Council had also contacted the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) but it was confirmed by the HSE the accident was not reportable under RIDDOR regulations.

Members commented the accident was regrettable but it was very difficult to mitigate against all types of risk especially if the equipment was not used as intended. Furthermore, Members were also aware of the general problem of lack of parental supervision in the park with very young children allegedly being left to play unsupervised but this was a common problem associated with most other parks and playgrounds and not just Tir Einon Park.

Following discussion during which Members considered the options available to the Council to help control risk including the possible removal of the equipment subject to investigation, it was

RESOLVED that

1. The outcome of the Council's investigation be accepted and noted.
2. The equipment be monitored for the time being with the situation being kept under review.

Cllrs D. M. Cundy and G. N. R. Edwards joined the meeting midway through discussion of Minute No. 124 above.

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125. FELINFOEL RECREATION GROUND

(1) FELINFOEL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Further to Minute No. 216 (11 October 2011) Members considered a draft set of suggested Heads of Terms for a lease for the use of first floor office space at the Resource Centre by Dyfed Powys Police.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

1. The suggested 'Heads of Terms' for the lease be accepted in principle and that the information be forwarded to the management committee namely Felinfoel Executive Committee Ltd for its further consideration; and in anticipation of its acceptance by the committee
2. Dyfed Powys Police be contacted to confirm the suggested Heads of Terms for the lease had been accepted in principle and that a draft lease be prepared by it for consideration and execution by the Felinfoel Executive Committee Ltd.

(2) NEW PLAY AREA

Members considered a request for a letter of support from Communities First Felinfoel in aid of the organisation's bid to secure grant funding to provide a brand new playground facility on land immediately adjacent to the recreation ground. Members were informed that there was a piece of unused land adjacent to Felinfoel Recreation Ground which was owned by Carmarthenshire County Council. It was hoped to acquire the land and apply for a grant to install a new play area to replace the one which was removed when the new Community Resource Centre was built. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that a letter of support be forwarded to Communities First Felinfoel also confirming the Council is prepared to take on the ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the proposed play area, should everything proceed as planned.

(3) FELINFOEL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Members considered a letter received from the rugby club Secretary of Felinfoel RFC requesting permission to convert the Council owned project development sign board at the recreation ground entrance into an advertisement board for use by the cricket, football and rugby clubs. The sign was now surplus to requirements as the project had been completed.

Members were receptive to the sign board being re-used in principle but were mindful that access issues at the recreation ground entrance needed to be resolved in the first instance. Consequently the sign board might have to be relocated to the opposite side of the entrance gate. Furthermore, and in any event planning permission would be required before it could be re-used for an alternative purpose and it was

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RESOLVED that the request be supported in principle and the rugby club be informed of the underlying issues surrounding the re-use of the sign board and that these issues will need to be addressed prior to the Council being in a position to hand the sign board over to the sports clubs.

128. DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT

Members considered a request from Cllr. T. J. Jones to extend Carmarthenshire County Council's dog fouling enforcement programme to cover the Council's parks and play areas.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that Carmarthenshire County Council be contacted to put in place the necessary permissions and arrangements.

129. BUS SHELTERS

Members discussed the Council's involvement in the provision and maintenance of bus shelters following Cllr S. L. Davies' request for the matter to be included on the agenda for general discussion. The provision of bus shelters was a concurrent function but the placement and maintenance of bus shelters had been taken back under the control of Carmarthenshire County Council. The extent of the County Council's current programme was unclear and given the current economic climate some Members were of the opinion that the County Council was not able to fully maintain existing stock. Prior to discussing the matter further, it was felt more information was needed and it was

RESOLVED that a representative of Carmarthenshire County Council be invited to the next meeting to explain its policy on the provision of bus shelters and their general upkeep.

130. LLANELLI & MYNYDD MAWR RAILWAY. CO. LTD

Members considered a letter received from the Project Manager, Llanelli & Mynydd Mawr Railway Co. Ltd requesting the Council's formal support for a grant application to the Welsh Government's grant funding scheme (CFAP) for a heritage centre at Cynheidre.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that a letter of support be forwarded to the Project Manager, wishing the company every success with its funding application.

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131. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- (1) DAFEN WELFARE AFC;**
- (2) PWLL FOOTBALL CLUB;**
- (3) TRALLWM AFC.**

Members considered requests for financial assistance from the above sports clubs.

RESOLVED that a grant of £600 be awarded to each club.

132. 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.

133. FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS

- (1) PONTHENRI AFC;**
- (2) PONTYATES WELFARE ASSOCIATION.**

Members were circulated with Statements of Accounts received from the above Management Committees.

RESOLVED that the annual grant of £300 be made to Ponthenri AFC for the years ending 31 May, 2011 and 31 May, 2012 respectively and Pontyates Welfare Association for the year ending 30 March, 2011.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.25 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 11 September, 2012, adopted by the Council.