

20 February, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 423 – 429

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 20 February, 2013 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. M. Cundy (Chairman)

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	M. L. Evans
L. J. Butler	T. J. Jones
S. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
S. M. Donoghue	A. G. Morgan
H. J. Evans	W. V. Thomas

423. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. V. Davies (Cllr. M. L. Evans deputising), T. Devichand (Cllr. S. L. Davies deputising) and G. N. R. Edwards.

424. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

425. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES FOR LLANGYNDEYRN, TRIMSARAN AND GLYN

Members considered correspondence from the Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council, stating that in accordance with the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1972, Carmarthenshire County Council was conducting a review of the communities of Llangyndeyrn, Trimsaran and Glyn.

The review would need to consider the redrawing of community boundaries and take into account the housing estate of Heol Waunhir and a further housing development that was planned in the future.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the review of community boundaries be supported in principle;
- (2) further enquiries be made with local Ward Members for their views and concerns; and
- (3) the matter be addressed at the next Policy and Resources Committee for further discussion.

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426. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF CARMARTHENSHIRE – DRAFT PROPOSALS

Members received correspondence from the Chief Executive, Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales enclosing the Commission's Draft Proposals for the future electoral arrangements for the County of Carmarthenshire.

The Commission proposed to increase the Council size from 74 to 75 elected Members and a change to the arrangement of electoral divisions from 58 to 47 electoral divisions with 23 electoral divisions being single-members (49%) and 24 electoral divisions being multi-member (51%). This would achieve a significant improvement in the level of electoral parity across the County of Carmarthenshire. The proposed electoral arrangements had a level of representation that ranged from 22% below to 24% above the proposed county average. The proposed council size resulted in an average of 1,881 electors being represented by each Councillor.

Members were informed the draft proposals had no bearing on the community electoral arrangements but the County electoral arrangements proposed the merger of the Bynea and Dafen electoral divisions and the Glyn and Swiss Valley electoral divisions.

There then followed a lengthy discussion on other more appropriate permutations as Members were of the strong opinion that the draft proposals were inappropriate in terms of promoting local ties and community affinity. Members felt a more appropriate arrangement would be to merge Bynea with the Llwynhendy electoral division instead of Dafen. Moreover, Members felt that the potential merger of Dafen and or Felinfoel and or Swiss Valley would offer a better solution going forward. Glyn could then either be left as a standalone single member division or alternatively it could possibly merged with Hengoed electoral division.

The Clerk revealed that he'd worked up a number of permutations based on the suggestions outlined by Members in order to try and arrive at a better balance of electoral parity going forward and which locally seemed to make more sense. In view of this it was

RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to the next committee meeting in order for the Clerk to provide a statistical analysis of the alternative proposals highlighted during the meeting so that a comparison can be made against the draft proposals.

427. WEBSITES FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Further to Minute No. 369, Members considered correspondence received from the Head of Scrutiny, Democracy & Participation Team, Welsh Government informing that the Minister for Local Government and Communities had released £1.25 million additional funding to county and county borough councils to support local democracy and public engagement.

Part of the money was intended to be used to assist in the development of websites for town and community councils as was provided for in the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill currently before the Assembly (to which Minute No. 369 refers). Each principal council would receive £500 multiplied by the number of town and community councils within its

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area. The writer confirmed that in many cases the funding would not be required because many councils already had a presence on the internet. However, it was suggested that councils contact the principal council in order perhaps to make use of the funding for website development and it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) the letter be noted;
- (2) an application be made to Carmarthenshire County Council for the funding to further develop the Council's website.

428. 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.

429. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 2:2013 be accepted.

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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 12 March, 2013, adopted by the Council.