

**19 October, 2010.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 247 - 257**

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, 19 October, 2010, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. L. J. Butler (Vice-Chairman (in the Chair))

**Cllrs.**

T. D. Bowen	T. Rh. Ifan
D. J. Davies	S. N. Lewis
S. L. Davies	B. C. M. Reynolds
S. M. Donoghue	A. C. Thomas
M. L. Evans	G. H. Wooldridge

**247. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Davies (Cllr. A. C. Thomas deputising), A. G. Morgan (Cllr. B. C. M. Reynolds deputising) and C. A. Rees (Cllr. T. D. Bowen deputising).

**248. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs. D. J. Davies and G. H. Wooldridge declared a personal interest in Minute No. 250 (2) as both were members of Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board, Asset Transfers Department.

**249. PROGRESS REPORT**

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

**250. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Cllrs. D. J. Davies and G. H. Wooldridge declared a personal interest in item (2) as both were members of Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board, Asset Transfers Department.

Members considered a letter received from Mrs. Elsa Davies, L.V.O. in respect of the following matters:-

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(1) QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

The first project to be approved by HM Queen Elizabeth in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee was the Queen Elizabeth II (QE2) Fields Initiative. The aim of the project would be to safeguard playing fields for local communities (similar to the King George V Scheme). The project was being led by HRH Prince William and organised across the UK through Fields in Trust (FIT) and was endorsed by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Recreational landowners, mostly local authorities, were being asked by FIT to identify fields which were important to their communities and to place a covenant on the fields to protect them for the future.

Mrs. Davies asked that the Council consider protecting any recreational land in its area as referred to above and to press Carmarthenshire County Council to do likewise.

(2) ASSET TRANSFER

The writer referred to Carmarthenshire County Council's intention to transfer some assets to town/community councils and other local bodies. Concern was expressed that any recreational assets, particularly land, should be done under optimum conditions and that covenants should be placed with FIT to ensure the protection of the facilities.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the letter be noted.

**251. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S COMMUNITY CHALLENGE**

E-mail correspondence was received from Carmarthenshire County Council promoting Carmarthenshire's Community Challenge which had recently been launched by the Prince of Wales.

The Challenge was open to individuals and groups in the County who would be given the opportunity and support to develop their own initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint.

**RESOLVED** that the correspondence be noted.

**252. LAND AT GLOBE ROW, DAFEN**

Further to Minute No. 99 (16 June. 2009), Members considered the report of the Technical Services Officer on the ground investigation survey report received from Quantum Geotechnical Ltd.

The following points had been identified:-

- Further subsidence on the site was possible from shallow mine work
- The report recommended laying a geotextile material over the existing ground, followed by 300mm of imported top soil suitable for a football pitch

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- Surface water soakaways could not be used for the development, therefore, the pitch would require a sports field drainage system with a discharge to a water course
- The river Dafen was 170m from the site and the Environment Agency had placed the site on Flood Zone 3 (i.e. 1 in 100 years and 1 in 200 from the sea)

During a lengthy discussion, Members referred to the extensive environmental impact the scheme would have on the land and surrounding area and to the overall costs needed to overcome the recommendations made in the report.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the survey report be noted;
- (2) the Council's Solicitors be informed that the project was not to proceed further and the Option to Lease should not be pursued with Carmarthenshire County Council; and that
- (3) a copy of the full ground investigation survey report be made available to Cllr. S. L. Davies.

**253. LLANELLI YOUTH THEATRE**

Members were circulated with an e-mail request received from the Administrator, Llanelli Youth Theatre, for the continued use of storage space at Furnace Community Hall.

The writer also informed that repairs/maintenance work to some of the sets was necessary and enquired as to whether the organisation could have access to the electricity supply for a few weeks.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the request for the continued use of storage space be acceded to; and that
- (2) Llanelli Youth Theatre be informed that arrangements for the re-charging of used electricity should be made directly with the Furnace Hall Management Committee.

**254. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE –**

- (1) **DAFEN WELFARE CRUSADERS BOWLS CLUB**
- (2) **DAFEN WELFARE BOWLS CLUB**

Members having considered letters received from the Secretaries of the above Clubs requesting the annual sports grant, it was

**RESOLVED** that a contribution of £300 be made to Dafen Welfare Crusaders Bowls Club and Dafen Welfare Bowls Club, respectively.

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**(3) TRALLWM AFC**

Pursuant to Minute No. 94, a letter was received from the Secretary, Trallwm AFC, requesting Members to reconsider an application for the annual sports grant.

Local Members having informed that the situation relating to the use of Trallwm Community Hall had improved, it was

**RESOLVED** that the annual sports grant of £600 be made to Trallwm AFC.

**255. 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.

**256. FURNACE COMMUNITY HALL – OLD BUILDING**

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) regarding the legalities involved with the sale of the former Furnace Community Hall.

The trustees, namely Furnace Community Hall Committee, would be responsible for the sale of the property and would need to follow Section 36 of the 1933 Charities Act. In order to sell the property, the Management Committee would have to convene a meeting inviting all inhabitants of the area of benefit, over 18 years, giving at least 14 days' notice of the date of that meeting. The vote to sell the hall would need a three-quarters majority of those in attendance. If the meeting made a decision to sell the hall, then the trustees would have to use the proceeds of the sale (after liabilities) as follows:-

- to purchase other property approved by the management committee and to be held in trust for the purposes
- towards such other charitable purposes or objects for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area.

The consent of the Charity Commission would have to be obtained in the use of the proceeds arising from the sale. The charitable status of the management committee would only cease when all proceeds arising from the sale of the property had been expended.

During the discussion, a Member challenged certain points and information previously reported on the subject. As the debate progressed, the Clerk felt the exchange undermined his professional integrity and he regarded the tone and behaviour of the Member to be inappropriate and intimidating. Accordingly, the Clerk requested that his concern be recorded in the Minutes and confirmed that he intended making a complaint about the Member's behaviour.

Discussion continued and Cllrs. T. D. Bowen and S. L. Davies withdrew from the meeting to attend other engagements. The Clerk proceeded to deal with the points raised by the said

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Member and in turn, responded to various questions posed by other Members. Having considered the explanation provided, a vote of confidence in the Clerk was passed and, it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Furnace Community Hall Management Committee, as the charitable organisation, needed to be informed of the sale process and its status;
- (2) if it decided to dispose of the former hall, the management committee would have to take responsibility for all matters relating to the sale in accordance with Section 36 of the 1993 Charities Act; and
- (3) if the management committee decided not to sell the property, the Council would withdraw its support for the building.

**257. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman reminded Members that members of staff were to take part in a Ladies' Driving Challenge in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity on Sunday, 24 October, 2010, and that sponsorship would be welcomed.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.45 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 November, 2010, adopted by the Council.