

21 July, 2010.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 141– 146

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, 21 July, 2010, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. J. Davies (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	T. Rh. Ifan
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
H. J. Evans	A. C. Thomas

141. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. L. Davies, T. Devichand and T. J. Jones.

142. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**143. LOCAL AUTHORITY BYELAWS IN WALES –
A CONSULTATION PAPER – PROCEDURES FOR
MAKING, CONFIRMING AND ENFORCING BYELAWS**

Members having considered the above consultation document, completed a questionnaire as follows:-

- (1) No byelaws had been made or amended by this Authority in the past 5 years.
- (2) The Council had never used a byelaw and therefore, it was difficult to assess a regulatory mechanism.
- (3) There was too much process and procedure in byelaw making. They could be too time consuming and the lack of local public involvement were considered detrimental to the present framework.
- (4) The confirmation of Welsh Ministers added value to the making of byelaws by simplifying the process, removing barriers and provided the necessary scrutiny.
- (5) Members believed that the Welsh Assembly Government should scrutinise all byelaws where there appeared to be conflict with a local community's wishes. It was felt that there should be an appeals process led by the Assembly similar to the process for dealing with planning applications.
- (6) There was value in the Welsh Assembly Government continuing its role by providing guidance for appealing against the making of a byelaw.

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- (7) Members felt the most effective vehicles for informing and delivering would be via regional roadshows, training seminars, the creation of a database and better networking opportunities.
- (8) Unitary authorities should play some role in relation to byelaws made by community and town councils by offering guidance and advice. They could possibly offer enforcement support through its staff resource and this could equally apply to community councils offering support to county councils – consultation in both directions was considered essential.
- (9) The questions regarding current consultation were not applicable.
- (10) Byelaws should continue to be advertised in local newspapers and also other media e.g the internet and community news papers.
- (11) There was a case for a mechanism for referring disputed byelaw proposals to the Welsh Assembly Government if there were significant objections to a proposed byelaw.
- (12) It was not thought that other authorities or another part of the byelaw-making authority could perform the role as it was preferred that there was a separate means of redress which should rest with the Assembly.
- (13) The means of enforcing byelaws should be amended so that they were no longer subject to action in the Magistrates Courts, but would instead be liable to fixed penalty notices. This would provide a financial incentive to encourage councils to undertake effective enforcement.
- (14) Awareness of byelaws in force in open areas should be made without adding to street clutter by local awareness campaigns, leaflet drops, media releases, roadshows, etc.
- (15) Byelaws should include a timescale which could vary depending upon the nature of the byelaw and/or its popularity or sensitivity.
- (16) Members were in favour of simplifying the byelaw regime in a manner similar to that described within the consultation document.

RESOLVED that the Clerk forward the completed questionnaire to Local Government Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government.

144. 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.

145. VEHICLE – LANDROVER

Pursuant to Minute No. 65, Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) which informed of an increase in the value of the quotation accepted for a Landrover from Stratstone.

Two new quotations had been received for the Landrover in line with the required specification.

Following discussion, it was

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RESOLVED that the lowest quotation received from Cambrian Landrover, Parc y Llyn Retail Park, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, in the sum of £22,200.90, be accepted. The net cost of the vehicle being £15,832.37 following the VAT reclamation and the insurance settlement for the old Landrover.

146. STAFFING MATTERS

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) be received and adopted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.40 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 14 September, 2010, adopted by the Council.