

11 March, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 460 - 471

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 11 March, 2008, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	M. Howells
D. V. Darby	M. B. Hughes
M. Davies	T. J. Jones
S. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. Devichand	A. G. Morgan
C. Edwards	R. G. Thorne
G. H. Wooldridge	

460. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, M. L. Evans, R. E. Evans and C. A. Rees.

461. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, T. Devichand and G. H. Wooldridge declared an interest in Minute No. 462 as they were members of Carmarthenshire County Council's Planning Committee.

**462. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WALES –
FLOOD RISK**

Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, T. Devichand and G. H. Wooldridge declared an interest in the following item, as they were members of Carmarthenshire County Council's Planning Committee, and did not speak or vote on the matter.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Andy Irving, Team Leader, Flood Incident Management, Environment Agency Wales, to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr. Irving having given a brief outline of his working background, explained at length the aims and objectives for issuing flood warnings, the forecasting process and wind and wave effects on the local area via a powerpoint presentation visual display.

He explained the Llanelli Tidal Extreme Flood Outline and informed of the defences established along the coast line. The clinka wall built along the Bynea/Loughor coastal area

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was questionable as it could be potentially breached by severe flooding and an investigation and feasibility study was underway to see how the problem could be rectified.

Mr. Irving explained the various ways in which public awareness was made of potential danger including Floodline Warnings Direct - a free floodline register, website information and the use of the media. Local briefings were held with the County Council, whereby a plan of action was deployed in partnership with all other emergency organisations. However, there were no river warnings available in and around the Llanelli area and although defences were put in Dafen several years ago, it was not easy to monitor and he stated that there was a need to develop a system regarding fluvial flooding.

In reply to Cllr. Howells who voiced his concern regarding the serious erosion along the Bynea coastline and the danger to continued housing developments, Mr. Irving stated that, as more violent tides were experienced in the future, flooding would occur.

Members having praised Mr. Irving for his excellent presentation, the Chairman thanked him for attending and he thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

463. 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 February, 2008.
Special Council	18 February, 2008.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	19 February, 2008.
Policy and Resources Committee	20 February, 2008.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	27 February, 2008.
Planning and Liaison Committee	3 March, 2008.

**464. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
AND VICE CHAIRMAN 2008/09**

RESOLVED that Cllr. M. Davies be selected as Chairman and that Cllr. S. M. Caiach be selected as Vice Chairman for 2008/09, respectively, subject to the election results in May 2008.

**465. COMMUNITY REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE:
CHANGES IN ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND
ISSUES FOR FURTHER EVALUATION**

Further to Minute No. 177, correspondence was received from the Statutory Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council, informing of the intention to increase one councillor to the Pemberton Ward for the elections to be held on 1 May, 2008.

It was also stated that voters who had previously used Dafen School had, due to the school's unavailability, been transferred to Dafen Church Hall, with the other Polling Station

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remaining at Halfway School. A press release was to be issued informing voters of this change, together with a notice on the Dafen Community Notice Board. Polling cards would also be issued informing voters of their respective polling stations.

The following were issues for further evaluation and final proposals:-

- (1) the number of community councillors representing the Dafen Ward;
- (2) the transfer of properties at Brynteg in the Hengoed Ward to the Glyn Ward;
- (3) the proposals from residents of the Heol Llanelli area in the Glyn Ward to either, be transferred to Llangyndeirne Community Council or, be part of a new Pontyates Community Council.

Local Ward Members having voiced their concern regarding the lack of suitably located polling stations in the Dafen area, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

466. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT – SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

Members were circulated with correspondence received from the Partnership and Ethics Team, Local Government Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government, which advised authorities of action that needed to be taken by all elected Members and those co-opted Members with voting rights by 1 May, 2008.

Following the Clerk's verbal report, it was

RESOLVED that all Members undertake a declaration to observe the Code of Conduct for the time being as to the conduct which was expected of members and which may be revised from time to time.

467. ONE VOICE WALES – MEMBERSHIP

An invitation was received from the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales, for the Council to become a member of the organisation.

Following discussion and a vote, during which Cllr. M. B. Hughes abstained, it was

RESOLVED that membership to One Voice Wales be deferred for a further year.

468. CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Correspondence was received from Friends of the Earth, which referred to climate change and to the support of a strong Climate Change Bill to give the Government targets to reduce its emissions over time.

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The Government had recently supported a request for a system of annual targets by tabling an amendment to the Bill for 'annual indicative ranges'. However, it was stated that the bill was still currently flawed and without strengthening the bill, it would fail to prevent carbon dioxide levels rising to a dangerous level. The following two changes were needed:-

- An overall emissions reduction target of 80% by 2050
- Emissions from international aviation and shipping must be included

A request was being made therefore, for support to these changes by writing to the Member of Parliament.

RESOLVED that Members who wished to support the issue, do so on an individual basis.

469. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

470. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of meetings of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 9 January and 29 January, 2008, respectively:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 9 January at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. C. C. Lucas (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies
M. Howells

T. J. Jones
M. E. Prothero

E. Smith

75. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman wished Members and Officers a Happy New Year.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T.D. Bowen, D.J. Harries and C.E. Richards.

77. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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78. 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 - 12 December 2007

79. MATTERS ARISING

(1) LANCE CORPORAL RYAN LEE FRANCIS

Arising out of Minute No. 68, the Secretary reported that he had spoken to Corporal Francis' father regarding proposals to erect a memorial plaque in memory of his son as well as holding a dedication service. The initial response was favourable and a follow up meeting would be confirmed shortly.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(2) MEMORIAL BENCHES

Arising out of Minute No. 69, the Secretary reported that both families had been informed that their applications had been successful. The families would be informed when the foundation bases had been installed to receive the benches.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(3) CEMETERY CAR PARK

Arising out of Minute No. 70, the Secretary reported that shortly after the December committee meeting, cemetery staff received a telephone call from Tycroes Plant Ltd, informing that scheduled work would start on the car park on 7 January 2008. The company estimated that the car park would be completed within 3 to 4 weeks of the start date; and work was currently well underway. In view of the telephone call it was not necessary to send letters of complaint to the County Council as originally agreed. However, there were still ongoing problems with the Bryngolau site car park, which had yet to be resolved.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

80. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for November 2007 and the provisional report for December 2007 be noted.

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81. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for December 2007, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £12,144.84.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

82. MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Consideration was given to the memorial testing figures for December 2007, which revealed that 218 memorials had been tested at stage 1 level and that 3 had failed.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

83. SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Members were informed that the Special Budget Meeting would be held on 29 January 2008. Arising out of discussion of the above, the Secretary reported that due to a conflicting appointment, he would not be available to service the next committee meeting, scheduled for 13 February 2008 and requested Members to re-arrange the meeting at a later date.

RESOLVED that the February committee meeting be re-convened at a later date, following consultation with the Chairman over the preferred date.

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The Meeting concluded at 4.15pm”

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“At a Special Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 29 January 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. C. C. Lucas (Chairman)

	Cllrs.	
T. D. Bowen		M. Howells
D. J. Harries		M. E. Prothero
	E. Smith	

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. L. Davies and C. E. Richards.

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85. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matters referred to in Minute Nos. 87 and 88 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.

87. SCALE OF FEES

(1) Exclusive Rights of Burial Fees

	£
Conventional grave - 30 year period	432.00
Conventional grave - 50 year period	864.00
Cremated Remains - 30 year period	143.00
Cremated Remains - 50 year period	287.00

Section 11:

Conventional grave - 30 year period	535.00
Conventional grave - 50 year period	1070.00
Cremated Remains - 30 year period	143.00
Cremated Remains - 50 year period	287.00

(2) Cemetery Management Fees

The following charges would be levied where
Exclusive Rights of Burial was not applicable:

Cemetery management fee for a conventional grave	222.00
Cemetery management fee for a cremated remains plot	111.00

(3) Interment Charges

Grave - Depth for 1	285.00
Grave - Depth for 2	320.00
Grave - Depth for 3	364.00
Interment in existing grave	285.00
Interment of cremated remains	106.00
Weekend Surcharge Interment Grave	297.00
Weekend Surcharge Interment Cremated Remains	118.00

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(4) Other Charges

Hire of Chapel (including speaker)	37.00
Still Birth	11.00
Testing of Grave	81.00
Exhumation of Ashes	160.00
Exhumation of body	(Actual & necessary costs)
New memorial – headstone and kerbstones	54.00
Additional names cut on headstones	27.00
Memorials within Garden of Remembrance	54.00
Bricked Grave (Admin fee)	296.00
Reserved Grave (Section 10 only)	204.00
Family History Search (per individual name)	10.00

(5) Out Of Area Surcharges

The interment fee referred to in (3) above would be increased by 50% in cases where the deceased did not reside within the administrative area of Llanelli Town and Rural Councils.

RESOLVED that the above fees be approved from 1 April 2008.

88. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Secretary presented Members with a detailed report in respect of the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2008 / 2009, and after a lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

A budget precept of £191,610 be set for the financial year 2008 / 2009, and that a contribution of £95,805 be requested from Llanelli Town and Rural Councils respectively.

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The Meeting concluded at 4:40 pm”

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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

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471. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

RESOLVED that the following letters of appreciation for the Council's assistance be noted with pleasure:-

- (1) British Heart Foundation;
- (2) Ffrindiau Felinfoel;
- (3) 2227 (Mid Gwendraeth) Squadron A.T.C.;
- (4) Trallwm Area Forum.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.20 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 8 April, 2008, adopted by the Council.