

11 December, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 313 - 322

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 11 December, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	M. Howells
S. M. Caiach	M. B. Hughes
D. V. Darby	M. P. Jones
M. Davies	T. J. Jones
S. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. Devichand	R. G. Thorne
G. H. Wooldridge	

313. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C. Edwards, M. L. Evans, R. E. Evans, A. G. Morgan, A. S. Peters and C. A. Rees.

314. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

315. 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	13 November, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	19 November, 2007.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	20 November, 2007.
Policy and Resources Committee	21 November, 2007.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	29 November, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	10 December, 2007.

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316. MATTERS ARISING

**(1) CARMARTHENSHIRE'S JOINT COMMISSIONING
STRATEGY FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND
HOUSING**

Pursuant to Minute No. 294, Cllr. M. Davies referred to having attended a recent meeting of the above.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Davies' report be noted.

317. EXTERNAL EVENTS

Members having received an invitation from the Head of Planning, Carmarthenshire County Council, for the Council to be represented at a Planning Seminar for Town and Community Councils at the White Hart Inn, Llandeilo to be held on 15 February, 2008, it was

RESOLVED that Cllrs. M. Davies, S. L. Davies and T. J. Jones be authorised to attend.

318. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**319. SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE
JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Senior Citizens' Day Centre Joint Management Committee held on 12 September, 2007:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 12th September 2007 at 6.25 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Brown, Mrs. M.P. Jones, G.K. Thomas and G.H. Wooldridge.

APOLOGIES: Councillors N. Bevan (Vice-Chairman), R.E. Evans (Chairman) and R.P. Neil.

15. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs. M.P. Jones be appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting, whereupon Councillor Jones took the Chair.

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16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2007 be received, verified and confirmed.

17. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED – that the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st August 2007 in the sums of £28,521 and £24,938 respectively be approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).

(2) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Finance Officer relating to accounts for payment (copies having been previously circulated to members). The report disclosed that payments made for the period 12th July – 12th September 2007 in respect of direct debits, reimbursements, BACS payments and vouchers no. 4046 – 4065 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £22,004.51.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

18. HIRINGS

RESOLVED – that the hirings of the Day Centre for the months of July and August 2007 be approved as follows:-

July

3 rd , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
26 th , Thursday	-	Co-operative Party.

August

1 st , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
7 th , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
8 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
15 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
19 th , Sunday	-	Mr. Wilding, 51 Heol Tregonning, Morfa, Llanelli.
22 nd , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
23 rd , Thursday	-	Co-operative Party.
29 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.

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19. FUTURE OF LLANELLI Y.M.C.A.

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Committee meeting held on 11th July 2007, that further discussions had taken place with the Ms. Lyndsey Davies, Y.M.C.A. Wales' Project Development Officer, and could confirm that initial drawings had been prepared which provided for a separate kitchen for a possible future Day Centre use. Further details needed to be completed to the drawings before they were finalised, but the progress made, thanks to the co-operation of the Project Development Officer, had been positive.

In the discussions, reference had also been made to the rent which Y.M.C.A. Wales would charge for the new facility, and it was hoped that confirmation of the proposed rent would be available by the date of the next Committee meeting.

The Secretary further reported that confirmation had been received from the Secretary of the Presbyterian Church that, following a Church meeting, the members had agreed to allow the use of the Church vestry/kitchen area by the Day Centre following vacation of the Day Centre in June 2008, subject to further discussions and agreement of the finer detail. It was hoped to report on the outcome of the further discussions at the next meeting.

Members welcomed the report presented by the Secretary, and reiterated their thanks to Councillor G.K. Thomas for his initiative regarding the use of the Presbyterian Church vestry/kitchen, and to the other good work undertaken by the Clerk in conjunction with the Y.M.C.A. Wales Project Development Officer. It was, therefore

RESOLVED – that the report be noted, and that the outcome of further meetings with the Y.M.C.A. Project Development Officer and the Presbyterian Church members be awaited.

20. LLANELLI O.A.P. REPRESENTATIVES - DINNER

Further to Minute No. 27 of the Committee meeting held on 10th January 2007, members were asked to consider the arrangements for the Day Centre dinner with the O.A.P. organisation representatives in November.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the dinner be arranged for Monday, 26th November 2007, and that invitations be extended to each of the Associations involved.

The Meeting concluded at 6.55 p.m.”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

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320. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of meetings of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 10 and 24 October, 2007, respectively:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 10 October 2007 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen
S.L. Davies
M. Howells

A.G. Morgan
M. E. Prothero
C. E. Richards

E. Smith

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D. J. Harries and C. C. Lucas.

36. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

37. 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 subject to the inclusion of Cllr Richards' remarks and thanks regarding the helpfulness and professionalism of the cemetery staff in helping her to trace part of her family history.

Ordinary Meeting - 13 September 2007

38. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for August 2007 and the provisional report for September 2007 be noted.

39. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for September 2007, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £19,305.27

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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40. 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.

41. UNIT 1 – LLANELLI DISTRICT CEMETERY

The Secretary reported that the Licensee of Unit 1, Llanelli District Cemetery, had decided not to renew the current licence agreement. The agreement expired on 30 September 2007, and the premises were now vacant.

The Secretary stated that given the relatively small amount of rental income generated by the Unit and the ever increasing needs of the cemetery service, it was desirable for the Burial Authority to retain the premises for its own purposes.

The Secretary recommended that the Unit be used for conducting private consultations with bereaved families. Members were informed that more and more bereaved families were personally organising the interment of cremated remains and the constant interruptions and space limitations experienced in the main office often hampered staff when it came to providing a discreet and professional advisory service to those families. A separate consultation room was therefore ideal.

Members were also informed that the former Licensee of the Unit was prepared to leave all of the furnishings in the Unit and had enquired whether the Burial Authority would be interested in purchasing them. The furniture items comprised:

- Laminate flooring;
- Window Blinds;
- One office desk and chair; and a
- Two seater settee.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) Unit 1, Llanelli District Cemetery be repossessed by the Burial Authority and that it be used for conducting private consultations with bereaved families as outlined above; and
- (2) The Secretary be delegated power to negotiate with the former Licensee, the purchase of the said items of furniture, following a favourable inspection visit of the Unit by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee.

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The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm”
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“At the Special Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 24 October 2007 at 4:00 pm.

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

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen
S. L. Davies
D. J. Harries
M. Howells

T. J. Jones
A. G. Morgan
M. E. Prothero
C. E. Richards

E. Smith

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

43. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

44. 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.

45. VANDALISM AT LLANELLI DISTRICT CEMETERY

Members considered the Secretary's report regarding the vandalism that had occurred in the cemetery grounds during the weekend of the 13 and 14 October 2007. Members were shown photographs of the 18 memorial headstones and two wooden crosses that had been pushed over during the incident. The Secretary informed Members that the memorials were not the property of the Burial Authority and therefore were not insured under the Burial Authority's insurance policy.

After a lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED that as a gesture of goodwill the Burial Authority would reinstate the memorials to an upright position and replace the two wooden crosses subject to the grave owners recognising and accepting the following points: -

- (1) The Burial Authority is not liable for the vandalism attack to the memorials and will not be held responsible for the damage caused;
- (2) The Burial Authority has no legal obligation to take any action over the vandalism attack on the memorials. The grave owners are responsible for the upkeep and general condition of the memorials;

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- (3) The offer is to reinstate and stabilise the memorials in an upright position only. For the avoidance of doubt if any damage has been caused to the foundation base or to the memorial itself (including chips/and or cracks) and/or damage has been caused to the inscription lettering, then the responsibility for such repairs rests with the grave owners;
- (4) The Burial Authority will not be held responsible for the quality of the reinstatement or for resolving issues arising out of the future testing of the memorials as part of its ongoing memorial inspection testing programme. For the avoidance of doubt the Burial Authority will not be held responsible for the future stability of the memorials once reinstated;
- (5) Work to reinstate the memorials will be organised under one general contract and will be subject to formal tender. The Burial Authority will not be held to any deadline to complete the work. However, work will be completed as quickly as possible;
- (6) If the grave owners choose to make their own arrangements to have their memorials reinstated they will not be entitled to take advantage of this gesture of goodwill and will not be compensated for the work carried out;
- (7) Whilst not a condition of this gesture of goodwill, grave owners are strongly advised to take out appropriate insurance arrangements to safeguard their memorials against future damage or loss and to cater for the unforeseen; and
- (8) Should there be any further incidents of vandalism in the cemetery, the gesture to reinstate the memorials will not prejudice in any way whatsoever the outcome of such a likelihood. Furthermore, all future cases will be considered on their own merits and will be assessed against the prevailing circumstances at the time.

FURTHER RESOLVED that

- (1) Following liaison with the Police and the Burial Authority's security patrol officer, the Secretary be authorised to review the extent of the present cemetery patrol service to determine whether an additional nighttime patrol ought to be introduced, with it possibly commencing at a later time during the evening; and
- (2) The local media be informed of the Burial Authority's actions in response to the act of vandalism. Furthermore that the media be requested to convey an important message to the public about taking out general insurance cover to safeguard family memorials at Llanelli District Cemetery from possible further loss or damage and particularly to protect against further acts of vandalism.

46. CEMETERY OFFICE CLEANING CONTRACT

The Secretary informed members that due to personal reasons Mr Simon Todd had served notice on the Burial Authority to terminate the cleaning contract as from 19 October 2007. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary be authorised to arrange for a new contractor to be appointed as soon as possible following appropriate consultation over the selection process with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee.

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The meeting concluded at 5:00 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted

321. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman wished Members and Staff a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

322. DAFEN FORUM

Cllr. T. Devichand thanked the Chairman and Leader for their attendance at a recent Christmas event in Dafen.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Devichand’s comments be noted.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.05 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 January, 2008, adopted by the Council.