

30 January, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 373 – 385

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Conference Room, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 30 January, 2008, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. R. G. Thorne (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. Devichand	M. Howells
M. L. Evans	T. J. Jones
G. H. Wooldridge	

373. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

In referring to the Chairman of Council, Cllr. D. J. Davies' recent indisposition, the Clerk informed Members that Cllr. Davies had been discharged from hospital and that he was making a steady recovery.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

374. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. J. Davies and R. E. Evans.

375. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

376. FINANCIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Committee Reports of the Administration and Training Departments for December 2007, be noted; and that
- (2) other programmes of funding be investigated by the Training Department and be reported to a future meeting of the Learning and Development Consultative Committee.

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377. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the Schedule of Payments for December 2007, for the Administration and Training Departments (copies of which had been previously circulated to Members) which revealed that the expenditure amounted to £132,215.51 and £57,528.37 respectively.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

378. PROPOSED CHANGE TO APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members were circulated with a letter received from Partner: Compliance, Wales Audit Office, informing that, with effect from April 2007, Mazars LLP became the Auditor General for Wales' appointed auditor for virtually all of the Community Councils in South Wales and that it was now an appropriate time to complete the rotation process for the largest Community Councils in that area.

It was formally proposed that Mazars LLP should act as the appointed auditor to this Council for the audit of the annual accounts for 2007/08 and the foreseeable future. Work would be carried out by a dedicated public service audit team led by S. Christopher who was based in Southampton. The fees charged by Mazars would stay within the scales for 2007/08 to 2011/12 which the Auditor General for Wales published in 2007.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

379. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to applications received for financial assistance and, it was

RESOLVED as follows:-

- (1) British Heart Foundation Cymru – Valentine Appeal – that a contribution of £50 be made;
- (2) T. Townsend, Swiss Valley – Expedition to Svalbard, North Pole - that the application be referred to Local Ward Members.

380. 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.

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**381. TRAINING DEPARTMENT –
VAT PARTIAL EXEMPTION**

Pursuant to Minute No. 341 (2), the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informed that, as a result of negotiations undertaken, DCK Beavers had agreed that terms of the fee for the successful recovery of VAT from HM Customs would be on a 'no win – no fee' basis and on a maximum of 10% of amounts recovered, with the condition that expenses would be paid, e.g. travelling costs.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**382. ASBESTOS CONSULTANCY SERVICES -
VAUXHALL BUILDINGS**

Further to Minute No. 220 (25 October, 2006), Members considered the Technical Services Officer's report regarding consultancy fees received from asbestos laboratories.

Following consideration of fee quotations received, it was

RESOLVED that the lowest quotation received from Resource and Environmental Consultants Ltd., Unit 19 Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam, Port Talbot, be accepted.

383. WELSH PURCHASE CARD

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) recommending the issuing of additional NatWest OneCards (Welsh Purchase Cards) to administrative staff in order to avoid senior managers having to undertake the purchase of ancillary items and booking courses etc., on line.

RESOLVED that additional cards be acquired for the administrative staff identified in the report and the additional control measures identified by the Deputy Clerk (Administration) for regulating staff use of the cards, be accepted.

384. HIRE CHARGES – 2008/09

Consideration was given to the review of hire charges.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that as from 1 April, 2008:-

- (1) a charge of £38.50 per morning/afternoon session be levied for the hire of the Conference Room;
- (2) a charge of £65.00 per morning/afternoon session be levied for the hire of the Council Chamber.

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385. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2008/09

Members were presented with a preliminary report on estimates of income and expenditure for the Committee for 2008/09.

RESOLVED that

- (1) virements made for 2007/08 be approved;
- (2) the report be accepted and
- (3) to await a Special Meeting of Council to discuss same.

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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 February, 2008, adopted by the Council.