

9 October, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 224 - 236

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 9 October, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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

Together with PC Lucy Bennett and PCSO Nick Rice, Dyfed Powys Police.

224. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

225. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

226. FELINFOEL CHANGING ROOMS – CRIME INCIDENT

The Chairman welcomed PC Lucy Bennett and PCSO Nick Rice to the meeting and invited them to address Members.

Prior to reporting upon the outcome of the crime incident at Felinfoel changing rooms, PC Bennett provided Members with a brief report on crime statistics for the Llanelli Rural area. The Felinfoel Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) was currently performing to a very high standard. The NPT was achieving a 53% overall detection rate and was currently the top performing section within the Police Force. The section was showing a 22% reduction in total crime which equated to 175 less crimes compared to the same period last year.

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PC Bennett then referred to the Blue Light Disco held in Felinfoel which had been a huge success and thanked the Council for its financial donation towards the event. PCSO Nick Rice confirmed that £610 had been raised for the disco and 160 children and parents attended. The event made a profit of £435 which would be reinvested in the community.

Reference was then made to the act of vandalism at Felinfoel changing rooms, Felinfoel Recreation Ground. A window had been broken because a 10 year old boy had been spotted throwing stones at the building. The crime was quickly detected because of PCSO Rice's alertness and local knowledge. PCSO Rice identified the boy and subsequently paid a visit to the boy's home address.

In response to Members questions and observations PC Bennett confirmed that future crime statistics reports could include a breakdown of the actual number of crimes committed per category in addition to stating overall percentages, if this was considered to be more informative. In response to a question as to what prevention measures the Council could take to help prevent further vandalism attacks on its community buildings, PC Bennett generally suggested increasing external lighting levels near buildings, placing grills on windows, the possible introduction of CCTV and more police patrols.

Prior to concluding her address, PC Bennett commented that PCSO Jason Thomas would be sadly leaving the NPT but that PCSO Katie Young would be replacing him at some point during October 2007.

Members commended the work of the NPT and to the rapport established between themselves and the local PCSOs and felt that the local initiatives to combat crime were having a positive effect.

The Chairman thanked PC Bennett and PCSO Rice for attending the meeting and prior to their departure the Chairman extended the Council's congratulations and best wishes to PC Bennett who was celebrating her birthday today.

PC Bennett and PCSO Rice then withdrew from the meeting.

227. 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	11 September, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	17 September, 2007.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	18 September, 2007.
Policy and Resources Committee	19 September, 2007.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	26 September, 2007.
Community Development Grants Panel	27 September, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	8 October, 2007.

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228. MATTERS ARISING

**(1) REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES
AND POLLING STATIONS - CONSULTATION**

Pursuant to Minute No. 176, Cllr. M. Howells stated that recent press reports made no mention of the voting issues affecting the Bynea Ward, which had been raised by the Council when responding to the consultation review, whereas the voting issues affecting the Dafen and Pemberton Wards had been highlighted. Cllr. Howells expressed concern over the reporting arrangements and enquired whether the content of the press reports had been based on information released by the Council. The Clerk replied stating that no information had been released to the press regarding this Council's response to the review.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**(2) CARMARTHENSHIRE – COMMUNITY REVIEW –
DRAFT PROPOSALS**

Further to Minute No. 177, Cllr. M. B. Hughes enquired when the final decision would be made for the Carmarthenshire community review. The Clerk replied that he would inform Members when the Authority had been provided with notification of the decision.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**229. FELINFOEL CHANGING ROOMS – PROPOSED INSTALLATION
OF A SINGLE BOILER**

Further to Minute No. 198(3), it was

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting held on 18 September, 2007, be accepted:-

“Recommended that the Council proceed with installing a new single boiler and associated works at Felinfoel Changing Rooms at the estimated cost of £50,000 - £54,000”.

**230. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES – YSGOL Y FELIN, FELINFOEL**

A letter was received from the Director of Education and Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, dated 20 September, 2007, informing that arrangements were being made to establish the governing body of the above new school in accordance with the Education (New Schools) (Wales) Regulations 1999.

The writer confirmed that a position would be created on the new governing body for a Rural Council representative and invited a nomination from the Council. Following discussion and a vote it was

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RESOLVED that Cllr. R. E. Evans be nominated to represent the Council on Ysgol Y Felin School Governing Body.

231. COMMUNITIES FIRST LLWYNHENDY PARTNERSHIP

A letter was received from Communities First Llwynhendy dated 25 September, 2007, informing that the organisation was currently in the process of overhauling its systems and procedures so that it could become more efficient and effective in serving the needs of the Communities First Llwynhendy Partnership.

Accordingly, Communities First Llwynhendy was seeking to re-instate sub groups within the organisation and was looking for representation from this Authority to serve on the following groups:

Action Plan Sub Group;
Working Finance Sub Group;
Editorial Sub Group;
Engagement and Participation Sub Group.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. D. V. Darby be nominated as an additional representative to serve on the Communities First Llwynhendy Partnership and that Cllrs. M. P. Jones and G H Wooldridge be reconfirmed as existing members. Furthermore, that membership of the sub groups referred to above be determined by the three Council representatives themselves, based on individual preference.

232. EXTERNAL EVENTS

Members having received invitations for the Council to be represented at the following, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) The Carmarthenshire Partnership – Llanelli Community Network Meeting – 5 February, 2008 – that all interested Members attend;
- (2) HMS Trenchant – Devonport – August 2008 – that the invitation be noted and accepted and that nominated representatives be confirmed following the elections in May 2008.

233. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

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234. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 11 July, 2007:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 11 July 2007 at 4:00 pm.

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

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen
D. J. Harries
M. Howells
T. J. Jones

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

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

11. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

12. 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

Annual Meeting - 13 June 2007

13. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for May 2007 and the provisional report for June 2007 be noted.

14. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for June 2007, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £16,526.90.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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15. MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Consideration was given to the memorial testing figures for June 2007, which revealed that 330 memorials had been tested at Stage 1 level and that 4 had failed.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

16. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2007

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2006/2007, (copies of which had been previously circulated) and, it was

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts be accepted.

17. AUDIT ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH
2007

Members considered the Audit Annual Return document for the financial year ending 31 March 2007, and it was

RESOLVED that the general preparation of the document which included a summary of the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 and the Annual Governance Statement provided in Section 2 be approved accordingly.

18. ICCM CONFERENCE, HARROGATE 15-17 OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary be authorised to attend the conference.

19. DUMPER TRUCK

Having considered the Secretary's report regarding the need to acquire a new dumper truck for use in the cemetery grounds and there being no meeting scheduled during the August recess, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Secretary be delegated power to procure a new machine provided that the procurement cost does not greatly exceed the anticipated cost set out by the Secretary during the meeting;
- (2) The procurement of the dumper truck be secured via formal tender and that the Secretary arrange for the Chairman to open the tenders received, in his presence;
- (3) The procurement cost be met by hire purchase agreement on the most competitive terms available having due regard to the Authority's budgetary provision; and

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- (4) Progress over the acquisition of the dumper truck be reported to committee as and when necessary.

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The meeting concluded at 4:15 pm”.
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

**235. 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 11 July, 2007:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CIZITENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 11th July 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R.E. Evans (Chairman), N. Bevan (Vice-Chairman),
R Brown, Mrs. M.P. Jones, G.K. Thomas and G.H. Wooldridge.

APOLOGY: Councillor R.P. Neil.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th May 2007 be received, verified and confirmed.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED – that the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st April to 30th June 2007 in the sums of £5,255 and £1,911 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 10th May – 11th July 2007 in respect of direct debits, reimbursements, BACS payments and vouchers no. 4019 – 4045 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £11,251.58.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

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10. HIRINGS

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

May

1 st , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
2 nd , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
9 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
16 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
23 rd , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
24 th , Thursday	-	West Wales Co-operative Party. Co-operative Party.
30 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.

June

5 th , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
15 th , Friday	-	Co-operative Party.
28 th , Thursday	-	Labour Women's Forum.

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

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Committee meeting held on 9th May 2007, the Secretary reported the receipt of a letter dated 15th May 2007 from Y.M.C.A. Wales giving notice that to the Day Centre to quit and deliver up possession of its premises in 49 Stepney Street on or before the 22nd June 2008 (copies having been previously circulated to members). This confirmed what the Project Development Officer had indicated when she made her presentation at the previous meeting of the Committee.

The Secretary then reported that, following that presentation, and in the wake of the representations made by the Committee, coupled with the volume of completed questionnaires asking for the retention of the Day Centre which were sent to Y.M.C.A. Wales following their consultation exercise, a meeting took place on 22nd May 2007 attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Officers of the Committee and Y.M.C.A. Wales' Project Development Officer and their Architect. The meeting clearly confirmed that there had been a shift in the position of Y.M.C.A. Wales, and it was to all intents and purposes an exercise to establish what the Day Centre needed to enable it to continue in the Y.M.C.A. building, and to seek to identify a suitable location for it. This was a very positive step in the right direction on the part of Y.M.C.A. Wales, and further developments were now awaited.

The Secretary also reported that, following a conversation between him and Councillor G.K. Thomas following the last meeting of the Committee, contact had been made with the Secretary of Llanelli Presbyterian Church to enquire into the possibility of the Day Centre being accommodated in the Church's modernised vestry/kitchen area (copies of his letter of 11th May 2007 to the Secretary having been previously circulated to members).

Subsequently he and the Finance Officer had met both the Minister and Secretary of the Church, and on the previous evening had met all the Elders of the Church. This had been a

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most positive meeting and, though the prospects of the Day Centre moving to the Presbyterian Church in June 2008 were very favourable, many issues remained to be discussed and agreed. The matter would eventually be put to a Church meeting for a final decision to be made.

Members welcomed the developments since the Committee had last met, and were greatly appreciative of the initiative taken by Councillor G.K. Thomas and the subsequent actions on the part of the officers.

RESOLVED – that a formal vote of thanks be extended to Councillor G.K. Thomas; that the positive progress to date be welcomed and noted; and that further developments be awaited.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION

Further to Minute No. 40 of the Committee meeting held on 8th March 2006, the Secretary reported that an annual inspection had been undertaken by the Town Council's Health and Safety Consultant (copies of a summary of his recommendations, together with the action taken in the light thereof, having been previously circulated to members).

RESOLVED – that the recommendations of the consultant be duly noted, and that the items of work identified in the report be completed as soon as possible.

13. REMEDIAL WORKS FOLLOWING WATER LEAK

The Secretary reported damage caused to the Day Centre toilet block by an internal water leak at first floor level on 26th/27th June 2007. It was intended to lodge a suitable insurance claim to recover the cost of the damage, but in view of the need to move quickly to repair the damage, the Consultant Architects had been instructed to invite quotations for the required remedial works (copies of which having been previously circulated to members).

RESOLVED – that the action taken be approved; and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to instruct the successful contractor to commence the work without delay.

14. STAFF RESIGNATION

The Town Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from Mrs. Ann Curwood, one of the part-time members of staff, terminating her employment as from Monday, 9th July 2007.

RESOLVED – that the letter be noted, and that a letter be sent to Mrs. Curwood thanking her for her service at the Day Centre.

The Meeting concluded at 6.25 p.m.”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

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236. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Felinfoel Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- (2) Llanelli Town Council;
- (3) Llwynhendy W.I.;
- (4) Pontyates R.F.C.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.20 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 13 November, 2007, adopted by the Council.