

**10 October, 2006.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 185– 195**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 October, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. T. D. Bowen (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 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 | A. G. Morgan |
| R. E. Evans  | A. S. Peters |
| M. Howells   | R. G. Thorne |

G. H. Wooldridge

**185. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C. Edwards, M. L. Evans and C. A. Rees.

**186. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared an interest in Minute No. 190 as he was the Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**187. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman referred to the recent demise of the father-in-law of Cllr. C. Edwards. Members and Officers thereupon stood in silent tribute.

The Chairman also conveyed his best wishes to Cllr. D. J. Davies' wife who had been admitted to hospital.

**188. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the following Minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated to Members) be accepted as a true record of proceedings:-

Council  
Planning and Liaison Committee  
Recreation and Welfare Committee

12 September, 2006.  
18 September, 2006.  
19 September, 2006.

**10 October, 2006.**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Policy and Resources Committee         | 20 September, 2006. |
| Finance and General Purposes Committee | 27 September, 2006. |
| Community Development Grants Panel     | 28 September, 2006. |
| Planning and Liaison Committee         | 9 October, 2006.    |

**189. MATTERS ARISING**

**(1) MID & WEST WALES FIRE BRIGADE -  
LLANELLI FIRE STATION**

Further to Minute No. 132, the Leader informed Members that difficulty had been experienced in arranging a visit by the Council to the Llanelli Fire Station. However, Members were encouraged to attend on an individual basis.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**(2) FURNACE – PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY HALL**

Further to Minute No. 154, it was

**RESOLVED** that the following Recommendation of the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting held on 19 September, 2006 be accepted:-

RECOMMENDED that the savings identified be agreed with the exception of the surface of the lower car park being retained as a tarmacadam finish.

**190. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – GAMBLING POLICY**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared an interest in the following item as he was Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council, and did not speak or vote on the matter.

Members considered correspondence dated 11 September, 2006, from the Senior Licensing Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council. The writer invited this Authority to comment upon the County Council's draft gambling policy (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Members were informed that the Gambling Act 2005 created a new system of licensing and regulation for commercial gambling throughout the country. Under the provisions of the Act local authorities had been empowered with new and extended responsibilities for licensing premises for gambling. Under the new licensing regime the responsibility for areas such as betting, casino gaming and bingo, previously the responsibility of local licensing justices, would now be transferred to local authorities.

The new Act would come into full effect in September 2007 and in anticipation of such, each licensing authority was required to develop and publish a statement of its gambling policy.

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Having duly considered the draft gambling policy document, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond to the consultation exercise by confirming the Council's endorsement of the draft gambling policy document.

**191. ESTYN**

**(1) INSPECTION**

Members were informed that ESTYN, the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales had appointed the week of 12 February, 2007, to conduct an inspection of vocational training provided by the Council's Training Department. This would be the second inspection carried out by the Inspectorate under its five year inspection programme. The first inspection was completed in June 2001 which resulted in the Training Department being awarded a Grade 2 result. The Deputy Clerk (Training) stated that internal preparations for the next inspection were now underway.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**(2) APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE**

Members considered a report compiled by the Deputy Clerk (Administration) on behalf of the Training Department in respect of the ESTYN inspection and the requirement for the Council to appoint an appropriate committee to accept and provide effective leadership and management over the department's affairs. The Deputy Clerk (Training) led Members through the report and stated that the best way of demonstrating effective governance and leadership would be to appoint a new committee comprising of a cross-section of Members taken from the current membership of both the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee, given that the Training Department's activities were reported up to the two committees. It was recommended that the new committee comprise of seven Councillors and 'Terms of Reference' for the committee were put forward for Member consideration.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that

1. A new committee be established, known as the 'Learning and Development Consultative Committee';
2. The membership of the new committee would comprise of seven Councillors and the recommended Terms of Reference for the committee as set out in the Deputy Clerk's (Administration) report be accepted;
3. The following Members be appointed to serve on the committee for the ensuing year:  
Cllrs. T. D. Bowen (Chairman of Council), T. J. Jones (Leader), T. Devichand, M. P. Jones, A. S. Peters, C. A. Rees and G. H. Wooldridge.

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**192. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of meetings of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 12 July, 2006:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 12 July 2006 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Chairman)

Cllrs.

D.J. Davies  
C. Edwards  
D.J. Harries  
M. Howells

C. C. Lucas  
A. S. Peters  
C. E. Richards  
E. Smith

Together with PC Kevin Evans, Community Safety Unit, Dyfed Powys Police, Miss Simone Kingsland and Mr Jason Edwards, Positive IT.

Apologies: Cllr M. E. Prothero

**12. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Cllr. T. J. Jones, prior to proceeding with the business of the meeting welcomed Cllr. A. S. Peters on to the Committee.

**13. CEMETERY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS**

Further to Minute No. 59 (11 January 2006), the Chairman welcomed Mr Phillip Boon to the meeting. Mr Boon had presented a petition to the Burial Authority Committee meeting in September 2005, calling for the installation of CCTV cameras and had been invited to attend the meeting because the arrangements for the possible installation of a CCTV system in the cemetery grounds were being reviewed.

The Chairman then welcomed PC Kevin Evans to the meeting and invited him to address members about the general security of the cemetery and to share his views about the installation of CCTV. He proceeded to give Members a detailed analysis of reported crime over the last two years. He informed Members that there were twenty-four calls to the police from the premises and the majority were for anti-social behaviour incidents. He then outlined various ways of improving security at the cemetery and stated that the Authority should improve the boundary fencing before considering installing CCTV cameras.

PC Evans felt that because of the vast size of the cemetery, the Authority would need to install a substantial system in order to guarantee facial recognition, culminating in quite a large number of cameras being erected, if the intention was to submit camera images as admissible court evidence.

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PC Evans suggested placing cameras at strategic points within the cemetery grounds to mainly serve as a deterrent. He recommended that if CCTV was ultimately installed then initially a camera unit should be installed to provide coverage of the main entrance and office block.

The Chairman thanked PC Evans for his report and PC Evans then withdrew from the meeting.

The Chairman then welcomed Miss Simone Kingsland and Mr Jason Edwards to the meeting and invited them to address Members and present their proposals to install CCTV cameras in the cemetery. They proceeded to outline the various possibilities for the installation of the cameras and suggested using solar powered cameras, thus avoiding the need for extensive ground works for the supply of electricity across the site.

Mr Edwards stated that because of the large size of the cemetery it was not possible to provide for full facial recognition with the amount of budget currently available. He suggested that a maximum of five camera units be installed at strategic locations.

Following a lengthy question and answer session it was

RESOLVED that Positive IT be invited to draw up a detailed plan for the installation of a CCTV system for presentation at the September meeting and that the company also produce examples of the quality of the photographs obtained from the cameras in both day/ night mode.

Miss Kingsland, Mr Edwards and Mr Boon then withdrew from the meeting.

#### 14. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated) be confirmed

Annual Meeting - 14 June 2006

#### 15. MATTERS ARISING

##### (1) LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD

The Secretary reported that the Authority's solicitors had delayed acting upon Burial Authority instructions. However, arrangements were now in hand to pursue matters as quickly as possible. Furthermore, in respect of the additional enquiry raised at the last meeting (to which Minute No. 9 refers) Mr Hogg, of Jennings Solicitors had been asked to attend the September meeting to appraise Members.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and that a letter be sent to Jennings Solicitors expressing Members' concerns and disappointment over the length of time taken to act upon the Authority's instructions.

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(2) RIDE ON MOWER

Further to Minute No. 11, Cllr. Smith enquired whether any progress had been made over his suggestion to extend the warrantee on the new ride on mower. After a brief discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary make the necessary enquiries with the company supplying the machine.

16. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for May 2006 and the provisional report for June 2006 be noted.

17. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31 MARCH 2006

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts for 2005/2006 (copies of which had been previously circulated) and, it was

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts be accepted.

18. ICCM CONFERENCE, HARROGATE – 16 – 18 OCTOBER 2006

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

19. 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.

20. STAFFING MATTERS

Consideration having been given to the Secretary's report on staffing matters and following general discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the report and its proposals be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5:35 pm”

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**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be accepted.

**193. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

**RESOLVED** that the letters of appreciation for the Council’s assistance be accepted with pleasure.

- 194. (1) SOCIETY OF LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS**
- (2) GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND**

**RESOLVED** that the reports by Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge and Cllr. S. N. Lewis respectively on the above, be noted.

The Chairman and Cllr. T. J Jones thereupon withdrew from the meeting. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

**195. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER - LLANELLI**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Shufflebotham, Town Centre Manager, Llanelli to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr Shufflebotham presented a lap top presentation on the general future of the town centre. He commented upon the challenges faced in developing the town centre and the impact of out of town shopping outlets which were taking their toll on town centre trade, e.g. the Trostre and Pemberton Developments and Fforestfach. His intention was to raise the profile of the town by communicating with the various authorities, retail businesses, Chamber of Trade, schools etc. and to help achieve this a Town Centre Forum had been established which would take an active role in improving the town centre.

Mr Shufflebotham’s vision was to “to create an attractive, vibrant and competitive town where people can live, work and enjoy” and he invited Members to participate in the Forum. There then followed a general question and answer session based on his presentation, during which the Clerk informed Members that a Special Council meeting would be held on Monday, 30 October, 2006, when representatives of Henry Davidson Developments Ltd would address Members on the proposals for the development of the Upper Park Street area of the town centre.

Thereupon Members thanked Mr Shufflebotham for his presentation and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk represent the Council at the Town Centre Forum meetings.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.05 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 14 November, 2006, adopted by the Council.