

13 February, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 404 – 418

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 13 February, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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

Together with Cllr. C. Evans, Chairman, Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Task and Finish Group, Mr. N. Evans, Assistant Consultant within the Chief Executive's Department and Mr. P. Williams, Coast Protection Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council.

404. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman congratulated Cllr. R. E. Evans upon his recent achievement of becoming a paramedic for the Welsh Under 19s Rugby Team.

405. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. V. Darby, M. Davies, A. S. Peters and C. A. Rees.

406. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in Minute No. 411 as she was a member of the Community Health Council.

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407. COASTAL EROSION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Colin Evans, Mr. Neil Evans and Mr. Philip Williams to the meeting and invited them to address Members on the above issue.

Cllr. Evans informed that the address was part of a consultation process regarding recent weather erosion to parts of the County Council's cycle way. He referred to the urgency of the matter as being the reason for the setting up of a Task and Finish group which had identified issues and was making good progress. Consultation had been made with various internal partners, e.g. the Leisure, Asset Management, Planning and Tourism Departments, and also with external partners such as the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency. Cllr. Evans stated that local councils' views were highly valued and that a draft of recommendations and potential solutions would be put before the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Mr. Evans referred to the phenomenal amount of coastline likely to be lost in the near future and to Loughor, Burry Port and Pwll being priority areas. Remedial work needed to be undertaken however, funding was a major concern. Various funding avenues were being sought and it was hoped that local councils, as stakeholders, would act as partner applicants. Sustrans had been consulted and it was hoped that an approach would be made to the National Trust.

Members referred to the erosion of the river bank at Loughor and to the lack of information regarding sea defences. In reply to the question of future maintenance, Mr. Evans stated that, owing to the issue of climate change, a new department would be set up within the County Council to act as a link and there would have to be a contingency fund made available.

Reference was made of the use of consultants instead of local knowledge when the current location of the coastal path was built and a suggestion was made that those mistakes would be taken into account. In reply to the question of timescale for the repairs of the coastal path, Mr. Evans stated that, owing to past repair work having been done without consultation, a feasibility study and funding would be sought first, with Cllr. Evans stating that a long term solution needed to be ascertained, however, the County Council would not be relying upon convergence funding.

Cllr. Evans having informed that representatives of this Council would be invited to attend a future meeting, the Chairman and Members thanked Cllr. C. Evans, Mr. N. Evans and Mr. P. Williams for attending and they thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

Cllr. R. E. Evans withdrew from the meeting.

408. 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
Recreation and Welfare Committee
Planning and Liaison Committee

9 January, 2007.
16 January, 2007.
22 January, 2007.

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Learning and Development Consultative Committee	25 January, 2007.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	31 January, 2007.
Special Civic and Ceremonial Committee	7 February, 2007.
Special Policy and Resources Committee	7 February, 2007.
Special Recreation and Welfare Committee	8 February, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	12 February, 2007.

409. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 346 and, in accordance with Minute No. 94, it was

RESOLVED that Standing Order No. 97 (a) be amended as follows:-

“(a) Apart from petty cash, the normal method of payment of money due from the Council shall be by cheque or by electronic means including such methods as BACS, HSBC Net and Commercial Card”.

410. CENSUS TEST

Pursuant to Minute No. 347, correspondence was received from the Director of Regeneration and Leisure, Carmarthenshire County Council, informing that the Office of National Statistics had reduced the sample areas for the 2007 census test. Four test areas had been excluded from the following community wards:- Llandybie, Llanelli Rural, Pembrey and Burry Port and Quarter Bach, however each ward still retained areas to be tested.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

411. REMOVAL OF EMERGENCY SURGERY FROM PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in the following items as she was a member of the Community Health Council and did not vote on the matters.

(1) DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Further to Minute No. 295, correspondence was received from the Ministerial Support Team, Department of Performance and Operations, Welsh Assembly Government, regarding the proposal to move emergency surgery from Prince Philip Hospital and, in particular, the manner in which the Carmarthenshire Community Health Council (CCHC) had reached its decision to support the proposal.

It was stated that Dr. Gibbons had met with Catherine Thomas, AM, and the First Minister on 29 January, 2007, to discuss the issue. Dr. Gibbons and the First Minister agreed that there were important lessons to be learnt from what had happened in Llanelli and had decided therefore, that an independent inquiry into the decision-making process on the proposals to change surgical services in Carmarthenshire would take place and an independent individual would be appointed to undertake the inquiry. The investigation would look at how the

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proposals were formulated, consulted upon, determined and implemented. The role of the CHC was only one part of what would be looked at.

The Clerk took the opportunity of reminding Members of the Council's previous decision (as set out in resolution (2) of Minute No. 295) where the Council resolved to garner legal opinion over the possibility of seeking a judicial review against the decision of the CCHC to support the removal of emergency surgery from Prince Philip Hospital. He enquired whether this should be pursued given that there was going to be an imminent inquiry and advised that it would be prudent to await the outcome of the inquiry before contemplating any further action.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED to await the results of the inquiry and to hold the matter of legal opinion in abeyance.

**(2) COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
HOSPITAL SERVICES**

Members were circulated with a letter received from the Secretary, Committee for the Improvement of Hospital Services, thanking and praising this Council for its support and informing that the joint call for an independent inquiry had been acceded to.

It was stated that the Committee would be supporting a forthcoming public march of demonstration and invited the Chairman or Leader of this Authority to address the rally.

Cllr. T. J. Jones informed Members that the public march was to take place on Saturday, 17 February, 2007, and implored all Members to attend.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**(3) GENERAL SURGICAL SERVICES IN
CARMARTHENSHIRE – MEDIA FACT SHEET**

The above media fact sheet, compiled by Carmarthenshire NHS Trust and Carmarthenshire Local Health Board in response to media enquiries, was circulated.

Members voiced their concern at some of the points made and that further clarification was needed as there were other different documents being circulated to doctors' surgeries. Reference was also made to Members' disappointment regarding recent incorrect reporting in the local press.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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- 412. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES –**
- (1) NEW SCHOOL AT FELINFOEL (TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY)**
 - (2) PWLL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

RESOLVED that

- (1) Cllr. R. E. Evans be appointed to represent the Council on the temporary Governing Body for the new school at Felinfoel;
- (2) Cllr. M. Davies be re-appointed as the Council's representative on the Pwll School Governing Body.

413. ONE VOICE WALES – MEMBERSHIP 2007/08

Further to Minute No. 236, an invite was received for this Council to join the above organisation.

RESOLVED that the invitation be noted.

414. EXTERNAL EVENTS

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

RESOLVED that

- (1) National Association of Councillors – Seminar ‘Cleaner & Greener – Improving Local Environments’ – Blackpool – 16-18 February, 2007 – the invitation be noted;
- (2) Local Health Board – Condition Management Programme Open Day – Nantyci, Carmarthen – 20 February, 2007 – interested Members attend;
- (3) Carmarthenshire County Council – Carmarthenshire Fairtrade Conference – St. Peter's Hall, Carmarthen – 28 February, 2007 – interested Members attend.

415. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

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**416. 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 8 November, 2006:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 8th November 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

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

APOLOGY: Councillor A.G. Morgan.

15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th September 2006 be received, verified and confirmed.

16. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED – that the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st October 2006 in the sums of £43,429 and £34,405 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 14th September 2006 – 8th November 2006 in respect of Direct Debits, cash reimbursements, BACS payments and vouchers no. 3940 – 3957 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £9,453.90.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

17. HIRINGS

RESOLVED – that the hirings of the Day Centre for the months of September and October 2006 be approved as follows:-

September

5 th , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
6 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
13 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
14 th , Thursday	-	Llanelli Co-operative Party.
17 th , Sunday	-	Mr. Wilding, 51 Heol Tregonning.

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20 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
27 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
28 th , Thursday	-	Labour Womens Forum – Mrs. J. Williams.

October

3 rd , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
4 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
11 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
18 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
25 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Co-operative Party.
	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
26 th , Thursday	-	Labour Womens Forum – Mrs. J. Williams.

18. FUTURE OF THE Y.M.C.A., LLANELLI

Further to Minute No. 12 of the Committee meeting held on 13th September 2006, the Secretary reported the receipt of an e-mail message dated 1st November 2006 from Mr. Paul Harries, the Town Council's Project Development Officer (copies having been previously circulated to members).

The message gave an up-date on the present position with regard to the Y.M.C.A. building, following a presentation given to the Llanelli Young Persons' Partnership, which Mr. Harries had attended, in the course of which an outline was given of the proposals for the future use of the building.

Subsequently efforts had been made to contact Mr. Richard Thomas of the Y.M.C.A. in order to arrange for him to give a similar presentation to the Joint Management Committee. Unfortunately this had not proved possible by the date of the meeting.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the information be noted, and that the Secretary be authorised to invite Mr. Richard Thomas to attend the next meeting of the Joint Management Committee to make his presentation on the Y.M.C.A's future proposals for the Stepney Street building.

19. CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR DAY CENTRE PATRONS

Following consideration of this matter, it was

RESOLVED – that past practice be followed and that Christmas lunch be provided between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. over the period between Wednesday, 6th December and Saturday, 9th December 2006 (inclusive); that the menu suggested in the Secretary's report be approved; and that the cost of the dinner be fixed at £2.25.

20. CHRISTMAS CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS

Having given consideration to the arrangements for the closure of the Day Centre over the 2006 Christmas period, it was

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RESOLVED – that the Day Centre be opened/closed as follows –

Saturday 23rd December - Closed
Christmas Eve - Closed
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day - Closed
Wednesday, 27th December - Closed
Thursday, 28th December - Open
Friday, 29th December - Open
Saturday, 30th December - Closed
New Year's Eve - Closed
New Year's Day - Closed
Tuesday, 2nd January, 2007 - Closed
Wednesday, 3rd January - Open
The Meeting concluded at 6.05 p.m.”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

417. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 13 December, 2006:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 13 December 2006 at 4:00 pm.

Present:

	Cllrs.	
D. J. Davies		M. E. Prothero
M. Howells		C. E. Richards
	E. Smith	

45. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

RESOLVED that Cllr E. Smith be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C. Edwards, D. J. Harries, T. J. Jones, C. C. Lucas and A. S. Peters

47. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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48. 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 - 8 November 2006

49. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for October 2006 and the provisional report for November 2006 be noted.

50. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for November 2006, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £21,846.25.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

51. SECTION 11 –
EASEMENT OVER COUNTY COUNCIL LAND

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the provision of an easement for the water pipeline for Section 11. Members were informed that the letter was originally sent to the Burial Authority's Solicitors in November 2005, but the letter was never forwarded to the Burial Authority. Had the Authority known about the terms of the easement then the proposed £1500 charge would have been met from the Section 11 account before it was closed and the budget surplus transferred into general reserves. Subsequently, there was no funding available for paying the easement charge this year. After a short discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary enquire with Carmarthenshire County Council whether the £1500 charge for the easement can be made in April 2007, so that it can be paid from next year's budget. If the response is unfavourable then payment for the easement will have to be met from general reserves, and shown as an overspend in this year's budget.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary also seek clarification from the County Council about the Burial Authority having to pay towards the maintenance costs of the easement area and what this entails.

52. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2006

Members considered the Auditor's report received from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, (copies having been previously circulated), in respect of the Burial Authority's accounts for 2005/2006. The report made one qualification about the risk assessment process not being reviewed and minuted during the year. This should have been minuted as evidence that the

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Burial Authority was satisfied that all risks had been identified and safeguards put in place to protect against those risks.

The report also raised an issue to assist the Burial Authority to have in place adequate Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover. The Secretary confirmed that such cover was reviewed and arranged annually and included in Llanelli Rural Council's main insurance policy. The current amount of cover was deemed more than adequate for the maximum amount of money held by the Authority at any one time during the year.

RESOLVED that the Auditor's report be noted and that in future the Burial Authority's risk assessment process be reviewed and minuted annually in accordance with the qualification made in the report.

53. 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.

54. TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

- (1) ANNUAL COST SAVINGS
- (2) PROVISION OF HARD STANDING

Further to Minute No. 43, the Secretary reported that the annual savings resulting from the purchase of the trade refuse bins would be in the region of £1000.00. However, a collection point for the bins now needed to be constructed urgently, to comply with the revised refuse collection arrangements. Members were informed that there was no budget provision for the construction work so the expenditure would have to be met from general reserves. Unfortunately, it had proved difficult to obtain three quotations in time for consideration at the meeting, but the Secretary stated that based on the one quotation received thus far, the work should cost no more than £1100.00.

RESOLVED that the information regarding the annual savings be noted, and in view of the urgent need for the construction of the hard standing, the Secretary be authorised to organise the work once he was satisfied with the quotations received and the outcome reported to a future meeting.

55. MEMORIAL TESTING

- (1) MEMORIAL STABILITY TESTER

Members considered recommendations from P R Safety Ltd (the Authority's safety adviser) for a number of modifications and improvements to be made to the Authority's stability tester. The introduction of new guidelines for the testing of memorials at a height of 1.5 meters in line with the British Standard (BS:8415) necessitated the modifications. P R Safety Ltd had been unable to obtain three quotations, due to the scope and technical nature of the modifications and so, it was

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RESOLVED that the quotation from Kontakt Engineering, Unit 3, Capel Hendre Industrial Estate, Ammanford in the amount of £1994.00 plus VAT be accepted and that the funds be vired from the 'Making Safe Memorials' budget to fund the purchase.

(2) MEMORIAL SUPPORTS

The Secretary reported that the cemetery sections now being tested were producing a higher number of fails. In view of the age of the memorials and having no contact details for the families, the temporary supports had to remain in place for longer periods. This was affecting the Authority's supply of supports and the existing stock was almost depleted. The Secretary stated that there was no money left in the budget for the purchase of additional supports which cost £3674 for a batch of 100. However, if additional supports were not purchased soon, memorial testing would have to be suspended until the new financial year when new stock could be purchased. After a lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary be authorised to purchase 100 extra memorial supports from Odlings MCR Ltd, Rosscliffe Road, Junction 8 Bussiness Centre, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire and the expenditure be met by viring the cost from the 'contingency' budget.

56 LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD

Members considered correspondence received from Mrs Jopling, the Managing Director of Llanelli Crematorium Ltd dated the 24 November and the 6 December 2006. Mrs Jopling enquired whether her company could pay the year's rental on a monthly basis instead of one lump sum payable in advance. She also enquired about the option to buy the freehold interest as set out in the Option Deed forming part of the original Lease agreement and requested a valuation from the Authority.

Following discussion, it was

RESOVLED that both matters be referred to Jennings Solicitors for action in accordance with Members' views and observations.

57. LEGAL ADVICE

Members considered the Secretary's report over the current level of legal advice and support and it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary invite a representative(s) from Jennings Solicitors to attend a meeting with himself and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to discuss the way forward with the outcome being reported back to committee in due course.

58. SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Chairman wished Members and Officers a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

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The meeting concluded at 4:50 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

418. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) C.A.T.C.H. U.P. Ltd;
- (2) Llys-y-Bryn League of Friends;
- (3) Trallwm Forum;
- (4) Bynea District Forum;
- (5) Llys Caradog Children’s Centre.

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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 13 March, 2007, adopted by the Council.