

19 July, 2006.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 117 - 123

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Conference Room, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 19 July, 2006, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. C. Edwards (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen M. Howells
T. Devichand M. B. Hughes
G. H. Wooldridge

Apologies: Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, M. P. Jones, T. J. Jones, A. S. Peters.

117. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in the under-mentioned matters:-

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
119	T. Devichand	Vice Chairman, Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee
121	T. Devichand	Member, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
120	M. Howells	acquainted with members of the family-run management team behind STARNINE Ltd.
119	G. H. Wooldridge	Member, Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee

118. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN WALES

Correspondence was received from the National Assembly for Wales which stated that the Local Government and Public Services Committee had been carrying out a review of electoral arrangements in Wales since March 2005. Issues raised by the evidence received were highlighted and the ways in which they had been addressed by other electoral administrations in Europe.

Members' views were sought via questions posed within the report.

RESOLVED that Members' responses to the questions be forwarded to the Local Government and Public Services Committee, National Assembly for Wales.

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119. DEVELOPING MODERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN CARMARTHENSHIRE: PROPOSALS FOR RESHAPING AND REPROVIDING DAY CARE SERVICES IN 2006/07

Cllrs. T. Devichand and G. H. Wooldridge declared an interest in the following item as Cllr. Devichand was Vice Chairman and Cllr. Wooldridge a member of the Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee. Neither Member spoke or voted on the matter.

Pursuant to Minute No. 427 (19 April, 2006), Members were circulated with correspondence received from the Director of Social Care and Housing, Carmarthenshire County Council, informing of proposed changes and their timescales.

Following discussion, during which Members reiterated the importance of facilities in Day Centres remaining open, it was

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.

120. POST OFFICE - LLANELLI BRANCH

Cllr. M. Howells declared an interest in the following item as he was acquainted with members of the family-run management team behind STARNINE Ltd. and did not speak or vote on the matter.

Correspondence was received from the Programme Director, Post Office Ltd., informing of the intention to transfer the management of the Post Office branch at John Street, Llanelli to STARNINE Ltd.

During discussion, Members referred to the importance of maintaining current service standards and that good customer care was essential. Reference was also made to customers requiring postal services being given priority over customers requiring ancillary services.

RESOLVED that Members' comments be forwarded to the Programme Director, Post Office Ltd.

121. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY – DRAFT RISK REDUCTION PLAN 2007/10

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in the following item as she was a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

Members considered and welcomed the above draft consultation document received from the Chairman, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

Reference was made to efforts being undertaken for the reduction of fire deaths and injuries in domestic properties through community safety initiatives and felt encouraged risk was being reduced by the implementation of free fire home safety audits (HFSA) of households.

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It was noted that there were 6913 high risk households which could not be reached in less than ten minutes and that the Fire Authority intended implementing an additional form of risk reduction such as targeted HSFAs.

Members were particularly pleased that the relocation of the rescue tender from Llanelli to Carmarthen had improved overall strategic cover and that, as a result, Llanelli had received an incident response unit in its place. However, it was noted that the review of the diving unit remained deferred. The decision to retain Pontardawe Fire Station with a full time crew was welcomed as the scaling down of operations could have had a severe affect at both Swansea and Morriston Fire Stations, thereby hampering the fire stations providing the necessary cover to the Llanelli area during emergencies. The intention to replace some of the current emergency tenders with technical rescue appliances which had a higher specification was also noted and there was a fear that such costs could ultimately lead to the overall reduction of emergency rescue tenders.

Reference was made to the proposal to provide an additional fire fighter for community safety duties in Carmarthenshire and Members supported the initiative to establish a Young Firefighter scheme at Llanelli.

It was felt that the successful implementation of the Risk Reduction Plan would be heavily reliant upon receiving the necessary funding and it was suggested that the way forward for the continued development of the Fire Authority was by networking with other public sector service providers.

RESOLVED that Members' views and comments be forwarded to the Chairman, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

122. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was

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.

123. STAFFING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) be received and adopted.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.00 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 September, 2006, adopted by the Council.