

**13 September, 2016**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 173 – 184**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 13 September, 2016, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. S. M. Donoghue (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

L. A. Beer	H. J. Evans
S. M. Caiach	M. L. Evans
M. V. Davies	T. J. Jones
S. L. Davies	A. G. Morgan
T. Devichand	J. S. Phillips
W. V. Thomas	

**Absent:** L. J. Butler

**173. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar, T. Bowen, D. M. Cundy, R. E. Evans, S. N. Lewis, C. A. Rees, A. J. Rogers and G. H. Wooldridge.

**174. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**175. TRADING STANDARDS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Roger Edmunds, Ms Quita Davies and Mr Andrew Passenger, Trading Standards Officers, Carmarthenshire County Council to the meeting.

Ms Davies thanked Members for the opportunity to attend the Council meeting and together with Mr Passenger proceeded to inform Members about the Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS) project.

The FESS was a multi-agency safeguarding scheme created and developed by Carmarthenshire Trading Standards to detect and prevent the financial exploitation of vulnerable people. The service operated a number of measures to protect victims of crime, reduce financial detriment, promote health and wellbeing and facilitate independent living.

Trading Standards work in this area had traditionally tended to be reactive to consumer protection issues producing significant financial detriment. However, due to the increase in

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criminal typologies and subsequent enforcement barriers posed by the international nature of modern criminality, the team were now developing a more proactive intelligence led strategy in order to be more preventative in its approach.

Carmarthenshire Trading Standards was unique in Wales because it formed part of Social Care Health and Housing and was therefore able to foster good working links with Social Care Services. Trading Standards possessed specialist technical measures, knowledge, experience and enforcement powers in relation to issues that tended to underpin financial exploitation. However, Trading Standards Services were not equipped to deal with the specialist behavioural, health, emotional or psychological impact the abuse might have on the service user, neither was it equipped to advise on other social factors that might contribute to or underpin the exploitation such as housing, benefits education or employment.

Members were informed that FESS was a reciprocal voluntary participation scheme where organisation/departments sign up and undertaken to work with the authority to develop safeguarding policies and procedures and refer victims of financial exploitation.

The scheme brought with it private sector involvement from major high street banks and since the launch in December 2014, the scheme had received the approval and endorsement from Halifax bank. It was hoped that other high street banks would follow suit.

The scheme facilitated the early detection of vulnerable people and the implementation of a support package containing any or all of the protective/preventative measures and those of other social care departments to protect people from further exploitation.

Ms Davies and Mr Passenger referred to a case known as Mr S. Mr S was 75 years old, visually impaired and in poor health. Mr S. was referred to Trading Standards by Halifax bank under the scheme because Mr S. had lost over £75,000 to an investment fraud scam. Ms Davies continued explaining to Members how intervention and support from them and working together with the police, Citizen Advice Bureau and his support workers, it was able to prevent any more money being taken from Mr S.

Trading Standards was able to fund the crime prevention and safeguarding initiatives through the confiscation of assets from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). Trading Standards were currently piloting an initial purchase of 100 Truecall Nuisance telephones. To date, 29 devices had been installed and were proving to be extremely effective at blocking calls, therefore improving wellbeing and reducing financial detriment for vulnerable adults. Ms Davies went on to explain how important the telephone was to some vulnerable adults. A lot of elderly adults relied on the telephone for communication with the outside world and not to have the feeling of loneliness.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for addressing Members and then invited comments and questions from the floor.

Members felt interaction with the police and other public sector enforcement bodies could only benefit the scheme to continue to deliver excellent results. Reference was made to the role of PCSO's in the community and the interaction with local people. Members also recognised that in some instances social media could be abused and used to take advantage of vulnerable adults. Members believed it was important to educate people against cybercrime and the use of ransom ware and by way of response Mr Edmunds referred to schemes such as

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the Fifty Plus Forum that highlighted the growth of online ecommerce and cybercrime in the form of a short play. Mr Edmunds confirmed the department constantly monitored the internet to help protect the public. Trading Standards also monitored companies selling and trading in Carmarthenshire and made contact with them if it was felt they might be breaking the law; working with the police was very important to tackle the opportunists.

Furthermore, Trading Standards had developed a programme that had been delivering lessons to local school children between 9 and 11 years old teaching them the basics of financial literacy and money management. This would teach children the basic skills for managing and handling money and was regarded as an interactive tool to help prevent children becoming victims of crime in later life.

The Chairman thanked Mr Edmunds and Officers for attending the meeting and they withdrew from proceedings.

*Cllr. T. J. Jones left the meeting.*

**176. 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	12 July, 2016
Planning and Liaison Committee	18 July, 2016
Recreation and Welfare Committee	19 July, 2016
Policy and Resources Committee	20 July, 2016
Finance and General Purposes Committee	27 July, 2016
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	28 July, 2016
Special Meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee	16 August, 2016
Planning and Liaison Committee	30 August, 2016

**177. MATTERS ARISING**  
**(1) LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**  
**CEMETERY LAND TO THE REAR OF BRYNSIRIOL, DAFEN**

Further to Minute No. 117, the Clerk informed Members that the small parcel of land at the rear of Brynsiriol, Dafen was being sold for a nominal value and was not the same parcel of land where the land encroachment had previously occurred.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**(2) PWLL PLAY AREA**

Further to Minute No. 134, the Clerk informed Members fencing had been erected and the play area was now open to the public. There were some minor snags and issues to resolve with the volume of rubbish and, use of the waste bins but this was going to be addressed.

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Furthermore, the design of the swing for accommodating wheelchair users had been slightly modified. An official opening of the play area would be arranged shortly.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**178. CERTIFIED ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH, 2016**

Members received correspondence from Grant Thornton UK LLP enclosing the certified Annual Return for the Council for the year ended 31 March, 2016. No matters had been identified requiring attention and it was

**RESOLVED** that the certified Annual Return be noted.

**179. LET'S TALK HEALTH  
(1) JOIN THE 'BIG CONVERSATION'**

Members considered and invitation from the Director of Governance, Communities and Engagement, Hywel Dda University Health Board, to attend a series of 'Big Conversation' workshops.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and that interested Members attend the planned event in Llanelli on 14 September, 2016.

**(2) WELLBEING ASSESSMENT**

Members considered a Wellbeing Assessment received from Hywel Dda University Health Board.

Public service providers across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire were working together to assess the state of well-being of local people and communities, now and for the future.

The information provided from each assessment would be used by each County to produce an Assessment of Local Well-being. The assessment would be used by each County's Public Services Board to put together a five year Local Well-being Plan that would say what they intended on doing and how the Board would be working together to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of each County. The Plan would need to be in place by April 2018.

During general discussion, Members highlighted the importance of public transport to aid access to services; the provision of local health services was also a key concern and in particular the sustainability of Prince Philip Hospital following the reconfiguration of front line services. Other matters raised made reference to the important correlation between the environment and healthy play and leisure; the generation of employment opportunities in the county and the need for more social housing to support homeless people and it was

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**RESOLVED** that the Clerk responds to the Wellbeing Assessment highlighting Members views and concerns by completing the accompanying Wellbeing Assessment survey and to complement the council response, Members also be encouraged to reply individually to the survey.

**180. DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
POLICE AND CRIME PLAN CONSULTATION**

Members considered correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys Police.

One of the first tasks as the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner was to issue a Police and Crime Plan setting out the strategic objectives for the next four years. The Commissioner was keen that the Plan was developed collaboratively with partners and stakeholders and was underpinned by a joint understanding of need and priorities.

The Commissioner was seeking views to ensure that the Police and Crime Plan made a difference to policing and the public of Dyfed-Powys.

Following discussion, during which Members commented on the cuts already been made to the police force and stations, it was

**RESOLVED** that:

(1) The following matters be brought to the attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner for possible inclusion in the plan:

- Tackling the high rates of drug and alcohol abuse in the Llanelli district area.
- The retention of police premises and personnel in neighbourhoods such as Bynea, Dafen, Felinfoel, Llwynhendy (police station), Pwll and Swiss Valley.
- The retention of facilities and resources with no more cuts to services.
- The introduction of PCSOs has been a positive experience in the Llanelli Rural area and more investment should be made to retain these key community positions.

(2) An invitation be extended to the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a future Council meeting to discuss these matters in further detail with Members.

**181. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS  
LEASE OF CREMATORIUM**

Members received correspondence from the Solicitor, Evans Powell & Co enclosing two engrossments for the re-assignment of the Lease from Llanelli Crematorium Limited to Crematoria Management Limited, and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign and affix the Council's Seal to the engrossments.

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**182. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 8 June, 2016:

“At the Annual Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 8 June, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

**Present:** Cllr. M. J. P. Burns (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

M. V. Davies	R. E. Evans
S. M. Donoghue	J. S. Phillips
P. J. Edmunds	R. F. Price
C. J. Reed MBE	

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Members proceeded to appoint a Chairman and following the motion of Cllr. S. M. Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. M. V. Davies, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. R. E. Evans be appointed Chairman.

**2. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Cllr. R. E. Evans thanked Members for appointing him as Chairman for the ensuing year and also thanked Cllr. M. J. P Burns the outgoing Chairman for his work during the last year.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Following the motion of Cllr. P. J. Edmunds, seconded by Cllr. M. J. P. Burns, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. C. J. Reed MBE be appointed Vice Chairman.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. L. J. Stedman.

**5. MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

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6. 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 - 11 May 2016

7. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for April 2016 and the provisional report for May 2016 be noted.

8. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for May 2016, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £24,631.35.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

9. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31 MARCH 2016

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2016, (copies of which had been previously circulated) and it was

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts be accepted.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2015/2016 – FINAL REPORT

Further to Minute No. 29 (11 November 2015), Members considered the final internal audit report, compiled by Auditing Solutions Ltd.

The report did not differ from the interim report (to which Minute No. 29 refers) and no matters needed addressing.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

11. AUDIT ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31 MARCH 2016

Members considered the Audit Annual Return document for the financial year ending 31 March 2016 and it was

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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.

**12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY SCALES 2016 AND 2017**

RESOLVED that the National Joint Council circular 2016 and 2017 confirming pay scales and allowances effective from 1 April 2016 and April 2017 respectively, be received and adopted.

**13. 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.

**14. BURIAL SERVICE COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES WITH NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES**

Further to Minute No. 85(2) (11 May 2016), the Secretary outlined the fee structure that had been forwarded to Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council for their consideration.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**15. CEMETERY LAND TO THE REAR OF BRYNSIRIOL, DAFEN**

Further to Minute No. 85(3) (11 May 2016), Members considered the valuation report from Mallard (Wales) Ltd. After a short discussion it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the land be offered for sale for the valuation amount recorded in the report plus the costs of producing the valuation report and the Burial Authority's legal costs associated with the proposed sale.

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The meeting concluded at 4:35 pm”  
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

**183. MATTERS REPORTED**

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

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**184. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

**RESOLVED** that the letters of appreciation for the Council's assistance received from the following, be noted with pleasure:

- (1) Bynea Cycling Club;
- (2) Llys Caradog Children's Home.

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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 11 October, 2016, adopted by the Council.