

10 January, 2017

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 362 – 371

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 January, 2017, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	H. J. Evans
T. Bowen	R. E. Evans
S. M. Caiach	S. N. Lewis
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	J. S. Phillips
T. Devichand	A. J. Rogers
W. V. Thomas	

Absent: L. J. Butler

362. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Members were informed that Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge was in hospital and Members requested that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to him.

363. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar, D. M. Cundy, M. L. Evans, T. J. Jones, C. A. Rees and G. H. Wooldridge.

364. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

365. WALES COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Nigel Hickley, Community Pay-Back Officer and Ms Sian Waters, Probation Services Officer, Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, provider of probation services and invited them to address Members.

Ms Waters thanked the Chairman for the opportunity of attending the council meeting and proceeded to inform Members about the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) which was formed on 1 June, 2014, as part of the government's reform of probation services.

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Now operated by Working Links in partnership with Innovation Wessex, the Wales CRC helped keep Wales safe and was responsible for the management of low and medium-risk offenders who had been sentenced to serve their order from the Court in the community.

The Wales CRC worked closely with the National Probation Service (NPS) which was created at the same time to manage high-risk offenders, advised courts on sentencing and it also worked with victims. The Wales CRC also provided rehabilitation interventions to some high-risk offenders managed by the NPS.

The aim of Wales CRC was to protect the public, reduce reoffending and encourage restorative justice and rehabilitation, highlighting to offenders how their crimes affect victims as well as the public.

In 2014 the Wales CRC was approached by Antioch Church to work in partnership by engaging with ex-offenders to improve individuals' self-esteem, skills base and employability. It was initially a pilot scheme for six months. The Wales CRC worked with adult offenders which had to serve their sentence in the community through the involvement in a green social enterprise which created and sold innovative home and garden products from discarded items in a supported learning environment. To date the Wales CRC had saved 6995 kg of waste from landfill by recycling it.

Wales CRC was not grant funded and therefore had to rely on donations from other sources. Furthermore, 238 offenders had attended unpaid work with the Wales CRC and 77 offenders have had placements. Mr Hickley informed Members that Wales CRC covered the Dyfed Powys area and worked with non-profitable organisations.

Wales CRC had previously managed projects at Pembrey Country Park, as well as clearing gardens, yards, churches, planting bulbs for councils to name but a few. The projects ranged from litter picking to clearing dense undergrowth and environmental projects through repairing and redecorating community centres. Offenders worked as part of a team or on an individual placement and were monitored by a supervisor and worked all day.

The community payback had a number of benefits for the offenders. It provided a tough, effective and visible punishment and deterrent requiring people to undertake challenging work at inconvenient times, typically at the weekend. It gave the offender positive experiences of what could be achieved by working together in a team in a structured and disciplined way while also making some reparation for the harm they had caused. It enabled the offender to learn new skills that could help them towards getting paid employment and could lead to a more stable, positive and crime-free life in the future. Members were informed offenders were required to provide 28 hours a week to the Wales CRC.

General discussion ensued during which Members expressed interest in working in collaboration with the Wales CRC for the benefit of the wider community. In order to establish a rapport it was suggested that as a starting point, the Council's Community Development Officer arranges to meet with Ms Waters and Mr Hickley and then for contact information to be disseminated for Members for future reference.

The Chairman thanked Ms Waters and Mr Hickley for attending the meeting and they withdrew from proceedings.

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366. 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	13 December, 2016
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	20 December, 2016
Recreation and Welfare Committee	20 December, 2016
Policy and Resources Committee	21 December, 2016
Planning and Liaison Committee	3 January, 2017

367. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute No. 354, Cllr. T. Devichand disagreed with the accuracy of the Minute and there then followed a general discussion about the said proceedings. The Chairman exercised his discretion in allowing the additional debate to continue but reminded Members that the matter had already been determined by the Policy and Resources Committee. It was not an opportunity to rehearse or re-open the business transacted at the committee meeting.

During discussion of the above, Cllr. J. S. Phillips left the meeting.

368. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN ELECT AND VICE CHAIRMAN ELECT

Pursuant to Minute No. 337, it was

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Civic and Ceremonial Committee be accepted:-

- (1) Cllr. H. J. Evans be confirmed as the Chairman Elect of Council with his Consort being Mrs Sylvia Evans for the ensuing municipal year;
- (2) Cllr. S. M. Caiach be confirmed as the Vice-Chairman Elect of Council pending the Committee interviewing her intended Consort at a meeting to be held in January 2017”.

Arising out of discussion of the above, Cllr. S. M. Caiach informed the meeting that Mrs Joyce Walters would be her intended Consort.

369. THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

Further to Minute no. 282(5), Members considered an invitation from the Secretary, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales to a round table discussion event on its remuneration framework for community and town councils.

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RESOLVED that the Chairman of Council and Clerk attend the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales round table event on 15 February, 2017, at St. Michael's Centre, Abergavenny.

370. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

371. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Bynea District Forum;
- (2) Pwll Action Committee.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.00 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 14 February, 2017, adopted by the Council.