

**14 February, 2017**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 435 – 448**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 14 February, 2017, at 6.00 p.m.

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

**Cllrs.**

F. Akhtar	M. L. Evans
L. A. Beer	R. E. Evans
S. M. Caiach	T. J. Jones
D. M. Cundy	S. N. Lewis
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	J. S. Phillips
T. Devichand	C. A. Rees
H. J. Evans	A. J. Rogers
W. V. Thomas	

**Absent:** L. J. Butler

**435. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Bowen and G. H. Wooldridge.

**436. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**437. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2017 - 2022**

Further to Minute No. 253, the Chairman welcomed to the meeting Area Manager Roger Thomas (Corporate Head of Response) and Group Manager Adrian Nicholas (Head of Response for Carmarthenshire), Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service MWWFRS to discuss the 12 draft improvement objectives contained in the draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022 and invited them to address Members.

Mr Thomas thanked Members for the invitation to the meeting and continued by explaining the 12 objectives had been designed to help the MWWFRS to deliver against its strategic priorities. They were very much regarded as aspirational. He explained that at present the fire authority was in the middle of a risk review. It was important to match resources to the

**14 February, 2017**

level of risk and not to the level of demand. Therefore, there were no plans to change the delivery model in Llanelli.

MWWFRS covered 4,500 square miles of Wales (almost two thirds of the landmass of Wales) which comprised six Unitary Authorities, some of these were urban areas, oil refineries and remote rural areas.

The Draft Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022 had been designed to be general in terms due to the funding for MWWFRS being agreed to on an annual basis, this was making it difficult to forecast the future.

The current policy and approach of prevention and intervention had a huge impact on safety, the overall level of risk had been significantly reduced. A range of measures had been developed through activities specifically to improve fire safety in the home. This had been achieved primarily through carrying out free Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) with particular emphasis on vulnerable and high risk people.

Mr Thomas stated MWWFRS was involved in a number of initiatives with it actively participating in grass safety summits and also road safety summits. To this extent Members were informed that the MWWFRS was now involved with Road Traffic Collisions (RTC). The MWWFRS had an impact on human life across communities on a daily basis. It was now supporting the police and other partner agencies to target interventions that address texting while driving, drink/drug driving etc.

Mr Thomas stated that at the Llanelli fire station there was a co-responder scheme taking over 4,000 medical related calls this year. There was a defibrillator on the rescue appliances which had a huge impact on the medical services. This scheme was yearly funded. The firefighters were trained to incident commander level, they were not trained to administer drugs.

There then followed a question and answer session on specific issues with flooding proving to be topical. Members enquired about the flooding issues in Llanelli especially with new buildings being constructed this had an impact on the pumping stations and sewerage. By way of response Mr Thomas stated there was no statutory duty for the fire service to deal with flooding issues but this was likely to change very soon.

As a result of climate change, firefighters within the MWWFRS were increasingly being called upon to respond to incidents of flooding, to carryout rescues and to protect property from the damaging effects of water and contamination. There was no statutory duty placed on Fire and Rescue Services to attend incidents of this nature but the Welsh Government had now recognised the need to formalise the basis on which flood response was provided. The Welsh Government was currently considering extending the statutory functions of Fire and Rescue Authorities to specifically include flooding and water rescue.

Mr Nicholas informed Members that the MWWFRS was currently working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council to deal with culverts and flooding. It was a joint partnership initiative to help prevent flooding and early intervention and identification of potential problems was a key component of the collaboration arrangement.

**14 February, 2017**

Mr Nicholas referred to historical statistics stretching back to 2009/10 and so far the current year figures had reduced on these by comparison. He referred to initiatives in other local authority areas to help reduce flooding. He specifically mentioned the culvert partnership emanating from Neath Port Talbot Council and Natural Resources Wales (NRW); this was now being rolled out to other areas. Mr Nicholas explained that the fire service crews when out attending calls would report through to NRW if they discovered blocked culverts.

Members then discussed more general matters including measures taken to repair and strengthen the dam at Furnace Reservoir before attention then turned to budget arrangements and finance as well as the responsiveness of the crewing arrangements at Llanelli Fire Station. It was confirmed that despite taking on additional duties to help the likes of the ambulance service, response times had not fluctuated. There had been no delays to the current service standards.

Members then queried the loss of local knowledge by pooling and centralizing resources such as the call centre which had been relocated to Bridgend. In drawing discussion to an end, Members referred to local flooding incidents, the future functionality and duties of fire fighters acting as first responders in preference to ambulances and also the impact of large housing infrastructure projects in places such as Llwynhendy. All of which was likely to have an impact on the resources of the fire authority moving forward.

The Chairman thanked Mr Thomas and Mr Nicholas for attending the meeting and for contributing to a very informative discussion following which they withdrew from proceedings.

**438. 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	10 January, 2017
Recreation and Welfare Committee	17 January, 2017
Planning and Liaison Committee	23 January, 2017
Finance and General Purposes Committee	25 January, 2017
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	26 January, 2017
Special Meeting of the Civic and Ceremonial Committee	6 February, 2017
Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee	6 February, 2017
Special Council	6 February, 2017
Special Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee	7 February, 2017
Special Meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee	8 February, 2017
Planning and Liaison Committee	13 February, 2017

**439. MATTERS ARISING**  
**(1) CLOS Y GELLI PLAY AREA - LLWYNHENDY**

Further to Minute No. 428, Cllr. S. L. Davies in expressing her support and thanks for progressing with the transfer, commented the play facilities had been upgraded using funds

**14 February, 2017**

from a section 106 planning agreement and therefore no financial investment to improve the facilities was needed from the Council, once the transfer had been completed.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**440. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN ELECT AND  
VICE CHAIRMAN ELECT**

Pursuant to Minute No. 401, it was

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

“(1) Cllr. S. M. Caiach’s consort be confirmed as being Mrs Joyce Walters for the ensuing municipal year”.

**441. NOTICE OF MOTION TO REVIEW THE APPOINTMENT OF  
LEADER OF COUNCIL**

Members received a Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. Devichand requesting the Council to review the appointment of Leader of Council given that “The Rural Labour Group would like to challenge the Independents and Plaid coalition for the leadership of the Rural Council” due the poor attendance of Independent and Plaid Members.

Following a lengthy discussion and having taken a vote, it was ultimately

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. T. Devichand be appointed Leader of Council.

Arising from the above discussion it would be necessary to revisit and amend the composition of the Council’s standing committees and the like. However, Cllr. Devichand stated that any change to the committee structure would be minimal. The Chairman advised Members that this would be addressed at the next ordinary Council meeting to be held on 14 March, 2017, and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

*Cllrs. M. V. Davies, R. E. Evans, A. G. Morgan and C. A. Rees withdrew from the meeting.*

**442. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS  
HEOL LLANELLI PLAY AREA - PONTYATES**

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign and affix the Council’s Seal to the Lease of Heol Llanelli Play Area, Pontyates.

**14 February, 2017**

*Cllr. T. J. Jones expressed his delight over the asset transfer and then withdrew from the meeting.*

**443. HMS TRENCHANT**

Further to Minute 284, correspondence was received from Commanding Officer R Watts updating Members on events since his last letter and it was

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**444. ONE VOICE WALES  
(1) MEMBERSHIP 2017-18**

Members considered correspondence received from the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales (OVW) inviting the Council to take out discounted membership for OVW for the financial year 2017/18.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the invitation be noted.

**(2) TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Members received correspondence from the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales highlighting the training opportunities for Councillors throughout Wales during 2017. OVW anticipated an increase in demand for the courses due to the May 2017 elections.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**445. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
SWISS VALLEY COMMUNITY & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Correspondence was received from the Secretary, Swiss Valley Community & Residents Association (SVCRA) confirming that the SVCRA would not be submitting invoices for the remaining funds from the grant that was awarded by the Community Development Grant.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**446. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 9 November, 2016:

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 9 November 2016 at 4:00 pm.

**14 February, 2017**

Present: Cllr. R. E. Evans (Chairman)

Cllrs.

M. J. P. Burns            J. S. Phillips  
S. M. Donoghue        L.J. Steadman

38.            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. V. Davies, P.J. Edmunds, R.F. Price and C.J. Reed, MBE.

39.            MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

40.            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            -            12 October 2016

41.            INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for September 2016 and the provisional report for October 2016 be noted.

42.            SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for October 2016, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £33,233.06.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

43.            CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED that in accordance with Minute No.45 (10 December 2003), this year's Christmas holiday arrangements for the cemetery workforce be confirmed as detailed below, with two days annual leave being added to employees' annual leave entitlement for 2016/2017.

Friday            23 December 2016    -            Normal working Day  
Saturday        24 December 2016    -            Christmas Eve

**14 February, 2017**

Sunday	25 December	2016	-	Christmas Day
Monday	26 December	2016	-	Boxing Day
Tuesday	27 December	2016	-	Bank Holiday (In Lieu of Christmas Day)
Wednesday	28 December	2016	-	Locally Agreed Holiday
Thursday	29 December	2016	-	Normal Working Day
Friday	30 December	2016	-	Normal Working Day
Saturday	31 December	2016	-	Non-Working day
Sunday	1 January	2017	-	New Year's day
Monday	2 January	2017	-	Bank Holiday (In Lieu of New year's Day)

44. 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.

45. LLANELLI CREMATORIUM – ANNUAL RENT REVIEW

Members considered the Secretary's report informing of the impending annual rent review and which confirmed the amount of rent payable to the Burial Authority from Crematoria Management Ltd, with effect from 1 December 2016.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the rent for the ensuing year be confirmed as £30,606 and that Crematoria Management Ltd be notified accordingly.

46. GRANITE MEMORIAL BENCHES

Further to Minute No. 66 (8 December 2010), Members considered the Cemetery Manager's report regarding the introduction of a new policy for the installation of benches in the cemetery grounds. The new policy would allow members of the public to purchase granite memorial benches directly from a memorial mason, and would be applied along similar lines as the Burial Authority's memorial headstone installation policy. A detailed memorial bench policy and a revised set of cemetery regulations would be presented for approval at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

.....  
The meeting concluded at 4:15 pm”  
.....

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

**14 February, 2017**

**447. MATTERS REPORTED**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**448. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

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

- (1) Bryngwyn School;
- (2) Carnifal Pum Heol a'r Cylch
- (3) Dafen Primary School;
- (4) Eisteddfod;
- (5) Halfway Primary School;
- (6) Llangollen 2017 – that the complimentary tickets be ordered;
- (7) Macmillan Cancer Support;
- (8) St. John Lloyd Catholic School.

.....  
The Meeting concluded at 7.25 p.m.  
.....

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 March, 2017, adopted by the Council.