

8 July, 2014

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 124 – 135

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 8 July 2014, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. L. J. Butler (Chairman)

Cllrs.

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

124. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that former Council Chairman, Mr Donald Davies, had passed away. As a mark of respect, Members and Officers stood in silent tribute.

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. A. Beer, S. M. Donoghue and S. N. Lewis.

126. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 130 as he was the subject of discussion.

**127. LLANELLI COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM
MID & WEST WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Iwan Cray, Head of Carmarthenshire County Command and Mrs Debra Ford, Llanelli Community Safety Team (LCST), Llanelli Fire Station to the meeting and invited them to address Members.

Members were informed that LCST had been established in November 2013, specifically to work within the Llanelli area. Members were informed this was a new initiative unique to

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Llanelli. If it proved successful consideration would be given to rolling it out to other parts of the county. Prior to proceeding with the presentation a general invitation was extended to all Members to visit the new station to have a tour of the facilities. Mr Cray commented that Dyfed Powys Police was now working out of the station and community meeting facilities were available to help foster stronger links with community groups.

Mr Cray continued with the presentation by stating the LCST consisted of three people and its aim was to save lives and to protect communities. LCST aimed to meet the needs of Llanelli's diverse communities and also meet local priorities established with local partners so that Llanelli became a safer place to live, work and visit.

In promoting safer communities, LCST wanted to reduce the number of fire calls across the Llanelli area through proactive initiatives, working with local partners and community groups to educate and promote fire safety messages. LCST networking opportunities included attending at local community group meetings, sheltered complexes, attending PACT meetings and putting on events at local supermarkets to speak to people about fire safety. This was an ongoing process.

The LCST team were focusing on proactive work within the area through attendance at local community events, providing safety information and advice and promoting the free home fire safety checks and smoke alarms which were essential in providing an early warning in the event of a fire.

LCST worked alongside the Arson Reduction Team to proactively target arson, for example less litter on the street meant less fires could be started. If there was a large amount of litter on the street it would be reported. The cleaner the streets the less chance of deliberate fires being started.

During the presentation, Mrs Ford stated that the team worked closely with the station crews in order to quickly and effectively react to incidents. The LCST attended households with follow up calls to see if there was any support needed and what further preventative measures could be taken. The team also carried out street door knocks to help educate people about fire hazards. This was followed up by providing neighbourhood reassurance and distributing information leaflets.

During general discussion, Members enquired what work was being done to help prevent flooding? Mr Cray responded by stating the fire service did not get funding for flooding but it was working towards proactive measures and looking at high risk flooding areas now. He stated the service was working with communities in developing flood plans. Furthermore, data gathering on buildings and caravan sites had just began. Mr Cray recognised the increase in this category of emergency call.

Members then sought information about how the new crewing arrangements were operating in Llanelli and also enquired about the planned relocation of the Fire Service Control Room from Carmarthen to Bridged. Mr Cray stated that the operational response was better now at Llanelli than what it was before. Operational response data showed a time reduction for fire engine turnouts. Furthermore the optimum number of five crew members manning the engines in call outs had risen to 96%. There were 200 more safety checks done per annum now, sickness levels had decreased, emergency response was slightly better and the community was in a better place.

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Mr Cray then spoke about the Control Room in Carmarthen transferring to Bridgend. He stated the move was part of wider plans to merge and form a larger control centre. The relocation would have no detrimental impact on the community. He commented that with the advent of new technology, the new system would be able to home-in on the exact location of the call. The creation of a control centre at Bridgend would realise a big saving on public expenditure. Emergency Service Communication networks and systems were all due to be upgraded but by harmonizing the separate systems into one system, economies of scale and savings would be realised. The new system would significantly reduce the reliance on Control Room Operators possessing local knowledge of areas. He confirmed that staff from Carmarthen would be moving to Bridgend and assured Members that a percentage of staff would speak Welsh in response to a question about safeguarding staff Welsh language skills.

Mr Cray then responded to what areas of Llanelli and district fell under the operational remit of the LCST. He stated LCST's turn out area and boundary was formulated on a halfway point to the next closest fire station e.g. Kidwelly, Tumble and Gorseinon, so the Rural Council's administrative area was covered. In closing the presentation Mr Cray reiterated his invitation to Members to attend the new station. This could be accommodated at anytime during the day or evening if necessary.

Thereupon the Chairman thanked Mr Cray and Mrs Ford for attending and they withdrew from the meeting.

128. 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 June, 2014
Recreation and Welfare Committee	17 June, 2014
Policy and Resources Committee	18 June, 2014
Finance and General Purposes Committee	25 June, 2014
Planning and Liaison Committee	30 June, 2014
Special Council	30 June, 2014

129. MATTERS ARISING

**PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND OTHER
COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Further to Minute No. 84(1), the Clerk informed Members that the grant application to the Cwm Community and Environmental Fund had been unsuccessful and that a report on how this matter could be taken forward would be presented to the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting to be held on 15 July, 2014.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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130. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item because he was the subject of discussion and he withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced.

Members considered a request from Cllr. D. M. Cundy to withdraw from the Planning and Liaison Committee because of his predetermined views and stance towards planning applications and instead serve on another of the Council's standing committees.

RESOLVED that the request be approved and that henceforth Cllr. D. M. Cundy's seat on the Planning and Liaison Committee be withdrawn and that instead he shall be appointed to serve on the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Furthermore, in support of the change Cllr. Cundy shall also serve on the Learning Development Consultative Committee. To give effect to these changes it will be necessary to swap places with Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge on the aforementioned committees, with his seat transferring to the Planning and Liaison Committee.

**131. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS
BRYNGOLAU PLAYGROUND, DAFEN**

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised in affixing the Council's Seal on the Lease for Bryngolau Playground, Dafen, Llanelli.

Cllr. T. Devichand expressed her gratitude to all concerned in pursuing the asset transfer given the considerable amount of time that had elapsed since the Council had agreed to the transfer of the play area.

**132. INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY
COUNCILS CHANGES TO MATERNITY, NEONATAL (SCBU),
PAEDIATRIC AND GYNAECOLOGY SERVICES AT WITHBUSH
AND GLANGWILI HOSPITALS**

Correspondence was received from the Chief Operating Officer, Hywel Dda University Health Board inviting two Council representatives to attend the information sessions to be held on 9 July, 2014 at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen.

The Clerk informed Members that because of the imposed deadline for confirming attendance at the event falling sooner than today's meeting; it had been necessary to use his delegated powers to respond to the invitation. In doing so the Local Health Board had been notified that the Council had nominated himself and the Leader of Council to attend.

Following a brief discussion about the transparency of public consultation, it was

RESOLVED that the action taken by the Clerk be noted.

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133. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

134. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 14 May, 2014:

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 May 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Present: P. J. Edmunds (Chairman)

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar	L. J. Butler
T. Bowen	M. V. Davies
M. J. P. Burns	V. J. Johns

100. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R. M. Davies and C. J. Reed, MBE.

101. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

102. 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 - 9 April 2014

103. MATTERS ARISING

CEMETERY INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Further to Minute No. 97, the Chairman thanked everyone involved in the unveiling ceremony which took place on the 2 May 2014 and remarked the event was a complete success.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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104. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for March 2014 and the provisional report for April 2014 be noted.

105. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for April 2014, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £37,180.46.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

106. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2014

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2014, (copies of which had been previously circulated) and it was

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts be accepted.

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

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.

108. CEMETERY OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 20 (10 July 2013), the Cemetery Manager presented Members with revised plans for the planned cemetery office improvements. After a short discussion it was

RESOLVED that the plans be approved in principle and that the Cemetery Manager proceed with arranging the tender process, the results of which shall be reported to Members at a future meeting for consideration.

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The meeting concluded at 4:25 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

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135. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs;
- (2) Carmarthenshire National Eisteddfod;
- (3) Dafen Parish Church;
- (4) Llanelli Ramblers;
- (5) Ty Bryngwyn Hospice Trust;
- (6) Victim Support.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.40 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 9 September, 2014, adopted by the Council.