

10 June, 2014.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 80 – 88

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 June, 2014, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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

80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. T. J. Jones.

81. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 85 as he was the subject of discussion.

82. NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD FOR WALES

Further to Minute No. 417 (11 February, 2014), the Chairman welcomed Mr Alwyn Roberts, Deputy Organiser, National Eisteddfod for Wales to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr Roberts thanked the Chairman for the invitation to return to the Council to provide Members with a presentation update on progress thus far regarding the general preparation and arrangements for the National Eisteddfod being held in Llanelli from 1 - 9 August, 2014.

During his presentation, Mr Roberts confirmed that there were 50 days to go to the start of the event and good progress was being made on all fronts. He referred to a community day being held in the National Botanic Gardens of Wales on 14 June, 2014. During the community day a presentation would be given to the local hospitality sector and the Eisteddfod's 'Bonkers for Bunting' campaign would also be launched.

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Mr Roberts then spoke about the event sites at the Millennium Coastal Park (MCP) and what was being provided at the different locations. He stated site preparations had commenced at the end of May and by mid- September all site infrastructure would be removed. Security fencing was being erected around the site perimeter, footpaths had been temporarily diverted and parking restrictions introduced on the MCP.

Particular reference was then made to transport arrangements. There would be sign posting and restrictions in place on the M4 at junction 47 to divert traffic to the east to avoid traffic travelling through Pwll. There would be a security check point off Sandy Road to control access to the main site. Public transport arrangements were to be co-ordinated and a shuttle service would be provided to transfer visitors to and from the town centre. Several car parking sites had been identified to facilitate park and ride schemes. Blue badge holders would be directed to park vehicles at Parc Y Scarlets because of the level finished surface of the car park. Mr Roberts confirmed that there was enough parking provision to cater for 3,000 to 4,500 cars per day. Mr Roberts then touched upon other arrangements and spoke about noise management, licensing matters, the awarding of local contracts for various ancillary services such as cleaning, recycling, security and public transport.

Mr Roberts then turned his attention to the general funding arrangements for the event. Particular reference was made to the local fund target for Carmarthenshire. The original target was £320,000 but this had already been surpassed with it standing at £365,00 at the beginning of June. Llanelli's target was £88,000 split equally between the Town and Rural areas. The total raised thus far in Llanelli stood at £65,000 and the local committee had raised £33,000 of this total. Mr Roberts commented that projected income from the sale of pitches for stalls was below the original target so this had been revised down from £505,000 to £475,000. So far the income from stalls total stood at around 86% of the revised target.

Mr Roberts then spoke about the Council's contribution and how important it was. The Eisteddfod team were grateful for the Council's support; this was a huge boost. He stated the financial contribution would go towards the overall cost of running the festival which was £3.5 million.

Mr Roberts was thanked for his progress report and the Chairman then invited questions from the floor. Members put a number of questions to Mr Roberts covering:

- admission prices and how and where to buy tickets;
- marketing and information leaflets;
- disabled access requirements and public transport arrangements;
- the operation of the shuttle bus to and from town and the planned collection and drop off points;
- the selling of stalls and the impact to small local organisations;
- how the Council's donation might be spent.

Cllr. R. E. Evans left the meeting.

Mr Roberts responded to each of the points in turn and in closing he suggested that the Council might wish to request that its donation was used to support the possible funding of the shuttle bus service into the town centre (provided that Carmarthenshire County Council was unable to follow through on its commitment to do this); alternatively the servicing of

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transport back and fore from the park and ride sites or perhaps it might be spent on putting together welcome packs. The welcome packs would be distributed to the main hotels with vouchers and other marketing material included.

The remainder of the discussion then centred around whether the Council ought to make a general donation to the festival or to take up Mr Roberts' offer of earmarking it to be spent in one of the particular areas as suggested above.

At this juncture, the Chairman thanked Mr Roberts for his presentation and invited him to leave the meeting.

Cllrs. S. L. Davies and T. Devichand left the meeting.

Members then continued with their deliberations over how best to allocate the Council's donation and ultimately it was

RESOLVED that the additional £10,000 earmarked to support the Carmarthenshire Eisteddfod 2014 from the 2014/15 budget be released for payment to the National Eisteddfod, thereby making the Council's total contribution £20,000 towards the event. Furthermore, the financial contribution shall not be allocated to any particular budget head with it instead being used to support the general running costs of the festival.

83. 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:

Annual Meeting	13 May, 2014
Adjourned Annual Meeting (subject to the insertion of the following sentence immediately before Minute No. 13 ... "The meeting was temporarily adjourned").	15 May, 2014
Council	15 May, 2014
Finance and General Purposes Committee	15 May, 2014
Recreation and Welfare Committee	15 May, 2014
Planning and Liaison Committee	15 May, 2014
Policy and Resources Committee	15 May, 2014
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	15 May, 2014
Community Development Grants Panel	15 May, 2014
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	15 May, 2014
Planning and Liaison Committee	19 May, 2014
Recreation and Welfare Committee	20 May, 2014
Policy and Resources Committee	21 May, 2014
Finance and General Purposes Committee	28 May, 2014
Planning and Liaison Committee	9 June, 2014

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84. MATTERS ARISING

**(1) PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND OTHER
COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Further to Minute No. 17, the Leader provided Members with a brief summary of the meeting held with the Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council on 9 June, 2014. A number of points were raised in regard to the Council's experience in processing the transfer of the play area at Heol Nant, Swiss Valley and this was used as an example to portray the flaws in the County Council's current Asset Transfer Programme. Issues covered during the meeting included County Council internal and external communications, delays encountered in receiving draft lease paperwork generally and importantly the issue of financial contributions and grants from the County Council. In particular the funding application made out to Cwm Environmental was highlighted in detail and scenarios were discussed as to what might happen next if the funding bid was unsuccessful.

In response to the points raised the County Council acknowledged and recognised the issues. County representatives present during the meeting commented that the Rural Council's experience regarding the transfer of Swiss Valley play area served almost as a pilot exercise from which other local councils could benefit; consequently the Asset Transfer Programme had been revisited and modified. The intention was to approve a revised policy document at the County Council's Executive Board meeting scheduled for 30 June, 2014. A number of improvements were planned including finance and more favourable terms regarding transfer of monies. An assurance was given that Llanelli Rural Council would not be disadvantaged in anyway and the new policy revisions would be backdated and applied to cover the asset transfers currently being negotiated between the two councils. Overall the meeting was very productive and allowed the Rural Council to reaffirm its stance in regard to supporting the general programme.

The Clerk concurred and then briefly commented on the Cwm grant bid and stated public expectations over the asset transfer had been raised during the evidence gathering stage prior to the bid being submitted. Depending on the outcome of the bid, the transfer would need to be revisited with other funding sources being examined if it was unsuccessful.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(2) CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Clerk informed Members that both he and the Leader had attended the Code of Conduct training session event held on 27 May, 2014, at County Hall, Carmarthen. He also confirmed that he'd received a post event evaluation form which had been returned to the County Council suggesting that refresher training on the Code of Conduct should be held annually. Furthermore, that future training sessions ought to cover case examples and scenarios of Members' declarations of interests made in connection with the transaction of Council business. This it was felt would make the training more practically relevant and beneficial to the town and community council sector.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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Cllr. H. J. Evans left the meeting.

(3) COUNTY LIAISON FORUM

Further to Minute No. 20, the Clerk stated he had attended the second meeting of the forum held at County Hall, Carmarthen on 20 May, 2014. He commented the meeting was productive and covered a number of subject areas including planning, electoral reform and a discussion of local government in ten years time.

In regard to the planning agenda item Mr E Bowen, Head of Planning gave a presentation on the Planning (Wales) Bill and of particular note was the change being made in respect of planning obligations by developers. In future Section 106 agreements would be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy. Essentially the levy would be a central pot of money that stakeholders such as the town and community council sector would need to bid for. It was confirmed that upto 15% of the levy could be allocated to those local councils creating place plans for their own communities. The place plans were very similar to neighbourhood plans which were used as planning controls in town and parish council areas in England. To take advantage of the levy it was clear that there needed to be specific community engagement to develop the place plans. This would have resource implications for the Council.

As regards to electoral reform, this year would see a change to traditional canvassing methods for the preparation of the electoral register. From now on the register would be data matched against the Department of Work and Pensions database. If the household details matched, electors did not need to manually register using electoral registration forms. However, if there was a data mismatch, a follow up letter would be sent to the individual to seek confirmation of their status.

The discussion on local government in ten years time proved more of a discussion on the squeeze on principle authority finance and how town and community councils could play their part going forward.

Members were informed the next meeting of the forum was scheduled for 30 September, 2014, at the same venue.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

85. 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.

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RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to the next Council meeting in order for the Leader to make further enquiries with the Head of Administration and Law, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Cllr. C. A. Rees left the meeting.

86. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

87. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 9 April, 2014:

“At the **Meeting** of the **Llanelli Joint Burial Authority** held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 9 April 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
C. J. Reed, MBE	

91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr R. M. Davies.

92. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

93. 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 March 2014

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94. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

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

95. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for March 2014, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £21,838.63.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

96. BURIAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Members considered correspondence from Llanelli Town Council with regard to changing the frequency of Burial Authority meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the cycle of meetings continue on a monthly basis.

97. CEMETERY INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Further to Minute No. 82 the Cemetery Manager informed Members that the date for the official unveiling ceremony of the cemetery interpretive panels had been confirmed for 2 May 2014. The Chairman would perform the unveiling ceremony in the presence of Members of Llanelli Community Heritage Society and Dafen School Choir. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted and that formal invitations be sent to Cllr T. J. Jones, Chairman of Llanelli Rural Council, Cllr. M. J. P. Burns, Mayor of Llanelli Town Council and all other Members of Llanelli Joint Burial Authority.

98. 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.

99. MEMORIAL MASON

Members considered an application from Mr R. T. to be added to the Burial Authority's list of approved memorial masons.

RESOLVED that the application be approved and that Mr R. T's company be added to the approved list of Memorial Masons

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The Meeting concluded at 4.45 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

88. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Bryngwyn Comprehensive School;
- (2) Bynea Primary School;
- (3) Carmarthenshire Youth and Children’s Association;
- (4) Felinfoel Cricket Club;
- (5) Felinfoel RFC;
- (6) Five Roads Primary School;
- (7) Halfway Primary School;
- (8) Ponthenri AFC;
- (9) Pontyates RFC;
- (10) St. John Wales;
- (11) St. Michael & All Angels Church.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.35 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 8 July, 2014, adopted by the Council.