

19 April, 2016.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 476– 484

At a Meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 19 April, 2016, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	S. M. Donoghue
M. V. Davies	M. L. Evans
S. L. Davies	R. E. Evans
T. Devichand	J. S. Phillips
C. A. Rees	

476. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T. Bowen, S. N. Lewis (Cllr. T. Devichand deputising) and G. H. Wooldridge.

477. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

478. MEN'S SHEDS

Further to Minute No. 406, the Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Rhodri Walters, Project Manager, Men's Sheds Wales.

Mr Walters informed Members that a Men's Shed was a place for a man to escape the stress and strains of life and a new way for men to pursue their interests, develop new ones, belong to a unique group, engage with other men in their communities. Men's Sheds welcomed everyone who had time on their hands whether that was due to unemployment, retirement, bereavement, disability or simply if someone was new to an area and was looking for ways of finding out about what was going on within the community.

To date, there were 25 Men's Sheds across Wales. The Men's Sheds movement was based on the understanding that men were more likely to help themselves and attend something they have set up or have some control over. While they may struggle to talk face to face, men do talk shoulder to shoulder when engaged in some form of activity or shared task.

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Mr Walters then presented Members with a short video showing some examples of Men's Sheds across Wales and how each locality group started the initiative. How each individual shed looked and the activities that took place in it depended entirely on the skills and interests of the group.

Following the video and a series of questions from Members about the operational requirements to run a Men's Shed, the Chairman thanked Mr Walters for attending and he withdrew from the meeting.

479. FELINFOEL COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

Cllr. R. E. Evans informed Members that the Felinfoel Community Education Centre had recently closed. Cllr. Evans believed that the centre belonged to the residents of Felinfoel and queried the current status of the building and whether Carmarthenshire County Council had any ownership rights over the property. Cllr. Evans was concerned how the proceeds from any future sale of the premises might be reinvested in the community.

During general discussion it was confirmed that the Rural Council had no interest or involvement in the property. The Clerk confirmed the building was held in trust and so information about the trustees would be held with the Charity Commission and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk makes enquiries with the Charity Commission and the Head of Corporate Property, Carmarthenshire County Council to establish who owned the building and who the trustees were so further information could be garnered for future local reference purposes.

Cllr. R. E. Evans withdrew from the meeting.

480. MEN'S SHEDS – START UP INITIATIVE IN THE LLANELLI RURAL CATCHMENT AREA

Further to the presentation received from Mr Rhodri Walters in Minute No. 478 above, Members then discussed the Community Development Officer's report informing of plans to pilot a Men's Shed project within the Llanelli Rural area and to seek approval in providing start-up costs to cover the initial hall hire rental costs.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be accepted.
2. Consultation meetings be organised to encourage and garner interest for a Men's Shed in the Rural Council Administrative area.
3. The Council shall give its in principle support to pay the start-up costs for up to fifteen weeks to run a Men's Shed provided there is sufficient interest in the initiative.

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481. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

RESOLVED that the report of the Technical Services Officer on work undertaken be noted.

482. SWISS VALLEY PLAY AREA

Members considered a request via Cllr. A. G. Morgan regarding the emptying of the bins at Swiss Valley Play Area and whether the frequency could be increased from once a week especially in the summer months.

Following a discussion, whereby Members informed the meeting that Tir Einon play area was also full of litter, it was

RESOLVED as an interim measure that:

1. The bins at Swiss Valley play area and Tir Einon play area shall be emptied twice during the working week. The allotted days being Monday and Friday.
2. Signs shall be erected asking the public to contact the office if the litter bins needed emptying outside of the revised collection cycle.

483. PLAQUE – SWISS VALLEY COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Members considered a letter received from the Secretary, Swiss Valley Community and Residents Association requesting to affix a small plaque to the bench sited in front of Swiss Valley shops.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the request be approved on the understanding the Council shall not be held liable or responsible for replacing the plaque if for some reason it needed to be replaced in the future.

484. ASSET TRANSFERS

Further to Minute No. 459, (31 March, 2015), Members received email correspondence from the Head of Corporate Property, Carmarthenshire County Council in response to the Clerk's letter dated 16 April, 2015. The email confirmed no further funding was available beyond the maintenance and improvement grants currently offered by the County Council.

A general discussion followed which addressed progress with the transfer of Pontiets Park and Cilsaig Play Area in Dafen alongwith the potential transfer of Dafen Park, Pwll Recreation Ground and Trallwm Playing Fields. Now that the County Council had clarified the financial support it was able to provide; arrangements for Pontiets Park and Cilsaig Play Area needed to be progressed as quickly as possible. A further report on the potential transfer of Dafen Park, Pwll Recreation Ground and Trallwm Playing Fields would be presented to committee in due course but extensive research and analysis had been conducted already. The Clerk outlined the work undertaken thus far. However, the Council still needed to

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examine the set of draft leases for the three sites but frustratingly the County Council's legal department was unable to provide the Council with these documents at the present time. This was holding up the drafting of the final report on the potential transfer of these assets.

Members proceeded to discuss the County Council's general asset transfer policy and framework and stated the deadline for making expressions of interest for further transfers had now passed with the date being 31 March, 2016. However, a discussion about the possible transfer of the play area at Clos Y Gelli, Pemberton ensued and whether it was permissible for the Council to submit a further expression of interest on the basis of the Council safeguarding and maintaining the site going forward. Members stated the site was modest in size and had recently been completely refurbished and it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The email response from the Head of Corporate Property, Carmarthenshire County Council be noted.
2. The points outlined during the meeting shall be relayed to the Head of Corporate Property, with a view to making progress on the potential transfer of Dafen Park, Pwll Recreation Ground and Trallwm Playing Fields.
3. An expression be made to the Head of Corporate Property over the potential transfer of the the play area at Clos Y Gelli, Pemberton.
4. The transfer and refurbishment of Pontiets Park and Cilsaig Play Area shall now be progressed to completion in the current financial year.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.50 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 10 May, 2016, adopted by the Council.