

21 January, 2015.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 358 – 363

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 21 January, 2015 at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	M. L. Evans
L. J. Butler	R. E. Evans
H. J. Evans	S. N. Lewis
C. A. Rees	

Absent: T. Bowen

358. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand, A. G. Morgan, A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising) and G. H. Wooldridge (Cllr. R. E. Evans deputising).

359. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**360. DYFED POWYS POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER
CCTV**

Members received correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys Police on publicly funded CCTV.

Work had been carried out independently for the Police and Crime Commissioner identifying a number of considerations for the region. It came as many local councils were reducing CCTV funding due to the financial pressure.

The Commissioner had published a report and would discuss the findings with the Chief Constable and County Council Leaders but other stakeholders and the public were invited to have their say. The report had helped inform planning for the future of CCTV across Dyfed-Powys and decisions needed to be made on its provision, based upon evidence because funding was being reduced.

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The report findings included:

- The removal of Powys County Council CCTV did not result in a significant rise in crime or antisocial behaviour;
- There was little evidence that CCTV deterred crime, in particular violent and alcohol related incidents;
- There was evidence to suggest CCTV helped investigation of crime and convictions;
- There was no case to support the active monitoring of public CCTV in Dyfed Powys;
- Many existing public CCTV systems could not produce images acceptable in court; and
- Councils should consider removing out-of-use cameras to ensure the public were not provided with a false sense of security.

The Commissioner's initial recommendations were that public CCTV should remain the responsibility of local authorities and town and community councils. The Commissioner would not be providing funding in future. For authorities and councils who wished to fund CCTV, the Commissioner would publish a common standard for mobile systems that provided images suitable for court. However he would cease funding for active monitoring of CCTV by April 2015. This amounted to £40,000 in Carmarthenshire.

During the ensuing discussion, Members disagreed wholeheartedly with the report findings and were of the strong opinion that the comments attributed to the Commissioner about the value of CCTV were contradictory and crass. They also disagreed there should be a cut in funding CCTV across Carmarthenshire. Members felt that communities should work with the police and prevent the fear of crime, reducing CCTV would increase crime. CCTV served as a deterrent and there were countless other studies which provided evidence that CCTV was an effective mechanism for reducing crime and also the fear of crime and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the consultation exercise highlighting Members views and concerns and making a strong objection to the reduction in CCTV funding. Furthermore, that as part of the Council's response enquiries be made about the Commissioner's budget requesting how and where the money was being spent on CCTV in Carmarthenshire.

361. WHOLE PLACE PLAN WORKING GROUP

Further to Minute No. 331, Members received the report of the Clerk which recommended a modification to the composition of the Whole Place Plan Working Group. The report also set out revisions made to the programme of Whole Place development support.

Members were informed the Whole Place Plan working group met with 'The Means' on 14 January, 2015. The inaugural meeting went very well and Members of the group felt that it would be beneficial to modify the composition of the group so that each electoral ward from within the Council's area was represented on the group going forward.

The current composition of the group covered four of the seven electoral wards, it was desirable to appoint one Member from each of the three remaining electoral wards for Bynea,

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Felinfoel and Swiss Valley. The next meeting of the working group was scheduled for the week commencing 16 February, 2015.

The Clerk stated the working group went through the draft project plan to confirm the parameters and extent of the work. The group had taken its lead from the views expressed by the Policy and Resources Committee when it selected the original tender submission from ‘The Means’. At the time the Committee’s view was that various elements of the proposal needed to be altered and or confirmed as follows:

- The production of a risk assessment to cover the life cycle of the project.
- An equality impact assessment needed to be included.
- Bilingual community engagement needed to be available.
- The time allocated to community engagement needed to be increased.

All of the aforementioned points had been addressed to the working group’s satisfaction and had been included in the draft plan. Given the requirement to increase the total number of days allocated to the community engagement phase of the plan from 8 to 21 days the cost of this had increased from £4,000 to £10,500.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be noted and accepted.
2. The following Members shall be nominated to represent their Ward on the working group; Bynea – Cllr. D. M. Cundy; Felinfoel – Cllr. H. J. Evans; and Swiss Valley – Cllrs A. G. Morgan and W. V. Thomas shall decide between themselves who should represent the Ward.

362. 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.

363. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 01:2015 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.45 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 February, 2015, adopted by the Council.