

9 April, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 484 – 496

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 9 April, 2013, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. N. Lewis (Past Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar	S. M. Donoghue
L. A. Beer	H. J. Evans
T. Bowen	A. G. Morgan
S. M. Caiach	A. Rogers
M. V. Davies	W. V. Thomas

484. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman referred to the recent demise of Cllr. T. Devichand's mother; grandmother to Cllr. S. L. Davies and as a mark of respect Members and Officers stood in silent tribute.

485. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. M. Cundy, S. L. Davies, T. Devichand, G. N. R. Edwards, M. L. Evans, R. E. Evans, T. J. Jones and C. A. Rees.

486. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

487. 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	12 March, 2013
Recreation and Welfare Committee	19 March, 2013
Policy and Resources Committee	20 March, 2013
Finance and General Purposes Committee	27 March, 2013
Planning and Liaison Committee	3 April, 2013

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488. MATTERS ARISING

**MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2013-14**

Further to Minute No 450, the Clerk confirmed that an invitation had been sent to the Fire Brigade Union to attend a future Council meeting. Thereupon, the Leader of Council referred to the new crewing arrangements at Llanelli fire station which became operational on 8 April. This followed the Fire Brigade's County Commander entering the fire station at 11.00 pm on Sunday, 7 April with no prior warning and gave the duty watch one hour to empty their lockers and ordered them to stand down from duty from midnight. In view of this Members requested that a letter of support be sent to the Fire Brigade Union to thank the Llanelli fire fighters for their service to the community.

RESOLVED accordingly.

**489. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY
OF CARMARTHENSHIRE – DRAFT PROPOSALS**

Pursuant to Minute No. 467, it was

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee be accepted:-

“that Council supports the following set of alternative options in preference to the draft proposals advocated by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales:

(1) Combining the Bynea and Llwynhendy electoral divisions to form a new electoral division;

(2) Combining the Dafen, Felinfoel and Swiss Valley electoral divisions to form a new electoral division;

(3) the Glyn and Hengoed electoral divisions be put forward as standalone electoral divisions; and furthermore

(4) the said electoral divisions should retain the same level of electoral representation as at present albeit the representation should be merged to support recommendations (1) and (2) above so that the Bynea and Llwynhendy electoral division would return three county councillors with the Dafen, Felinfoel and Swiss Valley electoral division also returning three county councillors”.

Members placed on record their appreciation and thanked the Clerk for the detailed report prepared to aid deliberations.

**490. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES FOR
LLANGYNDEYRN, TRIMSARAN AND GLYN**

Further to Minute No, 425, Members considered the Clerk's report and correspondence from the Electoral Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council and it was

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RESOLVED that:

(1) Carmarthenshire County Council is notified that the Council supports the views of the local ward members for the Glyn Ward whereby a minor alteration is made to the Council's boundary to totally exclude the Ffos Las housing development (as annotated on the enlarged plan received from Carmarthenshire County Council) with the boundary being permanently diverted so that it skirts as close as possible around the perimeter boundary of plots 102 and 103 on the northern flank and with it then following a natural landscape feature such as a field boundary, hedgerow or water feature (if one can be identified) with it then re-connecting with the original boundary on the southern flank of the housing development.

(2) The other boundary anomalies identified in the County Council correspondence be noted on the basis the anomalies have no relevance to the Council because they solely relate to Llangyndeyrn and Trimsaran Community Councils.

491. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 451, the Clerk provided Members with a progress report on events and matters since the last Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Government Business Team dated 3 April, 2013, regarding the Council's complaint letter dated 7 March to the Health Minister about the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST). The writer confirmed that WAST had been encouraged to respond direct to the letter by the relevant Welsh Government officials.

Furthermore, and in accordance with Minute No. 451(1), an invitation letter had been sent to the Chief Executive, WAST, to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the current ambulance situation and to ascertain whether the Council would be able to assist in a positive way. To date, no response to the invitation had been received.

A letter had also been sent to the Hywel Dda Community Health Council (CHC) expressing the Council's appreciation for its actions in referring Hywel Dda Health Board's proposals to the Health Minister, Welsh Government. Members were informed the referral was made on 25 February but since then the Minister had referred the matter back to the CHC for further consideration with any subsequent referral to the Minister having to be lodged by 19 April, 2013.

In support of the Clerk's comments, the Leader of Council referred to the joint meeting held with colleagues from Llanelli Town Council and the local and regional Welsh Assembly Members held on 14 March, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to secure their support for Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) but given the news the CHC's referral had been referred back on the very same day as the meeting, not a great deal of progress was made in terms of garnering their support.

The Leader also referred to the CHC possibly being the subject of a legal challenge from Opinion Research Services (ORS) for alleged comments it made about ORS in its referral

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document submitted to the Health Minister. He encouraged the Council to write to ORS in support of the CHC, asking ORS to reconsider its position given the voluntary role of the CHC Members and because it faced enough pressure with it having to respond further to the Minister by 19 April next; with more specific detail in identifying a local solution to the issues raised in the CHC's original referral.

The Clerk then referred to the possibility of the SOSPPAN Campaign Committee taking out Judicial Review against the Hywel Dda Health Board over the decisions it made in respect of its clinical services, especially the A&E service at PPH. He attended a meeting in Cardiff on 3 April, 2013, with representatives of SOSPPAN; the Clerk of Llanelli Town Council and Nia Griffith MP to explore this further. The meeting provided an opportunity to meet the legal team (NewLaw Solicitors, Cardiff), and the Barrister (Doughty Street Chambers, London) representing SOSPPAN. Members were informed that since the meeting, NewLaw Solicitors had secured legal aid to help with some preliminary work. This would cover legal costs up to a certain point. Further legal aid would need to be secured for the remainder of the preliminary work leading up to Court papers being issued and served and for each subsequent stage thereafter should an application for Judicial Review be granted by the High Court of Justice. In order to assess the strength of the case the Clerk confirmed that subsequent to the Cardiff meeting he had prepared an extensive information bundle for the Solicitor and Barrister to review.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed the importance of not losing sight of the CHC's anticipated further referral to the Health Minister, Welsh Government and the importance of the Council lobbying Welsh Government officials and the five local and regional Assembly Members at some point going forward and it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Clerk's progress report be noted;
- (2) a letter be sent to the Managing Director, Opinion Research Services, along the lines articulated by the Leader of Council and as stated above;
- (3) a letter also be forwarded to Professor Mark Drakeford the new Health Minister, Welsh Government expressing the Council's concern over the status of Prince Philip Hospital going forward, highlighting the Council's experiences in its dealings with the Hywel Dda Health Board but also querying the access arrangements to lobby the Minister and Welsh Government over the future status of the hospital; in support of this aim and also the Community Health Council's anticipated referral to the Minister
- (4) a Council meeting be arranged in the future whereby the Llanelli Assembly Member together with the four other Regional Assembly Members shall be invited along to discuss support for Prince Philip Hospital.

**492. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Correspondence had been received from the Executive Assistant to the Leader, Carmarthenshire County Council, inviting two Council representatives to attend an Executive Board meeting at Llanelli Town Hall on 15 April, 2013.

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RESOLVED that the Clerk and Leader of Council be confirmed as the Council's representatives.

493. ONE VOICE WALES - MEMBERSHIP

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 2013/14.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that an invitation be extended to the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales to attend a future Council meeting to give a presentation on the potential benefits of the Council becoming a member of the organisation.

494. LLANELLI TOWN AND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCILS

Cllr. A. G. Morgan requested a discussion item be included on the agenda because he was disappointed to read in a recent press article that a potential future merger of both Councils was being contemplated by Llanelli Town Council.

A lengthy discussion arose, whereby Members raised their dissatisfaction and concerns with the Town Council for not formally discussing the issue with the Council in the first instance and prior to any report appearing in the local press.

Members were informed the Town Clerk had informed the Council about the issue. The Town Council intended to set up a task and finish group to help identify and discuss potential areas for collaboration between the two Councils before making any formal approach to this Council and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk formally corresponds with Llanelli Town Council over the potential involvement of the Council in any future joint discussion stating that any action for change affecting the status of the two Councils shall be agreed and formulated on an equal basis going forward.

495. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

496. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 13 February, 2013:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 13 February 2013 at 4:00 pm.

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Present: L. A. Beer (Chairman)

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar
T. Bowen

S. L. Davies
S. N. Lewis

C. Reed

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P. J. Edmunds and C. C. Lucas.

80. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

81. 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 January 2013
Special Meeting	-	29 January 2013

82. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for December 2012 and the provisional report for January 2013 be noted.

83. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for January 2013, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £42,459.50.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

84. CONFERENCE

Members considered an invitation to attend 'The Beautiful Burial Ground Conference', National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne on 23 April 2013 and it was

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cemetery Manager be authorised to attend.

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85. REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order No.30.2, this matter be adjourned without further discussion, to the next ordinary meeting of the Burial Authority, scheduled for 13 March 2013.

86. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The Secretary provided Members with a detailed report on the management of risk, covering 12 areas and functions requiring risk evaluation. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

87. CEMETERY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 51, the Cemetery Manager (via the aid of a series of photographs) provided Members with a progress report on the construction of the new road (section 9), the new storage building and compound (section 7) and the addition of several new drainage channels to service the said works.

Members were informed that the work was likely to be completed on time and positive feedback had been received from the general public. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that a site visit for Members be organised once the work had been completed.

88. 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.

89. LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD

Further to Minute No. 70, Members considered a letter received from the Director of Llanelli Crematorium Ltd concerning the lease option deed and whether it would be possible to convene a meeting to discuss the freehold interest in the crematorium. The letter also confirmed the memorial plaque had been re-erected.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

(1) The Director, Llanelli Crematorium Ltd, be invited to attend a future meeting to meet Members as a precursor to any discussion concerning the option deed agreement.

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(2) The news of the memorial plaque being re-erected on the crematorium building be noted with pleasure.

.....”
The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm
.....

RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.15 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 16 May, 2013, adopted by the Council.