

10 July, 2012.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 112 – 120

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 July, 2012, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. Devichand (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. Bowen	M. L. Evans
L. J. Butler	R. E. Evans
S. M. Caiach	T. J. Jones
D. M. Cundy	S. N. Lewis
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	A. Rogers
G. N. R. Edwards	W. V. Thomas
H. J. Evans	G. H. Wooldridge

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar, L. A. Beer, S. M. Donoghue and C. A. Rees.

113. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

114. 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 June, 2012
Recreation and Welfare Committee	19 June, 2012
Policy and Resources Committee	20 June, 2012
Finance and General Purposes Committee	27 June, 2012
Planning and Liaison Committee	2 July, 2012

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115. MATTERS ARISING

STAFFING MATTERS

Further to Minute No. 96, discussions arose over the amount of information published in Council minutes following the consideration of confidential or exempt information presented in staffing reports.

The Clerk commented that when the corresponding minute was prepared the normal practice was to not divulge any information in the minute; but a private copy of the staffing report was also prepared for the committee chairman's approval and signature, annotating the action points which emanated from the committee proceedings. The private copy of the report referred to the published minute to facilitate reference purposes but there was no corresponding cross reference in the published minute to the private report.

To strengthen corporate governance arrangements it was felt in future that such private reports should contain a unique reference, with the reference appearing in the published minute. This would facilitate document retrieval purposes and remove any ambiguity whilst promoting better public accountability and transparency, and it was

RESOLVED that henceforth private and confidential staffing reports shall be uniquely referenced with the reference also appearing in the published minutes.

116. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

(1) LOCAL COUNCIL FINANCIAL SUPPORT PLEDGES

Further to Minute No. 83 (2), the Clerk reported that letters of financial support had been received from Llanedi and Pontyberem Community Councils both pledging £500 each whereas, Llannon Community Council had made a contribution of £300. Confirmation had also been received from Llanelli Town Council that it had agreed in principle to offer its support by sharing the financial burden of engaging the management consultants subject to further information being received. A letter would follow confirming the position.

RESOLVED that letters be sent to Llanedi, Llannon and Pontyberem Community Councils thanking them for their pledges of support.

(2) PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 83 (2), the Clerk gave a verbal progress report on recent developments since the last meeting.

Members were informed that no acknowledgement or response had been received from the Chief Executive, Hywel Dda Health Board following the Council's letter to the Health Board about the supply of patient data to enable the Council to press ahead with formulating clinical counter proposals in support of retaining A&E services at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH). The

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letter also sought clarification on the status of Ward 5 PPH and asked why Post Mortem services had been relocated to Glangwili Hospital.

Furthermore and disappointingly the Council's letter to the Wales Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST) also remained unanswered. However, arrangements for organising a future meeting with the Health Minister, facilitated by Keith Price Davies AM as a joint meeting with Llanelli Town Council and SOSPPAN Campaign committee representatives was progressing. The Clerk confirmed he would continue to press both Hywel Dda Health Board and WAST for written responses and requested that Members grant him and the Leader delegated powers to further pursue these and other ongoing matters over the summer recess period if necessary. This would provide the necessary flexibility to take any action felt appropriate in having to respond or deal with any current or new developments which might arise.

Members concurred and emphasised the need for greater collaboration between the various local bodies and the importance of keeping up the pressure on the Hywel Dda Health Board. During the ensuing discussion it was revealed that uncertainty had now emerged over the future of PPH's Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

It was reported that plans were afoot to reconfigure ICU by reallocating the number of beds from four to two, with one bed being used for intensive care and the other bed for coronary care.

Members expressed concern over the level of uncertainty and the impact the change might have on other essential key services at PPH. The position was very worrying and clarification and assurances should be sought from the health board over the ICU's future.

Members felt this was another example of asset stripping, much like the impending closure of Ward 5 with essential beds being removed from the hospital. Moreover, the Post Mortem service had been relocated to Glangwili. By the time the health board embarked upon its formal consultation process over the hospital's future there would be nothing left to reconfigure. The public would be left with a fait accompli over which services remained safe and sustainable and the knock on effect would be detrimental to the hospital's status going forward.

Thereupon the Council Leader referred to his attendance at a recent SOSPPAN Campaign meeting; it hoped to organise a public meeting in September and the campaign committee would like to involve clinicians in the debate. He then referred to Hywel Dda Health Board's plans for consultation. The plans appeared to be disjointed compared to other neighbouring health boards whose consultation programme would not commence until later in the year and wondered why Hywel Dda was adopting a different strategy. It was felt the various consultation processes should coincide with one another especially since there were serious implications over the on-going sharing of resources. Furthermore the health board should be contacted over this important development and other on-going issues which still remained unanswered.

Members commented that it was important to keep up the momentum and the Council should do its utmost in its pursuit of safeguarding all services at PPH and it was

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RESOLVED that

- (1) Delegated powers be granted to the Clerk and Leader of Council to take appropriate action over the summer recess period in pursuance of safeguarding services at PPH.
- (2) A further letter be sent to the Chief Executive, Hywel Dda Health Board pressing for the information requested in previous Council correspondence; furthermore, clarification be sought over the future of the ICU at PPH and the health board's timetable for public consultation be questioned as to why it does not correlate with planned public consultations taking place in other health board areas later in the year.
- (3) A response to the Council's information request to WAST be pursued.
- (4) A special Council meeting to discuss PPH be convened in August 2012 with invitations being extended to Mr Keith Price Davies AM and a senior representative from WAST to attend.
- (5) A press release be issued as soon as possible highlighting all the ongoing issues and the action planned by the Council.

117. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Further to Minute No. 82, the Clerk reported upon the status of the following outside bodies and organisations:

(1) Llanelli and District Flood Forum

Email correspondence had been received from Nia Griffith MP inviting the Council to nominate two Members to serve on the forum. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had already been sent to the forum Secretary prior to the receipt of the email, confirming the two appointments. Given that Cllr Cundy already served on the forum in another capacity, Cllrs G. N. R. Edwards and H. J. Evans were put forward as the Council's representatives.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(2) Carmarthenshire Youth and Children's Association

The Clerk advised that the association had now reviewed its decision and two places were available for Council representatives but the Members would need to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. During the ensuing discussion Cllr S. N. Lewis' nomination was put forward instead of Cllr T. Bowen's original nomination and it was

RESOLVED that Cllrs. S. N. Lewis and A. Rogers be confirmed as the Council's representatives.

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(3) Governing Bodies – St Mary’s Catholic School

RESOLVED that Cllr. A. Rogers’ nomination be put forward as the Council’s representative on the school governing body instead of Cllr T. Bowen’s original nomination.

118. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

119. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 24 May, 2012:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 24 May, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Present:

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	R. M. Davies
T. Bowen	P. J. Edmunds
M. J. P. Burns	S. N. Lewis
S. L. Davies	C. C. Lucas

105. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

RESOLVED that Cllr. S. N. Lewis be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

106. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman introduced herself to Members and welcomed Cllrs L. A. Beer, T. Bowen, S. L. Davies, R. M. Davies, P. J. Edmunds on to the committee and in turn invited all present to introduce themselves to one another.

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr F. Akhtar.

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108. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

109. 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 - 11 April 2012

110. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute No. 104 the Secretary reported that the filming carried out by the BBC had gone extremely well. No problems had been experienced or reported to the Cemetery Staff and no complaints been received about the general arrangements. Members were pleased with the positive outcome but emphasised the need for sensitivity and not losing sight of the needs placed on the service by the bereaved should similar requests be received in the future and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

111. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for March and April 2012 be noted.

112. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for April 2012, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £34,422.13.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matters 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.

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114. CEMETERY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 70, Members considered the Secretary's report regarding infrastructure improvements and the funds needed to complete the plans contained in the report. Members were informed the consultant architect had priced the work to complete the new storage facility and roadway at section 9 under one project; this would be more cost effective in the longer term. The cost of the work amounted to £106,108 based on the Quantity Surveyor's working estimates. The existing budget available was £95,928; leaving a shortfall of £10,090.

Given the importance and need for the improvements, the Secretary recommended the shortfall be met from general reserves. The shortfall could be comfortably absorbed with no detrimental impact on general reserves, which remained at a high level.

Members then proceeded to view and comment upon the detailed plans and design proposals and following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The general plans and design proposals (as presented at the meeting) be approved and the estimated shortfall for the work be met from general reserve balances;
- (2) The plans be taken forward for planning permission and in order to complete all the necessary preliminary work leading up to the formal tendering process;
- (3) The contract for the scheme be put out to formal tender in accordance with the Burial Authority's financial regulations, the outcome of which shall be the subject of a further committee report and subject to the satisfactory receipt of same a contract shall then be awarded to proceed with the work.

115. CEMETERY GATES

Members considered a letter received from Mrs J J requesting permission to purchase the old cemetery gates for their scrap value. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Cemetery Manager obtain a written scrap valuation of the gates from the contractors installing the new set of gates and Mrs J J then be offered the opportunity to purchase them for the determined price.

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The meeting concluded at 4.40pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

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120. LETTER OF APPRECIATION

RESOLVED that a letter of appreciation for the Council's assistance received from Parc Howard Association be noted with pleasure.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.45 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 11 September, 2012, adopted by the Council.