

10 December, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 326 – 339

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 December, 2013, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Chairman)

Cllrs.

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

326. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar, S. M. Caiach, M. V. Davies, S. M. Donoghue, S. N. Lewis and G. H. Wooldridge.

327. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**328. CARMARTHENSHIRE COMMUNITIES FIRST CLUSTER
LLANELLI COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Further to Minute No. 289, the Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Harries, Community Development Officer, Llanelli Community Partnership, Cllr. Chris Reed MBE, Chairman, Llanelli Community Partnership, Ms Amy Hawkins, Cluster Manager, Communities First Carmarthenshire County Council and Miss Amy Wakefield, Senior Community Involvement Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council to the meeting and invited them to address Members.

Members were informed Carmarthenshire County Council had been awarded £1.35 million from the Welsh Government to be the Lead Delivery Body to manage the new Carmarthenshire Communities First Cluster. The new programme covered 14 areas with a population of 21,796 for the Carmarthenshire Communities First Cluster. Communities First was a Welsh Government initiative to tackle poverty through the local delivery of innovative programmes focusing on Healthy, Prosperous and Learning Communities, which would create opportunities to gain skills, access employment and get healthier.

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Mr Harries explained that all wards within the Llanelli Town area were invited to join the Llanelli Community Partnership to work with the Carmarthenshire Communities First Cluster. Community involvement and liaison was a key component to establish what opportunities were required for particular wards. Once views had been gathered from communities they were filtered through area based community forums for discussion and approval. Members were the first point of contact because they knew what communities required. Mr Harries stated the Partnership would welcome the Rural Council's three Communities First localities participating in its work programme and as such was prepared to widen its geographic remit to include them.

Ms Hawkins stated enhancing greater community involvement was an important aspect of the Communities First programme and it would be wonderful to extend the Partnership's geographic remit so as to include the localities in the Rural Council area. Ms Hawkins then briefly referred to a handout on the Communities First Programme, particularly focusing on reporting and governance arrangements (copies of the handout were circulated to Members at the meeting).

During the general discussion mention was made to the inclusion of other electoral wards from within the Rural Council's area and how the Partnership might also encourage better community liaison in these areas by working with specific community groups. Reference was made to the Town and Rural Council's successful joint partnership arrangements in recognition of the Town Council's administrative support to the Partnership, with it allocating officer time and the like to help facilitate meetings. Members suggested that perhaps the Rural Council should make a similar in kind contribution to help share the burden with the Town Council when arranging future Partnership meetings and requested that the Clerk meet with Mr Harries to explore this further and it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the Llanelli Community Partnership's kind offer of widening its geographic remit to include the Communities First locality areas within Llanelli Rural Council's administrative area be accepted with pleasure;
- (2) the Clerk facilitate a meeting with Mr Harries of Llanelli Town Council to discuss how the Rural Council might be able to contribute to the work of the Llanelli Community Partnership going forward.

Thereupon the Chairman thanked Mr Harries, Cllr. Reed, Ms Hawkins and Miss Wakefield for attending and they all withdrew from the meeting.

329. 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 November, 2013
Recreation and Welfare Committee	19 November, 2013
Policy and Resources Committee	20 November, 2013
Special Council	21 November, 2013
Finance and General Purposes Committee	27 November, 2013

10 December, 2013.

Planning and Liaison Committee

9 December, 2013

330. MATTERS ARISING

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

Pursuant to Minute No. 287, the Leader provided Members with an update on how the park and play area transfers from Carmarthenshire County Council was progressing. He reported there was no further update other than they were raising support and gathering evidence for Swiss Valley play area.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and to await further developments.

**(2) SWISS VALLEY COMMUNITY HALL
CAR PARK – GLASS RECYCLING BIN**

Further to Minute No. 298, the Leader reported that two glass recycling bins had been sited at the car park.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**(3) YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE
PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL**

Further to Minute No. 309,

RESOLVED that Members' thanks to the Clerk be formally recorded.

(4) ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2013

Further to Minute No. 312, Members conveyed their thanks to the Deputy Clerk (Administration) for her work with the 2013 Audit arrangements.

331. CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Further to Minute No. 311 and 316(2),

RESOLVED the following amendment be made to Members' Declarations of Interest: at the meeting, Cllr. T. Bowen declared a personal interest in item 311 and 316(2) as she knew the applicant personally and not because she was a personal friend of the applicant as stated in the Minutes.

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**332. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL
PROGRESS REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 309, the Clerk provided Members with a brief progress report on events and matters since the last meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the matters set out under the resolution contained in Minute No. 309, had been attended too. However, to date, no response letters had been received from the various correspondents.

The Clerk then referred to the Judicial Review proceedings against the Health Minister and informed Members he understood that a Court hearing would be convened quite soon.

During discussion, Members conveyed their disappointment with the lack of response thus far from the Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST), but emphasized they were still keen to meet with WAST at a future Council meeting.

Mention was made of a recent incident involving ambulances queuing up outside Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) A&E unit, with stories of patients having to wait over six hours before being admitted, this was a shocking state of affairs and should not happen.

Reference was also made to the Health Minister's statement in the Senedd on 26 November, 2013, over the future emergency care model to be provided at PPH. A number of Members felt the statement was ambiguous. Members then briefly referred to the Health Minister's letter which was read out at the Special Council meeting held on 21 November, 2013, (Minute No. 309 refers). Given the letter stated the emergency unit would be doctor led, Cllr. Devichand commented the local Labour party would look to enforce this arrangement with the Minister if it was absolutely necessary.

RESOLVED that the progress report be noted and to await further developments.

333. RAINSCAPE

Members received correspondence from the Water Branch, Energy, Water and Flood Division, Welsh Government informing that Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales had been working together to deliver a programme of work entitled 'RainScape' to address sewerage capacity in Llanelli and Gowerton. The purpose was to reduce the amount of surface water that entered the sewerage network.

The programme would deliver a sewerage network that could provide capacity to accommodate current needs and future growth and development. It would also contribute to local flood risk management by controlling surface water run off as close to its origin as possible. The aim was for final proposals to be developed and delivered in close collaboration with local authorities and communities.

The Welsh Government was committed to the success of the programme and was keen to encourage an integrated approach to its delivery. As part of this commitment it wanted to meet with the Council to explain the project in more detail, along with representatives from Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.

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Members welcomed the approach and wondered whether the project work extended into the Rural Council's area and it was

RESOLVED that the request to meet with the Council be accepted.

334. COUNTY LIAISON FORUM

A letter was received from the Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council stating following a discussion with One Voice Wales, Carmarthenshire County Council was planning to establish a County Liaison Forum between all Town and Community Councils in the county and senior council members and officers from the County Council. The Forum was intended for all Town and Community Councils and not only for those in membership of One Voice Wales.

The inaugural meeting for the County Liaison Forum had been scheduled for 17 December, 2013, at 7.00 pm in County Hall, Carmarthen. The Council had been invited to send a representative to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk attends the meeting.

335. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Further to Minute No. 285, Members received a letter from Mr D Masson, Director of Delivery, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, thanking Members for the opportunity for him to attend the Council meeting on 12 November, 2013, to give a verbal update on the crewing system at Llanelli Fire Station.

Mr Masson also confirmed that he would make arrangements to return to the Council later in the year once the Fire Authority had set its budget and to discuss how the planned future budget pressures facing Mid and West Wales Fire Authority would affect local communities.

During discussion Members commented that the Fire Authority had announced it would not look to close any fire stations under the current round of budget cuts; this was good news for Pontyates Fire Station and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

336. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

337. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 9 October, 2013:

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“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 9 October 2013 at 4:00 pm.

Present:

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar	M. V. Davies
T. Bowen	V. J. Johns
M. J. P. Burns	C. J. Reed MBE

29. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

RESOLVED that Cllr. M. J. P. Burns be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

30. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman referred to Cllr. P. J. Edmunds’ indisposition and it was

RESOLVED that a card be sent to Cllr. Edmunds, extending the Burial Authority’s best wishes for a speedy recovery back to full health.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P. J. Edmunds and T.J. Jones.

32. MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

33. 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 September 2013

34. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for August 2013 and the provisional report for September 2013 be noted.

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35. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for September 2013, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £17,080.90.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**36. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2013**

Further to Minute No. 27 Members received correspondence from Mazars LLP, enclosing the Burial Authority's certified Annual Return. The writer confirmed that all audit work had been completed.

The Secretary confirmed the required public notice informing of the conclusion of the audit had been displayed.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

37. WELSH PURCHASING CARD

Members considered correspondence from the Welsh Government about it procuring a replacement contract for the Welsh Purchasing Card when the current contract expired with the Royal Bank of Scotland Group on 31 March 2014.

Members were informed the Welsh Government was preparing a contractual arrangement with a new supplier whereby it would contract as agent on behalf of the Welsh public sector for those organisations already using the purchasing card who wished to take up the new service. In order to do this a Call Off Contract would need to be entered into. The Burial Authority would need to authorise the Welsh Government to act as its agent by completing an authorisation ship which needed to be returned by 31 October 2013 and it was

RESOLVED that authorisation be given to the Welsh Government to act as the Burial Authority's agent for the purposes of entering into the Call Off Contract.

38. WAR GRAVES COMMISSION – CEMETERY SIGNAGE

Members considered correspondence from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding a national project to erect bilingual signage within Local Authority cemeteries. The signs would be used for public information purposes to indicate the presence of War Commissioned Graves on site. The Cemetery Manager informed Members that there were currently 51 War Commissioned Graves at Llanelli District Cemetery. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the national project be supported and permission be given to erect the signs on the cemetery entrance gates.

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39. 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.

40. LLANELLI CREMATORIUM

Members considered correspondence from Lambert Smith Hampton following which the Secretary provided Members with a briefing on the legalities surrounding Llanelli Crematorium Limited's right to purchase the freehold interest in the land. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary engage the services of Lambert Smith Hampton to provide valuation advice on the understanding the cost shall be recharged in full to Llanelli Crematorium Limited and that preliminary discussions also be held with Jennings Solicitors over the provisions set out in the Lease. Furthermore, the Secretary shall contact the Director, Llanelli Crematorium Limited to inform her about the arrangements and to obtain written agreement from the company that it will pay the valuation fee in full.

41. CEMETERY MACHINERY - PROCUREMENT OF EXCAVATOR

Members considered the Cemetery Manager's report which provided three quotations for the purchase of a new excavator for the cemetery. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the quotation received from Cambrian Plant Sales, Riverside Works, Ely Bridge, Cardiff for the supply of a Volvo EC27C Excavator for the sum of £29,672 plus VAT be accepted. Furthermore, that the company's offer of £6,022 in part exchange for the Burial Authority's JCB excavator be accepted.

42. NEW BABY AND CHILDREN'S BURIAL AND REMEMBRANCE AREA - ENGAGEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Members considered the Cemetery Manager's report regarding the engagement of architectural services for the design and development of a new baby and children's burial and remembrance area adjacent to section 9 at the cemetery. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the quotation received from Nicole Jones, 6 Myrddin Crescent, Carmarthen for the sum of £2,880 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

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338. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Llanelli Memorial Fund;
- (2) Parc Howard Association;
- (3) Pwll Action Committee;
- (4) White Knight Chess Club.

339. SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Chairman wished Members and Staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.50 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 14 January, 2014, adopted by the Council.