

16 May, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 15 – 25

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 16 May, 2013, at 6.11 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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

15. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman referred to the recent demise of Cllr. M. V. Davies' sister and as a mark of respect Members and Officers stood in silent tribute.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. S. N. Lewis.

17. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

18. 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	9 April, 2013
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	16 April, 2013
Recreation and Welfare Committee	16 April, 2013
Policy and Resources Committee	17 April, 2013
Planning and Liaison Committee	22 April, 2013

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Planning and Liaison Committee

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19. MATTERS ARISING

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

Further to Minute No 488, (9 April, 2013), the Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to the Secretary of the Fire Brigade Union placing on record the Council's thanks to the Llanelli Fire Fighters for their service to the community. The email also reminded the recipient about the Council's previous email invitation to attend a future Council meeting. However to date, no reply had been received.

Members expressed disappointment over the lack of response thus far but emphasized they were still keen to meet with the Union. Thereupon Cllr. Donoghue referred to his impending attendance at the Wales TUC Conference in Cardiff. It was anticipated the Fire Brigade Union would be sending representatives and so he promised to make a direct approach to them about attending a future meeting.

RESOLVED to await further developments.

(2) LLANELLI TOWN AND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCILS

Further to Minute No. 494 (9 April, 2013), Members having requested an update on the situation, the Clerk confirmed that he had corresponded with the Town Clerk along the lines articulated at the previous Council meeting. However, since then the Town Council had made a simple information request about Rural Council budgets and services; this had been addressed via an email exchange with the Town Clerk. However, there had been no further dialogue with the Town Council about areas of collaboration and no formal approach was anticipated for the time being.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

20. YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL

PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 491, (9 April, 2013), the Clerk provided Members with a progress report on events and matters since the last Council meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the matters set out under the resolution contained in Minute No. 491, had been attended too. Members were informed that a letter had been sent to Opinion Research Services, Swansea and also to the Health and Social Services Minister, Welsh Government. The Health Minister replied to the Council's concerns in a letter dated 9 May, 2013, but as anticipated the response was quite general in nature and didn't specifically comment or address any of the Council's concerns. This was disappointing.

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Members were informed that the Community Health Council (CHC) had sent in a further referral to the Health Minister about concerns over Hywel Dda Health Board plans to reconfigure hospital services. The Minister's letter to the Council also confirmed this but no deadline had been set for determining the referral.

The Clerk commented that since the last meeting he had supplied the SOSPPAN campaign committee with various pieces of information as one of its members was pursuing an application for Judicial Review. It was not clear how this would run in parallel to the CHC's referral to the Minister, should the application for Judicial Review be granted.

The Clerk then referred to the Health Minister's role in dealing with the CHC referral. This meant that the Minister was unable to meet with the Council or any other local stakeholder to listen to any representations the local community might wish to make. The same rule applied to Assembly Members. Therefore no action had been taken in arranging a meeting with the Llanelli Assembly Members and the four other regional Assembly Members because it was unclear given the circumstances whether there was any merit in pursuing a meeting with them if in turn they were unable to make direct representations to the Health Minister over the CHC referral. However, the Clerk confirmed that the situation would be closely monitored and a view taken over what might be the best course of action. In order to facilitate this he requested he be granted delegated powers (in consultation with the Leader of Council) to make whatever arrangements were necessary and to deal with any matters requiring an immediate Council response. Any action taken under delegated powers would be retrospectively reported to Members at the next appropriate opportunity.

During general discussion, the Leader of Council thanked the Clerk for the amount of time being spent on this important ongoing matter and also referred to the closure of the A&E Unit in Newark, Nottingham and the similarities with what might happen at Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli. He stated death rates in Newark had risen by 37% and felt this was not a coincidence. Members referred to the Welsh Government putting more money into the Ambulance Service but if hospitals were removing beds there was not much point as many of the problems being encountered now would simply be exacerbated and it was

RESOLVED that delegated powers be granted to the Clerk in consultation with the Leader of Council to pursue whatever action is deemed appropriate and as circumstances may determine.

21. ONE VOICE WALES - MEMBERSHIP

Further to Minute No. 493 (9 April, 2013), Members were circulated with correspondence from the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales confirming his attendance at the Council meeting scheduled for 9 July, 2013. The Chief Executive enquired whether the Council would prefer a Powerpoint presentation or a verbal presentation.

RESOLVED that the invitation be noted and One Voice Wales be informed the Council would prefer a Powerpoint presentation so that Members can be furnished with supporting material to help promote more structured debate.

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22. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

23. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

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

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

Present: P. J. Edmunds (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar	R. M. Davies
T. Bowen	S. N. Lewis
M. J. P. Burns	C. Reed

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. A. Beer and S. L. Davies.

91. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

92. 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 - 13 February 2013

93. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

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

94. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for February 2013, which revealed expenditure for the month, amounted to £76,505.80.

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RESOLVED that the information be noted.

95. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Further to Minute No. 85 the Secretary informed Members that a review of the Burial Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been completed. The following areas had been examined namely: Standing Orders; Roles and Duties of Chairman; Secretary's Scheme of Delegated Powers and Financial Regulations. Following the review it was deemed that no changes were warranted apart from amending the dates in the opening sentences of both the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to read "These Standing Orders ... and these Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted by the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority at its meeting held on 13 March 2013".

RESOLVED that the Secretary's report be accepted and that the dates be duly amended.

96. 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.

97. MEMORIAL MASON

Members considered an application from Mr J. H. to be added to the Burial Authority's list of approved memorial masons.

RESOLVED that the application be approved in principle subject to Mr J. H. providing the Burial Authority with proof of his company's employer's liability insurance cover so as to comply with cemetery rules and regulations and that Mr J. H's company be added to the approved list upon production of proof of same by supplying the cemetery office with a copy of the insurance schedule.

98. STAFFING MATTER

Members received a report from the Secretary on a staffing matter and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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The meeting concluded at 4:25 pm
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

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24. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Bethlehem Church, Pwll;
- (2) Cylch Meithrin Ponthenri;
- (3) Holy Trinity Felinfoel Church Hall Committee;
- (4) Pwll C P School;
- (5) St. Mary's Catholic Primary School;
- (6) Stradey Tenants & Residents Association.

25. MEMBERS FELICITATIONS

Cllr. T. Devichand on behalf of Members expressed best wishes to Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge following his indisposition.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.21 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 June, 2013, adopted by the Council.