

19 April, 2011.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 533 – 543

At a Meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 19 April, 2011, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. C. A. Rees (Chairman)

Cllrs.

L. J. Butler	S. M. Donoghue
D. J. Davies	T. Rh. Ifan
M. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	A. C. Thomas
G. H. Wooldridge	

533. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Evans (Cllr. A. C. Thomas deputising) and M. J. Lewis (Cllr. M. V. Davies deputising).

534. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
543	C. A. Rees	Personal and prejudicial – fund raiser, Pontyates Welfare Association
543	G. H. Wooldridge	Personal and prejudicial – Executive Member, Carmarthenshire County Council

535. PROGRESS REPORT

Members considered the report of the Technical Services Officer and expressed concern over the level of repairs required to Trallwm Community Hall. Members enquired if a deposit was required from patrons who hired the hall to cover damage to fixtures and fittings.

Following discussion, Members suggested that the caretaker should assess the condition of fixtures and fittings before and after events held at the hall and requested a letter to be sent to the Management Committee highlighting their concerns, and it was

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RESOLVED that the report of the Technical Services Officer on work undertaken, be noted and a letter be sent to the Secretary, Trallwm Hall Management Committee outlining the Committee's general observations and concerns.

**536. FELINFOEL RECREATION GROUND –
CAPITAL SCHEME**

Further to Minute No. 477, Members were circulated with the Technical Services Officer's progress report.

The Technical Services Officer informed Members that a revised programme of works had been received from the contractors and this showed the work would be completed early September 2011. The contractor had confirmed the main delay had been the weather, additional work to the water main and an extra dig in the foundations due to the soft ground.

RESOLVED that the progress report be noted.

**537. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE OF
CHANGING ROOMS**

Further to Minute No. 335, correspondence was received from the Secretary, Felinfoel Cricket Club acknowledging receipt of the Terms and Conditions for Use of Changing Rooms at Felinfoel Recreation Ground.

The Secretary stated that due the new changing facilities not being ready for the forthcoming season, it was felt by the Cricket Club Committee that the bond should not apply to the club until the following season when the club would be using the new recreation facilities. Furthermore the Committee expressed disappointment about the bond being fixed at the same amount as that proposed for the rugby and football clubs.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) the terms and conditions of use of the new changing facilities at Felinfoel Recreation Ground shall not be invoked upon Felinfoel Cricket Club until the commencement of the 2012 cricket season;
- (2) the bond to be levied on the cricket club be reaffirmed; and
- (3) the other points set out in the letter regarding the non consumption of alcohol on the park grounds and its enforcement and fixture changes for the remainder of the 2011 cricket season be noted.

538. COMMUNITY HALLS – STORAGE OF CLOTHING

Members considered the verbal report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) stating during the six monthly Health and Safety Inspection checks of the Council's community halls it had

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been noticed that the storage of clothing for charity collections was now common place in a number of the Council's halls.

Whilst it was laudable to arrange for clothing collections for charitable purposes it was not appropriate to store and stock pile clothes because the unauthorised practice presented a fire hazard. Furthermore it would jeopardize future insurance cover and more importantly it would certainly have a detrimental impact on the processing of any insurance claim in the event of making a claim for fire damage.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) a letter be circulated to all Hall Management Committees highlighting the hazard and level of risk associated with this unauthorised practice and that it be discontinued;
- (2) Hall Management Committees be requested to generally review storage arrangements in the Council's halls in order to mitigate against the risk of fire and that items are properly stored away; and
- (3) the services of the Council's DLO team be offered to Hall Management Committees to collect any items of clothing to eliminate the fire hazard as quickly as possible; and
- (4) at the offer of Cllr. Butler any such items could then, if required, be delivered to the offices of Communities First Llwynhendy for processing and distribution to charitable third parties.

**539. WAITING RESTRICTIONS OUTSIDE
 SARON COMMUNITY HALL**

Pursuant to Minute No. 291, Members received a petition from Mr S Beard on behalf of regular hirers of Saron Community Hall. The petitioners were voicing their concerns regarding the lack of parking facilities at the community hall now that waiting restrictions had been put in place by Carmarthenshire County Council.

Members were informed the Deputy Clerk (Administration) had forwarded the petition to Traffic Management, Carmarthenshire County Council.

During discussion Cllr. Wooldridge commented that since the production of the petition and following an email exchange with an officer from the County Council's Traffic Management Division, a solution had been arrived at whereby disabled drivers (blue badge holders) could legitimately park on the double yellow lines outside the hall for upto a three hour waiting period. Cllr. Wooldridge had met with hall patrons to inform them about the arrangements and in view of such it was

RESOLVED that the petition and information supplied by Cllr. Wooldridge be noted.

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540. LLANELLI AND DISTRICT SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME

Members considered a letter from the Chairman, Llanelli and District Shopmobility stating that a Service Level Agreement had been signed with Carmarthenshire County Council to let the former 'Darlows' Estate Agent premises on Cowell Street, Llanelli in order to operate a shopmobility scheme in the town centre.

It was anticipated that there would be a boost to the town's economy with the scheme allowing the rental of mobility scooters, wheelchairs and other mobility aids which would bring an independence and freedom to the elderly and disabled.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Cllr. T. Rh. Ifan withdrew from the meeting.

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

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter referred to in Minute No. 542 below 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.

542. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to applications received for financial assistance and, it was

RESOLVED that the annual grant of £300 be made to Saron Community Hall for the year ending December 2010 and the annual sports grant of £600 be made to Trallwm A.F.C.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr. L. J. Butler chaired the meeting for the following item.

**543. CLOSURE OF BRANCH LIBRARIES -
DAFEN AND PONTYATES**

Cllrs C. A. Rees and G. H. Wooldridge declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter and withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced. Cllr. Rees was a fund raiser and member of Pontyates Welfare Association whereas Cllr. Wooldridge had portfolio over library services in his capacity as Executive Member for Carmarthenshire County Council.

Further to Minute No. 484, Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration). Members were informed of a meeting held with Officers of Carmarthenshire County Council on the closure of branch libraries which was also attended by Cllrs. T. Devichand and T. J. Jones.

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From 1 April, 2011, Carmarthenshire County Council did not have a budget for staff provision at the branch libraries at Dafen and Pontyates, but had granted more time for local consultation regarding the proposed closures in an attempt to engender support for the continuation of the service by other organisations and individuals.

Llanelli Rural Council was therefore being requested to be responsible for the hire costs to enable the branch libraries to continue at Dafen Parish Hall and Pontyates Welfare Hall. Carmarthenshire County Council would be responsible for:

- books;
- the existing management system;
- broadband/telephone access and the computer suite in Pontyates Welfare Hall which would remain in place;
- the rental for Dafen Parish Hall under the present lease until 30 September, 2011;
- CRB checks, training and support for volunteers;
- a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which would include renewing stock, maintaining the management system, IT maintenance and support, training and support for volunteers. The SLA would also provide for public liability insurance, complaints procedure etc;
- reviewing the service after the trial period of three months and if not feasible to continue to enhance the mobile library service in both villages.

Members were asked to consider the financial implications for 2011/12 which would be to commit to a three month trial which would incur expenditure of £440 for hiring accommodation at Pontyates Welfare Hall on a 50:50 partnership with Llangyndeyrn Community Council. There would be no cost involved for Dafen Parish Hall. If the trial was successful and Members decided to continue with the funding, a further budget of £1,870 would be required for the period 1 October, 2011 to 31 March, 2012 to cover the cost of both venues based on the present charges levied.

The total budget required would be in the region of £2,310 for 2011/12 and £3,610 for 2012/13, plus the Council would need to identify volunteering organisations who would service the branch libraries.

The Deputy Clerk (Administration) stated that during the meeting held with County Council Officers and the respective local members, it was revealed that the service provided at Dafen Parish Hall, the County Council was holding over on a lease which had expired in November 2006. The lease was held with the Church in Wales and a third party would need to negotiate a new lease agreement with the Church in Wales from 1 October, 2011. The lease costs presently included standard annual charges of £950 for electricity consumption and a £70 service charge.

During discussion Members commented the Council would have to take on a number of additional obligations and responsibilities and not just provide financial support as originally envisaged, if the service was to continue in both villages. Furthermore, questions were raised over:

- identifying volunteering organisations both now and in the future to run the service and the impact of lack of voluntary support on the service;

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- whilst it was reassuring to learn that Llangyndeyrn Community Council was prepared to fund a trial period on a 50:50 partnership at Pontyates Welfare Hall, it was unclear about that Community Council's on going financial commitment should the trial prove successful. It was felt that a service level agreement would also be needed with that community council to safeguard respective rights and interests and to prevent unilateral withdrawal of financial support without giving proper notice;
- concern was expressed about the Council's potential involvement in having to negotiate a new lease with the Church in Wales and the legal obligations associated with same. Members commented that ideally the lease should not be required and instead whoever delivered the service from the Dafen Parish Hall could be treated as a casual hirer of the premises by the Church. This would avoid being caught up with any ongoing management and maintenance responsibilities for the building and no legal costs would be incurred in having to draw up a new lease; and
- enquiries be made of the Management Committee, Pontyates Welfare Hall as to whether its hire fees could be reduced for the library service.

Whilst supporting in principle the notion of offering financial support for a trial period at both branch libraries it was clear that further enquiries had to be made with all interested stakeholders prior to making any decision over the Council's involvement and it was

RESOLVED that the decision to offer financial support for a trial period to help the continuation of branch library services at both Dafen and Pontyates be deferred in order for Officers to make further enquiries over the issues raised by Members.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.30 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 May, 2011, adopted by the Council.