

19 June, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 104 – 111

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 19 June, 2013 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. V. Davies (Chairman)

Cllrs.

F. Akhtar	S. M. Donoghue
L. A. Beer	H. J. Evans
L. J. Butler	M. L. Evans
D. M. Cundy	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	C. A. Rees
A. J. Rogers	

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. J. Jones (Cllr. F. Akhtar deputising) and T. Devichand (Cllr. S. L. Davies deputising).

105. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
106	L. A. Beer	Personal interest – Housing Department employee Carmarthenshire County Council
106 & 107	D. M. Cundy	Personal and prejudicial interest – Chairman of Joint Task & Finish Group, Carmarthenshire County Council
106	S. L. Davies	Personal interest – member of the Community Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council
107	S. L. Davies	Personal and prejudicial interest – member of the Community Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council

106. COMMON ALLOCATION HOUSING POLICY

Cllr. L. A. Beer declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was a Housing Department employee of Carmarthenshire County Council. Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was the Chairman of the Joint Task & Finish Group, Carmarthenshire County Council and withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced. Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in the following

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matter as she was a member of the Community Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Members received the draft consultation document from the Housing Options Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the review of the 'Access to Social Housing Policy'. The purpose of the review was to conduct an evaluation of the current policy.

The County Council was in the process of evaluating how far the Access to Social Housing Policy produced in April 2011, had met its key objectives. The changes to the current housing benefit system and wider welfare reforms would result in some social tenants being financially disadvantaged. To help prevent financial hardship it was proposed to make minor amendments to the existing policy. Following discussion of the amendments it was

RESOLVED that the proposed amendments to the Common Allocation Housing Policy be supported and that the Clerk forward the completed questionnaire to the Housing Options Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**107. IMPACT OF THE WELFARE REFORMS ON HOUSEHOLDS
AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was the Chairman of the Joint Task & Finish Group, Carmarthenshire County Council and withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced. Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as she was a member of the Community Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council and withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced.

Further to Minute No. 510 (17 April, 2013), Members received correspondence and a questionnaire from the Chairman, Joint Community and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, Carmarthenshire County Council. The Community and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committees had recently established a Task and Finish Group to review the impact of the Government's new welfare reforms. The views of Town and Community Councils were important to the committee and it was asking for the Council's views on the changes to ascertain the extent of the impact of the welfare reform on local communities.

Following discussion of the questionnaire during which the consensus was to submit neutral responses to the three questions posed, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk forward the completed questionnaire to the Chairman of the Joint Task & Finish Group, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Cllr. D. M. Cundy returned to the meeting but Cllr. S. L. Davies withdrew from the remainder of the meeting.

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

Further to Minute No. 425, (20 February, 2013), Members received a letter dated 3 June, 2013, from the Electoral Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council. The writer stated that the purpose of the review was to realign the community council boundaries due to the new housing development in the area. However, following completion the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) would then be required to perform a subsequent County review to bring into line the County Electoral Divisional boundaries. Despite the publication of a County Council review in January 2013 the initial review stage for this had now passed so it was too late to incorporate a further review to correct the anomaly at a County level. Furthermore, the LGBC had stated it was unlikely that it would look at conducting another County review in time for the 2017 local elections.

Members were informed that given the circumstances, to proceed with the community review with no subsequent review at a County level would present a situation in 2017 whereby electors would be voting in a different community council area to the electoral division, which in the County Council's opinion would cause voter confusion. In view of this anomaly it had been decided to defer this community review until immediately after the 2017 local elections and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

109. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Further to Minute No. 73, Members considered the request of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to review the policy for awarding financial assistance.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the financial assistance awards be changed to two amounts of £250, five amounts of £100 and a further £1,000 of lower amounts with the minimum allocation being £50.

110. 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.

111. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

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RESOLVED that the report referenced 6:2013 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.20 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 9 July, 2013, adopted by the Council.