

**19 September, 2012.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 184 – 196**

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 September, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. D. M. Cundy (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

L. A. Beer	M. L. Evans
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
H. J. Evans	W. V. Thomas

**184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand, G. N. R. Edwards, S. N. Lewis and T. J. Jones (Cllr M. L. Evans deputising).

**185. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**186. EMPLOYING LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONS**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Matthew James, Communications and Training Officer, Dyfed Pension Fund.

Mr James had been invited to the meeting to give Members a brief presentation of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011. Mr Jones highlighted some of the issues the Council needed to be mindful of should it elect to implement an injury allowance under the above regulations. There then followed a number of questions from the floor, following which the Chairman thanked Mr James for attending and he withdrew from the meeting.

Members were informed that further consideration of the matter would be discussed in private at a later point in the meeting (to which Minute No. 193 refers).

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**187. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES**

Members considered the draft annual report for 2013/14 which contained details of proposed changes to Councillors' allowances.

Members were informed the Panel had undertaken a consultation with Community and Town Councils. It had become clear that there was a wide variety and range of functions and responsibilities carried out by different councils and therefore similar disparities in the roles of individual councillors. The Panel had made proposals in respect of travel and subsistence, attendance allowance, financial loss allowance and civic allowance. It had also proposed that a council had the discretion to make a payment of up to £100 to each of its members per year in recognition of costs which could be incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc. The Panel was planning to have further discussions with the sector over future arrangements.

Following discussion of the section of the draft report relating to Community and Town Councils, it was

**RESOLVED** that the initial report findings and the level of allowances proposed to be introduced from 1 April 2013 be accepted. However in respect of report item 4.8(iv), the Panel be asked to consider introducing a sliding scale of allowances payable to Members attending approved duties outside the area of a Council similar to the hourly periods outlined in report item 4.8(v) (the maximum amount being £32.46 for any period not exceeding 24 hours).

**188. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING  
DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE TO PROMOTE THE POWER OF  
WELL-BEING**

Members received a consultation document from the Welsh Government in respect of proposed new statutory guidance under Section 3 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000 on the discretionary power now available to Town and Community Councils, namely the Power of Well-Being.

Members were informed the guidance provided an explanation of the well-being powers contained in the Local Government Act 2000 and what they meant to local authorities. The Welsh Government would like to receive any comments or questions on the guidance and views as to whether it was clear and useful.

General discussion ensued and the Clerk gave a general overview of the power, the legal context and the implications of its use compared to other powers. Members welcomed the guidance and also the opportunity for responding to the consultation but wanted more time to consider the document given that consultation responses could be received up until 23 November 2012, and it was

**RESOLVED** that further consideration of the matter be deferred to the next ordinary committee meeting scheduled for 17 October 2012.

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**189. GAMBLING POLICY REVIEW**

Members received a Gambling Policy Review consultation document from Carmarthenshire County Council. The policy was reviewed every three years. After a brief discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the Gambling Policy Review consultation document be supported and that a response letter be sent to Carmarthenshire County Council confirming same.

**190. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Further to Minute No. 145. Members consider the request of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to review the policy for awarding financial assistance.

*Cllr M. V. Davies withdrew from the meeting.*

After a lengthy discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) The partial review agreed in June 2012 (to which Minute No. 103 refers) be rescinded and the policy revert to the previous arrangement pre June 2012.
- (2) A full review be carried out in a year's time so as to allow new Members to fully appreciate the workings of the financial assistance scheme over a longer period.

*Cllr H. J. Evans withdrew from the meeting.*

**191. HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD**

Further to Minute No. 137, the Clerk informed Members that the Council had been awarded a Health and Safety award from Peninsula for achievement for commitment to workplace health, safety and welfare.

Members congratulated the staff for their hard work and it was

**RESOLVED** that the award be noted with pleasure and that the good news be shared with the Llanelli Star, given the newspaper had already expressed an interest in doing a news article about the award.

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**192. 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.

**193. EMPLOYING LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONS**

Further to Minute No. 186 above, Members considered whether to adopt the LGPS (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011 and it was

**RESOLVED** that further information of the potential cost implications be sourced from Dyfed Pension Fund based on a few case scenarios surrounding staff absence so as to evaluate the impact on the Council's future financial contribution (as the employer) towards the Dyfed Pension Scheme should the Council be minded to adopt the proposals.

**194. PURCHASE OF VEHICLE**

Members considered the Technical Services Officer's report which set out quotations for the purchase of a new van.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the report and the quotation received from Days Motor Group, Valley Way, Swansea Enterprise Park, Swansea, SA6 8QP for a Fiat Ducanto Van at the cost of £14,838.96 be accepted.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the trade in price for the current LDV van in the sum of £300 be accepted.

**195. HUMAN RESOURCES AND HEALTH & SAFETY  
CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of the provision of consultancy services and it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the existing contract with Peninsula be extended for a further 12 months from 4 April 2013;
- (2) the Council serve six months notice on Peninsula by 4 October 2013; and
- (3) the Council obtain quotations for human resource and health & safety consultancy services in late 2013.

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**196. STAFFING MATTERS**

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

**RESOLVED** that the report referenced 09/2012 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 6:25 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 October, 2012, adopted by the Council.