

20 March, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 461 – 471

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, 20 March, 2013 at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	R. E. Evans
M. V. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. Devichand	A. G. Morgan
H. J. Evans	W. V. Thomas

461. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. G. N. R. Edwards and T. J. Jones (Cllr. R. E. Evans deputising).

462. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

463. EMPLOYING AUTHORITY DISCRETIONS

Further to Minute No. 186, the Chairman welcomed Mr Kevin Gerard, Pension Manager, Dyfed Pension fund to the meeting.

Mr Gerard had been invited to the meeting to give Members a further presentation of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011.

Following his presentation, there then followed a number of questions from the floor, following which the Chairman thanked Mr Gerard 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. 469 refers).

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**464. HOUSING SERVICES – CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BEDROOM TAX**

Further to Minute No. 404, Members received correspondence from the Housing Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council. The writer provided information on the impact of the 'bedroom tax' on council tenants under the Government's Welfare Reforms to be imposed from April 2013.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted and a request be made to the Housing Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council for a detailed breakdown of the impact of the 'bedroom tax' on council tenants for every electoral ward covering this Council's administrative area.

465. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR COMPOSITION

Members considered correspondence from the Electoral Services Manager at Carmarthenshire County Council. The writer stated that a number of requests had been received enquiring how a Town and Community Council went about increasing or decreasing the number of councillors it had or swapping the allocated numbers from one ward to another.

The letter stated that Carmarthenshire County Council would carry out the review at the official request of the Town or Community Council. If a request was received by the County Council, a review would take place with full consultation to all interested parties and if agreeable, the County Council would bring in an order amending the number of seats for the said Town and Community Council.

The amendments would take effect from the next set of Town and Community Council elections due in 2017.

During discussion reference was made to a previous exercise whereby the number of members representing the Pemberton Ward was increased from three to four members thereby increasing the Council's composition to 21 members. This was carried out in 2008 which for this type of exercise was fairly recent. However, Members queried how electoral ward boundaries were reviewed and it was

RESOLVED that the letter be noted but the Clerk make appropriate enquiries with Carmarthenshire County Council to ascertain the mechanism for carrying out a review of electoral ward boundaries within the Council's administrative area.

466. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT GRANT

Members received correspondence from the Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council informing that on 24 January, 2013, Carmarthenshire County Council along with its partners signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Covenant was a mutual statement of support to help serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

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A £30 million UK wide grant was available to support projects which would strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live.

An application for funding could be submitted by any part of the community; this may include volunteer groups, charities, public bodies etc. Further information was available on the Armed Forces Carmarthenshire website. Furthermore anyone wishing to sign up to the Community Covenant could simply do so with signing boards available at County Hall, Carmarthen, Ffwrnes Theatre, Llanelli and the Town Hall, Ammanford.

RESOLVED that the information be noted for future reference.

467. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF CARMARTHENSHIRE – DRAFT PROPOSALS

Further to Minute No. 426, Members considered the Clerk's report which outlined a number of alternative options to the draft proposals advocated by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, in respect of the County Council electoral divisions for the Llanelli Rural Council administrative area.

Following discussion of the report, it was

RECOMMENDED that Council supports the following set of alternative options in preference to the draft proposals advocated by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales:

- (1) Combining the Bynea and Llwynhendy electoral divisions to form a new electoral division;
- (2) Combining the Dafen, Felinfoel and Swiss Valley electoral divisions to form a new electoral division;
- (3) the Glyn and Hengoed electoral divisions be put forward as standalone electoral divisions; and furthermore
- (4) the said electoral divisions shall retain the same level of electoral representation as at present albeit the representation shall be merged to support recommendations (1) and (2) above so that the Bynea and Llwynhendy electoral division would return three county councillors with the Dafen, Felinfoel and Swiss Valley electoral division also returning three county councillors.

Cllr. T. Devichand left the meeting .

468. 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.

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469. EMPLOYING AUTHORITY DISCRETIONS

Further to Minute No. 463, it was

RESOLVED that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011 not be adopted.

470. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 3:2013 be accepted.

471. TRAINING VEHICLES

Further to Minute No. 290, Members received the report of the Training Manager informing of the progress in relation to the sale and purchase of training vehicles and it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the sale and purchase of the training vehicles conducted under the Council's scheme of delegated powers be noted.

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The meeting concluded at 6.05 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 April, 2013, adopted by the Council.