

**11 July, 2017**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 115 – 123**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 11 July, 2017, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. H. J. Evans (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

S. M. Caiach	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	A. J. Rogers
T. Devichand	E. Simmons
J. P. Hart	W. V. Thomas
I. G. Wooldridge	

**Absent:** M. V. Davies

**115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar, S. M. Donoghue, T. M. Donoghue, P. M. Edwards, T. J. Jones, S. N. Lewis, R. L. Najmi, J. S. Phillips, J. S. Randall and C. A. Rees.

**116. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**117. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

Further to Minute No. 180, (13 September, 2016), the Chairman welcomed Mr Dafydd Llywelyn, Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner to the meeting to discuss the future plans and priorities of the Police and Crime Plan.

Mr Llywelyn thanked Members for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to inform Members about the Police and Crime Plan. Mr Llywelyn had been in his role for 12 months and during his term of office there had been high demand from community groups, members of the public, partners and other stakeholders. Partnership working was fundamental to delivering a joined-up approach to tackling the challenges that faced all public services.

Mr Llywelyn informed Members that it was his responsibility to set an appropriate budget that would enable him to achieve his priorities. Approximately half of the funding received was from the Welsh Government with the remainder raised locally through the collection of

**11 July, 2017**

the council tax police precept. It was Mr Llywelyn's responsibility to set the precept. The medium term financial plan assumed a precept rise of 6.9% in 2017/18, with 5% rises in subsequent years. It also assumed that the size of the police fund would decrease annually by 1.4% along with a further £5 million reduction in funding as a result of the funding formula review. In addition to setting the precept budget, Mr Llywelyn stated it was essential to ensure that assets were managed appropriately and were well maintained as they played a vital role in the delivery of efficient police services.

Recruitment and retention of officers was key. It was planned to increase the number of special constables, volunteers and cadets from more deprived communities. Members suggested that there could be engagement with the local comprehensive schools.

Whilst Police play a key role, keeping the communities safe cannot be achieved by one agency alone. Partners must work collaboratively to prevent crime, reduce reoffending and safeguard the communities. Mr Llywelyn had earmarked £2 million to be invested in CCTV infrastructure to provide an effective, co-ordinated and timely response to anti-social behaviour. He would be working closely with the Surveillance Commissioner to roll out new technology over the Carmarthenshire area with Llanelli, Ammanford and Carmarthen being involved in the first stages.

The Chairman thanked Mr Llywelyn for addressing Members and then invited questions from the floor.

Members enquired what the future plans were for Llanelli police station and other local community police stations. Mr Llywelyn responded positively stating that he had no plans to close local community police stations. They may merge with another authority for example the fire authority but would remain in the same area. The main focus over the next two years would be to refurbish properties to bring them back in line with full operational effectiveness. As for Llanelli police station, it was to remain at the current location but there were plans for a new custody suite at a different location but within the vicinity of the Llanelli area. It would be a new centralised custody facility for Carmarthenshire which could take 18–24 months to develop.

Members then focussed attention to PCSOs and the importance of keeping the community safe and working with other partners. Concern was raised with fly tipping in the Dafen area but Members thanked the PCSOs for their active presence in Dafen. Mr Llywelyn stated that the PCSOs did a fantastic job but unfortunately their funding was agreed on an annual basis from the Welsh Government. Mr Llywelyn agreed that there was a need to work in partnership across all service areas, e.g. flooding with a central plan team.

Attention then turned to terrorism. Mr Llywelyn referred to the changing nature of demand on policing services. With advancement in technology, policing now faced the challenge of dealing with more complex crimes such as cyber-crime, fraud and terrorism. Emerging threats from terrorism and radicalisation required a much bigger resource commitment at a national and regional level. Dyfed Powys Police had fully trained police officers to deal with terrorism.

*Cllr. A. J. Rogers withdrew from the meeting.*

**11 July, 2017**

Members then referred to community mental health issues. Mr Llywelyn informed Members that the Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys was the policing lead for mental health across England and Wales. Together with the Chief Constable, Mr Llywelyn would ensure that people suffering from mental ill health were treated in a health facility and not detained in custody. To support both victims and offenders with mental ill health, Mr Llywelyn would work with partners to improve the understanding of the demands associated with mental ill health and to develop a more cohesive response to mental ill health related incidents. He informed Members that the police had been working with the Hywel Dda University Health Board and other partners on a consultation document regarding the mental health services which coincides with the new Policing and Crime Act. Mr Llywelyn encouraged Members to respond to the document and put their views forward.

The Chairman thanked Mr Llywelyn for attending and he withdrew from the meeting following which it was

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The information provided by Mr Llywelyn, Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner during the meeting be noted with thanks.
2. An invitation be extended to Mr Llywelyn to attend a future Council meeting to update Members within the next 12 months.

**118. 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	13 June, 2017
Recreation and Welfare Committee	20 June, 2017
Policy and Resources Committee	21 June, 2017
Planning and Liaison Committee	26 June, 2017
Special Council	29 June, 2017

**119. MATTERS ARISING**  
**(1) MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

Further to Minute No. 84(3), the Leader informed Members that the Code of Conduct Training would be held at Vauxhall Buildings in September 2017.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**(2) LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Further to Minute No. 89, the Deputy Clerk informed Members that a Special Council meeting would be held on Monday, 31 July, 2017 at the Selwyn Samuel Centre together with Llanelli Town Council to discuss the transition of the Burial Authority Committee to a joint advisory committee.

**11 July, 2017**

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**(3) PLAY AREA AT FELINFOEL**

**RESOLVED** that a Special Council meeting be also held at Vauxhall Buildings prior to the above meeting to seal the lease document for the land off Ynyswen, Felinfoel.

**120. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES  
LLANELLI RAILWAY STRIKE COMMEMORATION  
1911 COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No. 14, correspondence was received from the Acting Secretary, Llanelli Railway Strike Commemoration 1911 Committee requesting the Council to appoint a second representative to the committee, it was

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. S. M. Donoghue together with the existing representative Cllr. W. V. Thomas, be nominated to serve on the Llanelli Railway Strike Commemoration 1911 Committee.

**121. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 12 April, 2017:

“At a Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 12 April 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. R. E. Evans (Chairman)

Cllrs.

M. V. Davies  
S. M. Donoghue

J. S. Phillips  
R. F. Price

together with Mr D. Gary Jones (Town Clerk)

**74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. J. P. Burns and L. J. Stedman.

**11 July, 2017**

75. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

76. 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 - 8 March 2017

77. MATTERS ARISING  
LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY  
FUTURE STATUS AND REMIT

Further to Minute No. 73, the Secretary informed Members that he had received the necessary legal advice and confirmed the Burial Authority's future remit would be best served by the creation of an advisory committee. The advisory committee would take the lead on policy developments, general burial and administrative matters as well as formulating an agreed budget for the cemetery service, and would then make specific recommendations to the parent councils in respect of all these aspects. A governance model would need to be created to give effect to this. The model would specify how the revised collaboration arrangement between the parent councils would operate, its purpose together with its permitted range of responsibilities and duties. This would be developed after the local elections in May 2017.

In particular, the model would also specify the hosting arrangements for staff and the control and management of assets, the planned budgeting arrangements including the reallocation of general reserve balances from the Burial Authority's accounts to the parent councils.

In terms of extending the remit of the proposed advisory committee, this could be addressed at the same time by making reference to the new service area in the overarching governance model. Members were then informed that the parent councils had now taken on new grounds maintenance responsibilities connected with the asset transfer of a number of parks and playing fields from Carmarthenshire County Council on 1 April 2017. Temporary staffing support to cover the extended responsibilities was being met by utilising the cemetery workforce which was now working in tandem with the Rural Council's ground maintenance team. This temporary arrangement would hopefully pave the way for the permanent transfer of the cemetery workforce to the Rural Council as part of the arrangements in creating the advisory committee. It would also be necessary to resolve the accounting arrangements with the accounts sitting with the Rural Council going forward with the necessary recharges then being made to the Town Council for its agreed share and financial contribution to help fund the revised collaboration agreement. A paper-based billing system was currently being prepared but in the fullness of time, it was envisaged that job costing software would be procured in order to record work performed in the different service areas, the client for whom it was performed as well as a management reporting facility, which could generate invoices. The software would take advantage of modern technology with it being loaded on bespoke IT

**11 July, 2017**

tablets to eliminate manual worksheets being compiled by the workforce. This would save time and costs.

The Town Clerk was then invited to comment and he confirmed that the Town Council had also received similar legal advice to that received by the Secretary and therefore the Town Council was happy to be guided by that advice. In view of such he didn't envisage having a specific role to perform on the advisory committee under the revised collaboration arrangements and confirmed his support for how matters would be taken forward.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and the Secretary carry on with the necessary preliminary work.

78. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for February 2017 and the provisional report for March 2017 be noted.

79. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for March, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £29,994.78.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

80. EXTERNAL AUDIT 2016 / 2017

Members considered correspondence received from Grant Thornton UK LLP on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales setting out the audit arrangements for the year ending 31 March 2017.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.

81. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman thanked Members for their work over the last year and wished them every success in the forthcoming elections.

.....

The Meeting concluded at 4:35 pm"

.....

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**11 July, 2017**

**122. MATTERS REPORTED**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**123. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

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

- (1) British Heart Foundation;
- (2) Llanelli Deaf Club;
- (3) South Wales Junior Cricket Club;
- (4) Wales Air Ambulance;
- (5) Ysgol Gymraeg Brynsierfel.

.....

The Meeting concluded at 7.20 p.m.

.....

The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 12 September, 2017, adopted by the Council.