

8 January, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 352 - 360

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 8 January, 2008, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. J. Davies (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. M. Caiach	M. B. Hughes
D. V. Darby	M. P. Jones
M. Davies	T. J. Jones
S. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. Devichand	A. G. Morgan
M. L. Evans	C. A. Rees
M. Howells	R. G. Thorne
G. H. Wooldridge	

352. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman wished Members and Officers a happy and prosperous New Year.

353. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, C. Edwards and R. E. Evans.

354. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**355. POLICE MATTERS -
CRIME AND DISORDER IN CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Pursuant to Minute No. 295, the Chairman, having welcomed Inspector Eric Bailey and PC Lucy Bennett, Dyfed-Powys Police, to the meeting following Inspector Bailey's request to reply to comments reported in a recent press article, invited him to address Members.

Inspector Bailey conveyed his concern regarding remarks made recently by some Councillors in a press article which could mislead the general public into believing that crime was out of control. He thereupon provided a thorough breakdown of newly acquired statistics which indicated a dramatic decrease in crime and disorder throughout the Felinfoel and Llwynhendy areas during the period 1 April, 2007 to the present day, giving an overall reduction of 24%

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and 31% in the areas of Felinfoel and Llwynhendy, respectively. Inspector Bailey informed that this was partly due to the restructuring of staff and not to an increase in staffing levels. The recruitment of staff was extremely difficult, however, a recent agreement had been made with Carmarthenshire County Council to employ a new PCSO for the Bynea area in the near future. There was a constant demand for voluntary Special Constables from the age of 17 upwards provided they were fit and able to carry out all manner of duties.

Inspector Bailey stated that, under the current government rules and contracts, PCSOs could not work beyond 10.00 pm unless it was for authorised overtime nor did they possess the full range of powers to deal with many situations, however some officers were now able to continue duties during Friday and Saturday evenings until 1.00 am and it was hoped that this practice would continue in the future. He suggested that forums, such as this Council, could petition the Police force to change officer operating times. Inspector Bailey also informed that there was an excellent working relationship between the six neighbouring police teams.

PC Bennett referred to a recent incident which had occurred outside Ysgol y Babanod, Felinfoel, and to the appropriate ways in which underage drinking were being dealt with.

During discussion, Members expressed their satisfaction with Inspector Bailey's information and with the work and commitment given, however a request was made for Police assistance regarding traffic problems in the Dafen area.

Inspector Bailey urged Members to keep in contact and, if not able to attend the regularly held meetings, to ensure that they were on the mailing list for copies of meeting Minutes. An e-mail system was to be made available in the near future for same.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending and they thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

356. 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	11 December, 2007.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	18 December, 2007.
Policy and Resources Committee	19 December, 2007.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	20 December, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	2 January, 2008.

357. COMMUNITIES FIRST FELINFOEL

Members were circulated with correspondence received from the Chairman and a Development Worker, Communities First Felinfoel, which referred to a Minuted pledge by local Ward Members of financial assistance towards the cost of a Christmas tree, which had not been honoured.

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The Clerk informed that, when the problem first came to light, he had received assurance that the commitment would be met, however the matter had not been resolved.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that, in the absence of both Local Ward Members, the amount of £300 be used from the Felinfoel Local Ward Allowance as payment for the Christmas tree; and that the remaining balance be shared between both Members.

358. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that Cllr. M. Davies' comments regarding Item 2, and the schedule of matters reported, be noted.

359. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 14 November, 2007:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 November 2007 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. C. C. Lucas (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies

M. Howells

D. J. Harries

E. Smith

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T.J. Jones, M.E. Prothero and C.E. Richards.

48. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

49. 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	-	10 October 2007
Special Meeting	-	24 October 2007

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50. MATTERS ARISING

(1) UNIT 1 – LLANELLI DISTRICT CEMETERY

Arising out of Minute No. 41, the Secretary confirmed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had inspected the furniture items left in the Unit by the former Licensee. Subsequently a purchase price of £450.00 had been agreed for the items.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(2) VANDALISM AT LLANELLI DISTRICT CEMETERY

Arising out of Minute No. 45, Members were informed that of the twenty vandalised graves, contact details had been obtained for sixteen of the grave owners and letters had been subsequently sent out. To date all sixteen grave owners had given their consent for the Authority to proceed with reinstating their memorials to an upright position. In view of such, tenders for the reinstatement work would be issued to local memorial masons shortly. The Secretary stated that a letter of appreciation had been received from one of the grave owners, thanking the Authority for its gesture of goodwill and this was read out to Members.

The Secretary reported that WPC Lucy Bennett of Felinfoel Police Station had arranged for colleagues to carry out extra patrols of the cemetery grounds alongside the Authority's security officer. WPC Bennett requested that a set of the cemetery gate keys be kept at Felinfoel Police Station for emergency use. The keys would be used to gain access to the cemetery when the grounds were closed to the public.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary's update report be noted and that a set of cemetery gate keys be issued to the Police at Felinfoel Police Station.

(3) CEMETERY OFFICE CLEANING CONTRACT

Arising out of Minute No. 46, Members were informed that Mr Simon Todd (the former office cleaner) had recommended Mr David Howells, to take over the Authority's cleaning arrangements.

The Secretary reported that staff had contacted Mr Howells, with a view of engaging his services on a three month trial period. Mr Howells had subsequently sent a letter to the Authority dated 5 November 2007, setting out his contractual terms and these were found to be acceptable as they were identical to the former service provider's terms. In view of such the cleaning contract charge would be held at £129.00 per month. The Secretary stated that a letter would be sent to Mr Howells, confirming that his services would be engaged for a temporary period of three months, with a view to entering into a permanent contract, following successful completion of the trial period.

Following discussion it was

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RESOLVED that the action taken by the Secretary to engage the services of Mr David Howells of 50 Tanymarian, Mayhill, Swansea be noted.

51. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for September 2007 and the provisional report for October 2007 be noted.

52. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for October 2007, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £25,104.41

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Arising out of discussion of the above, Members requested that the Secretary review the present arrangements for sourcing the Authority's fuel supplies, given that fuel pump prices had increased.

53. MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Consideration was given to the memorial testing figures for September and October 2007, which revealed that 1011 memorials had been tested at stage 1 level and that 29 had failed.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

54. 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.

55. PHOTOCOPIER LEASE AGREEMENT

The Secretary reported that due to an administrative error on the part of the current service provider's financiers, the photocopier lease agreement had been cancelled by the service provider. It was therefore necessary to enter into a new agreement.

The duration of the new lease agreement would run over a shorter contract period of 33 months instead of the original contract period of 60 months. However, the service provider confirmed that the amount of money owed over the past 27 months since the inception of the original agreement would be written off. To date the Authority had been invoiced for £371.97 instead of the correct amount of £1296.00.

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Members were informed that the new agreement comprised 11 quarterly instalments of £144.00, plus a one off arrangement fee of £100.00. This equated to a new contract value of £2055.97 as opposed to the original contract value of £2800.00, resulting in a saving of £824.03 to the Authority.

RESOLVED that a new lease agreement be agreed and signed with the current service provider, based on the terms outlined above.

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The meeting concluded at 4:20 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

360. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

RESOLVED that the following letters of appreciation for the Council’s assistance be noted with pleasure:-

- (1) Bynea R.F.C.;
- (2) Llys y Bryn League of Friends;
- (3) St. David’s Church, Llwynhendy;
- (4) St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Dafen.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.50 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 12 February, 2008, adopted by the Council.