

8 July, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 129 - 142

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

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

Cllrs.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| T. D. Bowen | M. J. Lewis |
| L. J. Butler | A. G. Morgan |
| S. M. Donoghue | C. A. Rees |
| T. Rh. Ifan | B. C. M. Reynolds |
| A. C. Thomas | |

129. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, D. J. Davies, S. L. Davies, T. Devichand, M. L. Evans, T. J. Jones, S. N. Lewis, V. R. Thomas and G. H. Wooldridge.

130. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman having referred to Cllr. D. J. Davies' indisposition, Members' conveyed their best wishes for a quick recovery.

131. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. T. D. Bowen and L. J. Butler declared an interest in Minute No. 142 (2), as they were members of the Llwynhendy Events Committee.

132. 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 | 10 June, 2008. |
| Planning and Liaison Committee | 16 June, 2008. |
| Recreation and Welfare Committee | 17 June, 2008. |
| Policy and Resources Committee | 18 June, 2008. |
| Finance and General Purposes Committee | 25 June, 2008. |
| Planning and Liaison Committee | 7 July, 2008. |

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133. MATTERS ARISING

**(1) RECREATION AND WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE –
FELINFOEL CHANGING ROOMS**

Pursuant to Minute No. 101 (3), Cllr. S. M. Donoghue enquired as to the progress made regarding the anticipated timeline. The Clerk informed that he was to attend a meeting, to be held on Thursday, 10 July, 2008, with the Co-ordinator, Communities First Felinfoel, to discuss various avenues of a partnership and to facilitate a work programme over the coming month.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**134. COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
HOSPITAL SERVICES**

Further to Minute No. 87, a letter was received from Ms. E. Hart, A.M., M.B.E., Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government.

Ms. Hart stated that she was committed to improving surgical services at Prince Philip Hospital and had announced on 31 March, 2008, the development of the new short-stay surgical unit and endoscopy suite, which would help the Trust maintain the Assembly Government's target of no patient waiting more than 26 weeks from primary care referral to treatment, including waiting for any diagnostic test, by the end of 2009. This would help improve the health and, ultimately, quality of life of patients.

Ms. Hart expected Hywel Dda Trust to develop the detailed, costed plans in the coming months for her consideration. Once the business case had been received, Ms Hart would make a decision quickly so that patients and staff could see the benefits of the new, improved facilities as soon as possible. The Welsh Assembly Government would fully-fund the cost of building these developments.

The author hoped that she had now demonstrated her intention to enhance services at Prince Philip, and until her decision on the Business Case had been made, Ms. Hart did not think that a meeting would be of significant benefit to the Committee or to the people of Llanelli.

The Clerk reassured Members that the Committee would pursue matters and endeavour to request a meeting in the near future.

RESOLVED that the letter and information be noted.

135. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Pursuant to Minute No. 12, Members were requested to consider a change of membership on the Policy and Resources and Recreation and Welfare Committees in order to maintain a balance of Ward representation.

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RESOLVED that Cllr. L. J. Butler be appointed to represent the Pemberton Ward on the Recreation and Welfare Committee and Cllr. V. R. Thomas be appointed to represent the Bynea Ward on the Policy and Resources Committee.

136. CROSSROADS SIR GÂR CARING FOR CARERS

Pursuant to Minute No. 13, and Cllr. M. J. Lewis being appointed to represent the Council on the above organisation, a letter was received from the Secretary, Crossroads Sir Gâr Caring for Carers, stating that at present, there was a full capacity of ten Trustees and that the organisation was unable to appoint any further Trustees.

Members were informed that, following the merger of Llanelli/Cwm Gwendraeth Crossroads with Carmarthen/Dinefwr Crossroads to form Crossroads Sir Gâr on 1 July, 2007, a full complement of representation had been achieved.

RESOLVED that the letter and information be noted.

**137. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR
COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES**

Correspondence was received from the Training and Development Officer, One Voice Wales, informing of the above Training Programme being available to all Community and Town Councils in Wales.

The Council was invited to participate in the new programme which was designed to inform and develop Members, whether newly elected or more experienced.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

138. INDUSTRIAL ACTION – 16 & 17 JULY, 2008

Members were circulated with a report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of proposed industrial action on 16/17 July, 2008, and the effect on services. It was also suggested that the Policy and Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 16 July, be re-scheduled to Wednesday, 23 July, 2008, at 4.00 p.m.

RESOLVED accordingly and that the report be noted.

A request was made that the following vote, supporting the staff's industrial action, be recorded:-

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <u>For:</u> | T. D. Bowen | A. G. Morgan |
| | L. J. Butler | C. A. Rees |
| | M. L. Davies | B. C. M. Reynolds |
| | S. M. Donoghue | A. C. Thomas |
| | T. Rh. Ifan | |

Abstained: M. J. Lewis

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139. EXTERNAL EVENTS

Members having received invitations for the Council to be represented at the following, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) Society of Local Council Clerks – Conference – Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells – 8 September, 2008 – the Chairman of Council, Clerk and Leader be authorised to attend;
- (2) Society of Local Council Clerks – National Conference ‘Community Leadership: Our Challenge – Reading – 17-19 October, 2008 – the Clerk be authorised to attend.

140. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

141. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 21 May, 2008:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 21 May 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen
M. J. P. Burns

D. J. Davies
S. L. Davies

K. D. Rees

127. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs. M. J. P. Burns and K. D. Rees on to the committee as new Members and invited everyone to introduce themselves to one another.

128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. W. J. Lemon, C. C. Lucas and A. G. Morgan.

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129. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

130. 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 - 9 April 2008

131. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for March and April 2008 be noted.

132. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for April 2008, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £40,063.36.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

133. MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Consideration was given to the memorial testing figures for April 2008, which revealed that 18 memorials had been tested at stage two level, with no failures.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

134. EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members considered a letter received from the Wales Audit Office dated 15 April 2008, requesting that the Burial Authority change its external auditor from BDO Stoy Hayward to Mazars LLP. The change would streamline administrative arrangements, as Mazars LLP was the appointed auditor for the Llanelli Rural and Town Councils. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the proposal to change external auditors be approved subject to there being no increase in audit fees.

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135. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matters referred to in Minute Nos. 136, 137 and 138 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.

136. UNAUTHORISED MEMORIALS

Members considered pictures of two unauthorised memorials that had been constructed in the baby section at the cemetery. The headstones at the top of the graves had been erected with permission but the families concerned had constructed a kerb set from scalloped path edgings.

General discussion then ensued over the dimensions of baby grave plots. It was felt that the current length and breadth of plots was deemed acceptable and that these measurements be used as a benchmark for determining the size of new baby grave plots in future. However, it was a requirement of cemetery regulations that all work must be carried out by an authorised memorial mason, and it was

RESOLVED that both families be contacted and asked to replace the kerb sets with suitable authorised kerb sets.

FURTHER RESOLVED that due to problems with maintenance of the baby section that no momentos be allowed to be placed on the grass in front of a headstone. A full or baby kerb set would have to be erected on the grave to allow for the placing of momentos.

137. CHAPEL MEMORIAL PLAQUES

The Secretary informed Members that a request had been received from a member of the public to place a small memorial plaque in the memorial wall mount holder in the cemetery chapel.

After a brief discussion, it was

RESOLVED the request be approved subject to the family arranging for the plaque to be inscribed and mounted and that a permit fee of £27.00 be charged to cover administrative costs.

138. STAFFING MATTERS

Further to Minute No. 109, the Secretary reported that no responses or objections had been received from cemetery staff regarding the proposal to permanently vary working arrangements following the spring and summer bank holiday Mondays, whereby the Tuesday would be classified as a normal working day

RESOLVED that the new work arrangement be implemented with immediate effect.

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FURTHER RESOLVED that to compensate for the loss of the Tuesday following the spring and summer bank holidays, workforce annual leave entitlement be increased by two additional days as previously agreed.

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The Meeting concluded at 4:35pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

142. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Noddfa Chapel, Pontyates;
- (2) Llwynhendy Events Committee.

.....
The Meeting concluded at 6.20 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 September, 2008, adopted by the Council.