

**8 December, 2009.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 343 – 351**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 8 December, 2009, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. C. A. Rees (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| L. J. Butler   | H. J. Evans       |
| S. M. Caiach   | T. Rh. Ifan       |
| D. J. Davies   | T. J. Jones       |
| M. L. Davies   | M. J. Lewis       |
| M. V. Davies   | S. N. Lewis       |
| S. L. Davies   | A. G. Morgan      |
| T. Devichand   | B. C. M. Reynolds |
| S. M. Donoghue | A. C. Thomas      |

**343. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, M. L. Evans, V. R. Thomas and G. H. Wooldridge.

**344. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**345. 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 November, 2009 |
| Recreation and Welfare Committee       | 17 November, 2009 |
| Policy and Resources Committee         | 18 November, 2009 |
| Planning and Liaison Committee         | 23 November, 2009 |
| Finance and General Purposes Committee | 25 November, 2009 |

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**346. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE ON  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES –  
FURNACE C P SCHOOL**

Cllr. M. L. Evans having expressed his wish to resign as Governor of Furnace C P School, it was

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. M. V. Davies be nominated as this Authority's representative on the Governing Body of Furnace Primary School.

**347. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL/ONE VOICE WALES -  
WORKING TOGETHER ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITIES**

Further to Minute No. 267(5), Members were presented with the Clerk's report on the above conference which addressed whether Town and Community Councils wished to strengthen their existing partnership arrangements with Carmarthenshire County Council and/or to create new partnerships to help deliver community services?

County Council Members, Directors and Chief Officers of the Authority attended the conference together with Mr Simon White, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales.

Delegates were provided with a note pack which included a feedback form entitled '48 hour challenge'. All delegates were encouraged to complete the form and to return it at the conclusion of the conference. The delegate note pack stated that the County Council recognised ... *'that services often work best when they are designed, managed and delivered at the most local level possible, where they can be more readily attuned to local circumstances and local people's priorities'*.

The aims of the conference were:

- To showcase some of the successful case studies which Town and Community Councils, community groups, voluntary groups and sports clubs had provided.
- To present a selection of services within Carmarthenshire which could be provided by Town and Community Councils, community groups, voluntary groups and sports clubs.
- To provide information on the support, advice and resources available from the County Council and other organisations.
- To explore ideas on how to provide services in collaboration.
- To share key contacts from within the County Council of who to contact should they wish to explore any opportunities further.

To facilitate the aims, the conference was organised into five workshops. The Council was able to cover all five workshops between its three delegates. It was clear from the range of services and functions on offer, that some services lend themselves better to being managed by Town and Community Councils than others.

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In terms of moving matters forward, the Clerk suggested that the Council adopt the following criteria as a framework for future dialogue:

- National policy context and the increasing importance attributed to Town and Community Councils by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- The Council's strategic aims regarding the safeguarding and delivery of key services;
- The cost of delivering the service(s) and value for money;
- Would the Council add value to a service by taking on a service either directly or in partnership with others;
- The extent of Town and Community Council powers to act (delegated powers, statutory powers, future powers – 'power of well being');
- Could partnership opportunities allow a joint approach to service delivery either directly with the County Council and or with other Town and Community Councils for the services on offer;
- Concurrent functions and double taxation;
- Would the funding follow the service;
- Sustainability; and
- TUPE regulations (Transfer of undertakings, protection of employment).

During the ensuing discussion, Members confirmed their support in principle for further dialogue. They felt it was important to safeguard and protect community facilities and services. However, each facility or service ought to be assessed on its own merits. If functions or services were transferred in the future they must be of an acceptable standard prior to being handed over. Sustainability was an important consideration and the Council should only participate further if it could add value by bringing about improvements to benefit local people and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to adopt the above criteria for entering into further dialogue with Carmarthenshire County Council and other potential partners when seeking to work more closely together in order to deliver functions and services.

**348. MATTERS REPORTED**

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

**349. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 14 October, 2009:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 October 2009 at 4:00 pm.

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Present: Cllrs.

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| T. D. Bowen    | W. J. Lemon  |
| M. J. P. Burns | A. G. Morgan |
| S. M. Donoghue | K. D. Rees   |
| J. Williams    |              |

42. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

RESOLVED that Cllr S. M. Donoghue be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. L. Davies, T. J. Jones and C. C. Lucas.

44. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

45. 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 September 2009  |
| Special Meeting  | - | 17 September 2009 |

46. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute No. 41 the Secretary confirmed that the matter had been fully discharged.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

47. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for August 2009 and the provisional report for September 2009 be noted.

48. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for September 2009, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £25,013.51.

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RESOLVED that the information be noted.

49. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY SCALES 2009/2010

RESOLVED that the National Joint Council circular 2/09 confirming pay scales and allowances effective from 1 April 2009, be received and adopted.

50. LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD – RENT REVIEW

Members considered the Secretary's report informing of the impending annual rent review and which confirmed the amount of rent payable to the Burial Authority from Llanelli Crematorium Ltd, with effect from 1 December 2009.

Members were informed that given the negative position of the 'all items' index figure of the Index of Retail Prices, there would be no increase to the existing rent and it was

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

51. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Further to Minute No. 34, the Secretary presented his covering report (a copy of which had been previously circulated) which reviewed extant standing orders and financial regulations. Appended to the report were the latest model sets of standing orders and financial regulations provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks and Members were requested to consider adopting them as the Burial Authority's latest versions.

Members were informed that the new sets of documents were an improvement on the Authority's existing versions in so far as they were clearer to read and interpret; they also reflected current legislation and were more succinct.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Secretary's covering report be accepted and that the model sets of standing orders and financial regulations appended to the report be received and adopted.

52. WELSH PURCHASE CARD – ADDITIONAL CARD HOLDER REQUEST

The Secretary informed Members of the need to issue the Cemetery Manager with a Welsh Purchase Card. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the request be approved.

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**53. CEMETERY REGULATIONS FOR MEMORIAL MASONS**

Members considered a draft policy document prepared by the Cemetery Manager in respect of introducing new cemetery regulations to control the activities and workmanship of memorial masons when working in the cemetery grounds. Members were informed of the need to exert more effective control in monitoring and regulating work activities in order to improve standards.

The Cemetery Manager stated that most other public cemeteries had defined policies in place and recommended that a series of additional controls needed to be introduced namely: a registration and appointment system; clearer guidelines on memorial criteria covering general installation standards, design and colours; standards of workmanship and testing procedures; and a compliance procedure to safeguard against unsafe and unacceptable work practices.

Members having considered the draft policy document and following discussion over the merits of the scheme it was

RESOLVED that the policy document be received and adopted and that the new control measures be introduced following the briefing of memorial masons and funeral directors about the new arrangements and once they had been provided with a copy of the new procedures.

**54. APPLICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE APPROVED LIST OF MONUMENTAL MASONS**

Members considered an application received from Mr J. J. Lewis of 111 Gnoll Park Road, Neath for inclusion on the Burial Authority's approved list of monumental masons. Members were informed that all necessary insurance documentation was in place and the application was in order and it was

RESOLVED that the application be approved.

**55. INSTITUTE OF CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM MANAGEMENT (ICCM) CONFERENCE**

Further to Minute No. 23 the Cemetery Manager provided Members with an overview of the ICCM conference recently held in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Following general discussion, whereupon Members thanked the Cemetery Manager for his report it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5:10 pm

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**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be noted.

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**350. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

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

- (1) Carmarthenshire Older People's Partnership;
- (2) Llanelli & District Branch Guide Dogs;
- (3) Llanelli Historical Society.

**351. SEASONAL GREETINGS**

The Chairman wished Members and Staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.15 p.m.

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