

9 March, 2010.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 487 - 499

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 9 March, 2010, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	M. L. Evans
L. J. Butler	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
H. J. Evans	G. H. Wooldridge

487. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach and V. R. Thomas.

488. CLLR. V. R. THOMAS

The Clerk informed that Cllr. Thomas' indisposition was improving and that she hoped to return to Council duties in the very near future.

RESOLVED that the information be noted; and that a bouquet be sent to Cllr. V. R. Thomas from the Chairman and Members of the Council.

489. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
492	M. L. Davies	Personal and prejudicial interest - Member, Llanelli Fairtrade Group Committee
492	S. L. Davies	Personal and prejudicial interest - Member, Llanelli Fairtrade Group Committee
492	T. Devichand	Personal and prejudicial interest - Member, Llanelli Fairtrade Group Committee
492	S. N. Lewis	Personal and prejudicial interest - Member, Llanelli Fairtrade Group Committee

9 March, 2010.

490. 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	9 February, 2010
Planning and Liaison Committee	15 February, 2010
Recreation and Welfare Committee	16 February, 2010
Policy and Resources Committee	17 February, 2010
Special Council	23 February, 2010
Planning and Liaison Committee	8 March, 2010

491. MATTERS ARISING

(1) ELECTRONIC COUNCIL

Further to Minute No. 472, it was

RESOLVED that a Working Group comprising Cllrs. D. J. Davies, M. V. Davies, T. Devichand, H. J. Evans, T. Rh. Ifan and C. A. Rees, be appointed.

(2) LAND AT HEOL Y MYNYDD, BRYN, LLANELLI – S/18218

Pursuant to Minute No. 485, Cllr. T. Rh. Ifan referred to the impact large developments would have on future land use.

The Clerk having stated that each planning application was discussed on merit, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. Ifan's comments be noted.

492. LLANELLI FAIRTRADE GROUP

Cllrs. M. L. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following items as she was related to the Secretary, Llanelli Fairtrade Group Committee and was also a member of said Committee. Cllrs. S. L. Davies, T. Devichand and S. N. Lewis declared personal and prejudicial interests in the matters as they were members of the Committee. All Members withdrew before the matters were discussed.

(1) MEMBERSHIP

Further to Minute No. 445, Members considered further e-mail correspondence received from the Secretary, Llanelli Fairtrade Group, which referred to Cllr. H. J. Evans as being welcomed to the Llanelli Group as an observer.

9 March, 2010.

The Clerk stated that the original invitation had not suggested that this Council's nominated representative would be attending as an observer and enquired whether Members wished to review their decision.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk seek clarification from the Chairman, Llanelli Fairtrade Group; and that Cllr. H. J. Evans be authorised to attend meetings whilst the matter was being investigated.

(2) SUPPORT FOR FAIRTRADE

Pursuant to Minute No. 339 (9 December, 2008), it was

RESOLVED that the Council support Fairtrade products in general and that a choice of refreshments be made available for Members' consumption.

Cllrs. M. L. Davies, S. L. Davies, T. Devichand and S. N. Lewis returned to the meeting.

493. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

**(1) GLOBE ROW, DAFEN –
LICENCE TO OCCUPY LAND**

Pursuant to Minute No. 99 (16 June, 2009), it was

RESOLVED that the Chairman of Council and the Clerk be authorised to affix the seal of the Council on Carmarthenshire County Council's Licence to Occupy land at the western side of Globe Row, Dafen, for the purpose of carrying out a ground investigation survey.

**(2) UNIT 1, YMCA BUILDINGS –
DEED OF ASSIGNMENT**

RESOLVED that the Chairman of Council and the Clerk be authorised to affix the seal of the Council on the Deed of Assignment, in respect of the transfer of the tenancy, Unit 1, YMCA Buildings.

494. ONE VOICE WALES – MEMBERSHIP 2010/11

An invitation was received from the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales, for the Council to become a member from April 2010.

Prior to discussion, the Clerk reminded Members that, in setting the Council precept, no provision had been made for new growth items and so no money had been set aside in the forthcoming budget for 2010/11 if Members were minded to join One Voice Wales.

9 March, 2010.

During a lengthy discussion, concern was raised regarding the subscription cost and reference was made to the fact that the Organisation was more of a benefit to smaller community councils.

RESOLVED that the invitation be noted.

495. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

496. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of meetings of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 13 January and 1 February, 2010, respectively:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 13 January 2010 at 4:00 pm.

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

Cllrs.

M. J. P. Burns	W. J. Lemon
S. M. Donoghue	A. G. Morgan
T. J. Jones	K. D. Rees

73. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman wished Officers and Members a happy New Year.

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T. D Bowen and S. L. Davies.

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.

9 March, 2010.

77. MATTERS ARISING

LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD –
PAYMENT OF RENT

Further to Minute No. 71, the Secretary reported that in order to facilitate rent being paid by direct debit via the BACS payment system, special software would have to be purchased at significant cost. Other additional costs would also have to be incurred, and therefore the proposal put forward by Llanelli Crematorium Ltd was not cost effective for the Burial Authority to pursue.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that Llanelli Crematorium Ltd be offered the facility to pay rent instalments by standing order instead of direct debit.

78. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for November 2009 and the provisional report for December 2009 be noted.

79. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for December 2009, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £17,611.16.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

80. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

Members considered the Auditor's report received from Mazars LLP, (copies having been previously circulated) in respect of the Burial Authority's accounts for 2008/09. The report confirmed that the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Auditor General for Wales' requirements and no matters had come to the Auditor's attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

However, the report raised one other matter which did not affect the Auditor's opinion but which was drawn to the Burial Authority's attention nonetheless. The Burial Authority was recommended to review its appointment of the internal auditor on an annual basis.

RESOLVED that the Auditor's report be accepted.

9 March, 2010.

81. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

The Cemetery Manager presented Members with a detailed report requesting funds to purchase cemetery maintenance equipment which had not been budgeted for in this financial year but which was crucial to the continued improvement of working practices and the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the use and suitability of the equipment it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and funds totalling £11,929 be vired from the contingency budget head to purchase a utility vehicle, two soil boxes, dressing mats, pressure washer and bowser.

82. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Cemetery Manager reported upon the treacherous ground conditions encountered within the cemetery grounds during the severe cold weather of the last three weeks. Members were informed that a risk assessment had been conducted and it was felt that four grit boxes needed to be installed within the cemetery grounds to help combat against similar conditions in future. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the cost of the grit boxes and rock salt totalling £1100.00 be met from the contingency budget head.

83. GREEN FLAG AWARD

Members were informed of the Green Flag award, which was a national scheme aimed at promoting and enhancing green spaces. The Burial Authority was considering applying for the award and had commissioned a report (copies having been previously circulated to Members) from an independent Green Space advisor on behalf of the Civic Trust. The report was provided free of charge and highlighted many positive features within the cemetery grounds, making it a viable candidate site to apply for the award.

After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the report findings be accepted and that the Cemetery Manager be authorised to finalise preparations in order for the Burial Authority to apply for the award.

84. SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

The Secretary informed Members that the special budget meeting would be held on Monday 1 February, at 4.00pm in the Council Chambers at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

9 March, 2010.

85. 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.

86. REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES

Members considered the Cemetery Manager's report on fee restructuring and potential amendments to grave digging operations; the restructuring of fees in connection with memorial permits and increasing other cemetery fees by three percent for the new financial year commencing on 1 April 2010. Members were informed that with the opening of Section 11 and the prevailing ground conditions thereat it was proving difficult to provide grave depths for three interments in the same grave. Furthermore, the current fee regime did not reflect the true cost of digging to provide for grave depths for three interments in terms of the resources expended when excavating the grave and the amount of time taken to reach the desired depth.

Having fully considered the report, Members were prepared to standardise grave digging operations to a certain extent by dispensing with excavations for grave depth for single interments and to change the current policy so that in future all new grave plots be excavated to a minimum depth of two interments. However, despite the difficulties encountered in achieving a grave depth for three, this facility should still be retained for the bereaved but at a more realistic price in view of the extra work involved and it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) Hence forth all new grave plots shall be excavated to a minimum depth of two interments with single depth excavations being dispensed with from operational practices;
- (2) Grave depth for three interments shall be retained but priced at a more competitive rate, the details of which are to be presented for further consideration at the special budget meeting scheduled for 1 February 2010 (to which Minute No. 84 refers);

(3) The memorial permit fee be amended as follows:

New memorial, headstone only	-	£100
New memorial, kerb set	-	£120
Additional names cut on memorial	-	£ 50
Memorials within Garden of Remembrance	-	£ 70 ; and

(4) All other cemetery fees be increased by three percent across the board as recommended in the report.

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The Meeting concluded at 4:55 pm”
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9 March, 2010.

“At a Special Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Monday, 1 February 2010 at 4:00 pm.

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

Cllrs.

M. J. P. Burns A. G. Morgan
S. M. Donoghue K. D Rees
J. Williams

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, T. J. Jones and W. J. Lemon.

88. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

89. 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.

90. SCALE OF FEES

(1) Exclusive Rights of Burial Fees

	£
Conventional grave - 30 year period	574.00
Conventional grave - 50 year period	1146.00
Cremated Remains - 30 year period	154.00
Cremated Remains - 50 year period	308.00

(2) Cemetery Management Fees

The following charges would be levied where Exclusive Rights of Burial was not applicable:

Cemetery management fee for a conventional grave	238.00
Cemetery management fee for a cremated remains plot	120.00

9 March, 2010.

(3) Interment Charges

Grave - Depth for 2	350.00
Grave - Depth for 3	550.00
Interment in existing grave	350.00
Interment of cremated remains	115.00
Weekend Surcharge Interment Grave	318.00
Weekend Surcharge Interment Cremated Remains	127.00

(4) Other Charges

Hire of Chapel (including speaker)	39.00
Still Birth	11.00
Testing of Grave	87.00
Exhumation of Ashes	172.00
Exhumation of body	(Actual & necessary costs)
New memorial - headstone	100.00
New memorial - kerbset	120.00
Additional names cut on headstones	50.00
Memorials within Garden of Remembrance	70.00
Bricked Grave (Admin fee)	317.00
Reserved Grave (Section 10 only)	218.00
Family History Search (per individual name)	10.00

(5) Out Of Area Surcharges

All charges be increased by 50% in cases where the deceased did not reside within the administrative area of Llanelli Town and Rural Councils

RESOLVED that the above fees be approved from 1 April 2010.

91. EXHUMATION PAYMENTS

Further to Minute No. 141 (8 December 2004), Members reviewed the special payment made to the cemetery groundsmen when asked to participate in exhumations and it was

RESOLVED that the special payment be increased to £33.87 for exhumation of ashes and £92.19 for a full exhumation.

92. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Secretary presented Members with a detailed report in respect of the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2010 / 2011, and after a short discussion it was

RESOLVED that a budget precept of £191,610 be set for the financial year 2010 / 2011, and that a contribution of £95,805 be requested from Llanelli Town and Rural Councils respectively.

9 March, 2010.

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The Meeting concluded at 4:10 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted.

497. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Felinfoel Senior Citizens’ Group;
- (2) Tŷ Hafan.

498. 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.

499. YMCA BUILDING

Pursuant to Minute No. 324, Members considered the Clerk’s report regarding a request for capital works’ funding.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the release of funding to the YMCA Trustees’ Management Committee to meet costs of structural repairs to the YMCA building.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.00 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 13 April, 2010, adopted by the Council.