

9 September, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 183 - 193

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 9 September, 2008, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. M. Caiach (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	T. Rh. Ifan
L. J. Butler	A. G. Morgan
D. J. Davies	B. C. M. Reynolds
M. V. Davies	A. C. Thomas
S. M. Donoghue	V. R. Thomas
M. L. Evans	G. H. Wooldridge

183. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Davies, S. L. Davies, T. Devichand, H. J. Evans, T. J. Jones, M. J. Lewis and S. N. Lewis.

184. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman congratulated Cllr. S. M. Donoghue and his wife upon the recent birth of their daughter and also informed of the indisposition of Mr. R. G. Thorne, a former Member of this Council.

Members conveyed their good wishes to both parties.

185. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

186. 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	8 July, 2008
Policy and Resources Committee	23 July, 2008
Recreation and Welfare Committee	24 July, 2008
Planning and Liaison Committee	28 July, 2008

9 September, 2008.

Finance and General Purposes Committee	30 July, 2008
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	31 July, 2008
Planning and Liaison Committee	18 August, 2008
Planning and Liaison Committee (Subject to the page numbering being amended to read 94 – 97)	8 September, 2008

187. MATTERS ARISING

(1) PONTHENRI COMMUNITY HALL

Pursuant to Minute No. 154, the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informed Members that further information regarding the matter would be given at the next meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

188. CARMARTHENSHIRE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Further to Minute No. 13, and Cllr. T. D. Bowen being appointed to represent the Council on the above organisation, a letter was received from the Manager, Carmarthenshire Tourist Association, stating that, as the two former Rural and Town representatives had not been re-elected at the local elections, the matter of council representation on the Association Board had been discussed at a meeting.

Following deliberation, it had been decided that, as the Association undertook activities and support to the tourism industry across the whole of Carmarthenshire, it was important that the directors also provided county-wide representation. As a result, it was agreed that the best way forward was to request that two Councillors be elected from the Carmarthenshire Area Committee of One Voice Wales and it was understood that the matter would be discussed at a meeting to be held on 25 September, 2008.

This Authority was thanked for its support over the years and it was hoped that the Association and the Council would continue to work together to develop the tourism industry in the area and the County.

Members voiced strong objections to the decision and there was grave concern that Llanelli was being under-represented in that the ratio of residents was not reflected in the membership. Members referred to the Council's decision not to become a member of One Voice Wales and requested that the Association re-consider its decision by making a seat available to Cllr. T. D. Bowen as this Council's representative.

RESOLVED that a letter of request be forwarded accordingly.

9 September, 2008.

189. EXTERNAL EVENTS

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

RESOLVED that

- (1) HMS Trenchant – Devonport – 10 September, 2008 – that respective authorisation be given to the Leader, Cllrs. S. L. Davies, T. Devichand and the Clerk to attend;
- (2) The Carmarthenshire Partnership – Annual Forum 2008 – Selwyn Samuel Centre, Llanelli – 11 September, 2008 – that interested Members attend;
- (3) Carmarthenshire County Council – Training Seminar for Town and Community Council Members – ‘New Members’ Code of Conduct – 11 September, 2008 – that interested Members attend;
- (4) Royal Air Forces Association – ‘Battle of Britain’ Thanksgiving Service – All Saints Church, Llanelli – 21 September, 2008 – that interested Members attend.

190. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**191. SENIOR CITIZENS’ DAY CENTRE
JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Senior Citizens’ Day Centre Joint Management Committee held on 21 May, 2008:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS’ DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday 21st May 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. L.J. Buttler, Mrs. P.J. Edmunds, M.L. Evans, J. Roberts, D.H. Skivington, Mrs. L.J. Stedman and G.H. Wooldridge.

APOLOGY: Councillor Mrs. S.N. Lewis.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs. P.J. Edmunds be appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee for the ensuing year, whereupon Councillor Edmunds took the Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor G.H. Wooldridge be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

9 September, 2008.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March 2008 be received, verified and confirmed.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED as follows –

- (i) That the Financial Report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the financial year 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 in the sums of £74,102 and £72,286 respectively be approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).
- (ii) That the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st – 30th April 2008 in the sums of £5,490 and £2,524 respectively be approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).
- (iii) That the income and expenditure account for the financial year ending 31st March 2008 be noted and approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).
- (iv) That the balance sheet as at 31st March 2008 be noted and approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).

(2) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Consideration was given to the written report of the Finance Officer relating to accounts for payment (copies having been previously circulated to members). The report disclosed that payments made for the period 13th March – 21st May 2008 in respect of Direct Debits, reimbursements, BACS payments and Vouchers No. 4097 – 4108 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £21,532.83.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

5. HIRINGS

Consideration was given to a written schedule of hirings of the Day Centre for the months of March and April 2008 (copies having been previously circulated to members).

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and approved.

6. FUTURE OF LLANELLI YMCA

Further to Minute No. 37 of the Committee meeting held on 12th March 2008, the Secretary gave a detailed report of the background to this matter for the benefit of the new members of

9 September, 2008.

the Committee. Members were then advised that negotiations between Carmarthenshire County Council and YMCA Wales were due to be concluded at a meeting to be held on 22nd May, and the Secretary hoped that, if these negotiations were successfully concluded, YMCA Wales should hopefully be in a position to notify him of the full terms of the proposed new underlease of the Day Centre.

Members were also advised of a recent meeting which the Secretary and Finance Officer had held with Elders of the Presbyterian Church, following which certain issues still needed to be resolved. It was hoped that these negotiations could be concluded shortly, although it now seemed doubtful that this would occur before the 23rd June Notice to Quit deadline. Members were, however, informed of a recent discussion between the Secretary and Carmarthenshire County Council's Head of Corporate Property regarding the possibility of an extension to the Notice to Quit, as a result of which he was hopeful that this would be one of the issues that would be favourably resolved at the 22nd May meeting referred to.

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – That the Secretary's report be noted, and that further developments be awaited.

FURTHER RESOLVED – that a daytime visit by the Committee to the Day Centre be arranged as soon as practicable.

The meeting concluded at 6.45 p.m.”

192. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 11 June, 2008:-

“At the Annual Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 11 June 2008 at 4:00 pm.

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

Cllrs.

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

W. J. Lemon
A. G. Morgan
K. D. Rees
W. G. Thomas

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr S. L. Davies.

9 September, 2008.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Prior to appointing a Chairman, Cllr. C. C. Lucas welcomed new Members on to the committee and also wished Cllr. T. J. Jones a happy 64th birthday. He then thanked Members and Officers for their support during his term of office. The committee thereupon proceeded to appoint a Chairman, and following the motion of Cllr D. J. Davies, seconded by Cllr. A. G. Morgan, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. T. J. Jones be appointed Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr. T. J. Jones extended his appreciation and thanks to Members for appointing him Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Following the motion of Cllr. D. J. Davies, seconded by Cllr. T. D. Bowen, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. C. C. Lucas be appointed Vice Chairman.

6. 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 - 21 May 2008

7. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for May 2008 be noted.

8. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for May 2008, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £14,234.68.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

9 September, 2008.

9. MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Consideration was given to the memorial testing figures for May 2008, which revealed that due to mitigating reasons no memorials had been tested.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

10. ICCM CONFERENCE, KENILWORTH – 29 SEPTEMBER TO
1 OCTOBER 2008

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary be authorised to attend the conference.

11. 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.

12. STAFFING MATTERS

The Secretary provided Members with an overview of current staffing arrangements and the condition of the cemetery grounds. A combination of long term sickness absence and other related managerial issues were having a detrimental impact on grounds maintenance. Certain areas were overgrown to unacceptable levels.

Lengthy discussion ensued on how best to deal with the prevailing circumstances in both the short and long term. The Secretary reported that following consultation with the Chairman, he had arranged for grounds maintenance contractors to provide temporary support. The contractors were due on site on Friday 20 June 2008, and a work plan had already been agreed, whereby several sections would be cut back and trimmed. The Secretary confirmed that a managerial review meeting had also been arranged with key personnel in a bid to resolve the current resource issue. Current work practices would be examined with a view to implementing more efficient and effective ways of working. However, longer term proposals would be subject to a further report to committee in due course once an evaluation of working practices had been concluded.

Members commented that they had received a number of complaints from members of the public over the state of the grounds and were anxious that a solution be found as quickly as possible. They were particularly keen to resolve staffing arrangements and were happy to endorse the recruitment of temporary or seasonal staff if this was deemed appropriate. Members also felt that a site inspection of the cemetery grounds in the not too distant future would be beneficial especially for new Members serving on the committee.

Following further general discussion it was ultimately

9 September, 2008.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The short term action taken by the Secretary to recruit grounds maintenance contractors be endorsed.
- (2) The fee submitted by T & M Gardening & Landscaping Services in the sum of £920.00 plus VAT for carrying out the work be accepted.
- (3) A further report on staffing arrangements and working practices be presented in due course.
- (4) A site inspection of the cemetery grounds be arranged as soon as possible.

.....
 The Meeting concluded at 5:05pm”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

193. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Dyfed-Powys Police – ‘Bobby Busters;
- (2) Epilepsy Action;
- (3) The Carmarthenshire Partnership.

.....
 The Meeting concluded at 6.20 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 14 October, 2008, adopted by the Council.

9 September, 2008.