

10 June, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 83 - 92

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 June, 2008, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	T. Rh. Ifan
S. M. Caiach	T. J. Jones
D. J. Davies	M. J. Lewis
M. V. Davies	S. N. Lewis
S. L. Davies	C. A. Rees
T. Devichand	B. C. M. Reynolds
S. M. Donoghue	A. C. Thomas
H. J. Evans	V. R. Thomas

G. H. Wooldridge

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Evans and A. G. Morgan.

84. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. T. Devichand and H. J. Evans declared an interest in Minute No. 87 (1), as Cllr. Devichand was Vice Chairman of the Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee and a member of the Carmarthenshire Community Health Council; Cllr. Evans was a member of the Committee for the Improvement of Hospital Services.

85. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed Inspector E. Bailey, Dyfed-Powys Police, to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Inspector Bailey, having welcomed the opportunity to address the newly elected Members of Council, referred to the successful end of year policing report for 2007/08. He informed that the rise in the crime detection rate was largely due to the high level of response given by the Neighbourhood Policing system, particularly by high visibility of beat patrols, in the Felinfoel and Llwynhendy catchment.

He also referred to monthly liaison meetings and urged Members to attend however, if they were unable to, he informed of the various ways in which the Minutes of same could be

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obtained. In reply to the question of liaison meetings with Members of the Hengoed and Glyn Wards, Inspector Bailey stated that he would investigate the matter.

Reference was made to a new initiative having been introduced whereby victims of crime were being reassured, either by a personal visit or telephone call.

In reply to an issue of the length of time taken for a Call Centre operative to answer a call, Inspector Bailey stated that, although he understood the problem and the frustration caused, there was little he could do other than to report the matter.

Members having conveyed their appreciation for an excellent service, the Chairman thanked Inspector Bailey for attending and he thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

86. 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:-

Annual Meeting	13 May, 2008.
Adjourned Annual Meeting	15 May, 2008.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	15 May, 2008.
Planning and Liaison Committee	15 May, 2008.
Policy and Resources Committee	15 May, 2008.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	15 May, 2008.
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	15 May, 2008.
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	15 May, 2008.
Community Development Grants Panel	15 May, 2008.
Council	15 May, 2008.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	20 May, 2008.
Policy and Resources Committee	21 May, 2008.
Planning and Liaison Committee	27 May, 2008.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	28 May, 2008.

87. MATTERS ARISING

(1) COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES

Cllrs. T. Devichand and H. J. Evans declared an interest in the following item as Cllr. Devichand was Vice Chairman of the Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee and a member of the Carmarthenshire Community Health Council; Cllr. Evans was a member of the Committee for the Improvement of Hospital Services. Neither Member spoke or voted on the matter.

Pursuant to Minute No. 39, the Clerk informed that a meeting had been held on 19 May, 2008, and that this Council had forwarded a letter of request to the Minister of Health and Social Care, Ms. E. Hart, AM. It was hoped therefore, that she would meet with Committee members in the near future.

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RESOLVED that the information be noted.

88. EXTERNAL EVENTS

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

RESOLVED that

- (1) Llanelli Town Council – Civic Service – St. Elli Parish Church, Llanelli – Sunday, 15 June, 2008 – that interested Members attend;
- (2) Society of Local Council Clerks – Summer Seminars – Cheltenham – 9-10 July, 2008 – that the invitation be noted.

89. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**90. 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 12 March, 2008:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 12th March 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors N. Bevan (Vice-Chairman)(Presiding), R. Brown, Mrs. M.P. Jones, R.P. Neil, G.K. Thomas and G.H. Wooldridge.

APOLOGY: Councillor R.E. Evans (Chairman).

34. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January 2008 be received, verified and confirmed.

35. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED – that the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2007 to 29th February 2008 in the sums of £59,684 and £54,670 respectively be approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).

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(2) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Consideration was given to the 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 17th January – 12th March 2008 in respect of direct debits, reimbursements, BACS payments and vouchers no. 4089 – 4096 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £8,074.30.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

36. HIRINGS

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and approved.

37. FUTURE OF LLANELLI Y.M.C.A.

Further to Minute No. 33 of the Committee meeting held on 16th January 2008, the Secretary reported on the up-to-date position. Very little progress had been made since the last Committee meeting, with confirmation having recently been received that agreement between Carmarthenshire County Council and Y.M.C.A. Wales on a new head lease had still not been finalised. Until such time as the terms and conditions of the new head lease had been agreed, it was not possible to progress negotiations regarding the proposed underlease of the Day Centre.

The Secretary further reported that, contrary to a rumour which had come to his attention, Y.M.C.A. Wales had not informed any of the other existing users that they could remain in the building beyond the June 2008 Notice to Quit date.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the Secretary's report be noted.

FURTHER RESOLVED – that negotiations for the temporary accommodation of the Day Centre at the Presbyterian Church Vestry be progressed.

38. MENU PRICE LIST

Further to Minute No. 33 of the Committee meeting held on 14th March 2007, members were invited to consider a modest increase in the price of some of the foods and beverages provided at the Day Centre, as set out in the schedule prepared by the Finance Officer (copies having been previously circulated to members).

RESOLVED – that the recommended increases be approved with effect from 1st April 2008.

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39. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

As this would be the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee prior to the forthcoming Local Council Elections on 1st May 2008, the Chairman wished all members seeking re-election for their respective Councils well. He also paid tribute to Councillor R. Brown, who would not be seeking re-election, for his many years of loyal service to the Committee, and wished him well in his retirement.

The Meeting concluded at 6.10 p.m.”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

91. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 9 April, 2008:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 9 April 2008 at 4:00 pm.

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

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies
D. J. Harries
M. Howells

M. E. Prothero
C. E. Richards
E. Smith

113. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting prior to the forthcoming local elections and conveyed best wishes to all Members seeking re-election on 1 May 2008. For those Members not seeking re-election he extended thanks and appreciation for their service commitment to the Burial Authority.

114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. T.J. Jones and A.G. Morgan.

115. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr E. Smith declared an interest in Minute No. 125 as one of the persons who had submitted a tender was personally known to him.

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116. 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 - 12 March 2008

117. MATTERS ARISING

MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Arising out of Minute No.104, the Secretary provided Members with a report as to why no memorials were tested during February.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

118. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for February 2008 and the provisional report for March 2008 be noted.

119. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for March 2008, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £20,404.59.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

120. MEMORIAL TESTING FIGURES

Consideration was given to the memorial testing figures for March 2008, which revealed that 28 memorials had been tested at stage one level, with no failures.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

121. JCB STORE – PROPOSED EXTENSION

The Secretary provided Members with draft plans (which had been previously circulated) regarding the proposed extension of the JCB store, located near Section 7 in the cemetery. The extension would provide much needed additional storage space for essential cemetery equipment. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that the plans be accepted and submitted to the local planning authority at Carmarthenshire County Council for approval.

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122. RETIRING MEMBERS

In support of the Chairman's remarks contained in Minute No.113 above, the Secretary informed Members that Cllr D.J. Harries and Cllr C.E. Richards would not be standing for re-election in the forthcoming local elections. The Chairman thanked them both for their long standing commitment to Llanelli Town Council and the Burial Authority. It was noted that both Cllr Harries and Cllr Richards had both served as Chairman of the Burial Authority over the years and special mention was made to Cllr Harries' length of service on the Burial Authority, which commenced in September 1980 and spanned a total of 28 years. This was a commendable achievement. Members conveyed their sincere appreciation and congratulations to both Councillors on their impending retirement.

123. 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. 124 and 125 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.

124. RESERVATION OF BURIAL PLOTS - SECTION 10

The Secretary reported that a situation had arisen which tested the Burial Authority's current policy regarding the reservation of burial plots in section 10. Members were reminded that section 10 was the only section in the cemetery grounds whereby burial plots could be reserved in advance by the next of kin, following a family interment. Current practice allowed for a maximum of two reservations per family.

A request had now been received to reserve three plots in advance. Members discussed the impact this might have on future take up and the amount of burial space available. It was felt reserving more than two plots in advance might lead to abuse of the policy. Concern was expressed that burial space in section 10 might quickly disappear if the request was acceded to, especially if large sized families attempted to reserve plots in the future. Mention was also made to the fact that section 10 was the only section in the lawned area of the cemetery whereby elaborate and ornate memorials were permitted to be erected. Therefore, it was important to stipulate to the next of kin when reserving burial plots in advance, that reservations would only be accepted on the understanding that traditional lawn memorials would not be permitted in the section. This would safeguard the section's longevity for providing for elaborate memorial designs. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the request be refused and the current policy of permitting next of kin to reserve two burial plots in advance be reaffirmed.

125. CLEANING CONTRACT

Further to Minute No. 110 the Secretary reported the outcome of tenders received for the cleaning contract of the cemetery buildings. Three tenders were received and opened by the Chairman on 31 March 2008. The details were as follows:

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Quotation 1 - £25.00 per week (exc. VAT)
Quotation 2 - £120.00 per calendar month (not VAT registered)
Quotation 3 - £22.00 per week (exc. VAT)
All quotations were inclusive of cleaning materials.

After a brief discussion, it was

RESOLVED the tender submitted by Allbright Cleaning Services, 49 Tegfynydd, Swiss Valley, Llanelli in the sum of £22.00 per week (exc. VAT) be accepted on a 3 month trial basis. However if the trial period proves unsatisfactory, the services of the company whose terms are set out in quotation 1 above be accepted subject to serving a further 3 month trial period.

126. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were informed that the next committee meeting would take place on 21 May 2008. This was due to local elections being held on 1 May 2008 and the knock on effect on the scheduling of Llanelli Town and Rural Councils annual meetings.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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The Meeting concluded at 4:30 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

92. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Dafen Forum – Youth;
- (2) Llanelli Disabled Drivers’ Association;
- (3) Llanelli Ramblers Festival of Walks;
- (4) Llwynhendy Communities First;
- (5) Prince’s Trust – Llanelli;
- (6) Saethwyr Pontiets.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.35 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 8 July, 2008, adopted by the Council.