

17 February, 2010.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 469 – 475

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 17 February, 2010, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. J. Davies (Vice-Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	T. J. Jones
M. V. Davies	T. Rh. Ifan
T. Devichand	A. C. Thomas
H. J. Evans	G. H. Wooldridge

469. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C. A. Rees and V. R. Thomas.

470. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

471. REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES REGULATIONS

Correspondence was received from the Head of Democracy Branch of the Local Government Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government, seeking views on the need to review the regulations on allowances for members of community and town councils and the possible content of any revised regulations.

The following response to the consultation document was agreed:-

- Question 1* - Attendance Allowance should continue for an approved duty undertaken outside the community boundary for elected members and/or co-opted members
- Question 2* - Financial Loss and its extension should continue on a discretionary basis to include approved duty undertaken within community boundaries.
- Question 3* - The Allowances for Attending Conferences and Meetings should be retained.
- Question 4* - Community and Town Councils should have the discretion to pay an annual allowance to all members.
- Question 5* - (a) the member allowance should be £250 per annum;

17 February, 2010.

- (b) the chairman's allowance should be 50% higher than the member allowance;
 - (c) funding for any allowance should be met by way of locally generated income.
- Question 6* - Community and Town Councils should not be given the discretion to reimburse the costs of childcare or relief care for dependent adults to members.
- Question 7* - Discretion should not be given for the Travel and Subsistence allowances to be extended to duty undertaken within the community boundaries.
- Question 8* - The maximum level of travel allowance should be set by HMRC.
- Question 9* - The Attendance and Financial Loss Allowances should be available to both elected and co-opted members.
- Question 10* - The annual increases to be maximum levels of Annual, Attendance and Financial Loss Allowances should be linked to the AEI (UK).
- Question 11* - The Independent Remuneration Panel Wales should be asked to make non-binding recommendations with regard to the maximum levels of increases for members of community and town councils.
- Question 12* - The time-limit for the submission of claims for travel and subsistence allowances should be in line with the requirements on county and county borough councils.
- Question 13* - The publicity requirements, under Regulation 14 of the 2003 Regulations, should be extended to include the proposed annual allowance for chair/member and the travel and subsistence allowances.
- Question 14* - All allowances should be suspended/partially suspended for members suspended/partially suspended from office.
- Question 15* - Members should be able to elect to forego any part of their entitlement to an allowance.
- Question 16* - A levy should be introduced on all participating community and town councils where expenses are reimbursed for councillors representing a group of councils on an external body for which remuneration is not otherwise payable.
- Question 17* - No further amendments suggested and the definition of "approved duty" to be retained.

RESOLVED that above information be forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government.

472. ELECTRONIC COUNCIL

Cllr. T. Rh. Ifan had requested that the Committee consider the establishment of a working group to investigate the introduction of paperless meetings of the council and its committees. He suggested that the working group be served by two members from each of the three political groups.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Ifan's request be implemented and that the parties provide their nominations, drawn from the Committee's membership, to the Clerk.

17 February, 2010.

473. 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.

474. WORK BASED LEARNING CONTRACT – ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION

Notification had been received from the Head of Provider Policy Team, Welsh Assembly Government, stating that it was introducing a package of measures to respond to increased unemployment amongst young people as a result of the recession, called the Young Person’s Guarantee. The Young Person’s Guarantee meant that all eligible 18-24 year old Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants must be guaranteed the offer of a job, training or meaningful activity from the six month stage of unemployment.

An increase of £62,911 was offered to the Training Department’s contract allocation to support the cohort of learners under Work Based Learning for 2009/10. The Deputy Clerk (Training) stated that approximately 100 learners were waiting to join the programme.

Members welcomed the additional funding and expressed their congratulations to staff of the Training Department for their commitment and dedication in providing support to the unemployed.

RESOLVED that the funding offer be accepted.

475. STAFFING MATTERS

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) be received and adopted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.20 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 March, 2010, adopted by the Council.