

17 June, 2008.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 96 – 108

At a Meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Conference Room, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 17 June, 2008, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. M. Caiach	S. N. Lewis
M. L. Davies	C. A. Rees
S. L. Davies	B. C. M. Reynolds
S. M. Donoghue	V. R. Thomas
G. H. Wooldridge	

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Evans, T. J. Jones (Cllr. B. C. M. Reynolds deputising), M. J. Lewis (Cllr. S. M. Caiach deputising) and A. C. Thomas.

97. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in the under-mentioned matters:-

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
102 & 104	S. M. Donoghue	Member of Saron Hall Management Committee and Bynea District Forum
102 & 104	V. R. Thomas	Member of Saron Hall Management Committee and Bynea District Forum
102 & 104	G. H. Wooldridge	Member, Saron Hall Management Committee and Chairman, Bynea District Forum

98. PART NIGHT LIGHTING

Pursuant to Minute No. 56, the Chairman welcomed Mr. N. Francis, Public Lighting Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr. Francis began by clarifying that, contrary to recent press coverage, the switching off of street lighting at night would not be compulsory. He explained that the County Council was exploring ways of saving energy and reviewing its carbon footprint, one way of doing same

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was to utilise low energy lamps or possibly switching off lamps established along little used footpaths, etc., particularly within rural areas, between the hours of 12.30am to 5.30am.

Consultation was taking place with local authorities, the results of which would then be considered. Consideration had also to be given to the issues of legal requirements, health and safety and new European wattage regulations.

Members stated that there was a duty of care to ensure residents' safety and conveyed their concerns.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) to await the results of the County Council's consultation;
- (2) that consultation be undertaken with the Council's insurers on the implications of the provision of footway lighting being withdrawn; and
- (3) that Members consider appropriate areas for the scheme.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Francis for his presentation and he thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

**99. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER –
ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. P. Bennet, OBE, Generic Sports Development Officer, and Mr. C. Staples, Carmarthenshire Football Development Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, and invited them to address Members.

Mr. Staples informed of the way in which his job had now developed into more of a managing capacity and discussed the annual report at length. Statistics revealed that there had been a vast improvement in all aspects and that delivery of the programme was of a very high standard. Mr. Staples took the opportunity to thank this Council for the funding received which enabled him to continue with the sporting development.

Photographs depicting team sponsorship were circulated and Mr. Bennet endorsed Mr. Staples' excellent work in the community.

Members having applauded Mr. Staples' tenacity, the Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting and they thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

100. PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED that the report of the Technical Services Officer on work undertaken, be noted.

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101. RECREATION AND WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Sub-Committee held on Thursday, 5 June, 2008:-

“At a Meeting of the RECREATION AND WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE of Llanelli Rural Council held at the Conference Room, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 5 June, 2008, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies H. J. Evans
S. M. Donoghue M. J. Lewis

Together with Cllr. D. W. H. Richards, O.B.E., Carmarthenshire Councillor for Felinfoel and representatives of:-

Felinfoel Cricket Club - B. Edwards and V. Howells
Felinfoel Football Club - D. H. Morgan
Felinfoel Rugby Club - C. Richards

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. L. Davies, T. J. Jones (Cllr. S. M. Donoghue deputising) and Mr. J. Davies, Felinfoel Cricket Club.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. FELINFOEL CHANGING ROOMS

Further to Minute No. 53 of the Recreation and Welfare Committee held on Tuesday, 20 May, 2008, the Chairman welcomed representatives of Felinfoel Cricket, Football and Rugby Clubs to the meeting.

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been convened following a recent inspection of Felinfoel Changing Rooms and a Committee meeting when it had been agreed that the Sub-Committee should meet with representatives of the sporting clubs to discuss whether the short-term proposal be proceeded with or whether it should be abandoned and to await the accrual of sufficient monies to construct new changing rooms.

Consideration was given to the report of the Technical Services Officer which reiterated the decision to proceed with the short-term solution of providing a new boiler and associated works at an estimated cost of £54,000; the boiler and utility services costs would be

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recoverable. The proposal would be a temporary improvement to the showering facilities with a poor quality building to be used for a further 2-3 years.

Tender documents had been completed for the new boiler and associated works and it was envisaged, subject to Council approval, the works would commence at during July/August 2008 and be completed October/November 2008. To finance the short-term works, monies would be used from the reserve of £270,000 which had been earmarked for the new build project; the earmarked reserves would then be reduced to £216,000. The long-term option to construct a new building would be delayed until the deficit was recouped which would also affect other capital projects.

The new build project had been costed at approximately £423,000; this figure would be re-evaluated when a plan was agreed. The following timeline was anticipated if the intention was to proceed with the construction of new changing rooms:-

June – August '08	Meeting clubs, other parties and setting up project team.
August – October '08	Agree a layout plan, finish specification and cost estimates.
September – November '08	Draft plans and submit planning applications, grant applications.
January – February '09	Planning approval, site investigations. Tender process.
May – July '09	Award tender and commence project.

The Deputy Clerk (Administration) indicated the following:-

1. in order to achieve the long-term proposal, the scheme would require additional funding of £83,000 as well as a budget of £70,000 being included in the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2009/10;
2. the short-term proposal would affect the Council's capital programme and would result in other schemes being delayed;
3. if the long-term option was selected, the present facilities would be maintained.

A review of the above options was, therefore, required to assist the Recreation and Welfare Committee in determining the future of the changing room.

Following the lengthy discussion which ensued, the Clubs' representatives reiterated their concerns at the poor standard of the showers and the desperate need for the situation to be resolved satisfactorily. However, they supported the long-term proposal of new changing rooms being provided as opposed to the short-term measure of a new boiler and associated works.

RECOMMENDED that:-

1. the Recreation and Welfare Committee be informed of the preferred option of a new build project;
2. funding avenues be explored to achieve the required budget;
3. the timeline referred to above be instigated at the earliest opportunity.

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The meeting concluded at 5.20 p.m.”
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During discussion of the above, the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informed that further meetings would be held with representatives of the three Clubs and the Clerk stated that he was to meet with a representative of Communities First Felinfoel in the near future.

RESOLVED that the Recommendation be accepted; and that the information and Minutes be noted.

**102. SARON COMMUNITY HALL –
 COMMEMORATIVE STONE**

Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue, V. R. Thomas and G. H. Wooldridge declared an interest in the following item as they were members of the Saron Hall Management Committee and Bynea District Forum. None of the aforementioned Councillors voted on the matter.

Pursuant to Minute No. 439 (19 February, 2008), further correspondence, together with supporting letters, was received from the Chairman, Saron Community Hall Committee. It transpired that the commemorative stone had been saved whilst the present hall was being refurbished and the agreement of the family concerned, therefore, was for the stone to be re-positioned close to the tree appertaining to the stone’s original siting outside the building and not within the building as suggested.

RESOLVED that further clarification of the exact re-positioning of the stone be sought.

**103. FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS –
 MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2008/2009**

Notification was received from the Countryside Recreation & Access Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council, of a new management system to the maintenance of registered rights of way which was to be implemented as of 1 April, 2009. Further information would be forwarded during the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

104. BYNEA SQUARE – HANGING BASKETS

Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue and V. R. Thomas declared an interest in the following item as they were members, and G. H. Wooldridge Chairman, of Bynea District Forum. All Members spoke on the matter before withdrawing from the meeting whilst discussion took place.

Email correspondence was received from the Chairman, Bynea District Forum, requesting the provision of two hanging baskets to enhance the Square.

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During discussion, it was noted that previous requests received from other areas had been refused and it was suggested that members of the Forum be encouraged to apply for funding from the Local Ward Allowance, Community Development Grant or the Forum's own funds.

RESOLVED accordingly.

Cllrs. Donoghue, Thomas and Wooldridge returned to the meeting.

105. DAFEN WELFARE AFC

Members having considered an application received for financial assistance from the above, it was

RESOLVED that a contribution of £600 be made to Dafen Welfare AFC, retrospectively.

106. 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.

**107. FURNACE COMMUNITY HALL -
(1) FINANCIAL POSITION**

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of the present financial position on the funding of the construction of the Hall.

Following discussion, during which Cllrs. S. L. Davies and S. N. Lewis requested that their objection to the additional costs be recorded, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Cllr. C. A. Rees withdrew from the meeting.

Members also considered the appended report of the Technical Services Officer on the following matters:-

(2) BALCONY BALUSTRADING

RESOLVED that the installation of a timber slat balustrading system be accepted.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED that the progress report on construction work be noted.

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**108. FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS -
DAFEN COMMUNITY HALL**

RESOLVED that the annual grant be forwarded to the above Committee.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.10 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.