

**19 December, 2007.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 330 - 338**

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, 19 December, 2007, at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Cllrs.**

S. M. Caiach	M. Howells
D. J. Davies	M. P. Jones
T. Devichand	T. J. Jones
M. L. Evans	R. G. Thorne

**330. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. T. J. Jones be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

**331. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, D. V. Darby (Cllr. M. Howells deputising) and C. Edwards.

**332. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared an interest in Minute No. 335 as he was Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**333. PERSONNEL, HEALTH & SAFETY SUPPORT AND ADVISORY SERVICES**

Members were circulated with the Clerk's report upon the present Health and Safety Advisory Service and the cost implications associated with on-going support. With this in mind, an alternative service provider had been sought for Members' consideration for the future provision of Personnel and Health and Safety support.

The Chairman thereupon welcomed Mrs. Louise Knight, Consultant, Peninsula, to the meeting and invited her to address Members.

Mrs. Knight began by informing of the Company's extensive background and proceeded to explain the need to comply with a vast amount of legislative matters now required to deal with Employment Law and Health and Safety.

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The following were some of the advantages the Company offered:-

- 24/7 Personnel and Health & Safety telephone support;
- a dedicated Personnel Specialist would spend time with the Council (for as long as necessary) to write up all necessary policies, systems and procedures;
- Health and Safety inspection reports/policies and systems would be produced;
- access to a dedicated website offering various reports and management tools for managing the Council's workforce;
- all Personnel/Health & Safety training related courses would be provided free of charge and as often as required; and
- complete indemnity cover for the Council in the event of being faced with an Employment Tribunal.

During a lengthy discussion, Members enquired as to whether an England based company would be able to deal with possible future Welsh Assembly Government legislation. Mrs. Knight replied in the affirmative, stating that it was imperative for the Company's future to keep abreast with any changes.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Knight for attending and for her excellent presentation. Mrs. Knight thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

Following a discussion, during which Members agreed with the principle of engaging a company offering both Health & Safety and personnel services, it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) references be sought from clients of Peninsula on the services provided by the company;
- (2) the availability of other companies providing the same services as Peninsula be investigated with quotations and references being obtained.

**334. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL –  
COUNCIL BUDGET 2008-09 TO 2010-2011 –  
CONSULTATION WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Correspondence was received from the Head of Financial Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, stating that as part of the Budget Consultation Programme, the County Council was consulting elected members, residents, Town and Community Councils and the commercial ratepayers. A questionnaire was also circulated.

During discussion, Members stated that, as in previous years, the questions were not relevant to corporate bodies – more-so to private individuals and/or householders. An enquiry was made as to whether the next consultation exercise could be presented in a more appropriate manner and at an earlier date.

**RESOLVED** that Members' observations and comments be forwarded to the Head of Financial Services and that the correspondence be noted.

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**335. LICENSING ACT 2003 – REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared an interest in the following item as he was Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council, and did not vote on the matter.

A letter was received from the Principal Licensing Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, in response to a letter forwarded to the Head of Public Protection, Carmarthenshire County Council, from the Clerk of this Council.

The Clerk informed Members that a consultation document with a very short deadline had recently been received. Owing to the fact that the Clerk had been unable to place the document on an agenda for discussion within the time limit, he had forwarded his concerns to the appropriate department.

The letter received from the Principal Licensing Officer stated that the short deadline was as a result of the statutory deadlines imposed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport which resulted in the compressed timetable for the review. This issue would be looked at when the next full review was being prepared. It was also stressed that, whilst the document had to be reviewed every three years, the policy as well as the guideline documents were kept under constant review. Should therefore, there be any licensing matters that this Council would wish to highlight, those observations would be welcomed.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk’s information, together with the letter, be noted.

**336. 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.

**337. STAFFING MATTERS**

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

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

**338. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman wished Members and Staff a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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The Meeting concluded at 3.10 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 January, 2008, adopted by the Council.