

20 January, 2009.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 398 – 404

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, 20 January, 2009, at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

L. J. Butler	T. J. Jones
M. L. Davies	M. J. Lewis
S. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
S. M. Donoghue	A. C. Thomas
G. H. Wooldridge	

398. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

399. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. S. L. Davies and S. N. Lewis declared an interest in Minute No. 404 as they were members of Dafen Forum.

400. PROGRESS REPORT

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

**401. FOOTWAY LIGHTING -
HARRIES AVENUE/VICTORIA ROAD, PONTHENRI**

Following a recent enquiry, correspondence was received from the Public Lighting Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, indicating the positions of two new lighting columns at the above locations with an estimated cost of £5,500 + VAT for all costs involved (at 2008/09 prices).

All future energy and maintenance costs would be borne by the Rural Council.

Following discussion, it was

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RESOLVED that

- (1) the necessary budget be included within the Council's Estimates of Expenditure for 2009/10; and that
- (2) residents affected by the proposal be contacted for their views and the information collated to enable a decision to be made on whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

402. 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.

**403. FELINFOEL CHANGING ROOMS
AND RECREATION GROUND**

Pursuant to Minute No. 353, the Chairman welcomed Mr. Philip Watts, Senior Co-ordinator, Communities First Felinfoel.

The Clerk, having referred to issues raised during the previous Committee meeting, suggested that Mr. Watts be invited to address Members in order to clarify matters.

Mr. Watts informed that, having attended two meetings with key players within the County Council, funders had been identified for the project and it had been decided to bid for multiple applications with small values and he felt confident with this approach. He stated that this Authority would be looking for long term sustainability and referred to the shortage of good office accommodation available, particularly for service providers within the community. A meeting was to be held with representatives of the Local Health Board who were looking for an opportunity to form a strategy in order to deliver services within the Felinfoel area. Mr. Watts recommended that the Authority take a pro-active approach and look at the business element in order to raise revenue. Mr. Watts indicated that Communities First would come to an end in 2012, however the Local Health Board would continue to use the facilities.

Reference was made to Mr. Watts as not having a report for the Committee's appraisal and requested that one be available at his next attendance.

Members referred to commitment being required by organisations in the Felinfoel area, particularly by the sporting clubs. Mr. Watts stated that he had confidence in his team's strategy to look at capital projects and that it was for the Rural Council to ensure a policy was in place so that each of the sporting clubs had a realistic commitment plan.

Mr. Watts stated that the Council and Communities First Felinfoel would be named on the different bid applications. Members voiced their concern regarding funding being made available by the Local Health Board for offices within the development, however, Mr. Watts reiterated that new community services were coming on line owing to the lack of available

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room in hospitals therefore, it was imperative that the Authority look to business and service providers. Various organisations were thereupon suggested and reference was made to the fact that a General Practitioners' service was not available in Felinfoel.

Mr. Watts then withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk proceeded to circulate illustrative plans of the new building and informed that the floor plans had been drafted from the schedule of accommodation needs received from the various stakeholders looking to use the new facility.

Members were informed that the plans had been costed at £710,000 (including professional fees) giving a target of £410,000, to be funded via a combination of grant aid and possibly a loan if deemed necessary.

Thereupon, the Clerk put forward a further proposal to help support the future sustainability of the building and Members felt it had sufficient merit to make a good business case for enhancing the use of the new building further still. However, before the matter could be taken any further, its feasibility needed to be explored with the Planning Authority in the first instance.

Members' views were then sought on how best to proceed and, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) the illustrative floor plans (as presented) be put forward with approval to the partnership Steering Group meeting scheduled for 28 January, 2009, and subsequently, to the community consultation event planned for later that evening;
- (2) the Clerk be authorised to explore with the Council's Consultant Architect and the Planning Authority, the merits of the proposal presented to Members; and, providing it is feasible
- (3) the illustrative plans be revised to reflect and accommodate the new proposal and that a planning application is submitted for approval to the Planning Authority; and
- (4) subject to Council approval, the additional costs associated with the proposal be included in the Council's loan sanction request to the Welsh Assembly Government.

404. LAND AT GLOBE ROW, DAFEN

Cllrs. S. L. Davies and S. N. Lewis declared personal interests in the following item as they were members of Dafen Forum.

Pursuant to Minute No. 309, correspondence was received from Evans, Powell & Co., Solicitors, informing that further investigation had revealed the appearance of two crown holes and it was suggested that a ground survey be carried out.

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RESOLVED that the necessary budget required for a ground investigation be included within the Council's Estimates of Expenditure for 2009/10.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.45 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 10 February, 2009, adopted by the Council.