

12 April, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 490 – 498

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 12 April, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. D. Bowen (Chairman)

Cllrs.

D. V. Darby	M. Howells
D. J. Davies	M. P. Jones
S. L. Davies	T. J. Jones
M. Davies	R. G. Thorne
G. H. Wooldridge	

490. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman referred to the recent demise of Mrs. G. Griffiths, Mother of Mrs. J. Paskin. Members and Officers thereupon stood in silent tribute.

491. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand, C. Edwards, M. L. Evans, M. B. Hughes, S. N. Lewis, A. G. Morgan, A. S. Peters and C. A. Rees.

492. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

493. 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:-

Council	13 March, 2007.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	20 March, 2007.
Policy and Resources Committee	21 March, 2007.
Planning and Liaison Committee	26 March, 2007.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	28 March, 2007.
Community Development Grants Panel	29 March, 2007.

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494. LEASE OF LAND – SARON ROAD, BYNEA

Pursuant to Minute No. 99, Members were circulated with correspondence received from the Head of Administration and Law, Carmarthenshire County Council, advising that the Lease had been sealed on behalf of the County Council. On completion it was noted that the Rural Council would be responsible for surveyors and legal costs. The writer also advised that the Lease was for a term of over 7 years and it would be necessary therefore, for it to be registered at the Land Registry.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and that the payment of surveyors and legal costs in the sum of £350 be authorised.

495. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES – BRYN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Correspondence was received from the Director of Education and Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, informing that the term of office held by Cllr. J. Willock, Member for Llangennech Community Council, on the above, was to cease on 30 June, 2007.

Following Members' comments that the position had been shared alternatively between the two Councils every four years, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. M. Howells be appointed to represent the Council on the Bryn Primary School Governing Body.

496. EXTERNAL EVENTS

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

RESOLVED that

- (1) Health Panels: 'Developing and Improving Community Services in the Gwendraeth Valley – Health Care is Coming Closer to Home' – Pontyates Welfare Hall, Pontyates – 17 or 24 April, or 11 May, 2007 – that interested Members attend;
- (2) Health Panels – Lledi Suite, Selwyn Samuel Centre, Llanelli – 4 June, 2007 - that interested Members attend.

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**497. 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 10 January, 2007:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 10th January 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

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

APOLOGY: Councillor A.G. Morgan.

21. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman (Councillor G.K. Thomas) welcomed Mr. Richard Thomas, Y.M.C.A. Wales Development Officer to the meeting, together with Mr. Paul Harries, the Town Council's Project Development Officer, accompanied by Mr. Paul Lewis, Trainee Community Development Officer, and wished everyone present a Happy New Year.

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

Further to Minute No. 18 of the Committee meeting held on 8th November 2006, Mr. Richard Thomas reported that, following the receipt of One Fund grant monies, a feasibility study had been prepared by the Y.M.C.A.'s consultants. It proposed to provide an Arts use (e.g. café/bar) at the front of the building, aimed at public entertainment, with particular emphasis on young people, and with a possible link-up with the Barfly organisation. Health and Well-being activities in other parts of the building were also proposed, with the emphasis again on participation by young people. However, the study did not envisage a Day Centre use in the refurbished building.

It was stressed that the proposals were not set in tablets of stone. It was also explained that, given the nature of the project, the Y.M.C.A. intended to appoint a full-time Development Officer, hopefully in March 2007, devoted solely to the development of the building. It was anticipated that full consultation would take place following that appointment.

In response, members expressed their deep concern at the failure to consult with the Committee prior to the preparation of the Feasibility Study, and to alert the Committee to its content prior to the presentation. They also voiced their acute disappointment that the study did not include the Day Centre as a possible future use. It was stressed that the Y.M.C.A. should be looking at full community uses for the building, covering a wide age range. Whilst it was understandable that young people should be given prominence, it was nevertheless felt that that should not be to the exclusion of all other age groups, senior citizens included.

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Members drew attention to the possibility of duplication as regards the uses referred to, and stressed the need for the Development Officer (when appointed) to fully acquaint him/herself with the current provision of facilities in the Llanelli area before reaching any conclusions regarding the future use(s) of the building.

In response, Mr. Thomas stressed that the Y.M.C.A. wanted to do the best job possible for Llanelli to cater for the whole community, and noted members' point that a more in-depth study needed to be undertaken, based on full consultation, before final decisions were arrived at.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Thomas for his attendance, whereupon he withdrew. Members having then further discussed the matters arising from the presentation, it was

RESOLVED – that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Chief Executive of Y.M.C.A. Wales to convey members' views on the matter.

23. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th November 2006 be received, verified and confirmed.

24. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED – that the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st December 2006 in the sums of £47,145 and £43,924 respectively be approved (copies having been previously circulated to members).

(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 9th November 2006 – 10th January 2007 in respect of Direct Debits, cash reimbursements, BACS payments and vouchers no. 3958 – 3975 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £9,460.55.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

25. HIRINGS

RESOLVED – that the hirings of the Day Centre for the months of November and December 2006 be approved as follows:-

November

1 st , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
3 rd , Friday	-	Llanelli Co-operative Party.
7 th , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
8 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.

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12 th , Sunday	-	Mr. Graham Harries, 7 Heol Goffa, Llanelli.
15 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
22 nd , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
23 rd , Thursday	-	Labour Women's Forum – Mrs. J. Williams.
27 th , Monday	-	Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner.
29 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
30 th , Thursday	-	Labour Women's Forum – Mrs. J. Williams.

December

6 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
10 th , Sunday	-	Mr. Wilding, 51 Heol Tregonning, Morfa, Llanelli.
13 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
20 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.

26. ANNUAL ESTIMATES 2007/2008

Members gave detailed consideration to the draft Estimates prepared for the forthcoming financial year by the Finance Officer (copies having been previously circulated to members). The budget head figures were analysed for the benefit of members and, after a full discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the draft Estimates be approved subject to the annual contribution from each of the two constituent authorities being retained at the current level of £27,000.

27. LLANELLI O.A.P. REPRESENTATIVES –
JOINT MEETING/DINNER

Members considered the written report of the Secretary following the disappointing turn-out on the part of invited Associations for the 2006 function (copies having been previously circulated to members).

Having considered the matter in detail in light of the responses received to the Secretary's questionnaire from eleven of the eighteen associations concerned, it was

RESOLVED – that the function continue to be held on the last Monday in November, and that the invitation process be in accordance with members' wishes.

The Meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

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498. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 14 February, 2007:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 February 2007 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. T. J. Jones (Chairman)

Cllrs.

D. J. Davies

C. C. Lucas

D. J. Harries

M. E. Prothero

M. Howells

E. Smith

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C. Edwards, A. S. Peters and C. E. Richards.

77. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

78. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated) be confirmed (subject to the second line of the resolution of Minute No. 73 of the Special Meeting held on 5 February 2007, being amended to read, “matters referred to in Minute Nos. 74 and 75” and not “matters referred to in Minute Nos. 69 and 70.” as stated therein):

Ordinary Meeting - 10 January 2007

Special Meeting - 05 February 2007

79. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for December 2006 and the provisional report for January 2007 be noted.

80. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for January 2007, which revealed expenditure for the month amounted to £25,940.08.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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81. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The Secretary provided Members with a detailed report on the management of risk, covering 12 areas and functions requiring risk evaluation. The accompanying action plan identified the need for:

- The production of a Fire Risk Assessment (which had already been completed in draft);
- to continue with investigations regarding the installation of CCTV;
- to review the Authority's data protection arrangements to ensure compliance with legislation;
- to arrange periodic inventory checks of the Authority's assets; and
- to continue with the memorial testing programme on an on going basis.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the report be endorsed and that periodic progress reports be presented to Committee when deemed appropriate and that the Secretary take appropriate action to reduce the Authority's risk rating for the five areas identified in the action plan.

82. CCTV - SITE VISIT TO BRECON

The Secretary accompanied by the Chairman, Cllr T. J. Jones, Mr Jason Edwards and Miss Simone Kingsland from Positive IT undertook a site visit to Brecon to see a demonstration of a working wind turbine to access whether it was an effective means of providing power to operate a CCTV system. The wind turbine supplied electrical power to a small office building in a remote rural area. The Secretary reported that it was evident that for the wind turbine to work effectively throughout the year it also needed a solar panel to provide an alternative back up power source. Furthermore the power generated via the turbine was channelled through a converter unit in the office building. This converted the low electrical charge generated into a standard electrical voltage. The equipment also accommodated a battery pack which was housed in a cabinet. The wind turbine was mounted on a 4 metre galvanised pole which was supported by two additional supports to help stabilise it against excessive movement. There was also a low humming noise emitted from the turbine, which could be clearly heard within a range of 20 metres from the turbine.

Members were informed that during the site visit Mr Edwards emphasised that for the CCTV cameras to be effective, they would need to be monitored. He also stated that both the turbines and the cameras needed at the cemetery would be more suited to being mounted on telegraph poles to improve stability instead of being mounted on metal poles as witnessed. Having considered the Secretary's report and the accompanying photographs of the wind turbine, it was

RESOLVED that the wind turbine system for supplying electrical power to service a CCTV system was not appropriate for the cemetery grounds.

FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to move progress the Secretary seek an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of CCTV cameras.

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83. 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.

84. RELOCATION OF REFUSE BIN - SECTION 10

The Secretary reported that he had received a request from Mr J to relocate the refuse bin on Section 10 because of its close proximity to his parent’s grave. Having viewed photographs of the bin, Members felt that as a gesture of good will and because of the bin’s lack of aesthetic appeal when compared to the family’s grand memorial, the relocation of the bin was perhaps warranted. The Secretary confirmed that a suitable area on Section 10 had been identified for the bin’s relocation and it was

RESOLVED that without prejudice to similar applications being received, the bin be relocated and the Secretary write to Mr J, explaining the reasons for supporting the request.

85. EXHUMATION PAYMENTS

Further to Minute No. 141 (8 December 2004), the Secretary reported that due to an administrative oversight exhumation payments for cemetery staff had not increased in line with inflation since 2004/2005. After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED that exhumation payments be increased incrementally in line with the rate of inflation covering the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years.

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The meeting concluded at 4:50 pm”
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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

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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 10 May, 2007, adopted by the Council.