

**12 September, 2006.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 130– 144**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 12 September, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

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

**Cllrs.**

S. M. Caiach	M. P. Jones
M. Davies	T. J. Jones
S. L. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. Devichand	A. G. Morgan
M. Howells	C. A. Rees.
M. B. Hughes	R. G. Thorne
G. H. Wooldridge	

**Apologies:** Cllrs. D. V. Darby, D. J. Davies, C. Edwards, M. L. Evans, R. E. Evans, A. S. Peters.

**130. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
132.	T. Devichand	Member, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
135.	T. Devichand	Vice Chairman, Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee and Member, Carmarthenshire Community Health Council
135.	G. H. Wooldridge	Member, Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee

**131. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman referred to the recent demise of Ms. S. P. Leyshon, former Councillor for the Bynea Ward. Members and Officers thereupon stood in silent tribute.

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**132. MID & WEST WALES FIRE BRIGADE –  
LLANELLI FIRE STATION**

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in the following item as she was a Member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Nigel Gibbard, Station Manager, Llanelli Fire Station, to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr. Gibbard informed of his background within the fire service and of the manner in which the organisation was now being run i.e. with the emphasis of time and resources being taken away from reactive emergency calls to trying to reduce fires in the first instance. He stated that the Government gave challenging targets and that the Llanelli Station crews were visiting homes throughout the area ensuring that, if smoke detectors were not already fitted, residents – particularly the elderly - were made aware that fire officers would be able supply and fit the necessary equipment which had been Government funded.

Alterations were soon to be made to the fire station building at Llanelli, with a room being made available for the use of community groups, such as Communities First and organisations involved in youth work. With high petty arson statistics, diversionary measures were being undertaken with the onset of a Young Firefighters' Scheme. Welsh Assembly Government funding had been secured to aid the Scheme, run by volunteers, which encouraged the recruiting of young people between the ages of 13 – 18 to engage in training and activities as experienced by fire officers, for one evening per week. Mr. Gibbard stated that targeting young people regarding road safety issues was another scheme being investigated.

Members conveyed their appreciation for the Scheme and felt that it would be in the public's interest for the Council's website to be linked with the Fire Authority's and other organisations.

In reply to a question regarding safety measures against carbon monoxide poisoning, Mr. Gibbard stated that the Fire Authority did not fit such equipment and could only advise as to where kits, stamped with the British Standard Kite mark, could be purchased.

Reference was made to the Risk Management Plan 2007/08, however, Mr. Gibbard stated that there was no apparent cause for concern regarding the future sustainability of the station at Llanelli, although there were to be some changes to certain work practices, appliances and manning would not be affected. In reply to the question of reviews elsewhere in surrounding areas, Mr. Gibbard stated that Llanelli fire station would not be affected. With regard to the diving unit, Mr. Gibbard admitted that, as certain waterways were designated areas of interest and covered by constraints and sensitivities, officers were restricted as regards boat access and training in the Llanelli area. However, it was hoped that access would be granted to utilise the Upper Reservoir at Swiss Valley.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Gibbard for attending and he thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that, Members having been extended an open invitation to attend Llanelli Fire Station, a visit be arranged at a future date.

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**133. VERIFICATION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the following Minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated to Members) be taken as read and the same verified respectively:-

Council	11 July, 2006.
Planning and Liaison Committee	17 July, 2006.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	18 July, 2006.
Policy and Resources Committee	19 July, 2006.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	26 July, 2006.

**134. MATTERS ARISING**

**(1) FIVE ROADS COMMUNITY HALL –  
PLANNING APPLICATION NO. S/13529 –  
SOLAR PANELS**

Pursuant to Minute No. 105, Cllr. S. M. Caich, having referred to the planning application for the above, enquired whether any of the other halls owned by this Authority would be undertaking a similar development. The Clerk, in reply, stated that the above was a pilot scheme and that a report would be made as to the project's suitability at a future meeting of the appropriate Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk's information be noted.

**135. PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL –  
EMERGENCY SURGERY**

Cllrs. T. Devichand and G. H. Wooldridge declared an interest in the following item as Cllr. Devichand was Vice Chairman and Cllr. Wooldridge a member, of the Carmarthenshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Committee. Cllr. Devichand was also a member of the Carmarthenshire Community Health Council. Neither Member spoke on the matter.

Pursuant to Minute No. 93, a letter received from the Secretary, Committee for the Improvement of Hospital Services, was circulated to Members giving an update on the present situation concerning emergency surgery at Prince Philip Hospital. It was understood that, following a consultation period, discussions were to take place between the Carmarthenshire Local Health Board and the Carmarthenshire Community Health Council.

The Committee for the Improvement of Hospital Services was endeavouring to make arrangements for a delegation to meet with Dr. Brian Gibbons, AM, Minister for Health and Social Services, in order to make representations in support for Prince Philip Hospital and enquired whether two members from this Council could be nominated to attend the delegation. It was also suggested that a peaceful and dignified public demonstration would also be organised.

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Cllr. T. J. Jones having urged all Members to participate in the forthcoming representation at the Welsh Assembly Government, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Leader of Council be nominated to represent this Council in the delegation.

**136. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES -**

- (1) FIVE ROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL**
- (2) YSGOL BRYN TEG**

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) Cllr. M. L. Evans be re-affirmed as this Authority's representative on the Governing of Five Roads Primary School;
- (2) Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge be appointed to represent this Authority on the Governing Body of Ysgol Bryn Teg.

**137. ASSOCIATION OF LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS**

Following a recent meeting of the Association of Larger Local Councils, Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge regretfully informed Members that the Association was to be wound up on 31 March, 2007 and that any monies left over would be allocated to the remaining subscribing Councils. Reference was made to the possibility of a meeting being held on an annual basis.

**RESOLVED** that a letter be forwarded to the Chairman, Association of Larger Local Councils, expressing the Council's regret over the decision to cease operations.

**138. ONE VOICE WALES**

Further to Minute No. 287 (10 January, 2006), Members considered correspondence received from the Chief Executive, One Voice Wales, requesting that the Council reconsider becoming a member of the above organisation.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that an invitation be extended to Mr. S. White, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales, to address Members at a future meeting of Council.

**139. SAFER COUNTIES NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT**

A letter was received from WPC 994 W. Janas, Rural Policing Team, Llwynhendy Police Station, stating that a Blue Light Foam Party was imminently planned for the youth of Llanelli. A request was therefore being made for assistance with funding the event.

**RESOLVED** that a contribution of £100 be made.

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**140. EXTERNAL EVENTS**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) Society of Local Council Clerks – Welsh Conference – Cwmbran, Newport – 14 September, 2006 – that the Clerk to the Council, Leader and Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge be authorised to attend;
- (2) Royal Air Forces Association – Battle of Britain Service – All Saints Church, Llanelli – 17 September, 2006 – that interested Members attend;
- (3) National Association of Councillors – Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting – Cardiff - 27, 28 and 29 October, 2006 – that the Executive Committee Member be authorised to attend.

**141. MATTERS REPORTED**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**142. 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 May, 2006:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors G. K. Thomas (Vice-Chairman) (Presiding), R. Brown, R.E. Evans, M. Howells, R.P. Neil and G.H. Wooldridge.

APOLOGIES: Councillors N. Bevan and T.D. Bowen (Chairman).

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor G.K. Thomas be appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee for the ensuing year, whereupon he took the Chair in that capacity. Councillor Thomas thanked members for the honour bestowed upon him.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor R.E. Evans be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

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3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006 be received, verified and confirmed.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED as follows –

- (i) That the Financial Report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 in the sums of £63,178 and £67,401 respectively be approved (a copy having been previously circulated to members).
- (ii) That the Income and Expenditure Account for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 be noted and approved (a copy having been previously circulated to members).
- (iii) That the Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 be noted and approved (a copy 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 9<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 in respect of Direct Debits, cash reimbursements, BACS payments and Vouchers No. 3900 – 3910 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £11,325.97.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

5. HIRINGS

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

March

3 <sup>rd</sup> , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
4 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
1 <sup>st</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
7 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
	-	Mrs. P. Storres, Spiritual Heart Club.
8 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
10 <sup>th</sup> , Friday	-	Co-operative Party.
15 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
22 <sup>nd</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
29 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
30 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday	-	Labour Party.

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April

3 <sup>rd</sup> , Monday	-	Mrs. P. Storres, Spiritual Heart Club.
4 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
5 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
12 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
19 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
26 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.

**6. ANNUAL RENT**

Further to Minute No. 39 of the Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Secretary reported a recent exchange of correspondence between him and the Chief Executive of Y.M.C.A. Wales (copies having been previously circulated to members). This revealed that the transfer of trusteeship had not been properly completed as intended, and that the matter was being further pursued with the Y.M.C.A.

RESOLVED – that the information be noted.

**7. STRUCTURAL/MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL INSPECTION**

Further to Minute No. 41 of the Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Secretary reported the receipt of the Quantity Surveyor's budget estimates for the work required, together with an Emergency Lighting Periodic Inspection and Testing Certificate dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 received from the Town Council's electrical contractor (copies having been previously circulated to members).

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that suitable tenders be now sought for undertaking the required works, as necessary.

The Meeting concluded at 6.25 p.m.”

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be accepted.

**143. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY**

Members received the following Minutes of meetings of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 14 June, 2006:-

“At the Annual Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 June 2006 at 4:00 pm.

Present: Cllr. C. E. Richards (Chairman)

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Cllrs.

D.J. Davies  
C. Edwards  
D.J. Harries  
M. Howells

T. J. Jones  
C. C. Lucas  
M. E. Prothero  
E. Smith

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr. C. E. Richards, prior to proceeding with the business of the meeting welcomed Cllr. C. Edwards on to the Committee and then thanked Members and Officers for their support during her term in office. The Committee thereupon proceeded to appoint a Chairman, and following the motion of Cllr. D. J. Davies, seconded by Cllr. M. Howells, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. T. J. Jones be appointed Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr. T. J. Jones extended his appreciation and thanks to Members for appointing him Chairman for the ensuing year and also thanked the immediate past Chairman, Cllr. Richards for her dutiful service.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Following the motion of Cllr. E. Smith, seconded by Cllr. C. E. Richards, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. C. C. Lucas be appointed Vice Chairman.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated) be confirmed:

Ordinary Meeting - 10 May 2006

5. MATTERS ARISING

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Arising out of Minute No. 96 (10 May 2006), the Secretary reported that a thorough investigation of the financial system had been undertaken and unfortunately it was not possible to change the layout of the current financial reports presented to Members.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.



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6. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure report for April 2006 and the provisional report for May 2006 be noted.

7. MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT

Further to Minute No. 77 (8 February 2006), the Secretary reported that advice had been obtained regarding the Burial Authority's legal position, in so far as what action it could take against memorial owners in instances where they refused to co-operate with the Burial Authority, by not repairing their family memorials, after they had been made temporarily safe by the Burial Authority.

Advice was sought over plans to permanently remove a small number of memorials (which had been made temporarily safe), because no action had been taken by the owners for a considerable period of time. Some owners could not be traced, however in other instances a small minority had refused to carry out repairs or claimed they could not afford the repairs. This resulted in some memorials being left unattended for more than two years, and this was deemed unacceptable.

The Secretary reported that because of the sensitivity of the issue, the Authority had engaged the services of Peter Mitchell Associates. Mr Mitchell possessed extensive knowledge and experience of burial law and was widely regarded as the leading authority on the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order (LACO) 1977.

Members then proceeded to consider Mr Mitchell's report (which had been previously circulated), together with his recommendations and following lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the resolutions contained in Minute No. 77 of the Burial Authority meeting held on 8 February 2006, be rescinded and that henceforth:

- (1) In instances where owners refuse to repair their memorial or claim they cannot afford to meet the cost of repairs, and a period of six months has elapsed since the memorial had been made temporarily safe by the Burial Authority; then as far as reasonably practicable, the memorial shall be laid flat on the grave or as close to it as possible and a letter shall be sent to the registered grave owner(s) informing them of the action to be taken at least two weeks before the memorial is laid flat.
- (2) Likewise, in instances where the owner has died and/or no living relatives can be traced to claim ownership of the memorial, the Burial Authority, after invoking the necessary notification procedures, as contained in the provisions of the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977, shall, as far as reasonably practicable, lay the memorial flat on the grave or as close to it as possible.

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8. 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.

9. LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD

Further to Minute No. 95(2) (10 May 2006), the Secretary provided Members with a progress report on developments to date and stated that the Authority's solicitors were progressing matters as previously reported.

Discussion then ensued as to how events might unfold and the possible ramifications for both the Burial Authority and the service generally. In order to plan ahead further advice was needed and it was

RESOLVED that the views of Members be forwarded to the Burial Authority's solicitors for further investigation.

10. BUILDING REPAIRS – CEMETERY STORAGE SHED

Further to Minute No. 21 (13 July 2005), the Secretary reported that Cape Industrial Services Ltd. (the company contracted to carry out the roof repairs) had been unsuccessful in obtaining new roofing sheets to match the existing profile of the asbestos cement sheets on the storage shed.

Furthermore, the condition of the roof had further deteriorated, since the original quote was supplied by the company. Given the extent of the deterioration, the roof now needed to be completely replaced. However, due to the specialist nature of the work and the different elements involved, it had not been possible to obtain competitive quotations to cover all the elements of the work direct from one contractor, except for Cape Industrial Services Ltd.

The company offered a comprehensive service whereby they would cut back trees to allow access to the rear of the shed, safely remove and dispose of the asbestos cement roofing sheets, re-clad the roof with new sheets and install new plastic guttering at the same time. This had several benefits, not least it would not delay completion of the work. It would also safeguard the shed from further water penetration and would secure the building.

Members were informed that the quotation received from Cape Industrial Services Ltd. was within budget and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the quotation received from Cape Industrial Services Ltd. in the sum of £4994.80 be accepted and that the work be commissioned as soon as possible.

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**11. MACHINERY RESOURCES – RIDE ON MOWER**

The Secretary reported that one of the ride on mowers needed to be replaced. The mower was seven years old and had broken down on three separate occasions and this was adversely affecting the grounds maintenance programme. Monies spent on the machine so far this year amounted to £950 and given the age of the machine and the problems encountered, the Secretary recommended that it would be prudent to purchase a new mower.

Members proceeded to consider the quotations received for a new mower and were informed that enquiries had been made with the three companies that had submitted quotations as to whether they would accept part exchange of the Burial Authority’s mower as part of the deal. However, enquiries revealed that there was very little trade in value for the mower, so there was no merit in pursuing this any further.

The Secretary stated that the current budget for plant and machinery could not fund the outright purchase of a new machine and alternative methods of funding the purchase were put forward for Member consideration and it was

**RESOLVED** that the current mower be kept as a reserve and that the quotation received from Stroud Mowers Ltd of Unit 2, Reliance Works, Downton Road, Bridgend, Stonehouse in the amount of £8,541.12 be accepted.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary be authorised to secure the most appropriate means of funding the replacement of the mower via a financial agreement and that the repayments be spread over a period of two to three years so as to match current budget spending limits.

.....  
The meeting concluded at 4:45 pm”  
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**RESOLVED** that the Minutes be accepted.

**144. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

**RESOLVED** that the letters of appreciation for the Council’s assistance be accepted with pleasure.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.50 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 October, 2006, adopted by the Council.