

14 November, 2006.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 233 – 244

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 14 November, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

M. Davies	M. P. Jones
S. L. Davies	T. J. Jones
M. L. Evans	S. N. Lewis
R. E. Evans	A. G. Morgan
M. Howells	R. G. Thorne
M. B. Hughes	G. H. Wooldridge

233. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, D. V. Darby, D. J. Davies, T. Devichand, A. S. Peters and C. A. Rees.

234. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

235. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman referred to the indisposition of Mrs. D. Davies, wife of the Vice Chairman, Cllr. D. J. Davies. Members conveyed their best wishes.

236. ONE VOICE WALES

Further to Minute No. 138, the Chairman welcomed Mr. Simon White, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales, to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr. White having referred to his background and to One Voice Wales' history, spoke of his and the organisation's commitment to delivering a Corporate Strategy and Business Plan for 2006/07, a copy of which was circulated, which had been endorsed by the Welsh Assembly Government. The publication set out the organisation's structure, core aims and a summary of its provision of key services, e.g. advice, guidance and support.

He stated that, whilst One Voice Wales established itself as the new single representative body for local councils in Wales, financial support was provided by the Welsh Assembly

14 November, 2006.

Government, although it was intended that the body would become self-financing in relation to its core costs in the future.

One Voice Wales was ultimately governed by its member councils with 16 Area Committees established on a geographical basis, with each member council nominating one representative to sit on the appropriate Area Committee. Each Area Committee was also able to elect two representatives onto the National Executive Committee (NEC). The organisation was on the verge of introducing a Larger Local Councils Committee, which would have a direct representation on the NEC.

During question time, Mr. White agreed that there needed to be one organisation which could liaise between organisations and which would bring issues of importance to the attention of relevant government members. He felt that any matters raised would be of relevance and interest to all Councils.

In reply to Members' concerns regarding membership fee costs, Mr. White explained that the current system for calculating membership fees was extremely fair and stated that membership subscriptions only accounted for 2/5ths of its total budget. The organisation also sought to bring in revenue via sponsorship and advertising. Members having referred to the cynical view that the organisation was possibly another tier of administration, Mr. White stated that the Welsh Assembly had signed up in principle to One Voice Wales' strategy, therefore the organisation could not afford not to be in being.

Reference to the organisation's promotional theme of 'local solutions for local problems for local people' was confirmed, with Mr. White referring to the present development on Charter working. However, he was concerned at the lack of Councils' active involvement regarding community developments and referred to his organisation identifying and referring all Community First areas to Welsh Assembly Members.

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

Members then proceeded to discuss whether the Council should join the organisation. Discussion ensued on the organisation's business plan and to the aims referred to therein. Members felt that it was a little premature to consider membership for the time being given that the key aims influencing larger local council membership would take some time to come to fruition. It was

RESOLVED to defer membership of One Voice Wales and to await further developments.

14 November, 2006.

237. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following Minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated to Members) be confirmed as a true record of proceedings:-

Council	10 October, 2006.
Recreation and Welfare Committee	17 October, 2006.
Policy and Resources Committee	18 October, 2006.
Finance and General Purposes Committee	25 October, 2006.
Planning and Liaison Committee	30 October, 2006.
Special Council	30 October, 2006.

238. MATTERS ARISING

**(1) PONTHENRI COMMUNITY HALL –
ENHANCEMENT OF FACILITIES**

Further to Minute No. 202, it was

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Recreation and Welfare committee meeting held on 17 October, 2006, be accepted:-

RECOMMENDED that the report be accepted and that the application be made under the IFund accordingly for the enhancement of facilities at Ponthenri Community Hall.

**239. MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES -
FURNACE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Members considered a letter received from the Director, Education and Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, dated 11 October, 2006, informing of the impending vacancy on the Furnace School Governing Body on 12 December, 2006.

The writer requested the Council to confirm its nominated representative to serve on the governing body when Cllr. M. L. Evans' appointment came to an end and, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. M. L. Evans be re-affirmed as this Authority's representative on the Governing Body of Furnace Primary School.

240. EXTERNAL EVENTS

Members having received an invitation for the Council to be represented from Carmarthenshire County Council to attend a Planning Seminar for Town and Community Councils at the Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen on 6 February, 2007, it was

RESOLVED that interested Members wishing to attend, together with the attendance of the Deputy Clerk (Administration), be authorised.

14 November, 2006.

241. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**242. 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 12 July, 2006:-

“At a Meeting of the SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Old Vicarage, Town Hall Square, Llanelli on Wednesday, 12th July 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors G.K. Thomas (Chairman), Mrs. M.P. Jones, A.G. Morgan, R.P. Neil and G.H. Wooldridge.

APOLOGIES: Councillors N. Bevan and R.E. Evans (Vice-Chairman).

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman (Councillor G.K. Thomas) extended a warm welcome to the new Rural Council members, Councillors Mrs. M.P. Jones and A.G. Morgan, and hoped that their membership of the Committee would be a beneficial and enjoyable one.

9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th May 2006 be received, verified and confirmed.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS

(1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RESOLVED – that the financial report giving details of cumulative income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2006 to 30th June 2006 in the sums of £12,668 and £9,556 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 11th May 2006 – 12th July 2006 in respect of Direct Debits, cash reimbursements, BACS payments and Vouchers No. 3911 – 3920 (inclusive) amounted to the sum of £9,639.87.

RESOLVED – that payment of the aforementioned accounts be approved.

14 November, 2006.

11. HIRINGS

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

May

2 nd , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
3 rd , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
10 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
17 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
18 th Thursday	-	Co-operative Party.
24 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
25 th , Thursday	-	Labour Party.
28 th , Sunday	-	Mr. Wilding.
31 st , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.

June

6 th , Tuesday	-	Camford O.A.P.
7 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
9 th , Friday	-	Co-operative Party.
14 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
21 st , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
28 th , Wednesday	-	Llanelli Photographic Society.
29 th , Thursday	-	Labour Women's Forum.

12. ANNUAL RENT

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Committee meeting held on 10th May 2006, the Secretary outlined for the benefit of the new members present the history of this matter, following which he was pleased to report that a recent check of the Charity Commission's website for Llanelli Y.M.C.A. had revealed that the transfer of trusteeship into the sole name of the National Council of Y.M.C.A's of Wales had finally been completed. As a result, arrangements were now in hand to pay the increased rent owed.

The Secretary also recommended that, now that the trusteeship issue had been finally resolved, it was appropriate to initiate negotiations with the National Council for a new sub-lease, if members agreed, to allow sufficient time for members to give proper consideration to be given to the terms of the proposed new sub-lease.

Following a discussion, it was

RESOLVED as follows –

- (1) That the report of the Secretary be noted, and that confirmation of the transfer of trusteeship be welcomed.

14 November, 2006.

- (2) That the Secretary be authorised to commence negotiations for a new sub-lease of the Day Centre and to present a further report to a future Committee meeting.

13. RESIGNATION

The Secretary reported the receipt of a letter dated 5th July 2006 from Mrs. Shereen Davies, giving notice of her wish to terminate her employment on 8th July 2006 (copies having been previously circulated to members). Members were also informed that a replacement for Mrs. Davies had been found.

RESOLVED – that the letter and information be noted.

The Meeting concluded at 6.40 p.m.”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

243. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL AUTHORITY

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held on 13 September, 2006:-

“At the Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 13 September 2006 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

C. E. Richards

E. Smith

Together with Mr Jason Edwards and Miss Simone Kingsland, Positive IT.
Mr James Hogg, Jennings Solicitors.
Mr Philip Boon.

Apologies: Cllrs C. Edwards and A. S. Peters.

21. CEMETERY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 13, the Chairman welcomed Mr Jason Edwards and Miss Simone Kingsland of Positive IT to the meeting, along with Mr Phillip Boon who had previously presented a petition to the Burial Authority.

14 November, 2006.

Mr Edwards and Miss Kingsland then proceeded with a demonstration of visual elements of CCTV camera recording, demonstrating the picture quality in day and night mode.

Mr Edwards stated that the cameras could not run on solar power all year round as previously reported, and suggested that a minimum of four wind turbines with battery backup be erected as an alternative source of power for the CCTV system.

Members were informed that the diameter of each of the wind turbine blades measured 1.5 metres, with a total combined span of 3 metres. The erection of the wind turbines would also be subject to receiving planning permission from Carmarthenshire County Council, as the turbines would be mounted on 6 metre poles.

Following a lengthy question and answer session it was

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary observe the operation of a working wind turbine, prior to determining whether to proceed along the lines suggested by the company representatives.

Mr Edwards, Miss Kingsland and Mr Boon then withdrew from the meeting.

22. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

Ordinary Meeting - 12 July 2006

23. MATTERS ARISING

RIDE ON MOWER

Further to Minute No. 15 (2), the Secretary reported that an extended warranty for the mower was not available. The suppliers stated that this was unnecessary given that the mower's engine and hydraulics were guaranteed for two years and its cutter blade for three years.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

24. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

RESOLVED that the income and expenditure reports for June and July 2006 and the provisional report for August 2006 be noted.

14 November, 2006.

25. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedule of payments for May, June, July and August 2006 which revealed expenditure for the months amounted to £13,193.95, £15,713.32, £19,800.33 and £28,338.69 respectively.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

26. MEMORIAL INSPECTION & TESTING PROCEDURES

The Secretary provided Members with an overview of the Authority's latest policy (Version 13) in respect of its memorial inspection and testing procedures (copies of which had been previously circulated). Members were also informed that an open day at Llanelli District Cemetery had been arranged for Friday 15 September 2006, where the inspection and testing of memorial headstones would be demonstrated to the public. Staff would be on hand throughout the day to answer questions about the Authority's policy and its general procedures. The public had been informed via an advert in the local newspaper about the event and all Members were invited to attend.

RESOLVED that Version 13 of the policy be adopted and the information concerning the planned open day be noted with pleasure

FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the policy be distributed to local Stonemasons for information.

27. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2005/2006 – FINAL REPORT

Further to Minute No 90 (12 April 2006), Members considered the final report in respect of the Authority's Internal Audit for 2005/2006, compiled by Auditing Solutions Ltd. The Secretary informed Members that since the production of the interim report, the company had changed its name and would no longer be known as RBS Auditing Solutions Ltd.

The final report did not differ greatly from the interim report but it did include two additional recommendations, namely:

- (1) The Authority's contract accountants should be provided with more detailed valuations of assets covered by the insurance policy, and of any properties subject to third party (District Valuer) revaluations to ensure that the figures reported in the Annual Accounts were as up to date as possible.
- (2) The Annual Return should be formally adopted by the Authority and forwarded to the company for completion, prior to submission to BDO Stoy Hayward for external audit certification.

The Secretary commented that it was unclear as to why the second recommendation had been added to the final report. It was an automatic requirement that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return be endorsed by the Authority before being forwarded to the company for completion of the "annual internal audit report" section of the Annual Return. Only then would the

14 November, 2006.

document be forwarded to BDO Stoy Hayward. Having noted the Secretary's comments it was

RESOLVED that the final report for the Internal Audit 2005/2006 be received and accepted.

28. AUDIT ANNUAL RETURN
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2006

Members considered the Audit Annual Return document (copies of which had been previously circulated) for the year ending 31 March 2006, and it was

RESOLVED that the general preparation of the document which included a summary of the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 and the Statement of Assurance provided in Section 2 be approved accordingly.

29. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the following matter 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.

30. LLANELLI CREMATORIUM LTD

The Chairman welcomed Mr James Hogg of Jennings Solicitors to the meeting, and invited him to update Members on the current position regarding Llanelli Crematorium Ltd.

Mr Hogg provided Members with a detailed account of progress to date and anticipated that the correspondence issued to the Managing Director of the crematorium should be responded to within the next three weeks. Once this stage was completed, matters should proceed swiftly to a conclusion.

Members commented on the need to avoid a similar situation from occurring next year. In view of such, general administrative procedures performed at the cemetery office were discussed to ascertain whether certain aspects could be brought forward in order to expedite business arrangements.

Members then proceeded to seek Mr Hogg's advice on another related matter and presented him with a particular scenario upon which guidance was sought.

Having considered the advice received, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The progress report from Mr Hogg be noted and to await further developments;
- (2) The Secretary review key work activities at the cemetery office, as discussed; and

14 November, 2006.

- (3) The Secretary pursue enquiries with third parties regarding the scenario presented during the meeting.

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 The meeting concluded at 5:40 pm”

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

244. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

RESOLVED that the following letters of appreciation for the Council’s assistance be noted with pleasure:-

- (1) Safer Counties Neighbourhood Project;
- (2) Llanelli Historical Society;
- (3) Shelter Cymru;
- (4) British Red Cross;
- (5) Welsh Kidney Patients’ Association;
- (6) The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association – Llanelli Branch.

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 The Meeting concluded at 7.05 p.m.

The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 12 December, 2006, adopted by the Council.