

18 July, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 138 - 145

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Conference Room, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 18 July, 2007, at 4.45 p.m.

Cllrs.

D. V. Darby	S. N. Lewis
M. L. Evans	C. A. Rees
M. P. Jones	R. G. Thorne
G. H. Wooldridge	

138. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO-TEMPORE

RESOLVED that Cllr. C. A. Rees be appointed Chairman pro-tempore.

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. D. Bowen, D. J. Davies, T. Devichand, C. Edwards (Cllr. C. A. Rees deputising) and T. J. Jones (Cllr. G. H. Wooldridge deputising).

140. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**141. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY –
DRAFT RISK REDUCTION ACTION PLAN 2008/09
CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute No. 102, Members gave further consideration to the above document.

Progress in the reduction of fires in the home was commended. Members were pleased to note that the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) was stretching itself further by setting a higher Home Fire Safety Audits target of 18,500; that there was an intention to provide an additional fire fighter for community safety duties in Carmarthenshire and fully supported the initiative to set up a Young Fire-fighter scheme at Llanelli Fire Station.

The intention of the FRA to review the crewing options for the emergency tender at Morryston raised concern as to the possible ramifications for the Llanelli area, particularly along the M4 corridor should crewing arrangements be subsequently scaled down. It was

18 July, 2007.

understood that Morrision and Swansea fire stations provided emergency cover to Llanelli, given that Llanelli's emergency tender had been re-located to Carmarthenshire.

It was noted that the Authority's appliance upgrade was progressing well. The claim that the Diving Unit was not a cost effective service and that Dyfed-Powys Police Authority had a statutory duty to recover bodies from water, was also noted.

Members had previously reserved judgement on the review of crewing arrangements at Pontardawe, however, it was felt that there might be a detrimental impact to the Llanelli area if crewing arrangements were to be scaled down to 'day crewing'. With regard to the review of the shift duty scheme, Members felt that changes should be justified through robust analysis and clear evidence in order to improve the overall quality of service.

It was felt that the successful implementation of the Risk Reduction Plan would be, to an extent, reliant on receiving Welsh Assembly Government funding, and that networking with other public sector services would be the way forward for the continued development and evolution of the Fire and Rescue service.

During discussion, Members conveyed concerns regarding the ripple effect reviewed crewing arrangements would have on services for Llanelli and the impact of resources being spread further afield. Statistics demonstrating the level of risks would have been appreciated and it was felt that yet another essential service was being cut. In order to keep up a level of competence, part-time employees who were prepared to put their lives at risk needed job security.

RESOLVED that Members' concerns and comments be forwarded to the Chairman, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

142. MACHINERY – GROUND AERATOR

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk (Administration) and Technical Services Officer, informing of the budget implications on the purchase of a ground aerator.

A budget of £6,500 had been identified in the Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2007/08, however, the lowest quotation received was in the sum of £7,951, leaving a deficit of £1,451. It was suggested that certain items of machinery/equipment identified for purchase be deferred to 2008/09 in order to allow a virement of budget to offset the cost of the ground aerator.

The Technical Services Officer informed that, of the five companies invited to quote, three quotations were returned by the closing date as follows:-

	£
(1) Soil Reliever 48 with rear PTO	10,102.50
Soil Reliever 1500	11,680.85
Compact trailer option (akin to domestic use)	883.15
(2) 1200 Verti drain	12,112.50
1000 Verti drain	8,545.00

18 July, 2007.

(3)	John Deree Aercore 1500	7,951.00
-----	----------------------------	----------

RESOLVED that the recommended list of machinery/equipment identified for purchase be deferred to 2008/09 and that the lowest quotation received for the purchase of a ground aerator from Powercut, Oaklands Mansion, Cwmffrwd, Carmarthen, in the sum of £7,951.00 plus VAT, be accepted.

143. 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.

**144. EMPLOYING AUTHORITY DISCRETIONS
AND DISCRETIONARY POLICY**

Members were circulated with a report from the Deputy Clerk (Administration) which informed of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 (as amended) and the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

The Council was now required to review its existing policy in respect of exercising powers in relation to the granting of compensation payments to employees in situations where early retirement was sought and in cases where employment was terminated on the grounds of efficiency or redundancy.

Up until recently, the 'Employing Authority Discretions' provided a degree of latitude to the Council, but this had now changed as a consequence of various revisions and further anticipated changes to the national Local Government Pension scheme. Tighter restrictions had been introduced, making it less attractive to terminate employment sooner than normal retirement age. The full cost of early termination of employment would now have to be met by either the Council or the employees because of the level of strain placed on pension fund schemes nationwide. In the case of this Authority, costs could no longer be absorbed by the Dyfed Pension fund.

The Deputy Clerk (Administration) stated that the revised policy reflected that of Carmarthenshire County Council. She then proceeded to set out the implications for the Council by guiding Members through the various provisions that made up the regulations and informed that all Council employees would be circulated with a copy of the new policy.

Members were further informed that the new policy was only an interim measure covering the period up to 31 March, 2008. Further revision to the policy would be necessary as a result of changes brought about by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contribution) Regulations 2007, which would come into force on 1 April, 2008.

18 July, 2007.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the report be received and that the revised policy be adopted.

145. STAFFING MATTERS

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

.....

The Meeting concluded at 5.40 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 11 September, 2007, adopted by the Council.