

12 June, 2018

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 68 – 77

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 12 June, 2018, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. M. Caiach (Chairman)

Cllrs.

M. V. Davies	S. N. Lewis
S. L. Davies	A. G. Morgan
T. Devichand	J. S. Phillips
P. M. Edwards	A. J. Rogers
H. J. Evans	W. V. Thomas
T. J. Jones	I. G. Wooldridge

Absent: F. Akhtar, J. S. Randall, C. A. Rees

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue, T. M. Donoghue, J. P. Hart, R. L. Najmi and E. Simmons.

69. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
70	Cllr. S. L. Davies	Personal – she worked for the NHS
70	Cllr. A. J. Rogers	Personal – his partner worked for the NHS

**70. HYWEL DDA COMMUNITY HEALTH
COUNCIL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2018/19**

Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in the following matter as she worked for the NHS. Cllr. A. J. Rogers declared a personal interest in the following matter as his partner worked for the NHS.

Further to Minute No. 24, the Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Ken Jones, Chair, Mr Mansell Bennett, Vice Chair and Mr Sam Dentten, Acting Chief Officer, Hywel Dda

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Community Health Council (HDCHC) to the meeting to discuss the HDCHC's Operational Plan 2018/19 and the Hywel Dda Health Board plans to reconfigure health care services.

Mr Dentten thanked Members for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to inform Members about the composition of the HDCHC which was made up of members and local people who volunteered their time to lead their work and undertake activity on the HDCHC's behalf. HDCHC had a small team of paid staff whose role was to support members and to deliver its independent complaints advocacy function.

Mr Dentten explained the HDCHC had four main functions. The HDCHC would systematically visit and scrutinise local health services. It would continuously engage with the communities it represented and the health service providers serving those communities. HDCHC hoped to have better relationships with town and community councils. The HDCHC represented the interests of patients and the public in the planning and agreement of NHS service changes and enabled users of the NHS to raise concerns about the services they receive through an independent complaints advocacy service.

In deciding the activities for 2018/19, the HDCHC asked people to tell them what mattered to them most about the NHS services in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The HDCHC asked people directly at a range of local events, community representatives and groups via social media; through their website and by letter. Mr Dentten informed Members that the HDCHC needed to raise awareness and increase engagement with the people.

He then stated that he and his associates would be happy to pay a further visit to the Council to provide a more general overview of the HDCHC and its services. Mr Dentten then referred to the Council's earlier correspondence with the HDCHC about the Council's views and opinions as to what the HDCHC's focus ought to be for the year ahead. The issues identified by the Council were:

- sustainability of GP services;
- ensuring medical equipment was kept up to date; and
- better communication links.

Mr Dentten then turned his attention to Hywel Dda Health Board proposals to reconfigure health services. He stated that during all his time working with the NHS he had never seen anything of this magnitude and the HDCHC was convinced there was a need for change. He qualified his remarks by stating what wasn't compelling was what form change should look like and the HDCHC was trying to absorb people's concerns as there would be winners and losers with every proposal. Mention was then made of the sheer geographic size of the Health Board area with many rural areas to cover; the issues surrounding transport and the proximity to services as well as reference to Llanelli's long history of service upheaval. Mr Dentten felt the broader issues concerning the impact of south east Carmarthenshire hadn't been discussed enough in the current consultation. Mr Dentten added that the proposals set out such a big change that most people believed it couldn't be delivered. From the HDCHC's perspective if GP services; social care infrastructure and integration; travel and transport; capacity of community services were not in place now it was difficult for people to see them all coming together and working well in the future.

Members responded with a number of points and questions and felt the proposals were divisive as communities would fight to retain local services and hospital provision based on

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the current model. Furthermore, the existing hospitals serving the south of the Health Board area were located in places where they were best placed to serve the larger population centres. It was very alarming that the Health Board claimed under its vision statement annotated on its website that “Making a difference - our doctors think our proposals will make a lot of things better, but it might be difficult for some people to get to the services, especially if they do not have much money or a car!” Members commented the NHS was available to everybody regardless of their circumstances. The vision statement implied that in certain situations it was fine to discriminate against particular demographic groups so in that sense the proposals were all unacceptable. Nobody should be disadvantaged by future reconfiguration proposals especially the elderly and people living in poverty.

Members expressed disappointment the Health Board had not produced any evidence or business case to support making changes. The public had not been presented with any financial modelling information to try and take stock of the emerging strategies. The Health Board also had no guarantee that Welsh Government would fund a new build hospital. A number of issues had not been identified in the consultation namely – what dialogue had taken place with the ABMU Health Board to discuss the inevitable migration of patients in east Carmarthenshire if A&E is moved further west. There was also no reference to conducting an impact assessment on whether Morriston had the capacity to cater for a wider catchment area of patients coming from Llanelli, Ammanford, Llandeilo and Llandovery. Funding followed the patient and so the prospect of residents not electing to use the new urgent care hospital in east Carmarthenshire because Morriston would be closer, undermined the sustainability of the reconfiguration proposals, this would jeopardise funding; it would impact on budgets and would be detrimental to Royal College accreditation in respect of the skill sets of clinicians linked to case load. This in turn would affect professional standards and the Health Board would be worse off and all the while having an extra hospital to fund and maintain.

Transport was clearly a key issue linked to accessibility of services. A reliable and extended public transport service was fundamental given the geographic area covered by the Health Board and yet the Health Board had no direct control or responsibility for this.

Members also commented about the important role of the NHS Wales Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) and the difficulties it had in managing patient transfers. WAST needed to be closely involved in consultation proposals as it was clear from previous consultation exercises undertaken by the Health Board that WAST wasn't fully involved in the service changes whereas it should be from the outset.

Having heard responses from the three HDCHC representatives including views expressed about the likelihood of receiving the necessary funding from Welsh Government which would be predicated on a robust business case, the Chairman thanked representatives for attending the meeting and for taking the Council's views and comments on board. Prior to closing the item, all Members were encouraged to complete the consultation questionnaire on an individual basis.

Cllr. T. J. Jones left the meeting.

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71. 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:

Annual Meeting	8 May, 2018
Planning and Liaison Committee	9 May, 2018
Adjourned Annual Meeting	10 May, 2018
Council	10 May, 2018
Finance and General Purposes Committee	10 May, 2018
Recreation and Welfare Committee	10 May, 2018
Planning and Liaison Committee	10 May, 2018
Policy and Resources Committee	10 May, 2018
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	10 May, 2018
Community Development Grants Panel	10 May, 2018
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	10 May, 2018
Recreation and Welfare Committee	15 May, 2018
Policy and Resources Committee	16 May, 2018

**72. MATTERS ARISING
(1) DAFEN PARK
ASTROTURF FACILITY**

Further to Minute No. 56, Cllr. T. Devichand informed Members that she had declared a personal interest because she was Chairman of Dafen Welfare Committee.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**(2) APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS
WHOLE PLACE PLAN**

Further to Minute No. 62(3), Members were informed the Labour group representatives to serve on the Whole Place Plan working group were Cllr. S. M. Donoghue and A. J. Rogers.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**73. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES
(1) LLANELLI & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY**

Further to Minute No. 19, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. S. M. Donoghue be appointed to represent the Council on the Llanelli & District Civic Society.

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(2) C.A.T.C.H. U.P.

Further to Minute No. 19, correspondence had been received informing that C.A.T.C.H. U.P. had merged in April with Crossroads and both had now come under the Carer's Trust. As a result of the merger, appointments to the Carer's Trust were governed by its Articles of Association which provided for a board of directors or trustees to oversee the management of that organisation. The Council could no longer appoint one of its Members to serve on the board under its own volition.

Following discussion, Members were disappointed that a representative from the Council could not attend meetings, and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted and that a letter expressing Members disappointment be sent to the Carer's Trust secretariat.

74. PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING – LLANELLI

Correspondence was received from the Engineering Design Assistant, Highways and Transport Division, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of proposals to construct road humps on various streets to the west of Llanelli town. The road humps were considered necessary in the interest of road safety to maintain low vehicle speeds within residential areas, areas of walked routes to school and in the vicinity of proposed and existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points. The roads affected by the traffic calming measures in the Council's administration area where as follows:

Type	Dimensions	Location
Round Top Hump	75mm high (with permitted maximum legal height being 100mm) Tapered humps not completely kerb to kerb, with a curved top profile. 3.7m long	Stradey Road 5 metres West of its junction with the Community Centre vehicle access

RESOLVED that the proposal be supported in the interest of highway safety.

75. HMS TRENCHANT

Members received correspondence from the Commanding Officer, Commander Royal Navy, detailing the submarine's major exercise that took place in the Arctic Ocean with the US Navy which had just finished.

The Commanding Officer stated that training the next generation of Submarine Commanding Officers prior to conducting a period of maintenance which would start in the autumn and last for six months. During this time, it was intended to foster close ties that had been made and he wished to continue the tradition of representing the Royal Navy and HMS Trenchant at the November Ceremonies in the town of Llanelli. Following discussion, it was

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RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted and that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Commanding Officer and Crew of the submarine having successfully completed sea trials following the major refurbishment of the vessel.

76. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

77. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

RESOLVED that the letters of appreciation for the Council's assistance received from the following, be noted with pleasure:

- (1) Wales Air Ambulance Charity;
- (2) Ysgol Pontiets.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.40 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 July, 2018, adopted by the Council.