

10 September, 2019

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 155 – 165

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Tuesday, 10 September, 2019, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. L. Davies (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. M. Caiach	H. J. Evans
M. V. Davies	T. J. Jones
T. Devichand	J. S. Phillips
S. M. Donoghue	A. G. Morgan
P. M. Edwards	W. V. Thomas
I. G. Wooldridge	

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

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. M. Donoghue, J. P. Hart, S. N. Lewis, A. J. Rogers and E. Simmons.

156. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**157. HYWEL DDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD
OUR BIG NHS CHANGE**

Further to Minute No. 394, (12 February, 2019 refers), the Chairman welcomed Ms Maria Battle, Chair, and Ms Sian-Marie James, Hywel Dda University Health Board (H DUHB) to the meeting to discuss the reconfiguration proposals for the transformation of health services across the Health Board area.

Ms Battle thanked Members for the opportunity to attend the meeting although she had only been in post for eight days. She felt honoured to be employed as Chair of H DUHB and was passionate towards the NHS. The first impressions she had experienced of H DUHB was there was a dedicated and welcoming team to work alongside her.

Ms Battle informed Members that the two key challenges for her was to continue with current performance levels (which were considered to be the best over the last six years) and to start

10 September, 2019

delivering the strategy for the transformation of health services across the area. In terms of performance levels, waiting lists had been reduced and the finance situation was improving. She felt that the Chair and the Board of HDUHB should be more visible to the public, staff, patients and the community and she had agreed that for one day a month she would visit Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) to be visible and accessible to staff and the general community.

Discussion then followed, whereby Members raised concerns to the previous cutbacks at PPH and what would the future hold. Ms Battle stated that no proposals had been made to take any services away from PPH. It was important to have a strong community and maintain services close to home.

Members then highlighted the parking difficulties at Glangwili hospital amongst other related issues. Visitors were not informed of the hospital transport options. Ms Battle was unable to respond to this but promised to report back to the Council.

Members then commented on the state of finances and the deficit facing the HDUHB with further cuts again this year. How was the Health Board going to manage the cutbacks? Ms Battle informed Members that a private firm was going to analyse the cut backs and that everyone was doing their level best. Ms Battle stated that the Health Board and Local Government both serviced the same people and both had their own budgets to cut but she believed by working together this would combat the cutbacks. Ms Battle emphasised that three schemes had been approved to receive funding from the £12 million fund managed by a regional managerial board which her Director of Transformation was leading on; telemedicine being one of the scheme initiatives and stated she would arrange for the Director to give a presentation to the Council about the schemes.

Members then enquired as to how the new acute medical admissions unit was performing and in reply Mrs James replied that it had made an impressive and positive change resulting in 50% of people being discharged from the unit without having to go into the hospital system.

As discussion drew to a close, Members highlighted the shortage of General Practitioners (GP's), consultants and nurses. Ms Battle informed Members that recruitment was a massive challenge but currently there was a new Health Care Apprenticeship Programme in place recruiting people plus also two consultants had returned to PPH.

The Clerk informed Ms Battle that during the Front of House consultation for PPH, there was Council representation on the former project group and this worked well in acting as a local voice as a community stakeholder with a vested interest in safeguarding key hospital services. He enquired whether something similar could happen with the wider transformation agenda? Ms Battle informed Members that she would make enquiries with the Health Board.

The Chairman thanked Ms Battle and Ms James for attending the meeting and for taking the Council's views on board.

Cllrs. J. S. Phillips and I. G. Wooldridge left the meeting.

10 September, 2019

158. 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	9 July, 2019
Planning and Liaison Committee	15 July, 2019
Recreation and Welfare Committee	16 July, 2019
Policy and Resources Committee	17 July, 2019
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	25 July, 2019
Planning and Liaison Committee	5 August, 2019
Special Council	7 August, 2019
Planning and Liaison Committee	27 August, 2019

**159. MATTERS ARISING
(1) DECLARATION OF INTEREST
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - LLANELLI MYNYDD MAWR
RAILWAY CO. LTD**

Further to Minute No. 110(2), Cllr. Devichand provided further clarification about her involvement with the organisation whereby she served as an honorary member and not a permanent committee member.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**(2) STATUTORY PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS
PA/16726 – LAND AT BYNEA BUSINESS PARK
HEOL Y BWLCH, BYNEA**

Further to Minute No. 144, Cllr. S. M. Donoghue informed the meeting that the Bynea local ward Members had met with the applicant and it was unlikely that a formal planning application would be submitted given the site location and issues identified with the developer.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**160. DATA PROTECTION ACT AND GENERAL DATA
PROTECTION REGULATION**

Further to Minute No. 122, the Clerk updated Members on the application of the general principles of the legislation in terms of safeguarding personal information when correspondence was circulated with council and committee papers. Accordingly, the Council's general privacy notice had been amended to more accurately portray council policy.

Members welcomed the clarification, and it was

10 September, 2019

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**161. EXTERNAL EVENTS
(1) PUBLIC FORUM – THE WELSH LANGUAGE SOCIETY**

Members received correspondence from The Public Forum inviting representatives to attend the event to be held on Saturday, 21 September, 2019 at 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

RESOLVED that interested Members attend the event.

(2) YMLAEN LLANELLI – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members received an invitation from the Chair, Ymlaen Llanelli to attend the organisation's Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 24 September, 2019 at 5.30 pm at Llanelly House.

RESOLVED that interested Members attend the event.

Cllr. H. J. Evans left the meeting.

**162. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES
LLANELLI COMMITTEE FOR THE DISABLED**

Further to Minute No. 14, correspondence was received from Mr Poulton, Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition for Action informing that Llanelli Committee for the Disabled had ceased.

An organisation named Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition for Action based at Coleshill Centre, Llanelli which represented disabled individuals and associated organisations as a focus for consultation and the co-production of services and facilities by statutory and independent service providers had been established in its place. The Coalition was seeking new Members and volunteers.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

163. WALES AIR AMBULANCE

Further to Minute No. 132(1), correspondence dated 13 August, 2019, had been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Government informing of the funding parameters for supporting the helicopter service, Wales Air Ambulance.

The Minister informed that the Wales Air Ambulance believed it was important to remain independent of government funding as this would protect its charitable status and allow it to

10 September, 2019

continue fundraising activities to safeguard the service for the future. It would therefore rely on public donations as its main source of funding.

The Welsh Government did provide funding of around £3 million each year to local health boards to help support the cost of consultants and paramedics who work on the air ambulances.

Following discussion, Members commented that it would be useful to garner the opinion of local Wales Air Ambulance representatives to ascertain their views of the current funding model and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted and that an invitation be extended to representatives of the Wales Air Ambulance to attend a future Council meeting.

164. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

165. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

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

- (1) Llanelli Ramblers;
- (2) Tabernacl Llwynhendy.

.....

The Meeting concluded at 7.00 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 8 October, 2019, adopted by the Council.