

**20 November, 2019**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 288 – 294**

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 20 November, 2019, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. H. J. Evans (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

**Cllrs.**

S. L. Davies                      J. P. Hart  
T. Devichand                    S. N. Lewis  
A. G. Morgan

**Absent:** E. Simmons

**288. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue, P. M. Edwards, J. S. Phillips, C. A. Rees, A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising) and I. G. Wooldridge.

**289. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**290. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES  
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Members were circulated with the draft Annual Report 2020/21 received from the Chairman, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Panel's draft annual report included proposals which would take effect for the financial year 2020.

Members' attention was drawn to section 13 of the report wherein it stated the payments to members of community and town councils. Members were informed that the Panel recognised the wide variation in responsibilities and accountabilities in the local council sector. The council was categorised as a 'Band A Council' given its income or expenditure exceeded £200,000.

No material changes or uplift to the level of payments had been made to the various determinations set out in the draft report in comparison to this year's payments but for one exception - Determination 47, which specified that a community and town council can pay financial loss compensation to each of its members, where such loss has occurred for attending approved duties as follows:

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- Up to £55.50 for a period not exceeding 4 hours.
- Up to £110.00 for a period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

During discussion, members reaffirmed the payment to be made to the Leader of Council, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council shall be retained at current limits and it was

**RESOLVED** that the draft Annual Report 2020/21 be noted for budgeting purposes and to await the publication of the final Annual Report expected to be published in February 2020.

**291. THE SECTION 6 BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY**

Members received correspondence from the Biodiversity Policy Team, Welsh Government informing of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which was introduced to enhance biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The section 6 duty required that public authorities ‘must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems’.

The council falls within the definition of a public authority under the terms of the Act and so was required to comply with the section 6 duty. The duty must be proportionate to the size and functions of an organisation. However, every organisation, whatever size, could contribute positively to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, whether through procurement, sustainability policies, awareness raising, training, cascading funding criteria to others, or acting in partnership with others. Town and community councils had tremendous potential, through their range of functions and coverage of Wales, to contribute to improving conditions for biodiversity.

As part of the compliance arrangements the council was required to report on what it had done to maintain and enhance biodiversity before the end of 2019 and before the end of every three years there after. A short reporting template had been produced to assist town and community councils with this task.

Members were then taken through the content of what would be reported in the template for the council’s inaugural report and it was

**RESOLVED** that officers be authorised to complete the report and that it be published by the end of December 2019 on the council’s website.

**292. FURNACE POST OFFICE SERVICE RE-OPENING**

Correspondence was received from the Change Manager, Post Office informing of the re-opening of Furnace Post Office at 14 Luton Terrace, Furnace on Wednesday, 11 December, 2019. The reinstated branch will be one of the local style branches.

Following discussion, whereby members welcomed the good news, it was

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

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**293. 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.

**294. STAFFING MATTERS**

Members considered the report of the Clerk informing of staffing matters.

**RESOLVED** that the report referenced 11:2019 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

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