

19 February, 2020

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 425 – 433

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, 19 February, 2020, at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies P. M. Edwards
T. Devichand J. P. Hart
A. G. Morgan

Absent: E. Simmons

425. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue, J. S. Phillips, C. A. Rees, A. J. Rogers and I. G. Wooldridge.

426. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

427. CONDUCTING COUNCIL BUSINESS ELECTRONICALLY

Cllr. A. G. Morgan enquired about conducting council business electronically and whether it was now possible for him to receive all agendas and associated background papers using this medium going forward.

During the general discussion, the Clerk informed members that under current legislation, the council was obliged to distribute the council summons and agendas via the post. However, this would soon change when the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill became law in the late summer. The Bill contained provisions for councils to send out an electronic summons. Councillors would then have a choice as to how they would wish to receive agenda papers for future meetings.

The discussion then turned to security control processes when disseminating electronic documents and how the council might prevent unauthorised disclosure through introducing strict access controls for private and confidential items. The Clerk confirmed that early consideration of what the council might require had commenced in readiness for the enactment of the Bill, and it was

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RESOLVED that the matter be kept under review over the next six months when it was likely that the Bill would receive royal assent and so that the council could continue to research the most viable option to comply with the impending legislation.

428. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Further to Minute No. 359, members received correspondence from the Carmarthenshire Scrutiny Forum, Carmarthenshire County Council promoting the work of the scrutiny committees within Carmarthenshire and which sought greater participation from town and community councils.

Carmarthenshire County Council had five scrutiny committees with responsibility for Policy and Resources; Communities; Education and Children; Environmental and Public Protection; and Social Care and Health.

Each scrutiny committee would shortly be looking at developing a forward work programme for 2020/21 and the forum welcomed any suggestions for topics to discuss.

Following discussion, members reiterated the points previously discussed (to which Minute No. 359 refers), and it was

RESOLVED that any local matters of particular interest or importance shall be forwarded to the Scrutiny Forum, Carmarthenshire County Council as and when deemed appropriate.

**429. UPPER LLIEDI AND LOWER LIEDI RESERVOIRS
DRAFT BYLAWS**

Further to Minute No. 419 (19 February, 2019, refers) members received correspondence from the Head of Operational Legal Services, Welsh Water enclosing the draft bylaws which were being submitted to the Welsh Government for the Byelaws to be made under Section 157 and Schedule 10 to the Water Industry Act 1991. Any representation should be made to Welsh Government, Water Branch, Cardiff by 22 February, 2020, and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**430. FUTURE AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR
COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WALES**

A consultation document was received from the Wales Audit Office informing that the Auditor General was required to audit the annual accounts of all community and town councils in Wales.

From 2020-21 onwards, the Wales Audit Office proposed a three year audit programme which was designed to meet statutory responsibilities while providing a sufficient level of audit assurance at a reasonable cost.

The Clerk informed members that this would have no bearing on the council's future audit arrangements due to the council now being categorised as a larger relevant body given that its

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gross income or expenditure was higher than £2.5 million. The council would continue to receive full transaction based audits annually, whereas under these particular proposals other local councils would receive a three-year audit programme including transaction based audit procedures on a cyclical basis.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

431. PLAYING FIELDS (COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DISPOSAL DECISIONS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2015

Members received correspondence from the Local Government Democracy Division, Welsh Government on the Statutory Guidance relating to Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted and for members to familiarise themselves with the Statutory Guidance.

432. 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.

433. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 02:2020 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.20 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 March, 2020, adopted by the Council.