

16 December, 2020

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 48 – 67

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 16 December 2020, at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. Devichand (Vice Chairman) in the (Chair))

Cllrs.

M. V. Davies H. J. Evans
S. M. Donoghue A. G. Morgan
T. M. Donoghue J. S. Phillips
P. M. Edwards A. J. Rogers
 W. V. Thomas

Absent: F. Akhtar

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, S. L. Davies, J. P. Hart, T. J. Jones, S. N. Lewis, C. A. Rees, J. S. Randall and I. G. Wooldridge.

49. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
59	T. Devichand	Personal interest – Chairman, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
57	S. M. Donoghue	Personal interest – Treasurer, Trallwm Community Hall Management Committee.
60	A. G. Morgan	Personal interest – LEA Governor and Vice Chairman of School Governors, Bryngwyn School.
59	A. J. Rogers	Personal interest – Secretary, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
60	W. V. Thomas	Personal interest – LEA Governor, Bryngwyn School.

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50. 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

25 November, 2020

**51. MATTERS ARISING
COVID MEASURES - COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

Further to Minute No. 39, the Clerk informed members that following the First Minister's Welsh Government news briefing held earlier today and the new lockdown restrictions coming into force on 28 December 2020, non-essential community activities held at council community halls would stop until further notice. Furthermore, revised guidance about the extent and impact of the new restrictions was anticipated from the Welsh Government.

However, the council's parks and recreation grounds would remain open to the public and childcare facilities at the community halls would be made available if necessary. Organised team sport activities on council facilities would be suspended until further notice but grounds maintenance work would continue as would the cemetery service. From next week office staff would work from home where possible, and would continue to do so until further notice. However, Welsh Government planned to review the new restrictions in three weeks time and so the council would need to re-assess whether any further changes to work practices might be needed at that time.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**52. PLANNING MATTERS
(1) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – THE
DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (WALES)
REGULATIONS 2016 – LAND AT BLAENHIRAETH FARM,
LLANGENNECH, LLANELLI**

Further to Minute No. 510(1) (30 September, 2020 refers), members received correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate in regard to the processing of the above Development of National Significance (DNS) application for a proposed solar farm. The Clerk set out the main points in the letter, including proposals to partly vary the plans for the site, key dates for dealing with the application and local hearing dates to garner evidence from stakeholders, and it was

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted and to await further developments over the processing of the application.

**(2) PLANNING APPLICATIONS
TOWN AND COUNTRY
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 1995**

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Consideration having been given to planning applications received, it was **RESOLVED** as follows:-

Application No.	Location	Development
PL/00069	Mr K Strelley Gateway Holiday Park Bynea	Proposed two no. tennis courts.
Recommendation – no objection provided a drainage application was submitted for approval to the Carmarthenshire Sustainable Drainage Approval body.		
PL/00381	Mr K Strelley Gateway Holiday Park Bynea	Proposed agricultural shed.
Recommendation – no objection provided:		
1. A drainage application was submitted for approval to the Carmarthenshire Sustainable Drainage Approval body.		
2. Flood prevention measures were incorporated into the building design and ground levels were raised above the precautionary T200 flood with 75 years of sea level rise.		
3. The coal mining risk assessment recommendations were complied with in full given the risk from underground mining and mine entries was high		
PL/00473	Dr R Regola 27 Coedmawr Ponthenri Llanelli	Proposed two storey side extension.
Recommendation – no objection.		
PL/00833	Mr H Harries Carmarthenshire County Council Dylan Playing Fields Rear of Pant Bryn Isaf Llanelli	The creation of an enclosed play area for children, to replace the existing play area lost to the adjacent 32 property development. The play area would be located next to an existing footpath which connects the Dylan and Bryn Isaf housing estates via the Trallwm playing fields. Play area would consist of different play equipment to cater for children of all ages.

Recommendation – the application was noted for information.

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Application No.	Location	Development
PL/00839	Willmott Dixon on behalf of Dyfed Powys Police Land to the west of Heol Aur Dafen	The construction of Carmarthenshire Custody and Llanelli Police Station and associated works.

Recommendation – no objection provided:

1. There was no detrimental impact on the local ecology and general highway safety.
2. The recommendations set out in the bat activity survey report being fulfilled.
3. A drainage application was submitted for approval to the Carmarthenshire Sustainable Drainage Approval body.

PL/00851	TAD Builders Ltd & Pobl Group Land off Caegar, Llwynhendy	20 affordable residential dwellings.
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Recommendation – objection on the following grounds:

1. The general cumulative detrimental impact on the local highway infrastructure and highway safety created by this proposal alongside other larger housing development schemes in the ward.
2. Vehicular access/egress along adjoining approach roads/streets and the increase in traffic volume and traffic movements along narrow estate roads coupled with there being no scope to modify these approach roads or moreover to by-pass them altogether.
3. Accessibility to public transport was limited – bus services to the surrounding estates had been scaled back as transport subsidies had been reduced – services were not regular throughout the day.
4. The public sewer system was already overstretched and overloaded – there was a concern about the likely increase in hydraulic load and the consequences of public sewers in Bynea surcharging as a direct consequence of increased flows associated with the amount of development taking place.

PL/00878	Mr K Strelley Gateway Holiday Park Bynea	Proposed boutique hotel (15 no. bedrooms).
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Recommendation – no objection provided:

1. A drainage application was submitted for approval to the Carmarthenshire Sustainable Drainage Approval body.
2. Flood prevention measures were incorporated into the building design and ground levels were raised above the precautionary T200 flood with 75 years of sea level rise.
3. The coal mining risk assessment recommendations were complied with in full given the risk from underground mining and mine entries was high.

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**53. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES
(1) VARIOUS ROADS, LLWYNHENDY**

Further to Minute No. 13(2), Members received correspondence from the Legal Services Department, Carmarthenshire County Council giving notice in accordance with Section 90C of the Highways Act 1980 of the intention to construct road humps complying with the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 on Heol Elfed, Trallwm Road and Llwynhendy Road, Llanelli.

The road humps were considered necessary in the interest of road safety to maintain a low vehicle speed within residential areas, areas of walked routes to school and in the vicinity of proposed and existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points.

RESOLVED that the formal notification be supported.

**54. CARMARTHENSHIRE WELSH LANGUAGE
STRATEGIC FORUM – SUPPORT GROUP**

Members received an invitation from the Chief Executive, Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli inviting representation from the Council to attend at future meetings of a new support group in the Llanelli area for the work of the Menter Iaith.

The Carmarthenshire Welsh Language Strategic Forum wished to give linguistic attention to the Llanelli area as part of its strategy for the promotion of the Welsh language. The aim was to create an action plan for the Llanelli area to co-ordinate and promote greater use of Welsh and Bilingualism in the area.

The Clerk informed members that a meeting was due to be held on 10 December, 2020, but unfortunately due to the lack of participants the meeting had to be cancelled.

Following discussion about the council's involvement in the initiative, members also voiced their views about the extent of the council's extant Welsh Language Policy, and it was

RESOLVED that:

1. Cllrs. M. V. Davies and J. S. Phillips be nominated to represent the council on the Carmarthenshire Welsh Language Strategic Forum Support Group.
2. The council's Welsh Language Policy be discussed at a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

55. DIGITAL TIME CREDITS

Members received correspondence from Tempo informing of the development of an online version of the paper Time Credits. The Community Development Officer guided members through the new online service and stated training would be rolled out in the New Year, and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted and to await further developments.

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**56. TIR EINON PLAY AREA
PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Further to Minute No. 41, Members considered the report of the Technical and Burial Services Manager informing that the quotation received from HAGS, the selected play equipment provider for the replacement and additional play equipment at Tir Einon Play Area could not be honoured because of a pricing error.

Therefore, the other play equipment providers that had submitted quotations had been approached once again to enquire if they could provide the same or similar range of equipment within the council's allocated £20,000 budget. Wicksteed Leisure Limited had quoted to provide and install a very similar range of equipment as to that originally proposed by HAGS and in accordance with the council's budget, and it was

RESOLVED that the proposal be approved and the quotation received from Wicksteed Leisure Limited, Digby Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 8YJ in the sum of £19,996.44 be accepted.

57. TRALLWM COMMUNITY HALL

Cllr. S. M. Donoghue declared a personal interest in the following matter, as he was the Treasurer, Trallwm Hall Management Committee.

Members received the report of the Technical and Burial Services Manager informing of a request received from Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) to replace the hall boundary fence with a retaining wall incorporating screen fencing. Linked to this was a request from local members to re-use the boundary fence panels to improve safety in front of the hall main entrance. Members were informed that an offer of a community benefits contribution from the housing development contractor WRW Limited was available to the council as a gesture of good will for any inconvenience and disruption arising out of the proposed work. Moreover, and given the extent of the reconfiguration of the proposed property boundary local members had also requested to relocate the recycling facility away from the hall grounds.

The new housing development at Dylan abuts the boundary with Trallwm Community Hall. The development had raised the ground level whereby a retaining wall was required. Screen fencing was also required at the rear of the new properties. Officers had met to discuss the proposal with managers from CCC and the development contractors WRW Limited.

Moreover, and due to the time restrictions, the Leader and local members had been consulted and had agreed to the retaining wall proposals. It was proposed to re-use the fence panels that were currently being used as the hall boundary to improve child safety at the front of the hall.

The development contractor WRW Limited had offered to provide a community benefits contribution towards the hall but the amount of the contribution was not known at this point in time.

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In regard to the recycling facilities at Trallwm Community Hall these were provided by CCC in agreement with the council, but unfortunately the facilities had attracted fly tipping which was an ongoing problem.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The request received from Carmarthenshire County Council to replace the community hall boundary fence with a retaining wall incorporating screen fencing be agreed on the understanding that the maintenance and upkeep of the wall and fence shall remain the responsibility of the county council.
2. The boundary fence panels be re-used to improve safety in front of the community hall main entrance.
3. The offer of a community benefits contribution from WRW Limited be accepted (amount to be confirmed).
4. Contact be made with Carmarthenshire County Council to remove the recycling facilities from Trallwm Community Hall with them being relocated to a more suitable location.

58. SARON COMMUNITY HALL

Further to Minute No. 504 (30 September, 2020 refers), members considered email correspondence from Carmarthenshire County Council enclosing a draft periodic tenancy agreement requesting permission on behalf of Bynea Primary School to use the community hall for class room facilities.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the draft periodic tenancy agreement be agreed to.

**59. DAFEN PARK
DRAINAGE WORKS**

Cllr. T. Devichand declared a personal interest in the following matter, as she was Chairman, Dafen Welfare Management Committee. Cllr. A. J. Rogers declared a personal interest in the following matter, as he was Secretary, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.

Further to Minute No. 38, email correspondence was received from Dafen Cricket Club requesting permission for it to start consulting with local contractors over the potential drainage works at Dafen Park. This followed a recent site meeting with local members and the council's Technical and Burial Services Manager where the cricket club stated it would look to fund the work in its entirety.

It was proposed that a lateral drainage system be laid affecting two main areas of the park. The drains would be laid 5 metres apart with a secondary drainage system of sand channels laid at right angles to main drain lines. The drains would connect with the existing culvert allowing water to be drained into the river via the other culvert near the car park.

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Dafen Cricket Club had consulted a contractor, and was in the process of applying for grants to fund the project. Permission was sought to start the project in February 2021.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that in principle permission be given to Dafen Cricket Club to undertake the drainage works on the express understanding that a detailed specification and topographical survey is conducted to the council's satisfaction and that proof of grant funding to cover the full extent of the work is submitted to the council before the commencement of any work.

60. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Cllrs. A. G. Morgan and W. V. Thomas declared a personal interest in the following matter, as they were Local Education Authority governors, Bryngwyn School. Cllr. Morgan was also the Vice Chairman of School Governors.

Consideration was given to Bryngwyn School requesting financial assistance, and it was

RESOLVED that a contribution of £100 be made.

61. 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.

62. SWISS VALLEY RESERVOIR

Members received a progress report from the Technical and Burial Services Manager on activities undertaken to date at the reservoir, which also sought approval to depart from the council's normal contractual framework for the execution of the works associated with the Welsh Government Access to Water grant of £120,750 for the water sports enablement at the reservoir. The grant must be claimed in full by 15 March 2021.

The nature and urgency of the work necessitated the immediate engagement of W Griffiths Architects, to provide the technical support required for the work. The architect was local and had provided satisfactory and competitive professional services to the council previously.

Members were informed the council was a participating partner in Carmarthenshire County Council's (CCC) Procurement Framework. The framework provided recognised protocols for partners to engage contractors in emergencies or where time constraints applied.

Following discussion, of the key issues, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The progress report be noted.

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2. The engagement of W. Griffiths Architects on the pre and post contract terms set out in the report be accepted.
3. Officers in consultation with the Leader and Chairman of the Recreation and Welfare Committee, move forward with all preliminary arrangements emanating from the design and planning requirements using delegated powers in order to approve the selection of a contractor from the Carmarthenshire County Council's Procurement Framework using Direct Award provision on this occasion.
4. All key actions and decisions taken under delegated powers shall be reported retrospectively to the council.

**63. LLWYNHENDY HUB PROJECT
HEOL GWILI FIELDS, LLWYNHENDY
(1) LAND CHARGE SEARCH RESULTS
(2) QUOTATIONS FOR GEOTECHNICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL
SURVEYS**

Further to Minute No. 488, (29 July, 2020 refers), members noted the receipt of local land charge searches in respect of the above land parcel. There were no adverse findings and following the consideration of quotations received for the necessary geotechnical and topographical surveys, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The quotations received from Quantum Geotechnic, Plas Newydd, Llanedi, Swansea, SA4 0FQ in the sum of £7985.00 for the geotechnical survey be accepted.
2. The quotation received from Catling's Land Surveys, 47 Heol Las, Ynysmeudwy, Pontardawe, SA8 4PR in the sum of £465.00 plus VAT for the topographical survey be accepted.

64. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 12:2020 be accepted.

**65. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT
REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER**

In accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPD) regulations, the council must appoint an Independent Registered Medical Practitioner (IRMP) in order to certify pension benefits entitlement on the grounds of ill health for active or deferred members. The council's current IRMP had recently retired and so a new appointment was needed.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the council appoint Workforce Wellbeing Limited, Allt-y-Wennol, Peterston-Super-Ely, Cardiff to provide Independent Registered Medical Practitioner services.

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66. WORK BASED LEARNING AND OTHER FUNDED PROGRAMMES

The Training Manager informed members of the arrangements in place for tendering and delivering programmes for the following:

- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships and Jobs Growth Wales
- Adult Employability Programmes
- The Commercial Agreement for the Provision of Employment and Health Related Services
- Working on Wellbeing Wales

The Chairman thanked the Training Department for its excellent work and following discussion of the report including the key milestones for the various contract awards and the department's role in the process, it was

RESOLVED that the report be noted and to await further developments in respect of specific contract awards for the apprenticeship and traineeship programmes.

67. SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Chairman wished members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The Meeting concluded at 4.00 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 27 January, 2021 adopted by the Council.