

**8 June, 2021**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 76 – 87**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 8 June, 2021, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. T. Devichand (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

C. P. Beer	J. P. Hart
S. M. Caiach	S. N. Lewis
M. V. Davies	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	S. K. Nurse
P. M. Edwards	J. S. Phillips
H. J. Evans	A. J. Rogers
W. V. Thomas	

**Absent:** J. S. Randall

**76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue, T. M. Donoghue, T. J. Jones and I. G. Wooldridge.

**77. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**78. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman referred to the sad news of the recent demise of Cllr. Carol A. Rees (local member for the Glyn Ward) and as a mark of respect members and officers stood in silent tribute. The Clerk also informed the meeting that earlier today he had visited Cllr Rees's husband to pay his respects on behalf of the council and then relayed to members the family's wishes in regard to the funeral arrangements and when this would take place. The Clerk also informed the meeting that all the necessary council protocol arrangements had been attended to.

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**79. COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Chief Officer, Ms Donna Coleman and Chair, Mr Mansell Bennett, Hywel Dda Community Health Council to discuss the role of the Community Health Council.

Ms Coleman thanked members for the opportunity to participate in the meeting remotely and proceeded to inform members via the aid of a brief PowerPoint presentation that the Community Health Council (CHC) was the independent NHS consumer council that was established in 1974 to monitor and review the operation of local health services and to recommend improvements. Over the years the CHC had undergone a number of service changes and its area of remit had been re-configured with it now being coterminous with Hywel Dda University Health Board's area. CHC had a legal duty to represent the interests of patients and the public in the NHS. In fulfilling this duty the CHC had four key areas of focus namely: Scrutiny; Advocacy Support; Engagement and Service Change. Ms Coleman then briefly commented on each of these key areas of work prior to inviting her colleague Mr Bennett to address members.

Mr Bennett informed members that the Hywel Dda CHC formed a local link between those who run the NHS in Wales and those who use it. Hywel Dda CHC was the independent voice of people in Wales who used the NHS services. There were seven CHCs covering different parts of Wales. However, the Hywel Dda CHC comprised three constituent county areas, namely Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, and was made up of 36 member representatives (12 in each county). Membership of the CHC was facilitated using a set membership formula. All members, with the exception of co-opted members were appointed by the Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services with one quarter nominated by the constituent local authority, one quarter from the voluntary sector and one half directly selected by the Minister.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr Bennett confirmed the Hywel Dda CHC was now convening more committee meetings to discuss how the coronavirus pandemic had affected the NHS services and the impact on people's health care. Committee meetings were now being held monthly instead of quarterly. Regular meetings had also been arranged with local MPs and SMs. Mr Bennett then referred to further changes on the horizon whereby CHCs would become Citizens' Voice Bodies by April 2023. Part of the change would encapsulate not just scrutinising the work of the health board but also the extent of social care provision provided by principal councils across the health board area. Therefore, it was important that the CHC had access to local community input to help facilitate its current and new role going forward. Mr Bennett stressed that the CHC was currently scrutinising the health board in terms of its plans to catch up with its health care programme because of the impact of the pandemic. A lot of work had been accomplished at a local and national level. Whether people regularly used health services or were infrequent attendees in GP surgeries, the changes that had arisen from the coronavirus pandemic would have had an impact on what was available to them and it was important to get back on track with operations and health screening appointments.

Mr Bennett then referred to the Hywel Dda University Health Board currently conducting a six week engagement exercise to help further shape and deliver future services. Covid-19 had a major impact on its health and care services and as a result the health board wanted to

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know how this had affected people's health and care and their general access to health services.

Particular reference was made to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health board's elderly population. A number of services were being delivered remotely via online appointments. Some elderly people did not have access to a computer tablet or the internet and found it hard to interact virtually with the surgeries remote access appointments. However, the younger generation found it a lot easier and preferred this new way of working to access the GP's surgeries for appointments.

Members responded with a number of comments and questions about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and in reference to the health board's current public consultation exercise they felt this should be facilitated online but also by using more conventional participation methods such as paper based questionnaires. This would facilitate a better more inclusive response from all members of the public. Members also enquired whether any underlying trends had been identified by the CHC when performing its advocacy role and moreover whether the health board's general strategy was likely to change because of the pandemic with it perhaps being influenced to deliver more services locally. Members also opined that it was important for the health board to provide more support to combat youth mental health issues. Young people had been adversely affected by the pandemic and it was important that their emerging health needs were not overlooked.

Mr Bennett and Ms Coleman replied to the points raised and then Mr Bennett briefly touched upon the 2018 public consultation exercise in relation to the health board's longer term strategy to develop and build a new hospital somewhere between St. Clears and Narberth. He also sought member consent to relay members' views and observations expressed during the presentation to the health board Chair and Chief Executive whom he was meeting with tomorrow. Particular reference would be made to youth mental health and what additional support could be provided.

The Chairman thanked the CHC representatives for participating in the meeting following which Ms Coleman and Mr Bennett withdrew from the meeting.

## **80. 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	11 May, 2021
Finance and General Purposes Committee	11 May, 2021
Recreation and Welfare Committee	11 May, 2021
Planning and Liaison Committee	11 May, 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	11 May, 2021
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	11 May, 2021
Community Development Grants Panel	11 May, 2021
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	11 May, 2021
Council	11 May, 2021
Recreation and Welfare Committee	18 May, 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	19 May, 2021

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Finance and General Purposes Committee  
Planning and Liaison Committee

26 May, 2021  
1 June, 2021

**81. MATTERS ARISING  
APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Further to Minute No. 9, Cllr. M. V. Davies wished to point out that school governing body appointments were determined and appointed by the council.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**82. PEMBERTON WARD  
VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR**

Members received correspondence from the Electoral Services Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, informing of the Notice of Vacancy for the Pemberton Ward published on 10 May 2021.

The electorate had subsequently submitted a valid request for the vacancy be filled via an election and the Electoral Services Officer was now making the necessary arrangements for the Notice of Election to be published on 10 June, 2021. If the election was contested it would be held on 15 July, 2021 and the council needed to confirm whether poll cards should be issued to the electorate. The estimated cost of supplying poll cards was £2,300 and this sum would be re-charged to the council along with other related election costs.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Electoral Services Officer be notified that the council agrees to poll cards being issued in the event of a contested election on 15 July, 2021.

**83. MATTERS REPORTED**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**84. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

**RESOLVED** that the letters of appreciation for the council's assistance received from the following organisations be noted:

- (1) Alzheimer's Society Cymru
- (2) Carmarthenshire County Council
- (3) Cerebral Palsy Cymru
- (4) Wales Air Ambulance Charity (x2)

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**85. 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.

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

Further to Minute No. 35(4), email correspondence was received from Burges Salmon Solicitors informing that its client company Voltalia, was keen to work with the local communities throughout the course of the development and operations of the solar farm. The company was committed to ensuring that the three local communities could use the community funds earmarked in the Unilateral Undertaking Agreement (UUA) for the benefit of the respective council areas. This is why Voltalia had produced the UUA and would be providing the sums noted in it over the course of ten years.

The writer responded to the issues raised by the council in its previous joint email reply to the firm of solicitors by briefly stating the highlighted points were covered during the public hearings and the Planning Inspectorate considered these issues as part of the examination of the Development of National Significance (DNS) application. It was appreciated that the council was not content with the community benefit sum being provided, however, due to costings and viability of the project this amount was considered to be the maximum sum which could be provided in order to successfully deliver the project.

Following discussion, members thanked the Clerk for his work in this matter but expressed disappointment with the entire DNS process and particularly the unhelpful and intransigent stance adopted by the Planning Inspectorate and the developers. The process lacked local accountability and left a lot to be desired in determining a fair and equitable outcome for the communities affected by the development. This was far from satisfactory, and it was

**RESOLVED** that the email communication be noted and to await further developments in contemplating the value of whether to enter into any further communication between the three councils either jointly or severally with Burges Salmon Solicitors along with the prospect of involving other local third party representatives and stakeholders.

**87. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021/22  
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

The Administrative Supervisor presented members with a report on the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2021/22. Information on virements undertaken during the financial year 2020/21 was received and accepted.

The budget had been calculated with the contract values awarded by Skills Academy Wales on behalf of Welsh Government for 1 April, 2021 to 31 March, 2022.

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The anticipated income for 2021/22 was £1,763,210 with the anticipated expenditure of £1,702.679.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2021/22 be accepted.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.05 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 13 July, 2021 adopted by the Council.