

20 July, 2021

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 126 – 136

At a Meeting of the **RECREATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 20 July, 2021 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. W. V. Thomas (Chairman)

Cllrs.

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|----------------|--------------|
| M. V. Davies | S. N. Lewis |
| T. Devichand | A. G. Morgan |
| S. M. Donoghue | S. K. Nurse |
| T. J. Jones | A. J. Rogers |

Absent: P. M. Edwards

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. M. Donoghue (Cllr. S. M. Donoghue deputising), J. P. Hart and I. G. Wooldridge.

127. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| <i>Minute No.</i> | <i>Councillor</i> | <i>Interest</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 130 | T. Devichand | Personal interest – neighbouring landowner. |
| 135 (1) & (2) | W. V. Thomas | Personal interest – attendee at Felinfoel Executive Committee meetings and also attended Felinfoel Resource Centre meetings in his capacity as a local ward councillor. |

128. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

RESOLVED that the report of the Technical and General Operations Manager on work undertaken be noted.

Arising out of discussion of the above, and as a consequence of Cllr. S. M. Donoghue raising a health safety issue associated with the gas cookers in Trallwm Hall, reference was made to maintenance and service issues with kitchen appliances in other council halls and whether they needed to be modified or possibly replaced by the council. The discussion widened to consider the general appropriateness of gas appliances and whether they had any detrimental impact on the council's carbon footprint and it was

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FURTHER RESOLVED that the council's Climate Change Steering Group be charged with undertaking a review of the range of appliances fitted in the council's property portfolio and whether these appliances should be replaced, with the findings being reported to a future committee meeting.

129. HANGING BASKETS – COMPLAINTS

Members considered email correspondence from Cllr I. G. Wooldridge informing he had received complaints from residents living in the Dylan and Amanwy housing estates regarding the lack of hanging baskets in the area. In support of the communication Cllr. S. M. Donoghue informed members that the Bynea ward members had also received similar complaints from residents living in other areas of Bynea and also the Penygraig area.

Currently, Bynea District Forum furnished hanging baskets at Bynea Square but was unable to provide hanging baskets to other locations in Bynea and Penygraig.

Cllr. Donoghue stated that there were plans to apply for grant funding to possibly remedy the issue. Cllr. Donoghue was gathering information to submit to the Penygraig Residents Association and/or Trallwm Hall Management Committee for their consideration to support the costs associated with the supply of hanging baskets for Pantbryn Isaf, Dylan, Amanwy and Penygraig.

During the general discussion, members felt that there should be one local company to supply hanging baskets to local groups and organisations in the council's administrative area as this would help drive down costs.

RESOLVED that the email correspondence and the intentions of the Bynea local ward members to apply for grants be noted.

130. CYNHEIDRE MEMORIAL

Cllr. T. Devichand declared a personal interest in the following matter, because she owned neighbouring land near the former Cynheidre Colliery site.

Members considered email correspondence received from Ms L Jones seeking permission to erect a commemorative memorial on land perceived to be in the ownership of the council and which was located near the former Cynheidre Colliery site entrance. Tragically a group of miners had died in an explosion at the colliery many years ago and Ms. Jones wanted to commemorate their lives by erecting a memorial in their memory.

The Technical and General Operations Manager informed members he had corresponded with Ms Jones to inform her the council did not own any land near the former colliery entrance. Moreover, the council only had an interest in a nearby parcel of land occupied by the children's play area which the council maintained under a lease held with Carmarthenshire County Council. Members were also informed the council had no direct power to erect the type of memorial requested by Ms Jones; indeed its powers were constrained to maintaining war memorials. The council effectively had no remit to help service the request.

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During the discussion, members suggested that perhaps Carmarthenshire County Council might be able to help. Cllr T.J.Jones concurred and positively indicated that he would be happy to take up the issue on behalf of Ms Jones in his capacity as the local county councillor for the area and it was

RESOLVED that the request be forwarded to Carmarthenshire County Council for its consideration via the assistance of local county councillor T. J. Jones and that Ms Jones be informed accordingly.

131. PWLL RECREATION GROUND

Further to Minute No 284 (19 November, 2019 refers), members received correspondence from Llanelli U3A Committee seeking permission to have a permanent fenced off site at Pwll Recreation Ground that could be used for playing boules.

The Technical and General Operations Manager provided an assessment of the proposal and for several reasons associated with general policy, maintenance, sustainability and affordability, opined that creating a bespoke fenced off area could not be justified. Members concurred and it was

RESOLVED that the request for a bespoke facility be refused but this decision did not prevent the organisation from continuing to play boules at the recreation ground should it so wish but provided the activity did not interfere with other regulated sports activities.

**132. NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

The Community Development Officer reported that a council letter of support had been issued to Carmarthenshire County Council in support of its Active Travel funding bid to facilitate repairs and improvements to a section of the Millennium Coastal Park path in the Bynea ward.

Due to time constraints, the matter had been dealt with under delegated powers having consulted with the Council Leader and the Bynea local ward members.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

133. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following items 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.

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**134. GWENDRAETH HERITAGE TRAIL
INFORMATION BOARDS**

Further to Minute No. 93, email correspondence was received from the Clerk, Llangydeyrn Community Council which provided additional information for members' consideration. While not identifying the precise location of the heritage trail boards, the email confirmed that four out of the ten boards were situated in the council's administrative area.

During the discussion, members remarked that the general proposal to refurbish the boards was laudable but felt the cost estimate was very expensive. The council's contribution could be in the region of £10,000 and no money was available in the current budget. Members remarked that it might be preferable for Llangydeyrn Community Council to try and source a grant to cover the total refurbishment cost as it was very likely the original heritage project would have been grant aided in any event, and it was

RESOLVED that Llangydeyrn Community Council's request for financial support be respectfully declined but it be suggested to the council to explore sources of grant support and in particular the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**135. FELINFOEL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE
(1) COVID-19 GRANT**

Cllr. W. V. Thomas declared a personal interest in the following matter as he attended Felinfoel Executive Committee meetings and Felinfoel Resource Centre meetings in his capacity as a local ward councillor.

Members received a report from the Community Development Officer on the amount of Covid-19 grant support applied for on behalf of Felinfoel Executive Committee Limited to support the sustainability of the Felinfoel Community Resource Centre during the closure of the building to members of the public during the coronavirus pandemic. The report provided a general financial appraisal of resource centre balances and summary information on spending activities transacted by the executive committee. On the face of the information provided it was unclear what the resource centre's bank balance amounted to and how the Covid-19 grant relief had been ring-fenced to support the running of the building going forward and as society generally started to emerge from the lockdown restrictions. Given the executive committee managed the resource centre in partnership with the council and was responsible for its financial affairs on a day to day basis, clarification on the financial health of the resource centre needed to be established, and it was

RESOLVED that the council's Recreation and Welfare Sub – Committee seek to arrange a meeting with representatives of Felinfoel Executive Committee Limited to discuss the financial affairs of the resource centre and the ring-fencing of Covid-19 grants.

FURTHER RESOLVED that all other council community hall management committees be requested to furnish the council with details of how Covid-19 grants may have been used to support hall related expenditure and the general running of the buildings.

During discussion of the above, Cllr. T. J. Jones left the meeting

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(2) FIRE PROTECTION MEASURES

Further to Minute No. 331 (17 December, 2019), members considered the report of the Technical and General Operations Manager on proposals to alter the front entrance of the building to provide a new emergency exit. The work was needed to resolve a health and safety issue in providing an adequate and safe means of escape during periods of occupation of the building over the weekends when the downstairs changing room areas were fully utilised.

Alterations to the façade entailed replacing one of the front entrance glass panels with a standard size emergency exit door. The front door security shutter system also needed to be modified. Once complete the building’s emergency escape arrangements would fully comply with extant fire safety legislation. Members were informed a budget was in place to meet the cost of the works.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and that competitive quotations be sought for the work.

136. SWISS VALLEY RESERVOIR

Further to Minute No. 148(2) 21 April, 2021, members considered a quotation received from the Managing Director, Atlantic Crest for the creation of a Water Safety Management Plan. The creation of the plan was a specialist area of work requiring expertise in water safety management practices.

The proposal included:

- Risk Assessment and Drowning Prevention Strategy
- Water Safety Policy
- Support in setting up Open Water Swimming
- Support in setting up Stand Up Paddle Boarding
- Train up to 12 persons in the Aquatic Safety Qualification ASQ (accredited by the Institute for Outdoor Learning)
- Train staff in the Aquatic Management Qualification and toolbox talk

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the quotation received from Atlantic Crest, 28 Canon Street, Barry, CF62 7RH for the creation of a Water Safety Management Plan in the sum of £2,720 (comprising the following elements: Risk assessment, Drowning Prevention Strategy and Water Safety Policy £1,500; Aquatic Safety Qualification for 12 persons £720 and Aquatic Management Qualification and toolbox talk £500) be accepted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.55 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 14 September, 2021 adopted by the Council.