

**15 September, 2021**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 190 – 198**

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 15 September, 2021, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. S. L. Davies (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

**Cllrs.**

T. Devichand	H. J. Evans
P. M. Edwards	J. P. Hart
A. Evans	A. G. Morgan
J. S. Phillips	

**190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C. P. Beer, S. M. Donoghue and I. G. Wooldridge.

**191. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**192. DRAFT LOCAL ELECTIONS (PRINCIPAL AREAS) (WALES) RULES 2021 AND DRAFT LOCAL ELECTIONS (COMMUNITIES) (WALES) RULES 2021**

Members received a consultation document and an accompanying questionnaire from the Welsh Government on the draft Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021 and draft Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021.

Both sets of rules were being remade in preparation for the local elections in Wales in 2022. It was intended that the rules would be updated as a consequence of the changes made to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and to give effect to policies set out in the 2017 consultation on Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales.

Proposals included:

- New and amended processes around the translation and accessibility of documents;
- Changes to accommodate the extension of the franchise for local elections to 16/17 year olds and qualifying foreign citizens;

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- A new right for a candidate at a principal council election only to submit an electronic personal statement. This did not apply to community and town councils;
- Changes that allow candidates the option of not publishing their home address;
- Changes to the consent to nomination whereby a candidate could self-nominate; and
- Changes which require candidates to declare any political party affiliations.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk responds to the consultation document by completing the accompanying questionnaire, highlighting members' views and observations but opining that members generally understood and supported the proposals except they did not agree with candidates at elections being able to self-nominate.

**193.           SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION PROPOSAL TO 20MPH ON RESTRICTED ROADS**

A consultation document and questionnaire was received from the Welsh Government on the speed limit reduction proposal to 20 mph on restricted roads.

The 20 mph Taskforce Group published a report in October 2020, which made 21 recommendations for the rollout of the 20 mph default national speed limit on restricted roads. All were accepted by the Welsh Government.

Following discussion, members generally supported the proposal in the interests of road safety and suggested that the questionnaire be completed by individual members given the personal nature of the questions posed in it, and it was

**RESOLVED** that members respond to the questionnaire on an individual basis.

**194.           WELSH GOVERNMENT BRIEFING FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS – MULTI LOCATION MEETINGS AND MEETING NOTICES**

Members received correspondence from The Local Government and Partnership Division, Welsh Government enclosing briefing notes to support the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act), specifically relating to multi-location meetings.

Section 47 of the Act provided for multi-location attendance at community and town council meetings. The requirement was that a community council must make and publish arrangements for convening meetings, which allowed but did not require participants to be in multiple locations.

Under the arrangements, meetings would have to be capable of being held virtually. If the arrangements were revised or replaced the new arrangements must also be published. The Act did not require meetings to be held in a particular way. Whether they were held virtually or entirely face to face was a matter for the council.

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Following discussion, the Clerk informed members that the council was adhering to the relevant provisions set out under the Act, and it was

**RESOLVED** that the briefing note be noted.

**195. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES  
REVIEW OF THE REMUNERATION FRAMEWORK FOR  
COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Further to Minute No. 157 (21 April, 2021, refers), members received a consultation document from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in regard to changes proposed to the current remuneration framework.

The Panel commenced a review in January and gave a commitment to work closely with the sector to explore all the issues and concerns that were contained in the existing framework. The Panel had engaged and consulted over the course of six months which included meetings with One Voice Wales, representatives of The Society of Local Council Clerks and community and town councils. The Panel had considered all the views and comments that were expressed and had reached its initial conclusions.

The consultation set out the proposed revisions to the remuneration framework for community and town councillors and the specific amounts in respect of each element would be determined in the Panel's next annual report.

The Clerk reported that the Panel had set a short deadline for responding to the set of consultation proposals during August when the council was in recess. Therefore and following consultation with the council chairman and committee chairman, it was agreed to support an respond to the proposals under the clerk's scheme of delegated powers and moreover because both members had represented the council at one of the Panel's consultation events and were happy with what was being proposed as a consequence.

The clerk then summarised the consultation proposals and members welcomed the news about the Panel's intention to re-introduce into the framework an attendance allowance as an optional payment. The issue of being able to pay an attendance allowance was something the council had been lobbying the Panel about consistently over time and ever since it was withdrawn several years ago. Following discussion, during which members thanked the clerk for his positive and influential input into the consultation process, it was

**RESOLVED** that the clerk's response to the consultation proposals, under the scheme of delegated powers be retrospectively endorsed and noted.

**196. WOMAN AGAINST STATE PENSION INJUSTICE  
WASPI – LLANELLI**

A letter was received from the co-ordinator, WASPI, Llanelli informing that on 20 July, 2021, the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman announced it had upheld the maladministration complaint submitted by thousands of 1950s born (WASPI) woman that the Department for Work and Pension failed to communicate changes to the state pension age in a timely manner.

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The co-ordinator thanked members for their previous support in the matter, and it was

**RESOLVED** that the letter be noted.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the council contact Nia Griffith MP to ask her to lend her support to the campaign over the remaining stages of the campaign as the matter progresses through Westminster Parliament when the effects of the maladministration and the impact on women will be considered.

**197. 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.

**198. PURCHASE OF VAN**

Members were presented with a report from the Facilities Manager informing of the purchase of a van.

The council had agreed a budget of £24,000 to purchase a van which was capable of towing a trailer carrying the full range of machinery used by the DLO.

Since setting the budget the list prices of suitable vehicles had increased significantly in price. As at 21 September, 2021 they ranged between £30,620 and £32,469, depending on the make of vehicle.

Members were informed that as a consequence officers searched for ex demonstrators or cancelled orders to source a vehicle within the budget available. These vehicles could present a considerable saving on list prices and were generally available for quick delivery.

Several suitable vehicles were identified at various dealers around the UK, however they were selling quickly and it became apparent that to secure a vehicle the council needed to act swiftly using the scheme of delegated powers. This meant it was not possible to follow the normal procurement process by reporting to committee in order for members to select which vehicle to purchase

However, three vehicles were identified in local dealers and were available for immediate purchase.

- 2021 Nissan NV400High roof Acenta £20,895  
New vehicle Solutions Bridgend
- 2021 Citroen Relay BlueHDi 140 £20,220  
New Vehicle Solution Bridgend
- 2021 Vauxhall Movano BiTurbo CDTi £23,995  
Cawdor Vauxhall Llanelli

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All three vehicles were quoted with a five-year/100,000mile manufacturer's warranty (supported at local dealership), delivery to Llanelli Rural Council depot, road tax and first registration fee.

The vehicle would also require aftermarket items:

- Safety beacon                      £150
- Vehicle signwriting                £500
- Tow bar                                £550

The vehicle identified to be the best option was the Citroen Relay. At a cost of £20,220 it offered the biggest saving from list price and had several additional safety features as standard.

The Leader/ Chairman of the Council, as well as the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee had both been consulted and provided their agreement to purchase the vehicle without delay, therefore ensuring a suitable vehicle was available for November 2021 at a significant saving.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the purchase of the Citroen Relay BlueHDi 140 vehicle at a cost of £20,220 plus VAT from New Vehicle Solutions, Tremains Road, Bridgend, CF31 1TZ be retrospectively endorsed.

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The meeting concluded at 5.10 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 12 October, 2021, adopted by the Council.