

19 January, 2022

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 368 – 375

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, 19 January, 2022, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. M. Donoghue (Chairman)

Cllrs.

C. P. Beer	H. J. Evans
S. L. Davies	J. P. Hart
P. M. Edwards	A. G. Morgan
A. Evans	J. S. Phillips

368. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand and I. G. Wooldridge.

369. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
371	H. J. Evans	Personal interest – Vice Chairman of Governors, Ysgol Y Felin.
372	A. G. Morgan	Personal interest – Chairman of Governors, Swiss Valley Primary School.

**370. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021
DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN
COUNCILS**

Members considered a consultation document about the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act) draft statutory guidance for community and town councils, from the Local Government and Partnerships Division, Welsh Government.

The Act was passed on 20 January, 2021 and provided for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. The legislation affected the community and town council sector and the key changes were explained in the draft statutory guidance.

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Councils would need to have due regard to the guidance when carrying out their activities. The guidance was set out as follows:

- Eligibility to use the General Power of Competence (GPOC)
- Multi-location meetings
- Public participation in meetings
- Annual Reports
- Training Plans
- Other provisions impacting community and town councils

During the discussion of GPOC, comment was made that the draft guidance would be more useful and beneficial if more practical examples and case studies could populate the guidance document illustrating how the power could be utilised by the local council sector. This was likely to encourage more councils to start using the power.

Members were then informed that it was a duty to arrange multi-location (remote) meetings for conducting business even if the general preference was to return to physical face to face meetings in the future. The council had been arranging multi-location meetings for some time so fully complied with the draft guidance. However, a new duty when organising full council meetings from May 2022, was to allow public participation for those parts of the full council meeting which were open to the public. The person presiding over the meeting must give members of the public in attendance a reasonable opportunity to make representations about any business to be discussed at the meeting, unless doing so was likely to prejudice the effective conduct of the meeting. This did not mean that members of the public could take part in debate, but they must be given a reasonable opportunity to make representations about the business to be transacted. One option for managing this was to invite members of the public in attendance to contribute views on business items where relevant, and to apply a reasonable time limit. For instance this could be managed at the beginning of the meeting.

In addition to these duties, additional new duties were also placed on community and town councils. There was a new duty to produce and publish an annual report to provide greater transparency and understanding about the council's work for its local communities. The publication of this annual report must be done as soon as possible after 31 March, 2022. Members were informed the council already published an annual report in support of demonstrating how it was contributing to the Public Services Board's (PSB) well-being objectives. From now on it was permissible to produce one composite report to encapsulate not only this new duty with the PSB report, but it was also permissible to include the council's plans for promoting and enhancing local biodiversity too. This was instead of preparing a separate biodiversity report on a triennial basis. The next biodiversity report must be prepared and published by no later than December 2022. Moreover, there was a further duty to make and publish a training plan for all members and staff, the intention being this would support efforts to strengthen the capability of the sector. The council must prepare and publish its first training plan by November 2022.

Having considered the draft statutory guidance, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the consultation document highlighting members' views and observations in general support of the draft guidance.

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371. YSGOL Y FELIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cllr. H. J. Evans declared a personal interest in the following item, as he was the Vice Chairman of Governors at Ysgol Y Felin Primary School.

Further to Minute No. 129 (24 March, 2021), members received a statutory notice from the Director of Education & Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of the proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Y Felin Primary School.

From 1 September, 2022, onwards it was proposed to change the Foundation Phase provision at the school from dual stream to Welsh medium education. This would only affect pupils starting in the Foundation Phase at the school. Current pupils attending the school would be unaffected.

As the proposal to change the nature of provision at the school had been previously supported by the council it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

372. SWISS VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cllr. A. G. Morgan declared a personal interest in the following item, as he was the Chairman of Governors at Swiss Valley Primary School.

Further to Minute No. 130, (24 March, 2021), members received a statutory notice from the Director of Education & Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of the proposal to change the nature of provision at Swiss Valley Primary School.

From 1 September 2022 onwards it was proposed to change the age range from a 4 to 11 school to a 3 to 11 school and to provide 30 nursery places.

As the proposal to change the nature of provision at the school had been previously supported by the council it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

373. 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.

**374. OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE
LLANELLI RESPONSE**

Further to Minute No. 290, members considered the report of the Community Development Officer informing members of the recent discussions between officers at Llanelli Town Council and Rural Council.

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Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be accepted.
2. The reading of a proclamation be undertaken in unison with Llanelli Town Council at Llanelli Town Hall.
3. The civic parties of both councils attend and observe two minutes silence on the day of the funeral, within the grounds of Llanelli Town Hall.

375. COUNCIL VEHICLE

Members considered the report of the Technical and General Operations Manager informing of proposals to replace the Chairman's vehicle. The report examined outright purchase and lease options for the supply of a vehicle.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that a lease option for a period of 36 months at an indicative cost of £8,366.46 be included in the council's draft estimates of income and expenditure for 2022/23.

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The meeting concluded at 5.35 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 8 February, 2022, adopted by the Council.