

**14 December, 2022.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 265 – 268**

At a Special Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 14 December, 2022 at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. R. E. Evans (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

S. R. Bowen	S. N. Lewis
D. M. Cundy	A. G. Morgan
S. L. Davies	J. S. Phillips
A. Evans	A. J. Rogers
S. M. T. Ford	B. M. Williams

**265. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. N. Evans (Cllr. A. J. Rogers deputising) and J. P. Hart.

**266. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**267. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 216, members considered the report of the Community Development Officer on the general parameters of the community development fund grants policy.

At a meeting of the Community Development Grants Panel held on 27 October, 2022, members requested that the general parameters of the grants policy be reviewed in readiness for the 2023/24 financial year.

Members were informed that the fund criteria was last reviewed in 2017. A working group of the Community Development Panel met with past grant recipients and external grant providers to learn about their experiences in order to refine the council's approach. The process resulted in some alterations to the grant application pack and led to the introduction of a scoring matrix to assess applications objectively.

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To facilitate the review, the following summarised comments and suggestions made at the Community Development Grants Panel in October 2022, were re-presented for further consideration:

- (1) Christmas Trees and Hanging Baskets took up most of the budget.
- (2) One application only per organisation or cap the maximum amount an organisation could receive in one round / year.
- (3) Review the budget for the Community Development Fund.
- (4) The fund used to have two application rounds per year.
- (5) The cost of Christmas tree provision had gone up in price by £552 in the last 12 months to £1,794.
- (6) Grants go to the same organisations and projects each year with little variety of projects receiving grant awards.
- (7) Christmas trees and hanging baskets could be funded in different ways and / or separately by the Council with it working with the suppliers direct to negotiate a better deal.
- (8) Was it fair that some wards fared better than others from the grant process?

*During the discussion, the Committee Chairman, Cllr. R. E. Evans, left the meeting to attend another engagement and shortly afterwards so did Cllr. A. J. Rogers. The Vice Chairman of Committee, Cllr. B. M. Williams chaired the remainder of the meeting.*

Ultimately, after a full discussion of the points summarised in the report, it was

**RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Sub-Committee to develop proposals for further consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee. Membership of the sub-committee shall comprise the Chairman of Committee, Vice Chairman of Committee, Chairman of Council, Leader of Council, D. M. Cundy, S. M. T. Ford and J. S. Phillips.

**268. SEASONAL GREETINGS**

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

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The meeting concluded at 5.27 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 10 January, 2023 adopted by the Council.