

15 March, 2023

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 395 – 402

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 March, 2023, at 4.45 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs.

S. R. Bowen	J. P. Hart
D. M. Cundy	S. N. Lewis
S. L. Davies	A. G. Morgan
T. M. Donoghue	J. S. Phillips
A. Evans	A. J. Rogers
W. E. Skinner	

Absent:

S. M. T. Ford

395. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO - TEMPORE

RESOLVED that Cllr. A. G. Morgan be appointed Chairman Pro - Tempore.

396. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. N. Evans (Cllr. T. M. Donoghue deputising), R. E. Evans (Cllr. A. J. Rogers deputising) and B. M. Williams (Cllr. W. E. Skinner deputising).

397. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**398. CARMARTHENSHIRE SCRUTINY FORUM
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Members considered correspondence from the Scrutiny Support Team, Carmarthenshire County Council promoting the work of the scrutiny committees within Carmarthenshire and which sought greater participation from town and community councils by councils taking up the offer of attending future meetings as observers.

Carmarthenshire County Council had five scrutiny committees with responsibility for Policy and Resources; Communities; Education and Children; Environmental and Public Protection; and Social Care and Health.

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Each scrutiny committee would shortly be looking at developing a forward work programme for 2022/23 and the scrutiny forum welcomed any suggestions for topics to discuss.

RESOLVED that the information be noted for future reference.

**399. COMMUNITY REVIEW FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
IN THE COUNTY OF CARMARTHENSHIRE**

Members received correspondence from the Electoral Services and Civil Registration Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) informing that Carmarthenshire town and community councils were to be subjected to a general community review in accordance with Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act).

Further correspondence would be forward to the council inviting it to put forward any recommendations that the council may wish to submit to CCC to consider.

Stage one of the public consultation would commence on Monday, 13 March 2023, and would end on Monday, 24 April, 2023.

Under Section 31 of the Act, CCC could only consider the following:

- The number of members of the council for the community;
- Its division into wards (if appropriate) for the purposes of the election of councillors;
- The number and boundaries of any wards; and
- The name of any ward.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED to note the correspondence and to await further correspondence from the Electoral Services and Civil Registration Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**400. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

Further to Minute No. 198, members were circulated with the Annual Report 2023/24 received from the Chairman, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) stating the Panel's Annual Report final recommendations dated February 2023 in regard to the councillors' remuneration framework should be implemented in the financial year 2023/24.

Members were informed that the council was categorised as a group 1 council under the IRPW's revised categorisation arrangements for the local council sector because its electorate was in excess of 14,000 electors.

Members' attention was then drawn to the report section confirming the contribution to costs and expenses of members of community and town councils: Determination 4 and also the accompanying general level of payments set out under table 2 of the report.

The IRPW confirmed in regard to Determination 4 that all councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3.00 per week) towards the extra household expenses (including

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heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home. Moreover, and in regard to reimbursement for consumables, the IRPW confirmed that councils must either pay their members £52.00 each a year for the cost of office consumables required to perform their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables. Members were informed that the council was minded to pay the set £52.00 standard rate, having previously discussed this provision when considering the draft report recommendations and following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the range of determinations set out in the report table 2 for group 1 category councils be noted but specifically in regard to Determination 4 it also be noted that all councils must pay their members £156 per year to meet the costs of home working and that it be confirmed that the council will pay £52.00 per member towards the reimbursement of consumables.

401. 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.

402. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Technical and General Operations Manager informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 03:2023 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.10 p.m.

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The fore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 12 April, 2023, adopted by the Council.