

16 May, 2023

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 26 – 34

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, 16 May, 2023 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. M. Cundy (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. M. Donoghue	A. G. Morgan
E. M. Evans	J. S. Phillips
R. E. Evans	A. J. Rogers
J. P. Hart	A. G. Stephens
S. N. Lewis	B. M. Williams
O. Williams	

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

27. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
30	J. P. Hart	Personal interest - member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and member of the steering group, Llwynhendy Hub.
30	A. G. Stephens	Personal interest – Chairman Pro-vision Llwynhendy.
34(1)	O. Williams	Personal interest – Chairman, Five Roads Community Hall Management Committee.

28. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that a sub-committee, comprising the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committee, Chairman of Council, Leader of Council. Cllrs. R. E. Evans, A. G. Morgan and local ward members be appointed.

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29. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

RESOLVED that the Facilities Manager’s report on work undertaken be noted.

**30. LLWYNHENDY HUB PROJECT
RECREATION & WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllr. J. P. Hart declared a personal interest in the following item as he was a member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and a member of the steering group, Llwynhendy Hub. Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest as he was the Chairman, Pro-vision, Llwynhendy.

Further to Minute No. 369 (21 February, 2023 refers), members received the following minutes of the Recreation and Welfare Sub-Committee held on 4 May, 2023:

“At a meeting of the RECREATION AND WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE of Llanelli Rural Council, at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli on Tuesday, 4 May, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. M. Cundy (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies A. G. Morgan
J. P. Hart S. K. Nurse
S. N. Lewis A. J. Rogers
A. G. Stephens

Together with representatives from the council’s project architects Mr Chris Griffiths and Mr John Thompson along with Ms Sian Evans and Mr Thomas Jones, Our Llwynhendy.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

14. MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
16.	S. L. Davies	Personal interest – member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and member of the steering group, Llwynhendy Hub.
16.	J. P. Hart	Personal interest - member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and member of the steering group, Llwynhendy Hub.

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| 16. | S. K. Nurse | Personal interest – member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and member of the steering group, Llwynhendy Hub. |
| 16. | A. G. Stephens | Personal interest – Chairman Pro-vision Llwynhendy. |

15. 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.

16. LLWYNHENDY HUB PROJECT

Cllrs. S. L. Davies, J. P. Hart and S. K. Nurse declared a personal interest in the following item as they were members of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and members of the steering group, Llwynhendy Hub. Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest as he was the Chairman, Pro-vision, Llwynhendy.

The Chairman welcomed the council's project architects and representatives from Our Llwynhendy to the meeting and thereupon invited the architect to guide members through the illustrated plan circulated with the agenda.

Mr Griffiths, thanked the chairman for the opportunity to meet with members and proceeded to give a project update based on the revised parameters associated with the scheme.

Mr Griffiths, was keen to emphasise that there were many ways of delivering the project and this could be accomplished incrementally if warranted as planning permission was in place for a five year period premised on the original plan concept. Essentially once work has started the project could be revisited at future points to add to the initial phase of development, where deemed appropriate. Moreover, while the project had been scaled back to realise cost savings it still remained true to the original brief but he was keen to discuss how best to deliver the project with positive results for the community.

During the lengthy debate that followed, the local members advocated the need for youth provision within the building and on the face of the plan illustration this wasn't apparent going off the plan annotations. This was a key component when considering revisions as youth provision was identified in previous community consultations, especially the consultation report prepared by the company Dynamix. Local members asserted that the scale of the illustrated plans circulated with the agenda made it difficult to picture how other key components such as a general hall for the youth could be accommodated and similarly they queried the location of the play facilities annotated on the plan and the potential for them to limit future development phases given their close proximity to the building. The architect responded to the points raised providing an assurance the plan was flexible and that the placement of facilities as highlighted on the plan illustration would not compromise future phases. He referred to a general plan overlay which had been used as the template for generating the plan illustration and then responded to a question regarding the cost associated with the current illustration. It was difficult to quantify a true cost at this stage and an accurate

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cost could only be garnered following the outcome of the contract tender exercise. However, he had some general calculations prepared by his Quantity Surveyor to serve as a guide which he could share with the sub-committee when it next meets along with the template overlay and larger scaled drawings of the floor plans and elevations. Members concurred that to better picture the plan illustration and how the different components could slot together that it was desirable to convene a site meeting at the library building, before then returning to the council chamber, to host the next sub-committee meeting using the council's IT facilities to accommodate remote attendance by meeting participants. The Chairman thanked the architect for his update presentation which served as a good starting point and emphasised the plan illustration would provide a useful blueprint for agreeing a collective way forward and it was

RESOLVED that the set of actions and additional supporting information set out above be approved and enacted as soon as possible to facilitate preparations for the next sub-committee meeting.

17. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Community Development Officer informed members of the grant application submitted on behalf of the council to the Shared Prosperity Fund, Carmarthenshire County Council in support of the Llwynhendy Hub project and gave a general overview of how the grant could be used for developing the external recreational facilities and landscaping of the surrounding field.

If the council was successful in securing the grant, the money would be used along with match funding from Our Llwynhendy to construct a play area, outdoor gym area and the general landscaping and enhancement of the outdoor green space including the promotion of biodiversity through the planting of pathway hedgerows and trees.

There then followed a general discussion about the Shared Prosperity Fund parameters and how best to plan and complete the external works to comply with the strict 18 month timeline for completing projects supported under the fund. It was noted during the discussion that the fund was heavily oversubscribed but other potential funding routes such as Section 106 contributions could be possibly leveraged to aid external works and this was currently being pursued by the local county councillors.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

18. LANDFILL DISPOSALS TAX COMMUNITIES SCHEME

The Community Development Officer requested approval to submit a grant application to Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme for the greenspace area, Llwynhendy Hub project.

The collection of landfill tax was devolved to Wales and £1.5 million per annum had been allocated to the scheme and used to fund initiatives within the communities affected by their proximity to a landfill site or waste transfer station.

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The scheme would support local communities and environmental projects in areas affected by the disposal of waste to landfill.

If successful, the grant could improve the open space area at the Llwynhendy Hub project and or additionally could be also put towards the refurbishment of the library building.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that a grant application be submitted to Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme for the Llwynhendy Hub Project, when the next bidding round opened in July 2023.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.05 p.m.

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RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and accepted.

Arising out of discussion of the above, the Committee Chairman in his role as chairman of the sub-committee for the Llwynhendy Hub project, commented “he was exercising his prerogative to re-iterate the council’s stated position and future direction of the project following recent media activity.”

“He was very disappointed to be informed that a few fellow councillors who have been and still were deeply involved in the Llwynhendy project, stated publicly that they were being unfairly denied funding for this project.”

“He understood that there were concerns that the grandiose plans of the past cannot be delivered due to the failure of the lottery bid for funding and the financial machinations of a Westminster Government, but these concerns had to be addressed between members internally, not inaccurately aired in public.”

“The council had agreed democratically in this time of increased austerity to make the most of spreading its limited resources fairly across all wards, not investing all its funds in one area alone.”

“We (the council) shall ensure however, that this project delivers the requirements of the area based on the consultations that have already taken place and through this committee shall continue to do so regardless of any misgivings because we are determined to make this a success to satisfy the needs of the local residents.”

“At the end of this project, should all funding be acquired through the involvement of Our Llwynhendy and the hard work of the Rural Council officers, more than three quarters of a million pounds will be spent to turn an eyesore into a state of the art beneficial community HWB for all with an integrated play park designed to expand to provide further facilities as more funding becomes available in the future.”

He went on to state that “to achieve this, we need to work together, cross party, which he expected everyone to do from now on, otherwise we risk placing this project in jeopardy”.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman’s remarks be noted.

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**31. PENYGRAIG PLAY AREA
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Members received the report of the Community Development Officer informing of the community consultation carried out recently with residents of Penygraig.

On 30 January, 2023, survey forms were hand delivered to households situated in the Penygraig area as well as information on how to complete the online consultation that was promoted on the council's social media channels.

There were two parcels of land to choose from for asset transfer to the council. Option A was an area of land formerly used as a children's play area and was situated at the rear of Gwelfor and Parc Richard. This had recently been suggested as an alternative option to the previously considered parcel of land on Parc Richard. Option B was a parcel of land fenced off next to a bus stop on Parc Richard.

The consultation yielded a positive response with 80 surveys returned. 90% of the surveys returned supported the provision of a play area and 75% of the respondents preferred option A over option B.

The council had submitted a borrowing approval application to Welsh Government for a loan to be taken out with the Public Works Loan Board for a variety of community based capital projects and £41,000 had been earmarked for the Penygraig play area. The council had previously confirmed a capital works budget commitment of £34,000 towards a new play area for Penygraig which was held in an earmarked reserve. It was also intended to apply for Section 106 funding to raise the funding pot to £100,000 to deliver a suitable scheme to cover multiple age groups.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that option A be confirmed as the preferred land parcel to asset transfer for the Penygraig play area, namely the land parcel at Gwelfor and Parc Richard and that officers instruct the council's legal representatives to pursue the engrossment of the draft lease received from the Legal Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, to facilitate the transfer.

**32. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND
LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE SCHEME – GRANT AWARD**

The Community Development Officer was delighted to announce to members that the council had been awarded a Local Places for Nature grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Llanelli Rural Wildlife and Biodiversity Inclusion project.

A grant of up to £69,725 would be made to deliver a volunteer led biodiversity project at Ponthenri Recreation Ground and equipment to improve cutting practices at various Llanelli green spaces.

Over the course of the next 12 months visitors to Ponthenri Recreation Ground would notice extended trails and features within the park. The funding would provide accessible raised planters,

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an orchard, bug hotels, habitat boxes, hedges, benches, an expanded wild flower area and new pathways created that would adjoin existing trails. Several volunteer days would be arranged in order to deliver these changes. The results of the volunteer action would be enjoyed by Ponthenri residents of all ages as it would create better accessibility and provide spaces to sit and relax in attractive surroundings.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted with pleasure and that the Community Development Officer be thanked for his work in preparing and submitting the funding bid.

33. 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.

**34. FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS
(1) FIVE ROADS COMMUNITY HALL – 31 MARCH, 2023
(2) SARON COMMUNITY HALL – 31 DECEMBER, 2022**

Cllr. O. Williams declared a personal interest in regard to Minute No. 34(1) above as he was the Chairman, Five Roads Community Hall Management Committee.

Members were circulated with the Statement of Accounts received from the above management committees.

RESOLVED that the annual grant of £400 be made to Five Roads Community Hall Management Committee for the year ending 31 March, 2023; and Saron Community Hall Management Committee for the year ending 31 December, 2022.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.00 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 13 June, 2023 adopted by the Council.