

**13 June, 2023**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 59 – 70**

At a **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 13 June, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. J. S. Phillips (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

S. R. Bowen	S. N. Lewis
D. M. Cundy	A. G. Morgan
T. M. Donoghue	S. K. Nurse
A. Evans	A. J. Rogers
E. M. Evans	W. E. Skinner
N. Evans	A. G. Stephens
R. E. Evans	N. A. Stephens
B. M. Williams	

**Absent:** S. M. T. Ford

**59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. V. Davies, S. L. Davies, J. P. Hart and O. Williams.

**60. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
62	W. E. Skinner	Personal and prejudicial interest – member of the Planning Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.
65	A. G. Stephens	Personal interest – Vice President, Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

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**61. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation in the proceedings.

**62. STRADEY PARK HOTEL**

*Cllr. W. E. Skinner declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was a member of the Planning Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.*

The Chairman welcomed Mr R. Lloyd and Mr S. Williams, members of Furnace Action Committee to the meeting.

Mr Lloyd thanked members for the opportunity to address the council about the Home Office decision to use Stradey Park Hotel to accommodate asylum seekers while their applications were being processed and reviewed, and the impact this would have on the residents living in and around the Llanelli Area. There would also be a detrimental impact on the staff working at the hotel who could potentially lose their jobs.

Mr Lloyd spoke about how and why the Action Committee formed following the news that the Home Office was planning to place 300 asylum seekers at the hotel. The Action Committee wished to object in the strongest possible terms to the Home Office to house asylum seekers at the hotel which played a vital role in Carmarthenshire's tourism policy. The hotel was not suitable for use as accommodation for asylum seekers and put in jeopardy nearly 100 jobs, as well as weddings and other functions that had been booked for the year ahead. Mr Lloyd stated that Carmarthenshire County Council had a preferred model of distributing asylum seekers throughout the wider community and the Action Committee endorsed this.

Mr Lloyd informed members that in an attempt to stop the Home Office using the hotel to house asylum seekers, members of the public could sign a petition which was intended to be delivered to the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

Thereupon, Mr Williams stated that as well as the committee voicing its concerns, Nia Griffith MP had also raised her concerns with the Foreign Secretary regarding the large number of investors who had purchased 'blocks' of the hotel.

There then followed a general question and answer session whereby members raised concerns regarding the wellbeing of the large number of asylum seekers who would be staying at the hotel and whether appropriate risk assessments had been undertaken and the general impact of this decision on the already stretched health and ambulance services, as well as education and policing in the area.

Following the conclusion of the question and answer session, the Chairman thanked the committee representatives for a very informative and productive discussion and they then withdrew from the meeting.

*Cllr. W. E. Skinner left the meeting*

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**RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council fully supports the actions of Furnace Action Committee and shall assist it to publicise its petition through the council's social media channels as well as providing the committee with administrative support if required.
2. A letter of support be sent to the staff at Stradey Park Hotel.

*During discussion of the above Cllrs. N. Evans and S. K. Nurse left the meeting.*

*Cllr. W. E. Skinner re-joined the meeting.*

**63. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated to members) be confirmed and signed as a true record of proceedings:

Annual Meeting	9 May, 2023
Council	11 May, 2023
Planning and Liaison Committee	15 May, 2023
Recreation and Welfare Committee	16 May, 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	17 May, 2023
Finance and General Purposes Committee	31 May, 2023
Planning and Liaison Committee	5 June, 2023

**64. COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Members received the council's annual report detailing key activities and achievements over the last year as well as noting the progress made with promoting and enhancing local biodiversity and moreover how the council had contributed towards the objectives contained in the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's local well-being plan.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the annual report be approved and published on the council's website.

**65. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES  
LLANELLI CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**

*Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in the following matter as he was the Vice President, Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce.*

Further to Minute No. 12, it was

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. D. M. Cundy be nominated to represent the council on the Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

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**66. SWISS VALLEY LOWER LLIEDI RESERVOIR  
OPERATORS LICENCE**

Correspondence was received from Evans Powell & Co Solicitors enclosing the Operator's Licence for engrossment by the council.

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign and affix the council's seal to the Operator's Licence for Swiss Valley Lower Lliedi Reservoir, Llanelli.

**67. MATTERS REPORTED**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

**68. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

**RESOLVED** that the letters of appreciation for the council's assistance, received from the following organisations be noted with pleasure:

- (1) Blood Cancer – Llanelli Branch;
- (2) Buckingham Palace;
- (3) Wales Air Ambulance.

**69. 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.

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**70. BORROWING APPROVAL 2023 – 24**

Members received correspondence from the Welsh Government informing of the council's successful application to borrow £410,000 to support multiple community projects.

The projects were to be delivered across six of the seven electoral wards and would provide for:

- Bynea ward – a new play area at Parc Richard, Penygraig;
- Dafen ward – a new play area at Cilsaig;
- Felinfoel Ward – new toilet facilities at the Phil Bennett OBE Resource Centre, Felinfoel Rereation Ground;
- Glyn ward – refurbishment of park and play facilities in Ponthenri;
- Hengoed ward – new play area at Stradey;
- Pemberton ward – contribution to a community hub project which would involve an asset transfer of the branch library and surrounding green space in the community of Llwynhendy.

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Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that an application be made to the Public Works Loan Board to take out a loan for £410,000 with the repayment terms being taken out as an annuity at an interest rate of 5.53% over a period of four years.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.25 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 11 July, 2023 adopted by the Council.