

20 February, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 366 – 372

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, 20 February, 2024 at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

T. M. Donoghue	J. S. Phillips
A. Evans	A. J. Rogers
E. M. Evans	W. E. Skinner
R. E. Evans	A. G. Stephens
S. N. Lewis	O. Williams

366. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. P. Hart (Cllr. A. Evans deputising), A. G. Morgan, and B. M. Williams (Cllr. W. E. Skinner deputising).

367. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in Minute no. 371 as he was a Trustee and Treasurer of Pro-Vision Llwynhendy.

368. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

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

369. DWYFOR GROWING SPACE

Further to Minute No. 406 (21 March, 2023 refers), councillors received the report of the Community Development Officer informing of the first year of general operations at the growing space. The report also suggested amendments to the occupancy agreement for the forthcoming growing season.

The growing area comprised 16 raised beds, three wheelchair accessible raised beds and three planters. The 16 raised beds had been occupied since the site opened to users in April 2023. Two wheelchair beds were occupied and planters were shared for growing herbs and berries.

20 February, 2024

There was a mixture of schools, community organisations and individuals responsible for the raised beds which had been occupied all year with varying degrees of commitment demonstrated by those responsible for them. During this period, four users had handed back the keys stating they did not have the time available to tend to their beds. These beds were subsequently allocated to new users.

Members were informed it remained an aspiration to start up a volunteer committee to help manage the site which would enable grant funding and provide insurance to individual growers. However, thus far there had been a lack of enthusiasm between the users to give up more time to help establish and run a group.

The Community Development Officer stated there was also an expectation the volunteers would arrange monthly working party days to help control the maintenance of the site. Again, this has not been as successful as hoped with many users not attending despite them agreeing to do so in their occupancy agreement. It tended to be the same volunteers attending the working party days. Growers also arranged amongst themselves daily opening, closing and watering of the poly tunnel and greenhouse during warm periods.

A raised bed cost £20.00 for the growing season. The wheelchair accessible beds were much smaller in size and cost £5.00 per season. There were water charges to be levied by the council however the first Welsh Water invoice for site water consumption had yet to be received. The income collected so far had paid for keys to be cut along with meeting other incidental costs. The remaining balance was currently £165 in credit and this sum was ring-fenced for the growing space for future use. The raised beds had not been widely advertised and the interest stemmed mainly from word of mouth.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. There shall be no increase to the annual fee per raised bed for the forthcoming season, but the fee would be apportioned on a pro rata basis to reflect the suggested change to the growing season date so that it coincided with the calendar year instead of running from April to March. This would mean the annual fee would be £15.00 to cover the period April to the end of December 2024. Thereafter the fee would revert to £20.00 assuming there was no price increase applied in the following year to cover the period January to December 2025. Similarly, the fee for the smaller wheelchair accessible beds would be £3.75 for the forthcoming season, with it reverting to £5.00 in the following year, again on the assumption that no price increase was introduced.
2. The suggested changes to the occupancy agreement as outlined in the report be authorised and that officers be permitted to advertise the growing space to the community when spaces become available in the future.
3. Where necessary, officers shall be permitted to make any further changes to the occupancy agreement during the upcoming growing season with such changes being reported retrospectively to the committee for approval.
4. A further review of the growing space shall be presented in 12 months' time.

20 February, 2024

370. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following 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.

371. TENDERS - LLWYNHENDY HUB PROJECT – GWILI FIELDS

Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in the following item as he was a Trustee and the Treasurer of Pro-Vision Llwynhendy.

In accordance with Minute No. 284, members were informed that a tender for children's play provisions at Gwili Fields for a contract value of £200,000 had been issued and now needed to be determined. The tender for the play provision contributed to a larger scheme which also entailed environmental enhancements to the fields. A further £62,500 had been earmarked for these environmental enhancements. To facilitate the funding of the play provisions and the environmental enhancements external funding had been secured, comprising a grant of £162,630 awarded to the council from the Shared Prosperity Fund Sustainable Communities programme (SPF) and £100,000 contribution from Our Llwynhendy.

The Deputy Clerk then reported upon the results of the tendering process for the play provisions. Six companies had been invited to submit tenders for the scheme. One of the companies failed to respond by the deadline, whereas three companies declined because of other work commitments. Two companies had positively responded by submitting tenders and these were opened in the presence of the council chairman on 1 February 2024.

The Deputy Clerk then proceeded to inform members of the tender evaluation process using the council's scoring matrix and to the positive involvement of Our Llwynhendy in helping to select the preferred supplier and in making suggestions to change some of the play equipment items. Consulting with the group proved to be a worthwhile and valuable exercise in finalising the design proposals submitted by the preferred supplier.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The quotation received from Kompan UK, Serenity House, 1A Shirwell Crescent, Furzton, Milton Keynes, MK4 1GA for the sum of £199,999.99 plus VAT be accepted and approved subject to the following changes being made to the final design proposal:

- Four tower toddler unit: code PCM400121 - be changed from red to beige colour scheme option.
- Talk and Tumble with net: code PCM000421 - be changed from yellow to teal colour scheme option.
- Spinner bowl: code ELE4000024-3717F – be changed from yellow to dark green option.
- Play panel: code PCM000721-0901 – be changed from yellow to teal colour scheme option.
- Inclusive swing seat: code SW990205 - be changed from yellow to beige colour scheme option.

20 February, 2024

- Delete BLOQX climbing blocks.
- Add Agility Trail 9 NRO854.
- Add one Nova bench.

**372. FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS
SWISS VALLEY COMMUNITY HALL – 31 MAY, 2023**

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

RESOLVED that the annual grant of £400 be made to Swiss Valley Community Hall Management Committee for the year ending 31 May, 2023.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.12 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 12 March, 2024 adopted by the Council.