

21 February, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 373 – 381

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, 21 February, 2024 at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

S. R. Bowen	S. N. Lewis
D. M. Cundy	J. S. Phillips
A. Evans	W. E. Skinner
N. Evans	A. G. Stephens
J. P. Hart	B. M. Williams

Absent: S. M. T. Ford

373. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

374. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

375. I. D. CARDS AND MEMBERS PERSONAL INFORMATION

Cllr. R. E. Evans proposed that members should receive identification cards which would enable them to prove their identity when going about council business.

Cllr. Evans also requested that in the interests of data protection and to help reduce the likelihood of hate crime, members' addresses be omitted from the council's website and any associated correspondence.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the requests be supported.

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376. COMMUNITY REVIEW OF ALL TOWNS AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS, CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

Further to Minute No. 238, members received correspondence from the Electoral Registration Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council informing that under the Community Review carried out under Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, the review had now concluded with the final recommendations being accepted at a County Council meeting held on 11 October, 2023.

The final recommendation for this authority, namely increasing the Bynea community electoral ward from three to four community councillors would take effect at the next Local Government elections in May 2027.

The general electoral arrangements for the council confirmed by the Carmarthenshire Community Review Order 2023 was as follows:

Bynea Ward – four members
Dafen Ward – four members
Felinfoel Ward – two members
Glyn Ward – two members
Hengoed Ward – four members
Pemberton Ward – four members
Swiss Valley Ward – two members

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

377. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES 2023

Further to Minute No. 239, correspondence was received from the Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of the latter stages of the review process which was due to conclude on 7 March 2024, with the final proposals being confirmed at a Carmarthenshire County Council meeting to be held on 12 June 2024.

The only change to be made to the electoral arrangements within the council's area would see the establishment of a new polling place and polling station in the Hengoed electoral ward at the Pwll Pavilion, King George's Playing Fields, Pwll, Llanelli.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted having previously responded to the review process, supporting the recommendation.

378. LAMP LIGHT OF PEACE

Correspondence was received from One Voice Wales enclosing information of the D-Day 80th Anniversary commemorations to be held on 6 June, 2024.

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As part of a nationwide scheme the council was invited to consider purchasing a red lamp light of peace enabling the council to participate in the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. The light of the flame would represent the ‘light of peace’ that emerged from the darkness of war.

During discussion members considered the pros and cons of purchasing an oil filled lamp or alternatively participating in the anniversary event by lighting up the façade of the council offices by using the council’s LED floodlighting system to light up the building in red, and it was

RESOLVED that the council’s flood lighting system be utilised to mark and commemorate the anniversary event.

379. ACCESS DENIED: OLDER PEOPLE’S EXPERIENCES OF DIGITAL EXCLUSION IN WALES

Members received correspondence from the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales informing of the significant number of older people in Wales finding themselves digitally excluded and increasingly facing barriers when trying to access online information and services they needed, something that exacerbated inequalities, including health inequalities and which detrimentally impacted people’s health and well-being.

The findings of the exercise highlighted a stark digital divide that was not only exclusionary but also often leaving older people feeling worthless, inadequate and that they were not valued by society. The research findings reported older people often struggled to find the right kind of support to enable them to get and stay online through learning and maintaining digital skills.

Older people shared a range of reasons why they were not online. In some cases, it was a choice but more commonly people found themselves digitally excluded due to limited digital skills, cost barriers, concerns about security and the changing nature of technology.

A number of recommendations had been made to ensure that older people were able to access information and services without having to be online. The Community Development Officer highlighted areas where the council could play its part in helping to tackle this issue, either by paying equal regard to making council information and services available in a variety of formats and not just electronically, or indirectly by organising or facilitating community training events at its community premises to improve community cohesion and resilience.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the report findings be noted for future use and reference.

380. 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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381. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 02:2024 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.20 p.m.

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