

8 October, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 162 – 172

At the **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 8 October, 2024, at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. V. Davies (Chairman)

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
E. M. Evans	W. E. Skinner
N. Evans	A. G. Stephens
R. E. Evans	N. A. Stephens
O. Williams	

Absent: S. M. T. Ford, S. K. Nurse

162. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. B. M. Williams.

163. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

164. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation in the proceedings.

165. 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:

8 October, 2024

Council	10 September, 2024
Recreation and Welfare Committee	17 September, 2024
Policy and Resources Committee	18 September, 2024
Planning and Liaison Committee	23 September, 2024
Finance and General Purposes Committee	25 September, 2024

**166. MATTERS ARISING
CITY STATUS FOR LLANELLI**

Further to Minute No. 137, the clerk informed members that an invitation had been extended to Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce to attend a future council meeting to update members on the application for City Status Bid for Llanelli but unfortunately their network meetings conflicted with council meetings.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the council meeting scheduled in November be moved to Wednesday, 13 November, 2024 at 6.00 p.m. to enable representatives of Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce to attend.

**167. PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL
TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT CLOSURE OF THE
MINOR INJURIES UNIT (MIU)**

**(1) MIU – HYWEL DDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD
PRESS RELEASE**

Members received a press release dated 20 September, 2024, from Hywel Dda University Health Board regarding the impending temporary overnight closure of the MIU between the hours of 8.00 p.m. and 8.00 a.m.

RESOLVED that the press release be noted.

(2) COUNCIL MEETING INVITATION

Members noted the council's invitation extended to Professor Philip Kloer, interim CEO Hywel Dda University Health Board to attend a forthcoming council meeting to discuss the temporary closure and also noted the subsequent holding reply received from the health board's Communications and Engagement Director, wherein it was suggested that a joint meeting be convened with this council and Llanelli Town Council. Members understood the advantages of holding a joint meeting but for reasons of general practicality felt the suggestion would be unworkable as it was likely to impede detailed discussion in light of the large number of councillors wishing to pose questions to the health board, and it was

RESOLVED that the suggestion be respectfully declined and that the health board be informed of the council's desire to meet separately, for reasons of practicality.

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**(3) HYWEL DDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD REPORT
PROPOSING THE OVERNIGHT CLOSURE OF THE MIU**

Members received the Hywel Dda University Health Board meeting report held on 26 September, 2024, setting out the detail behind the temporary closure.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted for future reference.

(4) NOTICE OF MOTION

Members considered a Notice of Motion put forward from Cllr. S. L. Davies dated 23 September, 2024 in response to the temporary closure of the MIU, and it was

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion be accepted subject to it being amended to read as follows:

1. That Llanelli Rural Council call on the Welsh Government and the Welsh Health Secretary, Jeremy Miles, to intervene and stop Llanelli's urgent care provision from being further cut by Hywel Dda. The largest town in West Wales should have an A+E department but now we do not even have a full time Minor Injuries Unit. Health was a devolved matter and it was only right that Welsh Government and Health Secretary step in and prevent further cuts to services in Llanelli.
2. Llanelli Rural Council reiterates its support for the SOSPPAN Campaign to maintain the MIU at Prince Philip Hospital as a 24/7 doctor led unit.

(5) LEE WATERS MS – OPEN LETTER TO HEALTH BOARD

RESOLVED that the correspondence sent by Lee Waters MS to Hywel Dda University Health Board in regard to the temporary closure of the MIU as published in the Carmarthenshire News online be noted for future reference.

(6) SOSPPAN

RESOLVED that the recent actions of the local pressure group known as SOSPPAN and its demand to the health board to convene a public meeting regarding the temporary closure of the MIU as published in an article in the Carmarthenshire News online be noted for future reference.

168. LLANELLI JOINT BURIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members received the following Minutes of a meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Advisory Committee held on 12 June, 2024:

“At the Annual Meeting of the Llanelli Joint Burial Advisory Committee held at Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

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Present: Cllr. A. J. Rogers (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. M. Donoghue
N. Evans
S. N. Lewis

J. S. Phillips
B. A. L. Roberts
J. Williams

Together with Mr A. Davies (Town Clerk)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Members proceeded to appoint a Chairman for the ensuing year and it was RESOLVED that Cllr. D. L. Darkin be appointed Chairman.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Members proceeded to appoint a Vice Chairman for the ensuing year and it was RESOLVED that Cllr. A. J. Rogers be appointed Vice-Chairman.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. D. L. Darkin.

4. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. MINUTES

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

Special Meeting - 24 January 2024

6. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

RECOMMENDED that the income and expenditure report up to 31 March 2024 be noted.

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7. 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.

8. REMEMBRANCE GARDENS 3 AND 4
– BENCHES AND PLANTERS

Members considered the Deputy Clerk’s verbal report regarding the placing of memorial plaques on benches and planters in gardens 3 and 4.

RESOLVED that the initial report be approved, and a formal policy and costs be presented to the next meeting for members’ consideration.

9. EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL REFUND POLICY

Members considered the Secretary’s verbal report regarding the introduction of a refund policy following a complaint from a member of the public. Details of the complaint had been previously circulated with the agenda. After a lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

1. A refund policy for surrendering the Exclusive Rights of Burial for unused full interment plots and cremated remains plots shall be enacted forthwith.
2. Refund requests shall only be considered within the first six months of the date of the Exclusive Rights being purchased.
3. An administration fee of £65.00 shall be charged and deducted from the purchase price of the Exclusive Rights, thereby leaving a net balance from the purchase price to be refunded.
4. The administration fee shall be included in the cemetery fees and charges and shall be subject to general review alongside other fees and charges taking into account annual rates of inflation.
5. The cemetery rules and regulations shall be amended to incorporate the refund policy.
6. In view of the circumstances leading to the creation of the policy, and as a gesture of goodwill; the particular complaint received seeking a refund for the surrender of the Exclusive Rights for the unused garden of remembrance plot shall be upheld but on the condition that the administration fee of £65.00 shall be deducted from the purchase price of £202.00; leaving a net amount of £137.00 to be refunded.

.....”
The meeting concluded at 4.20pm
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RESOLVED that the minutes and the recommendations contained therein be received and accepted.

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169. MATTERS REPORTED

RESOLVED that the schedule of matters reported be noted.

170. 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.

171. COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Members received a letter from Cllr. B. M. Williams tendering her resignation from the council, which would take effect on 1 November 2024, and it was

RESOLVED that the impending resignation be noted and accepted.

**172. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

Members were presented with a report on the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the Training Department for 2024/25.

The Finance Manager updated members on the progress to undertake cost savings for the Training Department which had been partly achieved by moving the Carmarthen training centre to new premises and also re-designating staff to the administration department.

The Finance Manager then led members through the general budget calculations with supporting commentary about contract values awarded by the prime contractors for 1 April, 2024 to 31 March, 2025. The Apprenticeship Programme continued to be funded through the contract with Skills Academy Wales and the Jobs Growth Wales+ Programme with ITEC Skills Ltd and Coleg Sir Gar. The department had also been awarded a contract with Neath Port Talbot College Group for LGV and PCV training through Personal Learning Accounts, additional funds were awarded specifically for Tata Steel direct and supply chain employees at risk of redundancy, and this had proved very successful.

Members were then provided with information on the department's earmarked reserves in the form of a table to support the detailed accompanying financial report.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The detailed financial report be accepted.
2. The Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2024/25 be accepted.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.50 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 November, 2024, adopted by the Council.