

16 September, 2025

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 143 – 155

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 September, 2025 at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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

143. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. E. M. Evans (Cllr. R. E. Evans deputising) and J. P. Hart.

144. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
148(1)	S. N. Lewis	Personal interest – Treasurer, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
148(2)	S. N. Lewis	Personal interest – Treasurer, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
148(3)	S. N. Lewis	Personal and prejudicial interest – member, Dafen Cricket Club.
148(1)	A. J. Rogers	Personal interest – Secretary, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
148(2)	A. J. Rogers	Personal interest – Secretary, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
148(3)	A. J. Rogers	Personal interest – Secretary, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
151	S. N. Lewis	Personal and prejudicial – member, Dafen Cricket Club.

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<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
155	S. N. Lewis	Personal – Treasurer, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.
155	A. J. Rogers	Personal interest – Treasurer, Dafen Welfare Management Committee.

145. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

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

**146. SWISS VALLEY COMMUNITY HALL
MAINTENANCE WORK**

Members considered the report of the Facilities Manager on essential maintenance work and proposed upgrades to Swiss Valley Community Hall.

The proposals for the community hall had been developed based on the maintenance inspections and consultation with hirers and the Swiss Valley Community Centre Events and Activities Committee.

Following lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the matter be held in abeyance until officers, local members and the Centre Events and Activities Committee had met to further discuss the proposals.

**147. SWISS VALLEY RESERVOIR
(1) COMMUNITY ADOPTION RENEWAL AGREEMENT**

Members received correspondence from the Head of Visitor Attractions, Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water confirming that Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water intended to renew the adoption agreement for a period of 10 years upon the expiration of the current agreement at the end of this year.

Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water had recognised the value of the partnership and the positive impact it has had on the landscape and community engagement and so it was committed to continuing this collaboration.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted and that arrangements be entered into with Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water to renew the agreement which was due to expire in December 2025.

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(2) FUNDING

Members considered correspondence from Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water informing of the contribution payable to the council for the maintenance of Swiss Valley Reservoir in the sum of £179,000 plus VAT covering the first five-year period of the renewal agreement referred to in (1) above.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**(3) NATIONAL FOREST FOR WALES LANDSCAPE PILOT 2025/27
CAPITAL PROJECT**

The Community Development Officer informed members of the grant application that had been submitted to the National Forest for Wales Landscape Pilot 2025/27 for further enhancement works at the reservoir. If successful, notification of the grant would be received by the end of September.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**148. DAFEN PARK
(1) CHANGING ROOMS**

Cllr. S. N. Lewis and A. J. Rogers declared personal interests in the following matter as they respectively held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary of the Dafen Welfare Management Committee.

Members considered correspondence from Cllr. A. J. Rogers informing the council that the sports teams using Dafen Park were in the process of forming a sports association and as such it was seeking permission to sub-let the changing rooms from the council. This would enable the association to apply for grant funding to refurbish the facility.

During discussion, the Clerk opined that it would be preferable for the sports association to enter into a direct lease agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council, the landlord, rather than sub-letting the facility through the council. The council had yet to engross a formal lease with the county council and was still managing the park and its facilities under a 12-month rolling licence agreement. Moreover, transferring the asset to the sports association was entirely consistent with a similar decision made by the council over the transfer of the park's main football pitch to Dafen AFC; the effect of which would enable the council to relinquish all management and maintenance responsibility for the asset, with full responsibility being vested in the newly formed sports association. The sports association would need to submit an expression of interest to the county council to initiate the formal asset transfer of the property.

Following discussion, it was

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RESOLVED that Cllr Rogers advise the sports association to submit an expression of interest to Carmarthenshire County Council to initiate the asset transfer of the facility.

(2) ASTROTURF - CANCELLATION POLICY

Cllr. S. N. Lewis and A. J. Rogers declared personal interests in the following matter as they respectively held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary of the Dafen Welfare Management Committee.

Cllr. A. J. Rogers informed members that there was a discrepancy regarding the cancellation policy for the astroturf at Dafen Park. He requested that clarification be provided to ensure a clear and consistent policy for season bookings going forward.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that henceforth consistent application of the cancellation policy shall be invoked whereby any hirer of the facility (whether categorised as a one-off casual hirer or block hirer as the case maybe) shall be required to provide 48 hours' notice to the council to cancel the booking. Failure to observe this requirement will result in the hirer being charged the full hire fee. For the avoidance of doubt, any cancellation of bookings relating to a Monday, can be made by sending an email to the council by no later than the previous Friday to prevent being charged.

Arising out of discussion of the above, members commented that the hire charge for the astroturf at Dafen park was low and it should be reviewed at a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the hire charge for the astroturf facility be reviewed by the Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

Cllr. A. G. Stephens left the meeting.

(3) GROUND DRAINAGE

Cllr. S. N. Lewis and A. J. Rogers declared personal interests in the following matter as they respectively held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary of the Dafen Welfare Management Committee. Cllr. S. N. Lewis also declared a personal and prejudicial interest as she was a member of Dafen Cricket Club and left the meeting before discussion commenced.

Further to Minute No. 335 (11 February, 2025 refers), Cllr. A. J. Rogers enquired if further investigation could be undertaken into the drainage and flooding of the cricket square; cricket outfield and football pitch at Dafen Park. Cllr Rogers explained he was keen to discuss financial options to solve the flooding problems caused by heavy periods of rainfall and surface water run-off from adjacent areas of the park and ground water from neighbouring properties. He opined the existing drainage system was ineffective and was often overwhelmed during prolonged periods of stormy adverse weather conditions.

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There then followed a wide-ranging discussion of the existing flood prevention measures in the park, climate change and the low number of incidents of flooding impacting upon the cancellation of cricket and football fixtures. Officers advised that any future remedial works needed to be proportionate to the level of risk. Members were then reminded that an engineer had been previously commissioned to carry out ground investigation work and to examine the configuration of the existing drainage system surrounding the cricket outfield perimeter. The engineer produced a design proposal based on the data obtained from the field work. Subsequently, a cost estimate was obtained from a local contractor to lay a new drainage system to add to the exiting configuration. The cost was in the region of £100,000 plus VAT.

Members then opined that improving the drainage was a major capital scheme for which the council held no money in earmarked reserves. Furthermore, the council had already agreed a five-year capital programme for the completion of council approved projects up until the next set of elections in May 2027, and it was

RESOLVED that the matter be held in abeyance so that local members could facilitate separate discussions with the cricket club and other local stakeholders to ascertain the extent of any external match funding contributions that could be potentially put towards the capital works to improve the drainage of the cricket outfield and adjoining football pitch, recognising such a scheme was classed as major capital works predicated on a previously obtained historical cost estimate of £96,725 plus VAT, to which Minute No. 335 above refers. Any subsequent financial opportunities for the council to potentially work in partnership with local stakeholders could then be further considered by the Recreation and Welfare Committee, prior to deciding whether to recommend any remedial work to the council as a new additional capital scheme.

During discussion of the above item, Cllrs. R. E. Evans and A. G. Stephens left the meeting at different times during the debate and before any vote was taken.

Cllr. S. N. Lewis re-joined the meeting after the vote had been taken.

**149. FELINFOEL RECREATION GROUND
(1) SPECTATOR BARRIER**

Members considered correspondence from the Secretary, Felinfoel AFC requesting permission to erect a spectator barrier around the football pitch at Felinfoel Recreation Ground.

The cost of the spectator barrier would be met by the club, and it was proposed that the barrier would be erected by a private contractor.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that permission be granted in principle to Felinfoel AFC to erect a spectator barrier around the football pitch subject to further confirmation to follow as to whether the sporting organisation or the council would be expected to maintain the upkeep of the barrier once installed.

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(2) ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CAR PARKING CHARGING BAYS

The Deputy Clerk informed members of a proposal to install two Electrical Vehicle charging bays at the recreation ground car park at no cost to the council, and it was

RESOLVED that the proposal be approved.

150. FIVE ROADS RECREATION GROUND

Further to Minute No. 96, correspondence was received from a local resident regarding alleged property damage caused by cricket balls during matches held at the Five Roads Recreation Ground.

A resident of Clos Clement, Five Roads, had submitted a formal statement and photographs expressing concerns over the use of the park for organised hard ball cricket matches. The resident opined that the proximity of the cricket pitch to residential property boundaries had resulted in a repeated and serious risk to both property and personal safety because of cricket balls either landing in or striking the person's property.

The resident clarified that there was no opposition to recreational use of the park or informal sporting activities but asserted the current use of the pitch for formal cricket matches, particularly in its existing layout and without appropriate safety measures in place was unsafe, inadequately managed, and might present legal liabilities for all parties involved.

Lengthy debate ensued about the possible solutions to mitigate risk; the impact of planned footpath works next to the property boundaries as part of the successful safer routes in communities' bid; health and safety concerns regarding the proximity of over-head power lines, all of which appeared to work against formulating a proportionate and cost-effective solution. The stance of the cricket team was also considered, and it was believed that it would remedy and pay for any property damage caused when playing the low number of fixtures held at the park. Given all the above factors, it was ultimately

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.

151. PWLL RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. S. N. Lewis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item as she was a member of Dafen Cricket Club and left the meeting before discussion commenced.

Members considered correspondence from the Secretary, Dafen Welfare Cricket Club seeking a financial contribution from the council for a new artificial wicket at Pwll Recreation Ground.

The writer stated that Dafen Welfare Cricket Club was working in partnership with Pwll Recreation Ground Development Committee (PRGDC) to seek funding for a new artificial wicket at Pwll Recreation Ground due to the current wicket being very worn and in need of replacing.

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An initial expression of interest had been submitted to Sport Wales Be Active Wales Fund for funding and if successful this would provide a maximum of 50% funding for the replacement wicket. The total cost for a replacement wicket was in the region of £15,000.

Dafen Welfare Cricket Club requested whether the council would be prepared to match fund the project shortfall if the grant bid was successful.

During the ensuing discussion it was recognised that the council had no existing funds to contribute to the project and so the council could not commit to making a financial contribution at this juncture. The council's financial priorities and commitments for the next financial year had yet to be agreed and would not be finalised until the end of February 2026. At this stage, the best the council could offer was to place the funding request on a wish list for reconsideration during budget discussions. However, this did not guarantee the project would be supported.

Members stated that if a grant to partially meet the cost of providing a new wicket was still to be pursued in the current financial year, then the preference was that the Pwll Recreation Ground Committee submitted any such application to the appropriate awarding body instead of Dafen Cricket Club and that the committee assume full responsibility for delivering the project. Furthermore, the committee would need to exercise its own discretion in identifying an alternative match funding source to meet the shortfall of £7,500. The origin of such funding was not a concern for the council, but should another cricket club from outside Pwll wish to support the committee, this would be considered a private collaboration and would not influence how the council managed future access to the wicket, should it be renewed. Nor would it create any exclusive or automatic right of the cricket club to use the new facility. The council remained committed to working solely with the local committee in managing the recreation ground. This approach ensured a straightforward and transparent arrangement, free from third-party obligations, and it was

RESOLVED that officers correspond with the representatives of both community groups outlining the council's position.

Cllr. S. N. Lewis re-joined the meeting.

**152. NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF A MODIFICATION ORDER
PUBLIC FOOTPATH 36/141**

Correspondence was received from the Countryside Access Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council enclosing a 'Notice of the Making of an Order' in relation to public footpath 36/141 Tan Y Graig, Llanelli.

The effect of the Order was to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Order be noted.

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153. 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.

**154. CAPITAL PROJECT
PLAY AREAS**

The Community Development Officer informed members of the grant application submitted to All Wales Play Opportunities to replace individual playground equipment items at three of the council's play areas.

Unfortunately, since the submission of the grant application the council had been informed that because of the high demand placed on the grant fund it was now not possible to consider replacing play equipment items at all three sites. Instead, the grant funders had decided to curtail the council's grant application to focus on replacing the roundabout playground equipment at Pwll Recreation Ground because of its high-risk rating, whereas the other two sites had medium risk items which could not be supported.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**155. FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS
(1) DAFEN COMMUNITY HALL – 30 APRIL 2025**

Cllr. S. N. Lewis and A. J. Rogers declared personal interests in the following matter as they respectively held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary of the Dafen Welfare Management Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the annual grant of £400 be made to Dafen Community Hall for the year ending 30 April, 2025.

(2) SANDY AND STRADEY COMMUNITY HALL – 31 AUGUST 2025

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

RESOLVED that the annual grant of £400 be made to Sandy and Stradey Community Hall for the year ending 31 August, 2025.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.18 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 14 October, 2025 adopted by the Council.