

**9 September, 2025**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 128 – 138**

At the **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 9 September, 2025, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. S. N. Lewis (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| S. R. Bowen    | J. P. Hart     |
| M. V. Davies   | J. Lovell      |
| S. L. Davies   | A. G. Morgan   |
| T. M. Donoghue | K. Morgan      |
| E. M. Evans    | J. S. Phillips |
| N. Evans       | A. J. Rogers   |
| R. E. Evans    | W. E. Skinner  |
| A. G. Stephens |                |

**Absent:** A. Evans, S. M. T. Ford, S. K. Nurse, O. Williams

**128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. D. M. Cundy.

**129. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

| <i>Minute No.</i> | <i>Councillor</i> | <i>Interest</i>                                                                                 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 134               | A. G. Stephens    | Personal interest – he was a Trustee and the Treasurer of Pro-Vision Llwynhendy.                |
| 136               | A. G. Stephens    | Personal and prejudicial interest – he was a Director and the Vice Chairman of Ymlaen Llanelli. |

**130. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation in the proceedings.

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**131. 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:

|                                                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Council                                         | 8 July, 2025    |
| Planning and Liaison Committee                  | 14 July, 2025   |
| Recreation and Welfare Committee                | 15 July, 2025   |
| Policy and Resources Committee                  | 16 July, 2025   |
| Finance and General Purposes Committee          | 30 July, 2025   |
| Learning and Development Consultative Committee | 31 July, 2025   |
| Planning and Liaison Committee                  | 4 August, 2025  |
| Planning and Liaison Committee                  | 26 August, 2025 |

**132. MATTERS ARISING**

**(1) CANOLFAN LLWYNHENDY - OFFICIAL OPENING**

Arising out of Minute No. 95(3) of the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting held on 15 July, 2025, an update was provided on the official opening date of Canolfan Llwynhendy. The opening was dependent upon the library service being fully operational in its new digital configuration. It was estimated that the new library equipment would take up to three weeks to be delivered and installed from the time the order was placed, which had already been processed by Carmarthenshire County Council over a week ago. A number of snagging issues also needed to be resolved before official hand-over of the building could take place. These factors were likely to push back the official opening date by a few additional weeks. An update was also provided on the completion of external landscaping works and further information about plans regarding the creation of a bump (BMX) track was to be reported to the Recreation and Welfare Committee in due course.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**(2) THE DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2016 (AS AMENDED) – PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION BEFORE APPLYING FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLES 8 AND 9 (2) AT PENDDERI ROAD SOLAR FARM, LOCATED ON LAND EAST OF PENDDERI ROAD, LLANELLI**

Further to Minute No. 125 of the Planning and Liaison Committee meeting held on 26 August, 2025, the Clerk reported that the council had received for information several objections from residents in response to the pre-application consultation exercise for the proposed solar farm off Pendderi Road, Bynea. It appeared that there had been widespread opposition to the proposed development. Thereupon the Clerk summarised the council's observations which had been communicated to the planning agents as part of the pre-application consultation exercise, stating that when the formal planning application was submitted to the Welsh Ministers, the council would seek to balance the national need for the development against the overall impact on the local community.

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**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**133. HYWEL DDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD – PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL MINOR INJURY UNIT (MIU)**

Further to Minute No. 44, members considered email correspondence received from the Government Business Team, Health Social Care and Early Years Group on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, responding to the council's correspondence about the MIU and whether Welsh Government could offer any more support to the Health Board, to aid the recruitment of more doctors to manage the MIU during the night, so that it could operate once again as a 24/7 service.

The writer confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary had noted the council's concerns and recognised the strength of feeling local residents and councillors had about the provision of NHS services in West Wales. Moreover, it was hoped the council would understand that neither the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, nor his officials were able to comment on the proposals for the temporary MIU service change at this stage. This was because his role was to set the policy and strategic direction of the NHS in Wales. The Cabinet Secretary was clear that he expected health boards to provide safe and sustainable services for their population. Responsibility for planning and delivering local healthcare services, including recruitment and workforce planning, rests with individual health boards. They were best placed to assess and respond to the specific needs of their communities.

The writer also confirmed that in relation to the council's points on workforce issues, these were not unique to Llanelli or Hywel Dda University Health Board. The writer then referred to initiatives to attract GP trainees to specialist training schemes in areas of Wales that had historically faced recruitment challenges. Furthermore, the Welsh Government was working with NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership and health boards in support of the all Wales international recruitment programme. In closing the writer stated officials continued to work closely with the health board and would monitor the situation around the MIU.

Following a brief discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the correspondence be noted for the time being until such time as the Health Board had decided upon its preferred option for the future operation of the Minor Injury Unit at Prince Philip Hospital, whereupon the correspondence shall be reconsidered, if necessary.

**134. CANOLFAN LLWYNHENDY – PARC Y GWILI – ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

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

Further to Minute No. 95, the Community Development Officer and Facilities Manager updated members on the current and planned measures to help combat acts of vandalism at the new play area at Parc Y Gwili, Llwynhendy. Members thereupon expressed general concern that the vandalism was likely to spread to and affect Canolfan Llwynhendy, with the building possibly becoming a target, given that no security measures such as window shutters had been

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provided for, in the architect's original design. Frustratingly, further acts of vandalism had been experienced at the new play area in Penygraig, Bynea, with specific items and equipment being targeted more than once. There then followed wide ranging discussion of actions performed by members in Llwynhendy and elsewhere to try and tackle the anti-social behaviour. Regarding the play area and the Canolfan in Llwynhendy, going forward it was hoped that the proposed youth service provision planned for a few evenings per week at the Canolfan would make a positive difference. CCTV was also being installed which would hopefully serve as a deterrent with it being positioned to monitor the building and play area.

Following discussion about the impact and cost that vandalism might have on future council budgets, it was

**RESOLVED** that a cost analysis report be presented to the Recreation and Welfare Committee outlining the repair or replacement of damaged items at both play area sites.

*Cllr. T. M. Donoghue left the meeting.*

**135. WELSH RUGBY UNION CONSULTATION – A FORMAL CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON THE FUTURE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING OF ELITE RUGBY IN WALES**

**(1) SCARLETS**

Members expressed concern over the Welsh Rugby Union's (WRU) current consultation on the future structure of the four regional rugby franchises in Wales, and the WRU's preference to reduce the number of regional teams from four to two. Under the proposals there was the distinct possibility that the Scarlets franchise could be expunged.

Members opined such a scenario would be unthinkable for Llanelli and the wider region. The Scarlets were based within the council's administrative area, and the team's presence was a source of immense pride and significance. Llanelli had long been recognised as a hotbed of rugby talent and passion, with a proud and storied history that was woven into the very fabric of Welsh rugby. Llanelli RFC no longer existed as a sporting entity and so without the Scarlets, the town and region would lose its rugby identity entirely, which was unacceptable. The Scarlets brand was not only a symbol of the town's identity, but it was also a globally recognised name associated with excellence, heritage, and community spirit.

The Scarlets and the former Llanelli RFC have played a pivotal role in developing generations of Welsh rugby players, many of whom have gone on to represent Wales at the highest level and the British and Irish Lions. The team's presence in Llanelli contributed significantly to the local economy not only as an employer but in supporting local businesses. It also fostered community cohesion through the brand and its bespoke purpose-built rugby stadium and associated community facilities. The loss of this franchise would have far-reaching consequences, not only for sport but for the identity and future vitality of the town and surrounding areas, and it was

**RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive, WRU in support of retaining the Scarlets Regional Rugby Franchise.

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**(2) LLANELLI TOWN COUNCIL**

Members received email correspondence from Llanelli Town Council, regarding a campaign demonstration that was being held at Parc Y Scarlets on Saturday 27 September, 2025, in support of the Scarlets.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and that interested members participate should they wish.

**136. YMLAEN LLANELLI – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was a Director and the Vice Chairman of Ymlaen Llanelli.*

Members received an invitation from the Chair, Ymlaen Llanelli to attend the organisation's Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16 September, 2025 at 5.00 pm.

**RESOLVED** that interested members attend.

**137. MATTERS REPORTED**

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

**138. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

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

- (1) Friends of Dafen PTA;
- (2) Phoenix Theatre Group;
- (3) Royal British Legion – Llanelli Branch.

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The Meeting concluded at 7.01 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.