**20 October, 2026**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 198 – 208**

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 October, 2026 at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. A. J. Rogers (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

**Cllrs.**

| | |
|---|---|
| T. M. Donoghue | A. G. Morgan |
| N. Evans | J. S. Phillips |
| R. E. Evans | W. E. Skinner |
| S. N. Lewis | A. G. Stephens |

**Absent:** J. P. Hart, O. Williams

## 198. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs. D. M. Cundy (Cllr. N. Evans deputising) and E. M. Evans.

## 199. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

| *Minute No.* | *Councillor* | *Interest* |
|---|---|---|
| 208 | N. Evans | Personal and prejudicial interest – member, Dafen Welfare Management Committee. |
| 208 | R. E. Evans | Personal and prejudicial interest – member, Dafen Welfare Management Committee. |
| 208 | S. N. Lewis | Personal and prejudicial interest – Treasurer, Dafen Welfare Management Committee. |
| 208 | A. J. Rogers | Personal and prejudicial interest – Secretary, Dafen Welfare Management Committee. |

## 200. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE WORKS

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

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## 201. DAFEN PARK – TREES

Further to Minute No. 164, members received the report of the Facilities Manager informing of the site meetings undertaken with the complainants and a contractor at Dafen park.

The Facilities Manager had met with the council's tree-climbing contractor to discuss the requested works and potential costs. The contractor expressed significant reservations about undertaking reductions of this scale to trees where the works were not supported by the tree survey. Therefore, no work has been instructed and a final quotation has not been sought at this stage.

Dafen Park was owned by Carmarthenshire County Council, with the council operating under a Licence to maintain it. The landowner's position therefore needed to be established before substantial works outside the existing survey recommendations were progressed.

A meeting had been arranged with the Tree Safety Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council to review the complaints received and to consider the works requested and establish the County Council's position. Any relevant tree protection or planning constraints could also be clarified before further action.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and to await further information which was to be reported to a future meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting.

## 202. PARC Y GWILI
## (1) PLAY EQUIPMENT

Members considered the report of the Facilities Manager on the recent damage to the outdoor exercise equipment at Parc Y Gwili play area, Llwynhendy.

Damage to an item of apparatus at Parc Y Gwili was initially reported and upon inspection, officers found that the Kompan city bike, which featured a touchscreen, had been vandalised with graffiti and that the screen had also been damaged.

Following the inspection, remedial works were undertaken to make the equipment safe. This included removing the graffiti and fitting a blank plate in place of the damaged touchscreen. The Facilities Manager advised members that the cost of replacing the touchscreen would be approximately £1,200, while a dummy replacement would cost approximately £200.

Following discussion, members agreed not to replace the touchscreen and to retain the blank plate.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted, with agreement not to replace the touchscreen and to retain the blank plate and officers continue to monitor and record incidents of vandalism at the council's play areas.

**20 October, 2026**

## (2) BIKE PARK SURVEY REPORT

Members received the report of the Community Development Officer on the consultation exercise undertaken to assess the viability of a new wheeled sports facility within Parc Y Gwili, Llwynhendy.

Further to Minute No. 238 (18 November 2025, refers), a consultation exercise was scheduled to investigate the viability of a BMX pump track. The track remained a priority for the council, having been included in the original feasibility work as a facility for young people and continuing to be regarded as a valuable part of the wider scheme. Although the original tender submission from Emroch Landscapes Ltd included the track at a cost of £14,625, it was omitted because the revised project budget could not accommodate it.

Consultations were held between July and September, using a range of engagement methods. These included scheduled drop-in sessions at Canolfan Llwynhendy, attendance at community events and a visit to an after-school club at the local children's centre. A consultation station was also set up within Canolfan Llwynhendy, where surveys and worksheets were available to residents during opening hours. An online survey was promoted through Facebook posts and the Council's website, supported by physical posters and flyers.

Members were provided with a full breakdown of the consultation responses with the report. It covered the age profiles of likely users, the preferred type of facility, the most requested features, community benefits, concerns raised, safety and management measures, other suggestions and overall conclusions.

The Community Development Officer informed members that the project would need to be funded entirely through grant funding. The original tender quoted £14,625 however when requesting new estimates, it would be covering additional elements such as groundwork, drainage protection, surfacing, fencing, access, professional costs and contingency. Therefore, a higher quote should be anticipated.

The identified area within the park contains underground drainage lines. Therefore, excavating to create dips and bends was not an option and for safety reasons, the bike park would need to be enclosed by fencing.

Our Llwynhendy had been approached as a potential funder. However, its programme spending for the final two years had already been identified. It would be prudent to monitor Our Llwynhendy's expenditure over the next 12 months to identify any potential underspend.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that:
1. The findings of the consultation event be noted and be shared with residents through the council's website, social media and newsletter, and explain how the feedback was shaping the next phase of the project.
2. To obtain quotations, and seek grant funding opportunities, initiate an assessment of the underground drainage and how a new bike track facility would affect its use whilst also advising on what can and cannot be constructed.

3. Develop an initial specification. Prepare a draft project brief outlining the preferred facility type, key features, accessibility requirements and safety measures identified through the consultation.
4. Obtain costs and quotations. Contact specialist wheeled sports facility providers to obtain outline designs, budget estimates and indicative quotations for pump tracks, skills tracks and mixed-use facilities.
5. Identify and pursue funding opportunities. Research potential grant funding sources, including Sport Wales, the National Lottery Community Fund, Welsh Government programmes and other relevant funding streams. Prepare funding applications where suitable opportunities are identified.

## 203. CLOS CILSAIG PLAY AREA

Members received correspondence from the Assistant Manager, Grounds and Cleansing Services, Carmarthenshire County Council and a report from the Governance and Projects Manager on extra security measures required on the gate at Clos Cilsaig play area.

The Governance and Projects Officer informed members that Carmarthenshire County Council had requested that the council consider installing a latch to the existing pedestrian gate at Clos Cilsaig Play Area, Dafen, as an additional safety precaution in view of the proximity of Dafen Pond.

Concerns had been raised regarding the possibility of children leaving the play area and subsequently gaining access to Dafen Pond if the separate pond access gate was open or its self-closing mechanism is defective.

Carmarthenshire County Council had advised that the self-closing mechanism to the pond access gate had failed. Temporary measures had been taken to allow the gate to be secured manually, while quotations were being obtained for specialist repair or replacement. The council had been asked to consider adding a secondary closure to its own play area gate.

When the play area was redeveloped, the proximity of the access gate to Dafen Pond was expressly considered. The play area entrance was deliberately relocated to the furthest practical point away from the pond access gate. This provides spatial separation and reduces the likelihood of a child leaving the play area and immediately encountering the pond access point. The existing controls therefore include:

- A functioning spring-loaded, self-closing play area gate.
- Deliberate positioning of the play area entrance away from the pond access point.
- Physical and spatial separation created by the adjacent footpath corridor.
- A separate gated access point between the footpath and the pond area.
- Adult supervision of children using the play area.

Following discussion, members agreed that a secondary latch was not needed to be fitted to the play area at this time, and it was

**RESOLVED** that:
1. Officers liaise with officers at Carmarthenshire County Council to request that a separate pond access gate be repairs or replaced by them as a priority and maintained in effective working order.
2. Officers to continue to undertake appropriate monitoring and review the position if circumstances or the assessed risk materially change.

## 204. CHRISTMAS TREES – HENGOED WARD

Members received a verbal report from the Governance and Projects Manager regarding a request from a member of the public to erect a Christmas tree at Furnace Square and the potential use of funds transferred to the Council by the former voluntary management committee when responsibility for Furnace Community Hall reverted to the Council.

Members were reminded of the council's existing agreement (Minute No. 81, 21 June, 2023 refers) to erect one Christmas tree in each of the council's seven electoral wards, with the cost being met by the council.

The Christmas tree for Hengoed Ward was currently situated outside Sandy and Stradey Community Hall.

It was also confirmed that the Council holds £44,311 in funds transferred from the former voluntary management committee in respect of Furnace Hall. Of this amount, £34,000 represents the proceeds from the sale of the village hall and remains ring-fenced pending clarification from the councils solicitor as to the purposes for which these funds may be used. The remaining balance represents income generated from hall hirings.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that an additional Christmas tree be purchased for the Hengoed Ward for the current year, with the cost of the tree to be met from the available Furnace Hall hire income; and that the local community be responsible for arranging and meeting all costs associated with the provision of Christmas tree lights and the electricity supply.

## 205. FIVE ROADS RECREATION GROUND<br>FIVE ROADS AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Correspondence was received from the Secretary, Five Roads and District Heritage Society informing that the Society had been dissolved.

The responsibility of the War Memorial and interpretation panel at Five Roads Recreation Ground was being handed over to the council.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that:
1. The information be noted.
2. A letter of appreciation be sent by the clerk, on behalf of the members, to Five Roads and District Heritage Society in recognition of its work within the community.
3. The War Memorial and interpretation panel at Five Roads Recreation Ground be scheduled into the council maintenance schedule.

## 206. 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.

## 207. SANDY AND STRADEY PLAY AREA

Further to Minute No. 123, members received the report from the Governance and Projects Manager informing of the implications of the latest written communication and subsequent telephone discussion with the Chairman, Llanelli Athletic Association, and the matters requiring clarification before the council incurs further material expenditure or enters any binding commitment.

Llanelli Athletic Association previously indicated in its written communication that it remained supportive in principle of the proposed facilities and wished to work collaboratively with the council. The Association was content in principle for the council to instruct solicitors to prepare a draft Agreement for Lease for consideration by the respective parties.

The council had received agreement from the present leaseholders, Llanelli Cricket Club, to enter the land to undertake initial ground inspections and surveys, including a ground drainage assessment and other preliminary investigations required to inform the initial design, planning and legal work.

A subsequent telephone discussion with the Chairman, Llanelli Athletic Association following the most recent communication from the council had introduced material uncertainty concerning whether the Association's support was unconditional. It was not presently clear whether the Association would permit the projects to proceed if Carmarthenshire County Council did not adopt the private roadway or provide a financial commitment towards future repair or maintenance costs.

The Chairman indicated that, if the County Council did not adopt the roadway or provide a financial commitment, the Association may withdraw the proposed peppercorn rental arrangement and instead require the council to pay an annual lease contribution of £250, consistent with that paid by other Association members.

The Association appeared concerned that additional traffic generated by the play area and community gardens could adversely affect the condition of the private roadway and may wish the council to accept some shared responsibility for future maintenance costs.

When asked whether the Association was proposing that the council should become an equal member of the Association, this was not confirmed. The proposed legal and partnership relationship therefore remains unclear.

Carmarthenshire County Council members for Hengoed Ward had been copied into the relevant communications by the Athletic Association and had confirmed that they would seek to bring the Associations concerns in regard to the access-road and car park to the attention of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Appropriate investigations were required to establish site conditions and inform the design and planning process. The drainage assessment should identify constraints, mitigation requirements and whether the proposed development could affect existing surface-water conditions.

The Governance and Projects Manager informed members that a meeting had been arranged with officers, County Councillor members of the Hengoed ward and representatives of the sporting associations to establish the next step to move the project forward.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Officers arrange a meeting with County Councillor members for Hengoed Ward, members of the sporting associations to establish a way forward and to seek written clarifications from the sporting associations as to whether the projects would proceed if Carmarthenshire County Council neither adopts the private roadway nor provides practical or financial support to wards its future repair and maintenance ad report back to a future meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee.

2. No binding commitments were to be entered into and no further expenditure was incurred than expenditure considered necessary to obtain legal advice.

*Cllr. T. M. Donoghue chaired the meeting for the next agenda item. The meeting remained quorate with the members who declared personal and prejudicial interests taking no part in discussions.*

**208. FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT**
**DAFEN COMMUNITY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
**30 ARPIL, 2026**

*Cllr. N. Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as she was a member of the Dafen Community Hall Management Committee. Cllr. R. E. Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was Chairman, Dafen Community Hall Management Committee. Cllr. S. N. Lewis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as she was the Treasurer, Dafen Community Hall Management Committee and left the meeting before discussion commenced. Cllr. A. J. Rogers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was the Secretary, Dafen Community Hall Management Committee and left before discussion commenced.*

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

**20 October, 2026**

**RESOLVED** that the annual grant of £400 be made to Dafen Community Hall Management Committee for the year ending 30 April, 2026.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.35 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 10 November, 2026 adopted by the Council.