

24 April, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 458 – 465

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 24 April, 2024 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. W. E. Skinner (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. R. Bowen	A. Evans
M.V. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. M. Donoghue	J. S. Phillips
N. A. Stephens	

Absent: S. K. Nurse

458. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. L. Davies and N. Evans.

459. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

460. FINANCIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED that the committee income and expenditure reports for the Administration Department, Burial Services and the Training Department to 29 February, 2024 be noted.

461. SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to the schedules of payments for the Administration Department, Burial Services and the Training Department for February 2024 (copies of which had been previously circulated) which revealed that the expenditure amounted to £181,100.08; £24,559.18; £89,560.14 respectively.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

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462. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to applications received for financial assistance and it was

RESOLVED that:

1. Llanelli Woodturning Club – the application be noted;
2. Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – that a contribution of £100 be made;
3. Royal Naval Association – that a contribution of £50 be made.

463. 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.

464. TRAINING DEPARTMENT – CARMARTHEN TRAINING PREMISES

Members were informed that new premises had been sourced for the Carmarthen training establishment which would relocate to Ty Myrddin, Old Station Road, Carmarthen. It was proposed to let rooms 1, 2, 3 and 6, on the ground floor of the building.

The Clerk stated that the council had been holding over on the lease for the current training establishment in Penuel Street, Carmarthen, which had expired three years ago. While Penuel Street was a good facility it was an expensive building to run.

In order to secure the rooms at Ty Myrddin, it was necessary to act quickly and accordingly Heads of Terms had been agreed with the Landlord's agent in relation to the proposed lease. This was done under delegated powers following consultation with the Council Chairman and Council Leader. A copy of the Heads of Terms and proposed lease plan had been previously circulated with the agenda for members' information. The draft lease for the new premises was currently being drawn up based on a three year rent break clause and solicitors had been instructed to act on behalf of the council, to expedite the engrossment of the draft lease as soon as possible.

Securing the move would realise annual cost savings in the region of £20,000 for the Training Department.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the proposed Heads of Terms and lease plan together with the instruction to appoint solicitors to act on the council's behalf, agreed under the council's scheme of delegated powers to the Clerk in relation to the letting of rooms 1, 2, 3 and 6 Ty Myrddin, Old Station Road, Carmarthen be noted and retrospectively endorsed.

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465. COUNCIL INSURANCE COVER - RENEWAL

Further to Minute No. 429, members received the Deputy Clerk’s report informing of the recent tendering exercise for the renewal of the council’s insurance cover from 1 April, 2024.

Members were reminded that an invitation to tender was issued to three companies on 23 February 2024. Only one of the three companies submitted a tender by the original closing date. It was important to secure a competitive tendering exercise to realise best value. Accordingly the deadline was extended in the hope of attracting more interest and consequently two further companies were identified and invited to submit bids by the revised closing date of 16 April 2024. To accommodate the extended deadline an additional month’s insurance cover was negotiated with the council’s current insurance provider to provide cover during the month of April 2024.

Despite positive telephone discussions, no further tender bids were received by the revised deadline. Furthermore, some discussions with insurance brokers revealed that Zurich Municipal currently appeared to have a monopoly on providing insurance cover for the town and community council sector, and its competitive pricing strategy over recent years had resulted in other providers withdrawing from the sector. The significant increase in public liability claims for ‘slips, trips and falls’ made against local councils was also cited as a reason for the reluctance of other insurance providers to provide cover for the sector.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the sole tender received from Zurich Municipal, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, be accepted to provide insurance cover on a three year agreement, with the annual premium for the 12 months from 1 May, 2024 being £39,535.92.

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The meeting concluded at 5.07 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 16 May, 2024, adopted by the Council.