

19 June, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 59 – 67

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 19 June, 2024, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. R. E. Evans (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. R. Bowen	N. Evans
D. M. Cundy	S. M. T. Ford
M. V. Davies	S. N. Lewis
T. M. Donoghue	W. E. Skinner
A. G. Stephens	

Absent: A. Evans

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. P. Hart and B. M. Williams (Cllr. T. M. Donoghue deputising).

60. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

61. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) HUMAN RESOURCES

RESOLVED that Cllrs. R. E. Evans (Chairman of Committee), S. N. Lewis (Leader of Council) and D. M. Cundy be appointed.

(2) APPEALS

RESOLVED that Cllrs. M. V. Davies (Chairman of Council), N. Evans (Vice-Chairman of Committee) and A. G. Stephens be appointed.

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62. APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

(1) WHOLE PLACE PLAN

RESOLVED that Cllrs. S. N. Lewis (Leader of Council), M. V. Davies (Chairman of Council), S. R. Bowen, N. Evans, R. E. Evans (Chairman of Committee), S. M. T. Ford, A. G. Stephens, and B. M. Williams be appointed.

(2) CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED that Cllrs. S. N. Lewis (Leader of Council), M. V. Davies (Chairman of Council), S. R. Bowen, N. Evans, R. E. Evans (Chairman of Committee), S. M. T. Ford, A. G. Stephens, and B. M. Williams be appointed.

(3) FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

RESOLVED that Cllrs. S. N. Lewis (Leader of Council), M. V. Davies (Chairman of Council), S. R. Bowen, N. Evans, R. E. Evans (Chairman of Committee), S. M. T. Ford, A. G. Stephens, and B. M. Williams be appointed.

63. ANNUAL MEETING AND CIVIC SERVICE FRAMEWORK

Members considered a request from Cllr. R. E. Evans about making changes to the current framework, so that anything identified as a budget saving could be reinvested in other council services.

Cllr. Evans proposed a review of policy regarding the format of the council's annual meeting and civic service arrangements from May 2025 onwards to assess whether cost savings could be identified and to scrutinise whether certain elements could be scrapped altogether to make things appear more contemporary in accordance with the current economic climate. In particular Cllr. Evans proposed that the chairman's civic service and formal dinner were permanently discontinued, and that the annual meeting was organised more as a conventional meeting, thereby dispensing with the filming of proceedings and the buffet that followed immediately after the annual meeting had concluded.

Lengthy debate ensued during which a number of suggestions in the form of alternative amendments were tabled, none of which entailed the discontinuation of the civic service. Members opined the civic service should be retained. Notwithstanding this ultimately there was a degree of consensus which formed the basis of an amendment, whereby the presentation of certain gifts and ancillary related activities should be permanently omitted from both the annual meeting and civic service events, and it was

RECOMMENDED that amendments be made to the council's "Framework for the Guidance of the Chairman Elect and Vice Chairman Elect", the effect of which would result in the permanent cessation of the following gifts and activities when hosting future annual meeting and civic service events from May 2025 onwards, namely:

- (1) The presentation of floral bouquets;
- (2) The filming of the annual meeting and civic service;

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- (3) The provision of all forms of post event hospitality, specifically the formal dinner reception and buffet reception.

64. SERVICE PLANS 2024/25

Members considered the council's service plans for 2024/25 which set key objectives for the following service groups:-

- Administrative Services;
- Community Services;
- Recreation and Leisure Services; and
- Training Services.

Following discussion of the multitude of key tasks identified in the service plans, it was

RESOLVED that the service plans be accepted and members thanked officers for their in-depth reports.

**65. NATIONAL DEFAULT SPEED LIMIT RESTRICTIONS TO 20 MPH
(1) THANKS FOR 20: UPDATE ON WELSH SPEED LIMIT REVIEW FROM 20'S PLENTY FOR YOUR COUNCIL**

Members received correspondence from 20's Plenty organisation, claiming that following the change to the national speed limit to 20mph from 17 September, 2023, there had been a huge step forward in liveability, wellbeing and road safety for communities across Wales.

Most streets in urban areas and villages in Wales were now 20mph. Results had showed that speeds had slowed by about 4 mph on free flowing roads, with less noise and pollution with more people willing to travel on foot. The organisation stated that there had been fewer crashes although evidence of this was harder to gauge.

Reference was made by the organisation to the impending review by the Welsh Transport Minister, Welsh Government (WG) of the guidance to local authorities on setting exceptions to the national speed limit, whereby there was no proposal to change the national default 20mph speed limit. However, any new guidance emanating from the review might lead to speed limits on some streets increasing from 20mph to 30mph and vice versa.

The WG had no power to set individual speed limits, other than on the strategic roads that it directly managed. It was the local council, in this instance, Carmarthenshire County Council, that had the power and responsibility to set a local limit that was different from the national 20mph default.

The WG had set up a website where changes could be suggested. 20s Plenty believed that the process ignored the views of vast majority of Welsh people who, while not agreeing with every speed limit did accept them and welcomed the overall benefits of the 20mph default.

20s Plenty requested the council to endorse the national default 20mph speed limit.

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Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(2) NATIONAL LISTENING PROGRAMME – 20 MPH

Correspondence was received from Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport, Welsh Government (WG) encouraging the council to get involved in the WG’s listening programme on 20mph.

The WG wanted to support the highways authorities to get the right speed limits on the right roads and achieve more consistency across Wales on which roads should have a 30mph limit.

WG wanted to build from the consensus that 20mph was correct around schools, hospitals and in built up residential areas. Through partnership working and by supporting highway authorities to make changes where it was right to do so, the WG believed it could absolutely make 20mph a success story for Wales.

To support the National Listening Programme, WG had published a webpage to help signpost people towards the relevant highway authority where they could feedback on specific speed limits. WG was encouraging people to contact their local councils about any roads or streets in their communities where they felt the speed limits had not been correctly applied.

WG wanted people to specifically think if a road should:

- Change from 20mph to 30mph
- Change from 30mph to 20mph
- Stay at 20mph

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.

66. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter 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.

67. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 06:2024 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 6.10 p.m.
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The fore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 9 July, 2024, adopted by the Council.