

**13 November, 2024**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 217 – 225**

At the **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 13 November, 2024, at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. M. V. Davies (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

S. R. Bowen	R. E. Evans
D. M. Cundy	S. N. Lewis
S. L. Davies	A. G. Morgan
T. M. Donoghue	J. S. Phillips
A. Evans	A. J. Rogers
E. M. Evans	W. E. Skinner
N. Evans	A. G. Stephens
N. A. Stephens	

**Absent:** S. K. Nurse, O. Williams

**217. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. T. Ford and J. P. Hart.

**218. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members declared an interest in the following matters:

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
220	D. M. Cundy	Personal interest – he was a Llanelli Chamber of Trade committee member, appointed by the council to serve on the outside body.
223	D. M. Cundy	Personal interest – he was the Chairman, SOSPPAN.
222 & 224	S. L. Davies	Personal interest – member Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum, committee member Provision, Llwynhendy.
222 & 224	E. M. Evans	Personal interest – employed by Carmarthenshire Libraries.

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<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
220	A. G. Stephens	Personal interest – he was the Vice President, Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce.
222 & 224	A. G. Stephens	Personal interest – he was a Trustee and Treasurer Pro-Vision, Llwynhendy.

## **219. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation in the proceedings.

## **220. CITY STATUS FOR LLANELLI**

*Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal interest in the following matter as he was a Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce committee member, having been appointed by the council to serve on the outside body. Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in the following matter as he was the Vice President, Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce.*

Further to Minute No. 137, the Chairman welcomed Mr David Timbrell-Hill, President and Cllr. David Darkin, Treasurer, Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce to the meeting and invited them to address members on the proposed City Status bid for Llanelli.

Mr Timbrell-Hill thanked members for the invitation to attend the meeting and proceeded to inform members of the research the Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce had done for Llanelli to achieve City Status. If successful, Llanelli could become the 8<sup>th</sup> City in Wales. He explained what city status represented. It would not change the status of the local government structure nor Llanelli's place in Carmarthenshire. Moreover, the application sought to raise the positive profile of the town. He cited example evidence from other areas having been granted city status, whereby stakeholders and subsequent investors viewed city places differently. It presented a platform to attract new businesses and people to the area. He confirmed the application was being sponsored and led by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce but had been held in abeyance whilst new members from businesses in the town took up membership of the organisation.

Mr Timbrell-Hill stated that the Chamber of Trade and Commerce launched the campaign back in the spring, having garnered local support, including that of community councils making up the area. At this juncture it was explained that the Rural Council had not been formally consulted about the proposal and as such whether it supported the campaign. Other than being invited solely in a civic capacity to the official launch ceremony in March 2024, the council had not received any further correspondence about the matter so hence the reason for requesting this update presentation. Other points and questions were then put to Mr Timbrell-Hill which he responded to and which focussed on garnering the views of the public from within the villages and places making up the council's administrative area and how would boundaries be drawn up to distinguish between areas either likely or unlikely to support the initiative. A point was also made about a city having appropriate key services in place and forming part of its infrastructure, such as having a fully functioning Minor Injuries Unit at Prince Philip Hospital and not the present scaled down service. It was asserted that a city should have such services in place and concerns were also raised over the condition of

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the local highway infrastructure which was in a poor state of repair. Concern was also expressed about attracting more people to the town and the impact this was likely to have on already over stretched community services such as GP Practices, Dentists and access to schools. These issues were essential to remedy when contemplating making a city status bid. Mr Timbrell-Hill acknowledged these points and remarked the campaign would look to positively focus on promoting the best Llanelli had to offer to attract new businesses to the area, rather than the normal trend of dwelling on the negative aspects associated with the town centre.

In closing the presentation Cllr David Darkin briefly spoke on the matter explaining how he viewed the bid application and what it might do for the town. Whereupon both representatives confirmed they would look into why the council hadn't received a consultation letter and would refer back to the council about this. Thereupon, the Chairman thanked Mr Timbrell-Hill and Cllr. Darkin for attending the meeting and, it was

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted and to await further communication from Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce in regard to the council's potential support for the bid application and at that juncture further consideration shall be given as to how best to garner the views of residents making up the council's administrative area, if and where necessary.

*During discussion of the above, Cllrs. S. L. Davies, E. M. Evans, R. E. Evans, A. G. Morgan and A. J. Rogers left the meeting.*

## **221. 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 October, 2024
Special Meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee	10 October, 2024
Planning and Liaison Committee	14 October, 2024
Recreation and Welfare Committee	15 October, 2024
Policy and Resources Committee	16 October, 2024
Special Council	22 October, 2024
Special Meeting of the Recreation and Welfare Committee	24 October, 2024
Finance and General Purposes Committee	30 October, 2024
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	31 October, 2024
Planning and Liaison Committee	4 November, 2024

## **222. GWILI FIELDS, LLWYNHENDY**

*Cllrs. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was a member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and a committee member of Pro-vision Llwynhendy but had previously left the meeting. Cllr. E. M. Evans declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was employed by Carmarthenshire Libraries but had also previously*

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

Further to Minute No. 176, members proceeded to consider the following recommendation of the Recreation and Welfare Committee:

*RECOMMENDED that the council gives consideration to:*

- 1. Raising the precept for 2025/26 in order to replenish the earmarked reserve, if additional funding could not be identified via further stakeholder pledges or additional grants.*
- 2. Similarly, how the remaining phase 2 environmental works totalling £135,539.70 (subsequent to the deduction of any additional savings being identified in the accepted tender) could be met alongside the total funding needed for the construction works required to the library building, should it transpire that no further stakeholder pledges were forthcoming and the council's grant bid(s) for building works proving to be unsuccessful.*
- 3. The preparation of a general financial appraisal/plan of the resources needed to deliver all facets of the Llwynhendy Hub project and other council projects including the staffing resources required to sustain future services through increasing general capability and capacity. The appraisal/plan would identify the additional operating costs and how these costs could be possibly funded and sustained through the council's annual budget process over the next few years leading up to the next set of ordinary local government elections in 2027"*

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the recommendation of the Recreation and Welfare Committee be accepted.

**223. PRINCE PHILIP HOSPITAL - TEMPORARY OVERNIGHT CLOSURE OF THE MINOR INJURIES UNIT**

*Cllr. D. M. Cundy declared a personal interest in the following matter as he was the Chairman of SOSPPAN.*

Further to Minute No. 199, members considered email correspondence exchanged with the council and Hywel Dda University Health Board.

The clerk remarked that due to the time constraints at the Special Council meeting held on 22 October, 2024, and the lack of opportunity to discuss the next steps at the conclusion of the meeting, whether the council wished to put further written questions to the Health Board. The clerk explained that he had already secured the Health Board's in principle agreement to respond in kind to this suggestion in the correspondence exchanged with the Health Board since the meeting. Members concurred and the clerk enquired on the range of questions potentially to be tabled. To initiate the exercise in the most effective way it was ultimately agreed that the clerk shall forward a scoping email to all members which they could respond to individually with their further questions to be put to the Health Board. The emphasis of the questions would focus on areas such as the review process; the membership and role of the Health Board steering group responsible for leading the review; the scenarios and recommendations that might emanate from the review process in regard to the future status of the MIU including the Health Board's preferred delivery model, assuming the current

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delivery model was not re-instated, which was the widely held view of local stakeholders at the present time.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the clerk garner members’ views for further written questions to be put to Hywel Dda University Health Board, so that the clerk could then submit them to the Communications and Engagement Director, Hywel Dda University Health Board for a response.

**224. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS  
GWILI FIELDS, LLWYNHENDY**

*Cllrs. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was a member of Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum and a committee member of Pro-vision Llwynhendy but had previously left the meeting. Cllr. E. M. Evans declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was employed by Carmarthenshire Libraries but had also previously left the meeting. Cllr. A. G. Stephens declared a personal interest in the following matter as he was a Trustee and the Treasurer of Pro-Vision Llwynhendy.*

Correspondence was received from Evans Powell & Co Solicitors enclosing the Lease and Under Lease documents for engrossment by the council.

The Deputy Clerk informed members that an amendment was necessary to the Lease for a sub-letting clause to be inserted and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign and affix the council’s seal to the Lease and Under Lease for Gwili Fields, Llwynhendy once a suitable sub-letting clause had been inserted within the main provisions of the lease document.

**225. MATTERS REPORTED**

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

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The Meeting concluded at 7.30 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 December, 2024, adopted by the Council.