

**26 February, 2025**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 354 – 360**

At a **SPECIAL COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 26 February, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. S. N. Lewis (Vice Chairman (in the chair))

**Cllrs.**

S. R. Bowen	R. E. Evans
D. M. Cundy	J. Lovell
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

**Absent:** S. M. T. Ford, J. P. Hart, S. K. Nurse, O. Williams

**354. CASUAL VACANCY - HENGOED WARD**

Further to Minute No. 293 the Chairman welcomed Cllr. J. Lovell to his first council meeting following his election to the council on 20 February, 2025.

**355. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. M. V. Davies.

**356. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**357. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation in the proceedings.

26 February, 2025

**358. NOTICE OF VACANCY – DAFEN WARD**

Members received correspondence from the Electoral Services Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of the statutory request from ten electors requesting that the casual vacancy in the Dafen Ward be filled by election.

The Notice of Election would be published on 20 February, 2025, and if contested the election would be held on 27 March, 2025.

The Officer enquired if the council would like to issue poll cards in the event that the election was contested. There was no statutory requirement for poll cards to be issued and so they would only be issued at the request of the council. The estimated cost of providing poll cards for the election in Dafen ward was £3123.65.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and that poll cards be issued to residents in the event of the election being contested.

**359. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2025/26**

Members were presented with a report on the estimates of income and expenditure for 2025/26.

The report presented four possible options for setting the council tax precept for the next financial year ranging from the greatest impact on the precept (option 1) to the least impact on the precept (option 4). Following discussion of the report a recorded vote was requested to accept 'Option 4', to provide for an increase in the budget with the 'Band D' property charge being increased to £157.71. This represented a 'Band D' increase of 39 pence per week per household. The reduction in the precept demand would be accommodated by utilising a combination of general reserves (£107,018) and the Hengoed Ward capital budget (£100,000) to offset expenditure. The proposal was lost by eleven member votes against to four member votes in favour of this option.

Accordingly, the names of the members who voted on the matter so as to show whether they voted for or against the proposal was recorded as follows:

Option 4

*For*

S. L. Davies  
A. Evans  
J. Lovell  
A. G. Stephens

*Against*

S. R. Bowen  
D. M. Cundy  
T. M. Donoghue  
E. M. Evans  
N. Evans  
R. E. Evans  
S. N. Lewis  
A. G. Morgan  
J. S. Phillips

*Abstained*

None

**26 February, 2025**

A. J. Rogers  
W. E. Skinner

Members then proceeded to vote upon the proposal to accept ‘Option 1’, to provide for an increase in the budget with the ‘Band D’ property charge being increased to £181.69 for 2025/26. This represented a ‘Band D’ increase of 85 pence per week per household. This was carried by eleven member votes in favour to four member votes against this option, with the voting pattern of those voting in favour or against conversely reflecting the pattern of voting recorded when considering the proposal to accept ‘Option 4’.

Accordingly, the names of the members who voted on the matter so as to show whether they voted for or against the course of action as annotated in the resolution set out below was recorded as follows:

Option 1

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>
S. R. Bowen	S. L. Davies	None
D. M. Cundy	A. Evans	
T. M. Donoghue	J. Lovell	
E. M. Evans	A. G. Stephens	
N. Evans		
R. E. Evans		
S. N. Lewis		
A. G. Morgan		
J. S. Phillips		
A. J. Rogers		
W. E. Skinner		

**RESOLVED** that the Council Tax yield of £1,568,454 be levied for the financial year 2025/26 reflecting a ‘Band D’ charge of £181.69.

**360. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2025/26**

Members considered the council’s Annual Investment Strategy prepared in accordance with the statutory guidance as it is applied in Wales and it was

**RESOLVED** that the investment strategy be received and accepted.

.....

The Meeting concluded at 6.41 p.m.

.....

The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 11 March, 2025 adopted by the Council.