

COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor I.W. Davies (Chair);

Councillors:

S.M. Allen	L.R. Bowen	K.V. Broom	C.A. Campbell
J.M. Charles	D.M. Cundy	S.A. Curry	C.A. Davies
W.R.A. Davies	T.A.J. Davies	G. Davies	H.L. Davies
J.A. Davies	K.Davies	S.L. Davies	E. Dole
P.M. Edwards	D.C. Evans	H.A.L. Evans	W.T. Evans
A.L. Fox	S.J.G. Gilasbey	C.J. Harris	P. Hughes-Griffiths
A.D. Harries	T.M. Higgins	J.K. Howell	P.M. Hughes
A. James	J.D. James	R. James	D.M. Jenkins
G.H. John	C. Jones	B.W. Jones	D. Jones
G.R. Jones	A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis	K. Lloyd
K. Madge	S. Matthews	A.S.J. McPherson	E. Morgan
A.G. Morgan	D. Nicholas	B.D.J. Phillips	J.S. Phillips
D. Price	J.G. Prosser	E.M.J.G. Schiavone	H.B. Shepardson
L.M. Stephens	D. Thomas	E.G. Thomas	G.B. Thomas
G. Thomas	J. Tremlett	A.Vaughan Owen	D.T. Williams
D.E. Williams	J.E. Williams		

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
R. Mullen, Director of Environment;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
G. Jones, Digital Infrastructure Project Manager;
J. Hawker, Digital Support Officer;
G. Morgan, Democratic Services Manager;
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer;
R. Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer;
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
C.J. Warwick, Digital Support Engineer;
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting; 10.00 am - 11.20 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.S. Edmunds, L.D. Evans, H.I. Jones, T.J. Jones and B.A.L. Roberts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair extended his sincere condolences on behalf of Elected Members and Senior Officers to Councillor Ann Davies and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law at the end of October;
- The Chair extended his sincere condolences on behalf of Elected Members and Senior Officers to the family of former Councillor Lynne Davies. Lynne had been a member of Carmarthenshire County Council until 1999, and had served the Penygroes ward;
- The Chair commented that he had had the pleasure of representing the Authority on Sunday at the Remembrance Day Service at Llanelli Town Hall. He added that these annual events were important for us to remember those who gave their lives in all conflicts, and although on a much smaller scale this year, it had been an honour to be there on behalf of the Council.
- The Chair reminded the Council of the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign, which this year would be recognised on 25th November 2020, and urged members to sign the ribbon to make the promise to "Never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against Women". The Council would fly the White Ribbon flag at County Hall and Town Halls in Llanelli and Ammanford.
- The Chair extended his congratulations to Councillor Amanda Fox who had been awarded the Peter Rees Community Award in recognition of her efforts to help the community of Burry Port during the Covid 19 Pandemic;
- Councillor Dot Jones thanked the Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service, Police and the local community for their assistance following a recent lightning strike on a house in Tumble which had destroyed the inside of the property. Welsh Water and Western Power had also worked quickly to restore utilities which had been affected. She added that money raised locally as a result of the incident had been donated by the residents of the property to the local Fire and Ambulance station which had subsequently agreed to purchase a defibrillator for the locality. Cllr. Jones also thanked officers from the Council's Housing section for their assistance.
- Councillor Emlyn Dole, on behalf of Councillor Liam Bowen, congratulated Jonny Clayton, a Council employee and resident of Pontyberem, on his recent success in winning the Darts World Cup;
- Councillor Mair Stephens asked Members if they could kindly support the annual Toybox appeal so that less fortunate children had the joy of opening presents on Christmas morning;
- The Chair wished a happy 100th birthday to Mrs. Nan Percival, Glan yr Ystrad, Ferryside;

- The Chair thereupon invited the Leader to address Council with an update on the Covid-19 position in the County. Councillor Dole stated that he welcomed the news that the rates of infection were slowly decreasing and that the Government had extended the furlough scheme to March 2021. Council was informed that in Carmarthenshire business support grants continued to be provided and to date 4086 payments had been made totalling over £46m. Also over 2000 applications had been received for the NDR Lockdown grant and £1.7m had been awarded. He added that whilst the recent news of the discovery of a potential vaccine was also welcomed he still urged caution however so that all the hard work and sacrifices over the last few weeks were not in vain. He paid tribute to the work of both Members and Council staff in helping to keep the residents of Carmarthenshire as safe as possible;
- The Chair advised that he would be calling on Council to hold a 2 minute silence at 11.00 am to remember those who had lost their lives in conflict.

4. COUNCIL MINUTES - 22ND OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 22ND October, 2020 be signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor D.E. Williams' name in the list of attendees and the inclusion of Councillor P.M. Hughes' name under 'Apologies for absence'.

5. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

5.1. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 19th October 2020 (minute 4 refers), had considered the proposed Business Case, and subsequent investment, for the Swansea Bay City Deal Digital Infrastructure Project for which Carmarthenshire County Council was the designated lead Authority. The Project would deliver the essential underlying Infrastructure required to support and underpin the region's broader Digital Strategy and help to ensure that the region was equipped with future-proofed Digital Infrastructure that will provide the transformative foundations for City Deal interventions and wider regional growth.

Members wholeheartedly supported the proposals outlined in the report and were advised that information on the current broadband situation within each of their wards could be obtained from officers if they wished.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:

- “4.1 that the proposed Business Case and subsequent investment in Digital Infrastructure across the Swansea Bay City Region be approved;**
- 4.2 that the project SRO (Senior Responsible Owner) be granted delegated powers to make minor amendments to the business case as necessary to obtain approval at local, regional, and national governance.”**

[NOTE: At this point in the meeting, 11.00 am, Council observed a 2 minutes silence to remember those who had lost their lives in conflict.]

6. EXECUTIVE BOARD - 19TH OCTOBER 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 19th October 2020 be received.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions from Members had been received.

9. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

In accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 2(2)(n) the following nominations had been received from the Labour Group and it was:

RESOLVED:-

9.1 that Councillor Suzy Curry be appointed to replace Councillor Fozia Akhtar on the Licensing Committee;

9.2 that Councillor Rob James be appointed to replace Councillor Suzy Curry on the Democratic Services Committee.

10. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

As Cllr. Rob James had replaced Cllr. Suzy Curry on the Democratic Services Committee [Minute 9.1 above refers] Council was asked to consider appointing a new Chair for that Committee. In accordance with the requirement of the Constitution Leaders had been asked to submit their nominees. The only name put forward was Cllr Rob James.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rob James be appointed Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

11. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda 11.1 – 11.4 were available for information on the Council website.

CHAIR

DATE