

COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor P. Hughes-Griffiths [Chair]

Councillors:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| S.M. Allen | D.J.R. Bartlett | S.M. Caiach | C.A. Campbell |
| J.M. Charles | A.P. Cooper | D.M. Cundy | A. Davies |
| G. Davies | J.A. Davies | S.L. Davies | T. Davies |
| W.R.A. Davies | T.T. Defis | T. Devichand | E. Dole |
| J.S. Edmunds | P.M. Edwards | D.C. Evans | H.A.L. Evans |
| L.D. Evans | W.J.W. Evans | W.T. Evans | M. Gravell |
| A.D. Harries | C.P. Higgins | W.G. Hopkins | J.K. Howell |
| P.M. Hughes | I.J. Jackson | A. James | J.D. James |
| D.M. Jenkins | J.P. Jenkins | A.W. Jones | G.O. Jones |
| H.I. Jones | T.J. Jones | W.J. Lemon | A. Lenny |
| M.J.A. Lewis | D.J.R. Llewellyn | K. Madge | A.G. Morgan |
| E. Morgan | J. Owen | P.A. Palmer | D. Price |
| D.W.H. Richards | B.A.L. Roberts | H.B. Shepardson | A.D.T. Speake |
| L.M. Stephens | T. Theophilus | E.G. Thomas | G. Thomas |
| G.B. Thomas | J. Thomas | K.P. Thomas | M.K. Thomas |
| R. Thomas | S.E. Thomas | W.G. Thomas | J. Tremlett |
| D.E. Williams | J. Williams | J.E. Williams | J.S. Williams |

Also Present:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Mr M. James | - | Chief Executive |
| Mr C. Moore | - | Director of Corporate Services |
| Mr J. Morgan | - | Director of Communities |
| Ms R. Mullen | - | Director of Environment |
| Mr R. Sully | - | Director of Education & Children |
| Mr P. Thomas | - | Assistant Chief Executive |
| Ms W. Walters | - | Assistant Chief Executive |
| Ms L. Rees Jones | - | Head of Administration & Law |
| Mr I. Llewellyn | - | Forward Planning Manager |
| Ms D. Williams | - | Press Manager |
| Mrs M. Evans Thomas | - | Democratic Services Officer |

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 1.10 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Bowen, D.B. Davies, P.E.M. Jones and S. Matthews.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

| Councillor | Minute Number | Nature of Interest |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| S.M. Allen | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Whitland Town Council |
| A.P. Cooper | 10 – Community Infrastructure Levy | Member of Llandybie Community Council |
| D.M. Cundy | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Rural Council who are involved in asset transfer |
| A. Davies | 10 – Community Infrastructure Levy | Member of Llandybie Community Council |
| G. Davies | 7.1 – 7.5 – Public Questions | Member of Cwarter Bach Community Council who are discussing asset transfers |
| S.L. Davies | 7.1 to 7.5 – Public Questions | Secretary of Dafen Welfare Committee |
| T. Davies | 7 – Public Questions | Chair of Gorslas Community Council |
| W.R.A. Davies | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llandybie Community Council |
| T. Devichand | 7.1 to 7.5 – Public Questions | Chair of Dafen Welfare Committee |
| E. Dole | 5 – Presentation of Petition | Member of Llannon Community Council who are involved with asset transfers |
| E. Dole | 7.1 to 7.5 – Public Questions | Member of Llannon Community Council who are involved with asset transfers |
| J.S. Edmunds | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Town Council |
| D.C. Evans | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Ammanford Town Council who are in negotiations regarding asset transfer |
| D. Harries | 7.1 to 7.5 – Public Questions | President of Ammanford Football Club |
| C.P. Higgins | 10 – Community Infrastructure Levy | Member of Llanedi Community Council |
| P.M. Hughes | 7 – Public Questions | Member of St. Clears Town Council |
| I.J. Jackson | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llandovery Town Council who are involved with asset transfer |
| A. James | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llangadog Community Council who are undertaking asset transfers |
| J.D. James | 7.1 to 7.5 – Public Questions | President of Burry Port Bowls Club and Member of Burry Port |

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| | | Rugby Club who are involved in asset transfer |
| D.M. Jenkins | 7.1 to 7.4 - Public Questions | Member of Cwmamman Town Council who are involved with asset transfers |
| A.W. Jones | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llandybie Community Council who are discussing asset transfers |
| A.W. Jones | 10 – Community Infrastructure Levy | Member of Llandybie Community Council |
| G.O. Jones | 7 – Public Questions | Secretary of a Football Club in the county |
| T.J. Jones | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Rural Council |
| W.J. Lemon | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Town Council who are in discussions regarding asset transfer |
| K. Madge | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Cwmamman Town Council who are discussing asset transfers |
| K. Madge | 11 – CSSIW Annual Report and Evaluation of Performance for 2014/15 | His daughter works in social services |
| A.G. Morgan | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Rural Council who are actively involved in asset transfers |
| J. Owen | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Town Council who are in discussions regarding asset transfer |
| A.D.T. Speake | 9 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17 | In receipt of a war pension |
| E.G. Thomas | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llandeilo Town Council and Chairman of Llandeilo & District Sports Association who are involved in asset transfer |
| G.B. Thomas | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanedi Community Council who are in the process of asset transfer |
| J. Thomas | 7.1 to 7.5 – Public Questions | Chair of Carmarthen Football Club |
| M.K. Thomas | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llannon Community Council who are discussing asset transfers |
| S.E. Thomas | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llandybie Community Council |

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| W.G. Thomas | 7 – Public Questions | Deputy Leader of Llanelli Town Council and is involved in discussions on asset transfers |
| J. Williams | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Llanelli Town Council who are discussing asset transfers |
| J.S. Williams | 7 – Public Questions | Member of Pontyberem Community Council who are in the process of asset transfer |

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, the Hon. Robin Lewis, and his wife, Mrs Judith Lewis. The Lord Lieutenant would be retiring from his post in February having held the office since 2006. The Chair referred to his numerous achievements throughout a long and distinguished career. The Chair thanked the Lord Lieutenant for his service to Carmarthenshire over the past ten years. He extended his best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement and offered a gift as a token of the Council's appreciation. The Lord Lieutenant thanked the Chair for his kind words and for the gift, which he would treasure.

Announcements

- On 13th December children from Nantgaredig Primary School, Ysgol Teilo Sant, Llandeilo and Llandeilo Primary School took part in the annual BBC Christmas Concert in St. David's Hall, Cardiff. Also taking part in the concert were schools from Powys and Rhondda Cynon Taf, together with BBC choristers and celebrities;
- Congratulations were extended to Mr Bruce McLernon, former Director of Social Care & Housing, who was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours for services to social care and local government;
- Having received an MBE, congratulations were extended to Mrs Rosalie Mary James from Llandeilo for services to agriculture in Wales and Mrs Erika Walker from Ammanford for voluntary services to the community and social enterprises in Ammanford;
- Congratulations were extended to Ms Wendy Angharad Churchouse, Arrhythmia Nurse in Morryston Hospital, who is from Carmarthenshire and has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to cardiac patients in South West Wales;
- Best wishes were extended to Councillor Daff Davies who was currently in hospital;
- The Chair referred to several members who had been in hospital recently and welcomed them back to the Chamber;

- Congratulations were extended to the Leader on the birth of his grandson over the Christmas period;
- The Chair referred with sadness to the death of Mr Jeff Connell and extended his sympathy to Mr Connell's family;
- The Chair thanked staff and Councillors for kindly sponsoring him to do the Walrus Dip on Boxing Day. The total raised to date for Tenovus Cancer and Llyfrau Llafar was around £800.

4. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9th December, 2015 be signed as a correct record.

5. PRESENTATION OF PETITION - KEEP PARC HOWARD PUBLIC

[NOTE: Councillor E. Dole had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Chair invited Councillor Jan Williams to present the 5,303 signature petition in the following terms, together with supporting remarks:-

“We the undersigned call on Carmarthenshire County Council to keep Parc Howard in public ownership.”

RESOLVED that the petition be received and referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

6.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR TEGWEN DEVICHAND TO COUNCILLOR LINDA EVANS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR HOUSING

“I have had a number of complaints from tenants and residents regarding the infestation of rats in their properties. Although continuing baiting has been carried out rats are still invading a number of homes. They are destroying the personal effects of the residents and tenants and also chewing electric wires etc. One lady told me that she was afraid to get out of bed in the night to use the bathroom in case she was attacked by one of these vermin. The rats seem to be coming up into the properties from outside drains. I have been informed that this is happening more since the water board stopped baiting their drains. Can the Executive Board Member contact the water board any other agency on a way forward to overcome this problem.”

Response by Councillor Linda Evans, Executive Board Member for Housing:

“May I start by thanking Councillor Devichand for raising this important health and welfare issue. I would also like to clarify that this area also forms part of Councillor Jim Jones' portfolio in his role as Executive Board Member for Public Protection. We have discussed the question and issues raised and agreed that I would present this joint response as the question was addressed to myself. However, I

would like to take this opportunity to confirm that we both take the comments made in this question seriously.

Turning to the specific issues raised in the question, I would like to confirm that in the past year the Housing and Public Protection Division has received a total of 255 service requests regarding rats, of which 77 were in respect of Council owned dwellings.

Once service requests are received, and in line with our statutory duties, officers investigate the source of the infestation. They provide advice regarding pest proofing, removal of nests, baiting and removal. In extreme circumstances, our involvement may extend to commencing enforcement action. This has occurred 27 times in the past year.

Our investigations include the identification of the source of the problem. This may include drainage surveys involving specialised cameras. Should the evidence suggest the source is from drainage under the control of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water we would share our findings with them. It would then be their responsibility to utilise the most effective solution to the problem, which may include baiting. We work closely with them and continue to monitor the situation until the issue is resolved.

Having regard to the issues raised regarding problems in your area, we can confirm that officers are available to commence their investigations upon confirmation of the properties involved. We would be happy to pass these particulars on. Officers will then be able to investigate the source of the problem and take the relevant action (in conjunction with relevant partners) to ensure eradication of the problem.

Both Councillor Jones and I thank you again for raising your concerns and we confirm that we will write to Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and other relevant agencies to enquire what policies they are currently following in relation to baiting. We will make the response available to all members.”

Councillor Devichand asked the following supplementary question:

“Will the Council consider bringing back the Pest Control Service in-house?”

Response by Councillor Jim Jones, Executive Board Member for Environmental and Public Protection:

“I have asked the manager of the department to give me a full update and once I have the answers I will respond to my Shadow Member, Councillor Penny Edwards and yourself.”

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

[NOTE: Councillors S.M. Allen, D.M. Cundy, G. Davies, S.L. Davies, T. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, T. Devichand, E. Dole, J.S. Edmunds, D.C. Evans, D. Harries, P. M. Hughes, I.J. Jackson, A. James, J.D. James, D.M. Jenkins, A.W. Jones, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, W.J. Lemon, K. Madge, A.G. Morgan, J. Owen, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas, J. Thomas, M.K. Thomas, S.E. Thomas, W.G. Thomas, J. Williams and J.S. Williams had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

**7.1. QUESTION BY MR MIKE BASSETT, SECRETARY OF
CARMARTHENSHIRE UNIFIED SPORTS COMMITTEE, TO
COUNCILLOR DAVID JENKINS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR
RESOURCES**

**Mr Mike Bassett, Secretary of Carmarthenshire Unified Sports Committee,
asked the following question:-**

“Shouldn’t the Llanelli area, which contributes 43% of the county’s council tax, be entitled to its parks, playgrounds and playing fields which contribute so much to the health and well being of its residents?”

**Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for
Resources:-**

“I would in the first instance query the fact quoted where you state that the Llanelli area contributes 43% of the County Council’s tax. I have conducted investigations with officers and I have established that Llanelli Town residents contribute 12% of the council tax and Llanelli Rural 11% towards council tax making a combined total of 23%. The Council’s policy, put in place by the previous administration, which the present administration is happy to follow, is to promote local management of all parks and playgrounds and has been applied across the whole of the county, not just in Llanelli, to ensure that all areas of the county are treated equally, with each area bearing the cost of providing these facilities within their own area. In many parts of the county Community Councils and local sporting clubs have been managing local parks and playing facilities in their areas for many years. In fact, 41 out of 72 Community Councils are in that situation i.e. 50% of them are running their own assets at present. Since the policy was initiated, a vast majority of Town and Community Councils, who were previously not managing their local parks and playing fields, have responded positively to County Council calls for assets to be managed locally, with another 35% (25) taking an interest in asset transfer. That leaves a very small number of Town and Community Councils who have not to date expressed an interest in the asset transfer process, that is 6 (8%). The closing date for expressions of interest is 31st March this year. The long lead-in time for the County Council’s proposals has allowed Community and Town Councils, sporting organisations and other community groups to make preparations for taking over the facilities. The Maintenance and Improvement Grants offered by the County Council has also enabled future maintenance costs to be deferred for some years. It is also worth noting that Community Councils, Sporting Clubs and other community groups can apply for grants to help set up and maintain the facilities they manage, such grants not being available to the County Council. As stated previously, the closing date for declarations of interest is 31st March this year, with asset transfers to be completed by 31st March, 2018, at which time the Authority will consider the future of the facilities remaining within County Council control. On a local, parochial note, I am a member of Cwmamman Town Council as is Councillor Kevin Madge and we are actively involved and we are very close to asset transferring not only parks but the public conveniences and also the Community Education Centre with two sporting organisations, namely Amman United R.F.C. and Cwmamman Town A.F.C. also running their own sporting facilities.”

7.2. QUESTION BY MR KEVIN FRANCIS, CHAIRMAN, BURRY PORT JUNIORS A.F.C., TO COUNCILLOR DAVID JENKINS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Mr Kevin Francis, Chairman of Burry Port Juniors A.F.C, asked the following question:-

“If town/rural/community councils are unable to take on an area listed for asset transfer, do the county council have a shortlist of third parties interested in taking over these assets, bearing in mind that Carmarthenshire County Council were unable to run them at a profit? If so could you please name them?”

Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources:-

“No, there are no third parties shortlisted. In the main, Sports Clubs, Town and Community Councils and other community organisations have stepped forward to manage the facilities.”

Mr Francis asked the following supplementary question:-

“If no third party comes forward and no Town Council takes over certain areas, are you going to close our parks and playgrounds where we have worked tirelessly for 18 months to secure a long term, affordable, sustainable, future for our clubs? What are you going to do with them? Are you going to stop maintaining them?”

Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources:-

“In a way, I have answered your question in my comments to Mr Bassett earlier. We are involved in the process at the moment and the process is that requests for asset transfers are to be finalised by 31st March this year and the transfer completed by 31st March, 2018, at which time the Authority will consider the future of the facilities remaining within County Council control. That decision will be made at that time and date. In the meantime, Local Authorities, Sports Clubs and community groups have the potential to take over these clubs and run it themselves as we are doing in Cwmamman Town.”

7.3. QUESTION BY MR PHILLIP WILLIAMS, EVANS & WILLIAMS AFC, TO COUNCILLOR DAVID JENKINS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Mr Phillip Williams, Evans & Williams A.F.C., asked the following question:-

“If the areas containing the sports pitches are asset transferred would the deal that has been brokered with officers of CCC still remain? i.e. Will a provision be made for any land that is transferred to a third party under asset transfer be only used for sport and recreational purposes and that a similar covenant cover the sale of such land if that were to be considered. Would existing terms and conditions already agreed be honoured and renewed with realistic rates etc. in line with inflation?”

Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources:-

“As all asset transfers are transferred on long lease agreements and there will be covenants within the agreements that clearly state that the use of assets transferred must be used for recreational purposes, these covenants would also be imposed on any sub-lessees of the assets in question. Any terms and conditions originally stipulated within the original contract would be honoured and any changes would be the subject of all contracting parties being in agreement of any proposed changes.”

Mr Williams asked the following supplementary question:-

“While these areas are still on the asset transfer list it is causing extreme distress particularly within the bowling fraternity, who don't see a future for their sport. If Penygaer playing fields are lost, they are lost forever. Do you not feel that the situation is detrimental to the development of all sports as they rely on these areas?”

Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources:-

“I will re-iterate that the management of these playgrounds and sporting fields can be transferred to Community Councils, sporting organisations etc. It is in their hands. At the end of the day, on 31st March, 2018, when it comes back to the Authority, we will consider the position at that time.”

7.4. QUESTION BY MR PHIL JONES, SENIOR REGISTRATION SECRETARY CAFL, TO COUNCILLOR DAVID JENKINS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Mr Phil Jones, Senior Registration Secretary CAFL, asked the following question:-

“Why are the parks, playgrounds and playing fields of the Llanelli area being threatened with closure or third party ownership, whilst areas who contribute significantly less financially to CCC coffers are receiving massive annual subsidies e.g. Laugharne Boat House £69,000, Pendine Outward Bound Centre £207,000, St. Clears Leisure Centre £128,000 and St. Clears Craft Centre £76,000.”

Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources:-

“The Council's policy is to seek local management arrangements for all parks and playgrounds and this has been applied across the whole of the county, not just in Llanelli. In many parts of the county local clubs and Community or Town Councils have been managing these facilities for years. The vast majority of Town and Community Councils, who were previously not managing their local parks and playing fields, have responded positively to the County Council's call for the assets to be managed locally. This policy was determined back in 2013 initially by the previous administration but we are happy to follow this policy because we are trying to create a level playing field across the county. Why should people who

are already managing their playgrounds be subsidising people who are not managing their playgrounds.

With reference to the other facilities you have listed, these along with other non-statutory items, are also subject to the same budget pressures as parks and playgrounds. You seem to have trawled through the 2015/16 budget digest and you have been quite selective in what you have picked. You have highlighted that St. Clears Leisure Centre receives a subsidy of £128,000 but on the same page you will see that Llanelli Leisure Centre receives a subsidy of £586,000 but you have chosen not to mention this item. From the Outdoor Education Section of the digest, you mention that the Pendine Outward Bound Centre receives a subsidy; from the Cultural and Heritage section of the digest you have chosen to mention that the Laugharne Boat House receives a subsidy of £69,000 and St. Clears Craft Centre receives a subsidy of £128,000. The very next entry in this section is Y Ffwrnes which receives a subsidy of £393,000 but you have chosen not to mention this item. You have chosen not to mention the Millennium Coastal Park which receives a subsidy of £1,058,000, Burry Port Harbour which receives a subsidy of £338,000, the Discovery Centre which receives a subsidy of £69,000. All these facilities have been in place for several years, when times were better. We are facing financial hardship at the moment and the reality of the situation is that we are looking for every penny. Who knows, perhaps in the future we may have to look at these areas as well. All the above facilities make a contribution towards the attractiveness of Carmarthenshire for its residents as a place to live, work and play and also help attract visiting tourists. The Boat House is internationally famous and a nationally important leisure/cultural facility. Each part of the county has different facilities and all parts of the county benefit from the tourists that are attracted to these facilities. The extract you made is from the leisure section of the budget digest whereas in the asset transfer section parks receive a subsidy of £481,000 and the grounds maintenance service receive a subsidy of £1.5m subsidy and those two items form part of the property services section of the budget. No County Councillor involved in the decision making process is happy at having to make cuts in any service provided by the Authority but in the face of an ever reducing budget coming to us via Cardiff and Westminster, difficult decisions are having to be made. The Authority has a legal responsibility to provide those statutory services imposed on it by Cardiff and Westminster governments. Therefore and unfortunately, cuts tend to be made in those non-statutory services that the Authority provides. We as an Authority think our policy in respect of promoting local management of all parks and playgrounds is a means of retaining these facilities within the county with the management of them being delivered in a different way.”

Mr Jones asked the following supplementary question:-

“Could you explain why these pitches are still on the asset transfer list and I include football, rugby, cricket and bowls, when we have done all we can as far as payment reduction for CCC which resulted in a cut from £288,457 to £22,500. That is how much CUFC local sports governing bodies have saved Carmarthenshire County Council.”

Response by Councillor David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources:-

“I appreciate what you are saying. If you, as a constituted body, can take over these playgrounds and run them, you can still enter a Service Level Agreement with County Council staff where the expertise is there in terms of the ability to do this work. It is just providing the same service but being managed by a different organisation in a slightly different way. The last thing I want is to close down all playgrounds and sporting activities in the county as it is not in the best interests of the county but this is where we are at the moment. The policy is in place and we are following it at the moment. On 31st March, 2018, the decisions will be made as to what is the final outcome.”

7.5. QUESTION BY MR WAYNE ERASMUS, CHAIRMAN OF HENDY COMMUNITY AND PARK COMMITTEE, TO COUNCILLOR EMLYN DOLE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Mr Wayne Erasmus, Chairman of Hendy Community an Park Committee, asked the following question:-

“When Councillor Emlyn Dole stepped in to help in the fight against the unaffordable pitch fees, he stated that these fees would put an end to participation in sport across the county. He claimed that these proposals were ill conceived and ill thought out. He was of the opinion that it was a rushed through policy developed in the midst of the twilight zone. In light of Councillor David Jenkins’ comments to the press that we simply cannot afford to maintain these areas, would he not agree that the closure of the parks in which these sports pitches are situated should demand the same response?”

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole, Leader of the Council:-

“No, I do not agree.”

Mr Erasmus asked the following supplementary question:-

“Will you form an executive body of all the parties and involve all the organisations to keep the parks open?”

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole, Leader of the Council:-

“Can I remind Mr Erasmus of his question. He asked me do I agree and I do not agree so I have answered the question. As to his second question, which does not really connect to the first, as far as I understand he is the Chairman of Hendy Community and Park Committee, my question in response to him is to ask if it is a properly constituted organisation because the negotiations around asset transfer are with properly constituted organisations that may or may not wish to take up the offer of asset transfer. Can I just say that when we took over leadership we inherited policies, one was to do with fees for sports pitches and one was asset transfer. On the sports pitches, I did not disagree with the policy, what I said was that it was being rushed through. I also said in the Notice of Motion could we have a year in which we could hold a meaningful discussion around that. During that year I sat as an observer in those negotiations and worked very closely with Mr Kevin Francis, whom I have a very deep respect and admiration for as well, for the work that he’s done during that year to move that discussion forward, along with our officers, and to progress that discussion in the way that he has. That is to be commended. That respect and admiration is there and will continue for his

commitment to that cause. In response to that policy, I asked for a meaningful discussion and a year's grace to facilitate that meaningful discussion. I did not oppose it. The policy around asset transfer was a different policy. I did not oppose that policy either. The administration was saying that, in light of the austerity programme coming down from London through Cardiff and the efficiencies we are being asked to make year on year, we have to look at transferring assets and putting them in the hands of the community. In a sense it is the true spirit of devolution, it is moving community assets closer to the people. It is asking interested parties to look at those assets realistically and to ask themselves are you willing to take those on because of the budget constraints year on year on this Council. Llannon Community Council made that decision two years ago. So the reason I said no to your original question is because in Llannon we have been responding to this policy for two years, since it was set by the previous administration, who said that we had to look at asset transfer as a community. You either do that, they told us, or you lose your parks. So the discussion in a properly constituted body at that time, in Llannon Community Council, and we have had that discussion with my colleague, Councillor Kim Thomas, is are we going to take these assets over and run them for the people of our community or are we going to let them disappear? Our response to that over the past two years was to look at that in the context of the precept that we set in order to be in a position to be able to take over those assets in a realistic way and to improve the third world type of set up that there is in Tumble Park and Crosshands Park at the moment. Our intention, as a Community Council, is to take over that asset and improve it and give our community the asset they deserve. We've addressed that in the precept that we've set. We are addressing it in the context of taking over that asset and running it and improving it for the people who live in the Llannon ward. You ask me do I respond in the same way to community asset transfer as I do to sports pitch fees - no I don't. In sports pitch fees terms I asked for a meaningful discussion and we have moved that forward. In the context of asset transfer, what we did and what many Community Councils have done across the county and across the Authority is to look realistically at this and ask if we are going to take these on and ensure their future for the people that we represent and most of them have signed up to that and we are waiting for the others to follow. I would ask you to be wary of people who might use assets which belong to the people and belong to the community in a political sense because there are people out there who will make political mischief around assets that belong to the people. Also beware of some elements of the local media who make things up and that has happened in the context of asset transfer. I have been misquoted time after time in the context of Parc Howard and asset transfer and that is unfortunate because it moves the debate and the meaningful conversation from where it needs to be to somewhere else and creates something that is not there. When I was accosted on the steps earlier I was presented with a venomous scenario and this is not a venomous scenario, this is for the people of Carmarthenshire and this is to ensure that the assets that they own stay in their ownership in a way that works for them as local communities."

8. PRESENTATION - TIDAL LAGOON SWANSEA BAY

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Ioan Jenkins, Development Director with Tidal Lagoon Power, who had been invited to give the Council a presentation on the development of a Tidal Lagoon in Swansea Bay.

Wales has the second highest tidal range in the world and it was proposed to take full advantage of that power by creating a tidal lagoon. This would involve the construction of 16 turbines on the sea bed which would generate electricity for around 14 hours a day. The energy produced would be predictable and consistent.

The ambition was to build 6 Tidal Lagoons in the UK, 4 of which would be in Wales, providing Wales with the opportunity to become a global leader in the production of energy. The six lagoons will generate approximately 8-10% of the UK's energy for the next 120 years and more.

The Tidal Lagoon in Swansea Bay will produce enough tidal energy to generate power for over 100,000 homes. The £650m investment will offer long term jobs, a sporting and recreation arena, a maricultural farm, together with associated education programmes at primary, secondary and university level. It was also proposed to include a Visitor Centre where visitors can learn about tidal power and the creation of the lagoon. The lagoon setting would also provide a unique setting for international, national and local sports events and training.

Details were provided of the economic opportunities for businesses in Wales during the construction phase and in the longer term.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, following which the Chair thanked Mr Jenkins for a most informative presentation.

9. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2016/17

[NOTE: Councillor A.D.T. Speake had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Council was reminded that in 2012 the Welsh Government introduced regulations to bring in a single all-Wales Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2013/14, replacing the former UK-wide Council Tax Benefit Scheme. As the scheme for 2013/14 contained a "sunset-clause" it was necessary for the Welsh Government to introduce a further scheme for 2014/15 and subsequent years.

Despite being an all-Wales scheme, individual Councils are required to formally adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31st January each year.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 9.1 that the standard all-Wales Council Tax Reduction scheme provided for under the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme)(Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 be adopted for 2016/17;**
- 9.2 to implement the annual up-rating figures (used in entitlement calculations) and other minor technical amendments included in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme)(Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2016 that are due to come into force on 20th January, 2016;**

9.3 that Council continues to exercise its discretion with regard to the limited discretionary elements of the prescribed scheme, as outlined in the report.

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

[NOTE: Councillors A.P. Cooper, A. Davies, C.P. Higgins and A.W. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Council was informed that the Executive Board had, at its meeting held on the 30th November, 2015 (Minute 7 refers), considered the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and had made two recommendations, as detailed in the report of the Head of Planning, for consideration by Council.

Reference was made to need to ensure that the CIL was fair and did not penalise small/family/rural businesses and the importance therefore of such businesses participating in the consultation process.

Concern was expressed that 85% of any money received would be used for other areas like Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion or Swansea Bay. The Chief Executive explained that as it would be Carmarthenshire's CIL the money cannot go anywhere else.

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

10.1.1 "To progress a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Carmarthenshire;

10.1.2 To authorise the production of a Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule, which will identify the amount of CIL sought from each qualifying development, and to conduct a formal consultation on its content along with the associated evidence base."

11. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - CSSIW ANNUAL REPORT AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE FOR 2014/15

[NOTE: Councillor K. Madge had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Council was informed that the Executive Board had, at its meeting held on the 30th November, 2015 (Minute 10 refers), considered the CSSIW Annual Review and Evaluation of Performance for 2014/15 and had made a recommendation, as detailed in the report of the Director of Community Services, for consideration by Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“To receive the Annual Review and Evaluation of Performance 2014/15 of the Local Authority’s Social Services undertaken by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.”

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - WELSH LANGUAGE SKILLS STRATEGY

Council was informed that the Executive Board had, at its meeting held on the 30th November, 2015 (Minute 14 refers), considered the Welsh Language Skills Strategy and had made a recommendations, as detailed in the report of Assistant Chief Executive (People Management and Performance), for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“That the Welsh Language Skills Strategy and ALTE framework be adopted.”

13. DURATION OF MEETING

At 1.00 p.m., during consideration of the above item, Council’s attention was drawn to Corporate Procedure Rule 9.1 “Duration of Meeting” and CPR 23.1 “Suspension” and as the meeting had been underway for three hours, it was accordingly

RESOLVED to suspend the Council Procedure Rules to enable the remaining business on the Agenda to be considered.

14. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - AGEING WELL IN WALES - LOCAL AGEING WELL PLANS

Council was informed that the Executive Board had, at its meeting held on the 30th November, 2015 (Minute 15 refers), considered the Ageing Well in Wales Local Ageing Well Plans and had made a recommendation, as detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy), for consideration by Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“That the Ageing Well Plan for Carmarthenshire County Council be endorsed.”

15. EXECUTIVE BOARD - 30TH NOVEMBER, 2015

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the above meeting be received.

16. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following amendments to committee membership be approved in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(2)(m):-

Councillor B.A.L. Roberts to replace Councillor P.M. Edwards on the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee;

Councillor P.M. Edwards to replace Councillor K.P. Thomas on the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee;

Councillor D.J.R. Bartlett to replace Councillor J. Williams on the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee;

Councillor R. Thomas to replace Councillor D.M. Cundy on the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee.

CHAIR

DATE