

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,
on Tuesday 10th January 2006 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman - J R Harris
Vice-chairman – Councillor G A Cox
Mayor - Councillor Mrs G Baty
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Mrs L Adams
Councillors – Mrs S M Cox, L E Taylor and A Thomas.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillor W H Evans

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
Councillors Mrs S M Cox and G A Cox in respect of items 9.1 – Cowbridge Charter Trust.

Item 3: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1st April 2005 to 31st December 2005 and the statements of bank balances as at 31st December 2005 were circulated to members and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.
A list of accounts to be settled from 21st December – 10th January 2005 was circulated to members and read.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 6th December 2005.
The Chairman referred to item 4 in respect of the costs incurred as the result of the Council election held last August. The Town Clerk advised that he has still not received the invoice in relation to the costs although enquiries made with the officer dealing with the matter has revealed that the sum involved is likely to be £2000.00

Item 5: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 20th December 2005.
No matters arising.

Item 6: Grant Aid.
6.1 Letter received from the Urdd Eisteddfod in acknowledgement of the grant aid payment sent from the Town Council.
Noted.

6.2 Letter received from Cowbridge Bowling Club acknowledging the grant aid payment made by the Town Council.
Noted.

Item 7: Budget 2006/2007.

The Chairman circulated members of the committee with details of current and proposed budget figures together with budget requirements put forward by the Leisure and Amenities and Town Hall Committees.

Members discussed the budget proposals at considerable length and the need for any increase of the precept to keep pace with the salary bill.

As part of this process and in order to minimise the increase, the budget requirements of each committee were examined and discussed by the committee. The reserves and 'contingencies' were also given consideration which could provide for any emergencies.

Proposed by Councillor G A Cox, seconded by Councillor J R Harris and **recommended** that the proposed budget of the Town Hall is reduced by £7,500 to £30,000.

Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor A Thomas that the proposed budget of the Leisure and Amenities Committee is reduced by £7,000 to £22,500

Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty and **recommended** that in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2006/2007, the increase in the precept is re-assessed by the Chairman to reflect the reduction in each committee's budget as recommended and that the increase be limited to a maximum of 15% and that details are circulated to Members for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

Item 8: Consultation Paper – 'Three Year Revenue and Capital Settlements for Local Authorities in Wales'

After due consideration, it is recommended that the Town Council make no response in respect of the document..

Councillors Mrs S M Cox and G A Cox left the meeting when the following item was discussed.

Item 9: Correspondence.

9.1

Letter received from Mr Luke Millar, Chairman, Cowbridge Charter Trust, Town Walls Committee. The letter advised that the Trust has now been able to secure the funding needed for the to update the report on the condition of the Town Walls and therefore grant aid application for this purpose will not be pursued.

The letter requested that the Council is made aware of the work being carried out by the Trust through the Town Walls Committee, as it is understood that there is some dissent by a number of Councillors from within the Town Council against the whole idea of the project on the basis that the walls are the sole responsibility of the Vale Council and that the Trust should not be taking on any of the repair upon themselves.

The letter further explained that the whole basis upon which the project is founded is that the walls are in public ownership and because the Vale of Glamorgan Council has no resources to restore them then it is only sensible for the Trust to take it on, especially as it has access to funding not available to any Local Authority.

Noted.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Baty is dismayed to learn that it might be construed that the Town Council is not in favour or supportive of the work being carried out to the Town Walls.

Item 9: Correspondence.(continued)

Proposed by Councillor Mrs G Baty, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Adams that a letter is sent to the Chairman of The Charter Trust, Town Walls Committee advising that the Town Council is in fact fully supportive and very much in favour of the work being carried out to the Town Walls and that the Trust are to be congratulated on what it has achieved so far.

Recommended as proposed.

Members agreed that in this instance the Mayor, as Chairman of the Town Council, should write and sign the letter and that a draft be circulated at the next Town Council meeting together with a copy of correspondence from the Trust.

9.2 Letter received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in respect of Community Tax Precepts, which confirmed that a levy of one pound would produce £2465.00.

Noted.

Item 9: Any Other Business.

Councillor Mrs S M Cox advised that she had attended a Regional Committee meeting of One Voice Wales at Old Hall the previous evening at which a request was made for Councils to consider what topics might be considered for training. Councillor Mrs Cox will make a Full report at the next Town Council meeting and members were asked to give some consideration to the matter.

Item 10: Date and Time of next Meeting.

Tuesday 7th February 2006 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris
Chairman.