

**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 7<sup>th</sup> February 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, W H Evans, L E Taylor and A Thomas.

**In Attendance:**  
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

**Item 1: Apologies for Absence**  
Mrs M Y Williams

**Item 2: Declaration of Interests.**  
Councillor Mrs L Adams – item 10.2 – letter received from ‘Big Screen’

**Item 3: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid**  
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and the statements of bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 were circulated to members and read.  
**Recommended** that these accounts be approved.  
A list of accounts to be settled from 25<sup>th</sup> January – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 was circulated to members and read.

**Item 4: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006.**  
No matters arising.

**Item 5: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006.**  
Councillor J R Harris referred to item 9(c) – report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and pointed out that the minute referred to an increase of £4.94 pence per week on a band ‘D’ property. This should read 9.5p per week. The Town Clerk will arrange for an amended minute to be circulated..

**Item 6: Grant Aid.**

6.1 Letter received from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod requesting financial assistance towards the running costs of the event.  
**Noted.**

6.2 Letter received from The National Eisteddfod of Wales acknowledging the Grant Aid payment made by the Town Council.  
**Noted.**

6.3 Letter received from the Welsh Assembly Government regarding Appropriate sum under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The letter advised that the maximum set for the financial year 2006-2007 has risen from £5.30 to £5.44 per local government elector.  
**Noted**

**Item 6: Grant Aid. (continued)**

6.4 Letter received from Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association requesting financial assistance towards its running costs. The organisation provides a social outlet for many of the senior citizens in the area and meets regularly in the Town Hall on occasions during the year.

**Proposed** by Councillor G A Cox, seconded by Councillor L E Taylor, that a payment of £150.00 be made to the Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association towards its running costs.

**Resolved** that in pursuance of the power conferred by section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, the Committee approves the payment of the sum of £150.00 be made to the Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association.

**Item 7: Review of Cemetery Fees.**

Councillor J R Harris referred to the existing fees and suggested individual increases to each fee and Members discussed them at length.

**Proposed** by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Adams that the fees for the Limes Cemetery are increased with effect from 1st April 2006 in accordance with Appendix I attached.

**Recommended** as proposed.

**Item 8: Review of Town Hall Hiring Fees.**

**Proposed** by Councillor Mrs G Baty, seconded by Councillor G A Cox that the current hiring fees for the Town Hall are increased by 10% and rounded up to the nearest whole pound with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 (see Appendix II)

**Recommended** as proposed

**Item 9: To Identify Areas of Training for Members (One Voice Wales).**

Members identified the following topics for possible future training events for Councillors to be run by One Voice Wales.

- Licensing
- Planning
- Freedom of Information Act
- Grant availability

**Recommended** that the Town Clerk notifies One Voice Wales of these topics.

**Item 10: Correspondence.**

10.1 Letter from Welsh Assembly Government in respect of borrowing by Community and Town Councils and advising of arrangements for applying for loan sanctions in the next financial year 2006-2007

**Noted.**

10.2 Letter received from Mr R J Buswell, Chair of 'Big Screen'. As the main hall in the Town Hall offers an excellent venue it is hoped that it could be used on a more regular basis and 'Big Screen' acknowledges the help given by the Town Council so far. The organisation is a non-profit voluntary one with limited finances. Through the 'Night out scheme', which is run by the Arts Council for Wales, village and town halls can receive sum reimbursement towards the costs involved in the promotion of the films. Out of all the venues used by 'Big Screen, Cowbridge is the only one where hire costs are charged and Mr Buswell asks whether consideration can be given for this to be adopted in Cowbridge. The letter also made reference to the possibility of serving wine on some occasions and if this was agreeable what procedure Councillor Mrs L Adams gave members a brief background to the organisation involved in 'Big Screen' before leaving the meeting prior to discussion.

**Page three**

Members discussed the various ways that the promotion of films could be undertaken and the need for plenty of advertising. They considered that the sale of alcohol unnecessary given that the number of licences is limited to twelve for any one premise during a twelve-month period and members considered that these should be available for use by hirers.

**Proposed** by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor G A Cox that the Town Council promotes the showing of six films in the Main Hall of the Town Hall, to be reviewed after the first three and that the costs of showing the film is covered by the Council and offset by the ticket sales. In addition, that there shall be no sale of alcohol at the screenings.

**Recommended** as proposed.

**Item 11:**

11.1

**Any Other Business.**

Councillor J R Harris drew members' attention to the problems encountered when a speaker or presentation precedes Full Council meetings. This often means there is insufficient time to allow a reasonable gap before the meeting starts. Also, with a speaker starting at 6.30pm it often means that it is difficult for some members to attend or arrive in time to hear the speaker.

**Proposed** by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor L E Taylor that Standing Orders are amended to read as follows:

**1(b)** In the event of a presentation to Council before it's meeting; Standing Orders are suspended beforehand by the Chairman to allow a 7.30pm start with the end no later than 9.30pm.

**Recommended** as proposed.

**Item 12:**

**Date and Time of next Meeting.**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris

**Chairman.**