

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,
on Wednesday 5th May 2004 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mayor – Councillor H W Field (Chair)
Councillors: G A Cox, Mrs S M Cox and J L Jones.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

In the absence of the chairman and there being no vice-chairman in post,
proposed by Councillor G A Cox, seconded by Councillor J L Jones, that
Councillor H W Field chair the meeting.

Resolved as proposed.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillors W H Evans, V W Eveleigh and J R Harris,

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
Councillor G A Cox, grant aid item 6.6.
Councillor Mrs S M Cox, any matters relating to Charter Trust and Y Bont Faen.
Councillor J L Jones, item 7, Citizens Award.

Item 3: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1st April 2003 to 30th April 2004 and
the statement of bank balances as at 30th April 2004 were circulated to members
and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.

A list of accounts to be settled from 21st April 2004 to 5th May 2004 was
circulated to members and read.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 6th April 2004.
The Town Clerk referred to Item 10.2 and confirmed that he had obtained details
of a replacement shredder from County Borough Supplies for the sum of £153.22.
Proposed by Councillor J L Jones, seconded by Councillor G A Cox, that the
shredder should be purchased.
Resolved as proposed.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 20th April 2004.
Lloyds TSB – Recommendation from the Treasurer on savings accounts.
Members agreed to defer the matter for consideration by the new Finance and
General Purposes Committee and agreed that the Town Clerk should write to the
Treasurer to thank her for the work she had put into the matter.

Item 6: Grant Aid.
6.1 Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association
Letter received from Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association to thank the Council
for the grant of £150.
Noted.

Item 6: Grant Aid. (Continued)

6.2

Childline Cymru

Application for financial assistance received from Childline Cymru towards the running costs of the service which it provides.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor J L Jones, that a payment of £125 is made.

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 £125.00 to Childline Cymru.

6.3

Best Kept Village Competition

Application for financial assistance towards the running of the Best Kept Village competition.

Noted.

6.4

Application for financial assistance towards the funding of a major exhibition tour to promote The Gentle Giant Trust project.

Noted.

6.5

Noah's Ark Appeal Newsletter.

Noted.

Councillor G A Cox left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

6.6

Cowbridge in Bloom

Application for financial assistance towards the cost of the work carried out by Cowbridge in Bloom by providing Summer and Winter floral displays.

Proposed by Councillor J L Jones, seconded by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, that a payment of £225 is made.

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 £225.00 to Cowbridge in Bloom.

Item 7.

Good Citizenship Award.

A date was set, for Tuesday 11th May at 5pm in the Mayor's Parlour, for the Committee to meet and determine the applications. The Committee shall consist of the Mayor and Chairmen of each of the Committees.

Item 8:

Correspondence.

8.1

Notification received from Zurich Municipal Insurance in respect of policy renewal, which amounts to £9279.85 (exclusive of Insurance Premium Tax).

Should the Town Council agree to a long term agreement, the company offers a premium discount as follows:-

5 Year LTA with 10% discount – annual premium £8,351.87 plus tax.

3 Year LTA with 5% discount – annual premium £8,815.86 plus tax.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor J L Jones, that a long term agreement of 5 years is entered into.

Resolved as proposed.

It was further agreed that the Town Clerk should make enquiries to find out whether by increasing the 'all risks' excess from £100 to £250 would result in any significant on the premium.

Item 8:

Correspondence. (Continued)

- 8.2 Notification received from Zurich Municipal giving details of the Annual Health and Safety Local Council Advisory Service Seminar 2004.
Noted.
- 8.3 Letter received from Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Pension Fund concerning the issue of progressing the issue of other employer consultation.
Noted.
- 8.4 Received from the Welsh Assembly Government – Developments to the Local Government Act 2003 – Local Government Investments guidance under Section 15(1)(A) of the Local Government Act 2003.
The guidance highlighted the need for Community Councils to agree the annual investment strategy by no later than the end of July 2004.
Noted.
The Committee agreed that this could be dealt with at the same time when consideration is given to the investment account.
- 8.5 Notification received from Welsh Assembly Government – Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2004.
The Assembly is looking to revoke the Accounts and Audit regulations 1996 and replace them with a new set of regulations that intend to provide a new and more effective set of accounting arrangements for local authorities. The of the proposals in the consultations document is to update the rules and reduce the unnecessary bureaucracy and to ensure the accounting burden on local councils is proportionate to their size and level of finance available, including a raising of the accounting thresholds for less onerous accounting regimes to apply for a larger number of councils.
The principle points relevant to Town and Community Councils are:
- raising the accounting threshold to £1 million;
 - raising the audit thresholds to £100K or potentially £150K or £200K and;
 - change to internal audit thresholds for very small community councils.
 - that the best practice guide for community councils to use is, *Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales*, which was produced by NALC in conjunction with SLCC.
 - That the deadline for the approval of the accounts is brought forward, in a staged way over two years, from the end of September to 31 July in 2005/06 and 30 June in 2006/07 (*This differs from England where the staging period is over 3 years*)
 - That the deadline for the publication of the statement of accounts (currently 31 December) is brought in through a staged way over two years to 31 October for 2005/06 and 30 September 2006/07 with an option of 30 November for 2005 for 2004/05. This follows on from the proposal to bring forward the deadline for the approval of accounts.
- Any community councils wishing to express a view on any of those principles of direct consequence on them should do so no later than Friday 2 July 2004.
Members considered the proposals and **recommended** that the Town Council should suggest that the audit threshold is raised to £200K
- 8.6 Letter received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council with a proposal to pay any invoices issued by the Town Council using the BACS payment method.
Recommended that the necessary details be forwarded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for this to be achieved.

Item 9: Any Other Business.
None.

Item 10: Date and Time of next Meeting.
Tuesday 8th June 2004 at 7.00pm.

H W Field
Chairman.