

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 6th October 2009 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman – Councillor L E Taylor
Vice Chairman – Councillor G A Cox
Mayor - Councillor J R Harris
Councillors: Mrs S M Cox, Dr B Gibbon, D W Morris, A Thomas and J Wilks.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk – Mr Andrew Davies.

Councillor L E Taylor welcomed the new members to the Committee.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillor Mrs S Massey.

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
None.

Item 3: Matters arising from the Committee Meeting held on 8th September 2009.
Item 10 – Town Guide.
The Town Clerk circulated an e-mail he had received from Media Wales advising that as a result of recent redundancies the specialist guides which have been produced in the past will cease as from the end of October.
Members of the Committee agreed that the Town Clerk should make enquiries of alternative companies who deal specifically with town guides. It was also suggested that enquiries were made with the Comprehensive School to establish if this might be a project that could be taken on by the Business Studies group.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2009.
No matters arising.

Item 5: Receipts & Payments Account/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payments Accounts for period 1st April 2009 to 30th September 2009 and the statements of bank balances as at 30th September 2009 were circulated to members and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.

A list of accounts to be settled from 23rd September – 6th October was circulated to members and read.

Item 6: Sewer at the Limes Cemetery.
No matters arising.
Enquiries will be made with Mr Miles Punter to establish current status.

Item 7: Grant Aid.
7.1 Application received from Bobath Cymru for financial assistance towards the running of the organisation.
Noted.

Item 7: Grant Aid (Continued)

- 7.2 Application received from Fforest Uchaf Horse and Pony Centre and Pit Pony Sanctuary for financial assistance towards the running costs of the organisation.
Noted.
- 7.3 Application received from Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge (Christmas Tree Festival) towards the festival, the proceeds of which are split between Velindre Cancer Care and the Restoration Fund of Holy Cross Parish Church.
Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor Dr B Gibbon, that a payment of £50 be made to the Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge towards the Christmas Tree Festival.
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 £50 to the Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge.
- 7.4 Application received from Urdd Gobaith Cymru for financial assistance towards the costs of the Eisteddfod.
Proposed by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor J R Harris, that a payment of £75 be made to the Urdd Gobaith Cymru towards the Eisteddfod.
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 £75 to the Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

Item 8: Sustainable Development – to consider the presentation prior to September’s Full Council Meeting.

The Committee **recommends** that sustainability be looked at by the Town Council, specifically by the relevant committees, for any future projects and during budget preparation.

Item 9: Correspondence.

- 9.1 Letter received from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) advising of local Government pay negotiations 2009/10, which range between 1% and 1.25%.
Noted.
- 9.2 Letter from Vale of Glamorgan Council enclosing details on ‘Progress Actions within the Charter’. The letter gave details of the role of the Vale Council Liaison Officer. The letter also referred to the Community Liaison Committee that meets on a quarterly basis and is made up of 13 members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council with one representative or nominated substitute from each Town/Community Council. Town and Community Councils will in the first instance be required to refer issues/queries to the One Vale Contact Centre (01446 700111).
The Committee **recommends** that this is a facility which should be used by members of the Town Council to alert the Vale of Glamorgan Council of issues as they happen rather than leaving them until the next full council meeting, thus eliminating any unnecessary delay. This could similarly be applied to any police issues, which arise. The Committee discussed reference made by Inspector Taylor at the last full council meeting to the non-emergency police number of 101 and considered that it might be worthwhile placing details on the Town Council’s notice board.

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Item 9: Correspondence (Continued).

9.3 Letter received from Vale of Glamorgan Council enclosing information on the 'Action Plan for Charter between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Councils'.

The letter enclosed notes of guidance in relation to the exclusion of press and public from meetings for items of a confidential or exempt nature.

The Committee **recommends** that standing orders be examined to ensure that suitable reference is made to this particular matter.

9.4 Letter received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in relation to regulations made by the Welsh Assembly Government for Non Domestic Rating Deferred Payments 2009/2010, which allows ratepayers to opt to deferred payments.

Noted.

9.5 Email communication received from Peninsula Business Services offering their services to the Town Council.

Noted.

9.6 Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) – Employers Organisation Advisory Bulletin (No. 555, August 2009 update).

Noted. (Document is held by the Town Clerk).

9.7 Letter from the Wales Audit Office, which refers to a recent report published by the Auditor General, which considered how Community and Town Councils could improve their financial arrangements. The report can be accessed on the Wales Audit Office website at <http://www.wao.gov.uk/news/news/2743.asp>

To assist councils to develop their financial arrangements the Wales Audit Office has developed a good practice guide specifically for Community and Town Councils, the guide can be found on the Wales Audit Office website at

<http://www.wao.gov.uk/2594.asp>

Noted.

Item 10: Matters to be discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

No matters arising.

Item 11: Date and Time of next Meeting.

Tuesday, 3rd November 2009 at 7.00pm.

Councillor L E Taylor

Chairman.