

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 3rd November 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 (*arrived Item 8.2*), D W Morris
and A Thomas.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk – Mr Andrew Davies.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillors Mrs S Massey and J Wilks.

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
None.

Item 3: Matters arising from the Committee Meeting held on 6th October 2009.
The Town Clerk referred to Item 3 and advised the Committee that he had obtained information of a local company based in Barry which deals with Town Guides. Members agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the company to obtain further information.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 20th October 2009.
No matters arising.

Item 5: Receipts & Payments Account/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payments Accounts for period 1st April 2009 to 31st October 2009 and the statements of bank balances as at 31st October 2009 were circulated to members and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.

A list of accounts to be settled from 21st October – 3rd November was circulated to members and read.

Item 6: Sewer at the Limes Cemetery.
The Town Clerk updated the members regarding the current situation regarding the sewer. A letter has been sent to local residents by the Vale of Glamorgan Council giving them an opportunity to respond. The anticipated commencement date for the works to be carried out was December 2009 with completion in early 2010.

Item 7: Citizenship Award for Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Confirmation has now been received from Badges Plus Limited that the cost of the badges will be a ‘one-off fee’ of £75 (tooling cost) and for 12 units the cost will be £1.95 each. Members were circulated with a copy of the artwork produced in relation to the badge and **recommended** that an order is placed for 12 badges.

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Item 8: Grant Aid.

8.1 Application received from Victim Support Cymru for financial support towards the running of the organisation.
Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor D W Morris that a letter is sent to Victim Support Cymru requesting further information of data for this area.
Recommended as proposed.
Members of the committee also **recommend** that clarity of policy in relation to grant aid should be laid down by the Town Council at its next meeting.

8.2 Application received from 'Follow Your Dreams' for financial assistance towards the running costs of the organisation.
Noted.

8.3 Application received from British Heart Foundation Cymru for financial assistance towards the running costs of the organisation.
Noted.

8.4 Acknowledgement received from Shelter Cymru for the grant aid payment made by the Town Council.

Item 9: Budget 2010/2011.

Members of the committee discussed the budget heads not covered by the Leisure and Amenities or Town Hall Committees and upon receipt of the budget proposals from those committees, Councillor L E Taylor will produce a 'draft' budget proposal for consideration at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Item 10: Correspondence.

10.1 Letter received from Brinsons Fairfax concerning the revaluation of business rates which is currently taking place. The company offer there services on a 'no reduction no fee' basis.

Noted.

The committee agreed that further consideration might be given to this dependent upon any recommendation made by the Town Hall Committee.

10.2 Email notification received from One Voice Wales giving details of the Plunkett Foundation that is carrying out a survey of Parish Councils in England and Wales.

Noted.

Item 11: Review of Standing Orders.

The Town Clerk advised that it is 'good practice' to review standing orders from time to time and an audit requirement.

Members of the committee agreed that they should each consider the current standing orders and pass on any suggested amendments to the Chairman in time for circulation before the next committee meeting.

Item 12: Matters to be discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

12.1 Members discussed representatives from the Town Council sitting on outside bodies and the need for any decisions made by the Council to be made clear even if it is not their own. The Council is a Corporate Body and therefore its decisions or policies should be promoted by its members, irrespective of their own personal views.

Item 13: Date and Time of next Meeting.
Tuesday, 8th December 2009 at 7.00pm.

Councillor L E Taylor
Chairman.