

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,
on Tuesday 3rd May 2005 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Mrs M Arnold
Vice Chairman – Councillor A Williams
Councillors - Mrs L Adams, Mrs A Burges (arrived item 5), Mrs S M Cox,
R G Jones, H L Morgan (arrived item 5) and D W Morris.

In Attendance:

Town Clerk - Andrew Davies.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence.
Councillor Mrs G Baty

Item 2: Declarations of interests.
None.

Item 3: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 4th April 2005.
No matters arising.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 19th April 2005.
No matters arising.

Item 5: Playground Equipment Maintenance Report.
The Town Clerk advised that due to the Bank holiday there was no report to circulate, however, there is no obvious problem with any of the play equipment.

- The bearings for the roller slide have been sorted out and the ride should be back in time for the next bank holiday.
- Replacement posts have been purchased by the Amenities Supervisor and will be inserted around the perimeter of the safety surface during the coming months.

Two matters were mentioned by members to be brought to the attention of the Amenities Supervisor.

(i) Lubrication of the strap swing

(ii) Replacement of the bolt of the gate (pedestrian) leading into Llanblethian Playing Fields.

Item 6: Amenities Supervisor's Report.

The Town Clerk gave the report and advised on the following matters:

Limes Cemetery:

- (i) Mr James has treated all of the weeds and has removed the majority of those on the eastern boundary in readiness for the replacement whips to be planted.
- (ii) The weeds and bramble have been cleared from the southern boundary and work is continuing on the western boundary.
- (iii) The area in front of the cemetery has been dug out and slabs laid in readiness for the 'planter' from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- (iv) The problem referred to in the letter from Miss David (correspondence - item 9.1) has been resolved to her satisfaction.

Llanblethian Playing Fields:

- (i) Repairs have been carried out to the benches – but replacements will have to be considered in the next budget as the legs are rotting at the base.
- (ii) The branches of the trees discussed at the recent site meeting by committee members have been cut off and removed.

Item 7: Rolling Programme 2005/2006

7.1 Limes Cemetery.

i) Boundaries.

The Amenities Supervisor has made tremendous progress in clearing the weeds and undergrowth on the southern eastern and western boundaries.

The committee agreed the urgency to establish secure boundaries of the extension of the cemetery to enable it to be opened up and fencing will be required to prevent any access and to prevent animals from getting in. This will have to be considered by the next committee and built into next years budget.

ii) Sewer.

No further information has been received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council on this matter. The last information received by the Town Clerk was that the history of the problem is under investigation. Progress on the matter will be followed up.

iii) Additional water supply.

No matters arising.

iv) Trees.

No matters arising.

7.2 Holy Cross Churchyard.

Councillor Mrs Arnold advised the committee that Revd Canon Belcher wishes to hold a meeting between members of the Council and the Executive Committee of the church with a view to discussing the churchyard. The Town Clerk confirmed that he is waiting for suggested dates from the Canon.

Listed Building Consent has recently been granted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, in respect of the former Grammar School, with conditions attached. Part of the application submitted involves alteration to the entrance of the churchyard, which will affect land owned by both the church and Town Council. The Planning Department has already been made aware of this and that at this stage no approach or consultation has been made by the developer to the Town Council or Representative Body of the Church in Wales. The part directly affecting the Town Council is the gate and entrance path and the Representative Body is affected with the land on each side of the path. Investigations are in the process of being carried out to establish whether when the churchyard was closed and responsibility transferred to the Town Council, this included the freehold. The planning officer dealing with the matter, Mrs J Crofts, has been forwarded documentation, which sets out exactly the areas owned by the Town Council and the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Adams that should it be deemed necessary, the Town Clerk obtains a valuation of the area of the path and gateway for which the Town Council is responsible.

Recommended as proposed.

Members also discussed the two points of access to the Grammar School site, which have not as yet been mentioned by the developer but would involve land in the ownership of the Town Council. These are specifically 'access' via the gates adjacent to the children's play area in the Twt Park and also through the former boot house door, which leads into the entrance to the park from Town Mill Road. Use of either of these would be subject to approval from the Town Council. Any access via the gates alongside the play park would have extreme Health and Safety implications especially if any vehicles were involved.

Recommended that these matters are also brought to the attention of Mrs Crofts at the Planning Department.

Item 7: Rolling Programme 2005/2006 (continued)

7.3

Twt Park.

The Town Clerk advised that he has been approached by Revd Norman Williams about an incident involving the barriers in Church Street and within the entrance to the Twt Park from Town Mill Road and as a consequence will write to Mr Mathias to request the barriers are either removed or secured properly. The Town Clerk confirmed that he has written again to Mr Mathias about the overhanging vegetation and trees.

Members of the Committee discussed the problem of litter in the Twt park over weekends and bank holidays at their last meeting. The Town Clerk advised that he has spoken to Mr Billy James, the Amenities Officer, who is prepared to clear the park of litter and also check the cemetery on Saturday and Sunday mornings and bank holidays provided that he would be paid the appropriate overtime rate. Members **recommend** that his offer should be accepted and for the period to run from May through to the end of September on the basis of an hour per day.

7.4

Emms Cottage.

Some of the members of the Committee visited the site since the last meeting and whilst it is agreed that the area is generally tidy, next year's Committee might give consideration to investigating a new planting scheme to improve its appearance and maintenance.

A large area of the shrubs is being overrun with 'goose grass' and the Town Clerk will bring it to the attention of the Amenities Supervisor.

7.5

Llanblethian Playing Fields

Councillor Mrs Arnold advised Members that she has been approached by a member of the public, Mr D Webber who had commented on the general tidiness and upkeep of the playing fields.

7.6

Southgate Park

The Town Clerk confirmed that Anstee Landscapes have recently made a visit at the end of April and the next visit scheduled for May.

7.7

Cae Rex Allotments

Councillor Mrs m Arnold advised members that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has carried out the work to the trees to the boundary of the allotments although she has reservations about some of the other work undertaken and the location and amounts of arisings and branches left. She invited members of the Committee to visit the site and draw their own conclusions.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he has sent an email to Mr John Withers advising him of the situation.

7.8

Masonry Walls

Work to the wall at Llablethian Playing Fields is due to be started next week.

Item 8: The Limes Cemetery Cowbridge. (Memorial applications.)

8.1

Application from John Jenkins & Son, Monumental Sculptors and Stone Masons for a memorial to be placed on Grave N91 (V W Eveleigh).

Approved.

8.2

Application from M Harding & Sons, Monumental Sculptors, to place a memorial on grave no. N137. (T M Appleton)

Approved.

Item 8: The Limes Cemetery Cowbridge. (Memorial applications.)

- 8.3 Application from M Harding & Sons Monumental Sculptors, for a memorial to be placed on Grave N135 (W E C Howells).
Approved.

Item 9: Correspondence.

- 9.1 Letter received from Miss D M David in respect of Grave No 189 and her concerns about the mud which and dirt which is covering the stone on a number of occasions when she has visited the cemetery.

Noted.

The Town Clerk advised that he has spoken to Miss David and that she has also been over to the cemetery with the Amenities Supervisor. The problem is due to heavy rain falling onto the bare earth causing it to splash onto the stone and as a result being covered with mud splashes. The solution agreed upon is for the area in front of the stone to be seeded thus hopefully eliminating the problem caused by the heavy rain and also making the grave far easier to maintain.

- 9.2 Letter received from Reserve Delivery Officer Manager at the Vale of Glamorgan Delivery Office at Llandow. The letter advised that the post box facility at the former sorting office site is not being replaced as the building is no longer the concern of the Royal Mail and that there are currently four posting points in the main street of Cowbridge. The corner of the Broadshord, Spar Shop, the bridge at Penny Lane and around the corner of St Athan road by Basil's Restaurant.

Noted.

Members understood that it might be possible for the post person delivering letters to collect them also. It was agreed that this suggestion should be passed onto Councillor Mrs Gwen Baty to whom the initial approach had been made.

- 9.3 Play for Wales – Quarterly Publication - Spring 2005.

Noted.

Item 10: Any Other Business

Members discussed the following matters:

(i) Councillor A Williams drew members attention to problems with the new recycling 'wheelie' bins at the Butts that are easy to move and are being targeted and left in a potentially dangerous position in the road likely to cause a danger to vehicles. Members of the committee **recommend** that the problem is brought to the attention of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

(ii) Councillor D W Morris commented about the state of the trees at Millfield Park has been the subject of comment by residents as well as the lack of play equipment since all the previous equipment was removed on safety grounds. Children are now attaching ropes to trees and swinging on them, which may cause injury to the user or passer by.

Councillor Mrs S M Cox advised members that grants are available for planting of trees on public land and other areas in the Vale have developed 'Woodland Management Schemes' where work is carried out by volunteers on local woodland areas and perhaps a representative could be asked to come along to a meeting to explain how the schemes work.

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Item 10: Any Other Business (continued)

(iii) Councillor Mrs M Arnold referred to the grasscutting and concerns over its present length which when cut resulted in a large amounts of cuttings being blown about in the road and causing general untidiness.

Recommended that a letter is sent to bring the matter to the attention of the Vale Council.

Councillor Mrs M Arnold thanked the members of the Committee for their help and support during the year.

Item 11: Date and time of next Meeting.

Monday 6th June 2005 at 7.00pm.

Councillor
Chairman