

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,
on Tuesday 17th November 2009 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mayor – Councillor J R Harris
Deputy Mayor – Councillor L E Taylor
Councillors: A E Banks, Mrs G Baty, Mrs A Burges, G A Cox,
Dr B A Gibbon (*arrived item 8b*), D W Morris, A Thomas,
Mrs N C Thomas and J Wilks.

In Attendance:

Town Clerk - Mr Andrew Davies
Administrative Assistant - Mrs Jackie Griffin
Inspector Mark Taylor
Reverend Matthew Trick
Mrs J Isaacs - Glamorgan Gem Newspaper.

Reverend Matthew Trick opened the meeting with a prayer.

Item 1: **Apologies for Absence.**
159/09 Councillors: Mrs M Arnold, Mrs S M Cox and A Williams.
Treasurer: Mrs P Prowle

Item 2: **Declarations of Interest.**
160/09 Councillor G A Cox – Item 14 – closure of Vale cash office at Eastgate.
(Councillor Cox has already been involved in this item in his capacity as a
Vale Councillor.)

Item 3: **The Treasurer's Report.**
161/09 The Report was presented by Councillor L E Taylor in the absence of the
Treasurer. The Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2009
to 31st October 2009 and statement of bank balance as at 31st October 2009
was circulated.

Balances as at the 31st October 2009.

Current Account:	£ 7,659.25
Investment Gold Account:	£ 57,461.09
Money Market	<u>£ 60,000.00</u>
Total	£125,120.34
Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 475.00</u>
	<u>£124,645.34</u>

Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty
that these reports be accepted and adopted.

Resolved: This report be adopted.

- Item 4:** **To confirm the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on**
162/09 **20th October 2009.**
Proposed by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty
and **resolved** that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on
20th October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and duly signed.
- Item 5:** **Matters arising from Town Council Meeting held on**
163/09 **20th October 2009.**
5.1 (Item 13) Letter received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in respect of
the Town Council's letter regarding the provision of future funding for the
Citizens Advice Bureau at Llantwit Major. The comments made by the Town
Council will be passed to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Budget Working
Group.
Noted.
- Item 6:** **Community Police Matters.**
164/09 The Mayor thanked Inspector Taylor and his Officers for their assistance on
Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day in relation to traffic control.
- Inspector Taylor circulated the crime figures for October and gave some
background information. He drew members' attention to 'theft from motor
vehicles' stressed the need for extra vigilance, particularly during the
Christmas period.
Inspector Taylor reported that Halloween had passed relatively incident free
thanks to increased police presence throughout the Division and this will be
repeated for the Reindeer parade on 29th November and there will be
increased police activity on the 'run-up' to Christmas.
- Item 7:** **Road Safety.**
165/09 Inspector Taylor advised that his Officers continue to issue fixed
penalty notices for illegal parking and advised that speed surveys are being
carried out in the area to establish whether increased enforcement measures
are required.
- Councillor Mrs N C Thomas thanked Councillor G A Cox for the action
taken by the Vale of Glamorgan Council with regarding to the tree work at
Tyla Rhosyr.
- Item 8:** **Reports**
166/09 **a) Mayor**
Wednesday 21st October – The Mayor attended the Grand Finals of the
South Wales Police' Competition for Primary School children entitled 'We
are the Champions' held at MOD St Athan.
*The Mayor advised that it appears that as a result of the merger of the Vale
of Glamorgan and Bridgend Police Divisions, the competition will cease to
be held although the disappointment expressed by the audience to the
announcement may result in a 're-think'.*
Thursday 22nd October - The Mayor and Mayoress attended Cowbridge in
Bloom Prize Winners Presentation hosted by the Mayor in the Mayor's
Parlour.
The Mayor attended the Official Opening of Downs View Play Park in
Aberthin.

Item 8:

Reports (Continued)

Saturday 24th October – The Mayor and Mayoress and their Guests attended the 71st Annual Concert of RAF St Athan Voluntary Band with their guests Pendyrus Male Voice Choir, at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The Mayor and Mayoress hosted a Welcome Reception for the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Twinning Guests in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Mayor and Mayoress visited the Food and Drink Festival.

Sunday 25th October - The Mayor and Mayoress visited the Food and Drink Festival.

Monday 26th October – The Mayor and Mayoress attended a Bible Presentation by the Gideons Association hosted by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Barry. The presentation was followed by a Buffet Reception.

Saturday 7th November – The Mayor and Mayoress hosted a Coffee Morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall.

Sunday 8th November – The Mayor, Mayoress and fellow Councillors attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and Service at the Holy Cross Church, then returned to the Town Hall with invited guests for refreshments.

Monday 9th November – The Mayor and Mayoress attended Cowbridge Arts Society Annual Exhibition at The Old Hall, Cowbridge. The Mayor officially opened the Exhibition.

Wednesday 11th November – The Mayor and fellow Councillors attended the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Cowbridge.

The Mayor advised members that he had been presented with a plaque from the ATC and it was agreed that it should be displayed in the Town Hall.

b) Town Clerk

Dates for your diaries:

Big Screen Films – 'Is Anybody There' (Starring Michael Caine) – 26th November

Father Christmas and the Reindeer Parade – Sunday 29th November 2009

Mayor's Coffee Morning – Saturday 5th December (10.00am).

Mayor's Charity Concert – 30th January 2010

Mayor's Ball – 23rd April 2010.

The Town Clerk thanked Jackie and Billy for their assistance in the preparation for Remembrance Sunday and on the day itself.

The Town Clerk advised that prior to erection, the Christmas lights are checked. This has revealed that the lights that are positioned around the top of the Town Hall building are in poor condition and will not provide a satisfactory display. An alternative of 'icicle' lights have been quoted for and these can be installed in time for the 'switch-on' on 29th November. The new lights are of an 'LED' type and will cost £399.60.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs G Baty, seconded by Councillor D W Morris and **resolved** that an order for the new 'LED' lights should be placed as soon as possible.

Item 8: Reports

b) Town Clerk (Continued)

The Town Clerk advised that a company who are filming a series for the BBC has contacted him. The company is seeking permission to film in the Twt Park for approximately one hour on 24th November. There would be no liability on the part of the Town Council and filming will take place during school time. It was **resolved** that the filming should be allowed to take place.

The Town Clerk advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have now agreed to take responsibility for the play equipment at Downs View Park, Aberthin. Mr Phil Beaman, Operational Manager, Parks and Open Spaces, thanked those involved on the Town Council for their work on the project which resulted in a quality play facility for the community of Aberthin.

The Town Clerk has ordered mince pies from the Country Market for distribution to parents at the Reindeer Parade on Sunday 29th November. Any councillors who wish to assist with their distribution should be at the Council Chamber at 2pm.

Payment of the accounts to be ratified

Expenses totalling £37,563.02 to be paid.

Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor A Thomas, that the payments of the accounts be ratified.

Resolved as proposed.

**Item 9:
167/09**

Reports of Committees:

a. Leisure & Amenities.

Councillor Mrs A Burges reported on the meeting held 2nd November 2009. The following items were discussed:

- Item 7.7 – the fencing at Cae Rex Allotments is now complete.
- Item 4 – Councillor G A Cox advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council no longer provided ‘dog bins’ as waste can be placed in any public bin.

Proposed by Councillor A E Banks, seconded by Councillor Mrs N C Thomas that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

b. Planning.

Councillor Mrs G Baty reported on the meeting held on 2nd November 2009.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs G Baty, seconded by Councillor D W Morris, that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

c. Finance & General Purposes.

Councillor L E Taylor reported on the meeting held 3rd November 2009 and highlighted the following:

- Item 8 – Grant Aid. The current policy of the Committee in relation to grant aid payments is that it should directly benefit members of the local community. However, this does not prevent further discussion on any recommendation made by the Committee being brought up at Full Council.

Item 9:

Reports of Committees:

c. Finance & General Purposes (Continued)

- Item 11 – Review of Standing Orders. Any member of the Town Council who have any thoughts in relation to amendment /addition etc. to Standing Orders should pass them to the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in time for the committee’s next meeting.
- Item 12.1 – Attending meetings of outside bodies as an appointed Town Council Representative. The matter was raised in order to clarify the position for the benefit of all members of the Town Council. The Town Council is a corporate body and its decisions and policies should be promoted by its members irrespective of their own personal views.

Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor A Thomas, that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

d. Town Hall.

Councillor A Thomas reported on the meeting held 3rd November 2009

Proposed by Councillor A Thomas, seconded by Councillor L E Taylor that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

**Item 10:
168/09**

Reports of Representatives.

10.1

Cowbridge and Llanblethian United Charities.

Councillor D W Morris reported on a meeting held 12th November when it was agreed that grants for the elderly and needy should remain the same.

10.2

Evan Jenkins Charity.

No meeting.

10.3

Cowbridge Institute Charity.

Councillor Mrs G Baty reported on the meeting held 10th November at which there was an up-date given on the share portfolio by the stockbroker. Grants have been made towards, play equipment, Cowbridge Youth Rugby team and 14 students.

10.4

One Voice Wales.

Councillor L E Taylor reported on the One Voice Wales Conference held Pontrhydfendigaid, Aberystwyth. The theme for the conference was ‘Developing your Community’ and it focused on how councils can enhance The communities they served. Speakers included Dr Brian Gibbons AM, the minister for Social Justice and Local Government.

10.5

Conservation Area Advisory Sub-Group.

No representative.

10.6

Cowbridge and District Museum Trust.

No representative.

- Item 10: Reports of Representatives (Continued).**
- 10.7 Cowbridge Town Twinning Association.**
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported on a meeting held 4th November and advised that the association is holding a Dance in the Town Hall on 5th December and the tickets are £15 per head.
- 10.8 Joint Liaison Association on Footpaths.**
The Town Clerk advised that the vacant post for the Footpaths Officer has been re-advertised and it is hoped that the vacancy will be filled soon.
- 10.9 Governing Body of Y Bont Faen Primary School.**
Next meeting 19th November.
- 10.10 Governing Body of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.**
Next meeting 23rd November.
- 10.11 Cowbridge Chamber of Trade.**
Councillor A E Banks reported on the meeting held 3rd November, which was 'vibrant and dynamic'. A newsletter has been produced and a calendar in aid of Children in Need has recently gone on sale.
- 10.12 Cowbridge in Bloom.**
No meeting.
- 10.13 Rural Vale Police/Community Consultative Group.**
Councillor Mrs N C Thomas reported on a meeting held 26th October where the Community were addressed by the new head of MOD St Athan.
- 10.14 Best Kept Village.**
No meeting.
- 10.15 Ystradowen Recreation Ground and Allotments Charity.**
No meeting.
- 10.16 Community Liaison Committee.**
Councillor Mrs N C Thomas reported on the meeting held 21st October at which the main item on the agenda was 3rd Party Representation at Planning meetings.
- 10.17 Walled Towns Friendship Circle.**
No representative.
- 10.18 Vale of Glamorgan Buildings Preservation Trust.**
No meeting.
- 10.19 Age Concern 'Good Neighbour Scheme'.**
Councillor Mrs A Burges reported on the meeting held 28th October at which the Clients Christmas Party on 4th December and the Volunteers Christmas Lunch on 10th December were discussed.
- 10.20 Vale of Glamorgan Community Safety Partnership.**
No representative.

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- Item 10: Reports of Representatives (Continued).**
- 10.21 Cowbridge Charter Trust.**
No representative.
- 10.22 Fair Trade Group**
No meeting.
- 10.23 Creative Rural Communities.**
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported on the recent meeting held at Troes Community Centre at which Axis 3 and 4 funding for 2011 to 2013 was discussed.
Recent grants awarded were made to a mobile skate unit, a wild life garden, Old Hall Gardens, improvements to a number of halls a transport scheme, stiles and bridal paths and new business bursaries.
- 10.24 Food & Drink Festival Committee.**
No representative.
Council agreed that the Festival was a huge success.
- Item 11: Report of Sub Committee for Tourism and Heritage.**
169/09
No representative.
- Item 12: Correspondence.**
170/09
- 12.1 Communication received from 'One Voice Wales' in relation to the consultation on the 'Are we being served?' report, produced by the Councillors Commission Expert Panel for Wales. The panel met on 8 occasions and came up with 35 recommendations, some of which refer specifically to Community and Town Councils. One Voice Wales is supportive in principle to all the recommendations but recognises that their implementation would need to be proportionate according to the size of council concerned.
Noted.
Councillor J Wilks suggested that the recommendation in relation to paragraphs 11 and 13 should be considered further by the Town Council and it was agreed that these should be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- 12.2 Received from the Welsh Assembly Government, 'Proposed Guidance for the Wales Programme for Improvement for the Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales'.
Noted.
- 12.3 Letter received from the Welsh Assembly Government regarding 'Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access improvements – Statement of Results from Public Consultation'. The statement of results from the Public Consultation held between 3 July 2008 and 3 October 2008 can be accessed on the Welsh Assembly Government's website at <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/improvacc/?lang=en>
Noted.

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Item 12: **Correspondence (Continued)**
12.4 Received from the Welsh Assembly Government – Consultation document :
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 – statutory guidance. Response
required by Friday, 15th January 2010. Members agreed that a sub committee
should be formed which will comprise of Councillors L E Taylor,
Dr B Gibbon, G A Cox, A E Banks and Mrs G Baty.
The Town Clerk will provide copies of the document to each member of the
committee.

Item 13: **Publications** (All held by the Town Clerk unless otherwise stated).
171/09

- 13.1 Vale of Glamorgan Local Access Forum Report 2008/9.
- 13.2 The Vale of Glamorgan Council Improvement Plan 2009/10.
- 13.3 Careers Wales – ‘Partnership News’ – Autumn Edition 2009.
- 13.4 Heritage in Wales – Winter 2009.
- 13.5 The Clerk – November 2009.
- 13.6 Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2009.

All publications noted.

Item 14: **Closure of Vale of Glamorgan Office, Eastgate, Cowbridge**
172/09
Members of the Council were circulated with an extract from the minutes of
the Vale of Glamorgan Council Scrutiny Committee meeting held on
4th November 2009 at which it was resolved that closure of area cash offices
be approved.

After an in-depth discussion, it was **resolved** that the Town Council should
send a letter to the Vale of Glamorgan Council that should:

- Express strong opposition to the closure of the ‘cash’ office in
Eastgate that provides far more than just a ‘paying-in’ facility to the
local community. Amongst its other services, it also provides a ‘face
to face’ personal service for local residents who have any concerns or
issues and who might be reluctant or unsure about using either the
telephone or internet for the purpose. The savings quoted in the
report to the ‘Cabinet’ do not equate to the loss of the ‘facility’ to the
community.
- The letter should express great disappointment that the Town Council
was not consulted before the decision for closure was taken.
- Members of the Town Council reject the suggested alternative venues
that maybe used to provide some of the services but request that
consideration might be given to the use of available space at Old Hall.
- Whilst acknowledging the need for economic considerations,
provision of services for community reasons in this part of the Vale
must also be considered – not everything must end up in Barry.

Each of the Vale Councillors for the Cowbridge Ward should also be sent a
letter, enclosing a copy of the letter sent to the Vale of Glamorgan Council,
and asking what their own position is on the matter and whether or not they
support the closure of the Vale’s cash office in Cowbridge.

In addition, the letter to the ‘Ward’ Councillors should invite them to attend
future Town Council meetings at which they will be given an opportunity to
update the Town Council on Vale of Glamorgan Council issues that affect its
area.

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Item 15: Documents for sealing.

173/09

15.1

Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for Cremation Plot D18 in the Limes Cemetery purchased by Mrs G W Magnay, 11 Lake Hill Drive, Cowbridge
Document sealed.

Item 16: Date and time of next Meeting.

174/09

Tuesday 22nd December 2009 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris

Mayor.

Date minutes signed.