

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,
on Tuesday 22nd December 2009 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mayor – Councillor J R Harris
Deputy Mayor – Councillor L E Taylor
Councillors: Mrs M Arnold, A E Banks, Mrs G Baty, Mrs A Burges,
G A Cox (*arrived Item 4*), Mrs S M Cox (*arrived Item 3*), D W Morris
and J Wilks.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk - Mr Andrew Davies
Administrative Assistant - Mrs Jackie Griffin
Inspector Mark Taylor

Item 1: **Apologies for Absence.**
175/09 Councillors: Dr B A Gibbon, Mrs S Massey, A Thomas
Mrs N Thomas and A Williams.

Item 2: **Declarations of Interest.**
176/09 None declared.

Item 3: **The Treasurer's Report.**
177/09 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 30th November 2009 and statement of bank balance as at 30th November
2009 was circulated.

Balances as at the 30th November 2009.

Current Account:	£ 6,898.00
Investment Gold Account:	£ 24,192.78
Money Market	<u>£ 60,000.00</u>
Total	£ 91,090.78
Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 1,521.60</u>
	<u>£ 89,569.18</u>

Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor D W Morris,
that these reports be accepted and adopted.

Resolved: This report be adopted.

Item 4: **To confirm the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on**
178/09 **17th November 2009.**
Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor A E Banks
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**
179/09 **17th November 2009.**
Councillor L E Taylor referred to Item 12.4 and confirmed that the sub committee have prepared a response in respect of consultation document, Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 – Statutory Guidance.
- Item 6:** **Community Police Matters.**
180/09 Crime figures for November were circulated to members and showed a reduction to the previous month. Inspector Taylor gave background details.
- Inspector Taylor advised the Council that there will be increased police presence over the Christmas and New Year period and Cowbridge High Street will be one of the areas targeted. A joint operation with trading standards is due to take place in the next few days.
- The Town Council conveyed best wishes to PCSO O’Callaghan for her forthcoming operation.
- Item 7:** **Road Safety.**
181/09 Councillor Mrs G Baty referred to the ongoing problem of buses being unable to turn into Bridge Road at the bottom of Church Hill because of parked cars opposite the junction. Inspector Taylor advised that he will refer the matter to Mr Paul Daniels of the Traffic Management Department for it to be referred to the Highways Department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Councillor G A Cox will also bring the matter to the attention of the Highways Department, although any ‘long term’ solution would require a traffic order.
- Item 8:** **Reports**
182/09 **a) Mayor**
Thursday 19th November - The Mayor visited Longmeadow Court and gave a talk to the residents. The event was held in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Cowbridge.
Sunday 22nd November – The Mayor attended Moya Vahey’s School of Russian Classical Ballet 40th Anniversary Concert at the Memorial Hall, Barry.
Tuesday 24th November - The Mayor and Mayoress attended the 16th Annual Awards Presentation for the Promotion of Positive Attitudes towards people with learning disabilities at the Memorial Hall Theatre, Barry. The presentation was followed by a buffet lunch.
Thursday 26th November – The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church.
Friday 27th November – The Mayor and Mayoress attended a Concert by Cowbridge Male Voice Choir in the Holy Cross Church.
Saturday 28th November – The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Music in the Vale Concerts at Bro Morganwg School, Barry.
Sunday 29th November – The Mayor and Mayoress met Father Christmas and his Reindeer at the Town Hall and attended the ‘Switch On’ of Christmas Lights.
The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Music in the Vale Senior Finals at Bro Morganwg School, Barry.

/Continued.

Item 8:

Reports

a) Mayor (Continued)

Tuesday 1st December – The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Funeral of Past Mayor, Terry Arnold.

Saturday 5th December – The Mayor and Mayoress hosted a Coffee Morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall.

Wednesday 9th December – The Mayor and Mayoress attended Cardiff County and Vale of Glamorgan Music Service's 'Christmas Showcase' at St David's Hall, Cardiff.

Thursday 10th December – The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Christmas Concert at Art Central, Barry in aid of the Mayor's Charity.

Friday 11th December – The Mayor and Mayoress welcomed the Choir from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg who sang Christmas Carols in front of the Town Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress served refreshments to the Staff and Children in the Town Hall.

Monday 14th December – The Mayor and Mayoress attended WRVS Christmas Lunch in the Lesser Hall.

The Mayor and Mayoress attended Cardiff County and Vale of Glamorgan Music Service's 'A Christmas Celebration' at City Hall, Cardiff.

The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress attended Cowbridge Comprehensive School's Annual Christmas Concert at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Thursday 17th December – attended the Annual Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols hosted by the ATC's 293 Squadron Cowbridge, at the Holy Cross Church. The Festival was followed by a Reception.

Sunday 20th December – The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress attended a Candlelight Carol Service at St Mary's Church Barry followed by a Sherry Reception in the Town Mayor's Parlour, hosted by Barry Town Council.

b) Town Clerk

The Town Clerk advised that despite the office being closed, agendas will be prepared on 30th December and any items that members wish to be included should be posted through the door prior to that date.

Councillor L E Taylor reminded members that any suggestions in relation to standing orders should be passed to the Clerk in time for the preparation of the agenda for the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Dates for your diaries:

Mayor's Charity Concert – 30th January 2010

The Mayor referred to the concert which is to be held at the Leisure Centre and will feature Dowlais Male Voice Choir and three members of the Welsh National Opera. Help from any member of the Town Council would be greatly appreciated.

Mayor's Ball – 23rd April 2010.

Office Closure for Christmas and New Year – Midday Thursday, 24th December – Monday 4th January.

Payment of the accounts to be ratified
Expenses totalling £13,765.74 to be paid.

Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor D W Morris, that the payments of the accounts be ratified.

Resolved as proposed.

**Item 9:
183/09**

Reports of Committees:

a. Leisure & Amenities.

Councillor Mrs A Burges reported on the meeting held 7th December 2009. Councillor J Wilks referred to Item 9.2 regarding potholes on various roads and especially those in Broadway that have become progressively worse in the last few weeks. Councillor G A Cox advised that Highways have visited both Broadway and the Butts recently.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs A Burges, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty, that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

b. Planning.

Councillor Mrs S M Cox reported on the meeting held on 7th December 2009. Members briefly discussed Item 5.4 relating to the Planning Application for Trem-y-Glyn for which a site meeting is to be held on 7th January 2010 at approximately 2.15pm to which the Town Council has been invited.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty, that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

c. Finance & General Purposes.

Councillor L E Taylor reported on the meeting held 8th December and referred to item 11 and the formation of a sub committee comprising of Councillors, D W Morris and J Wilks plus a further one or two members selected from the Leisure and Amenities and/or Planning Committees. Councillor Mrs G Baty referred to Items 7.1 and 7.4 under grant aid and put forwarded an unsuccessful proposal to give each applicant £50.

Item 6 – the Sewer at the Limes Cemetery. Councillor J R Harris advised members that two letters had been received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirming that the proposed alternative route had been accepted and agreed by Welsh Water and that work should commence in February 2010. A copy of the letter from Mr Punter will be circulated to members with the Full Council minutes.

Proposed by Councillor L E Taylor, seconded by Councillor Mrs S M Cox that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

Councillor Mrs G Baty and Councillor Mrs M Arnold requested that it be noted that they voted against the acceptance of the report.

d. Town Hall.

Councillor D W Morris reported on the meeting held 8th December 2009. Item 8.1 – The Town Clerk confirmed that measures have been taken to address the problem of the leak in the Ladies toilet. Councillor Mrs S M Cox referred to Item 8.3 and suggested that the Committee also consider provision of a baby changing facility.

Proposed by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, that the report be accepted and adopted.

Resolved as proposed.

- Item 10: Reports of Representatives.**
184/09
- 10.1 Cowbridge and Llanblethian United Charities.**
No meeting.
- 10.2 Evan Jenkins Charity.**
No meeting.
- 10.3 Cowbridge Institute Charity.**
No meeting.
- 10.4 One Voice Wales.**
Next meeting Monday 25th January 2010 in Cowbridge Leisure Centre.
- 10.5 Conservation Area Advisory Sub-Group.**
No representative.
- 10.6 Cowbridge and District Museum Trust.**
Councillor Mrs S M Cox reported that quarterly meeting was held on 17th December.
- 10.7 Cowbridge Town Twinning Association.**
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported that there was a successful Christmas event held on 4th December which raised over £900.
- 10.8 Joint Liaison Association on Footpaths.**
No meeting.
The Town Clerk to write a letter to Mr Russ Church for an update of whether the post has now been filled and also to highlight defects of footpaths, details of which to be supplied by Councillor Mrs M Arnold. It was agreed that the letter should also request a salt container to be placed at the Cae Rex end of the footpath.
- 10.9 Governing Body of Y Bont Faen Primary School.**
No meeting.
- 10.10 Governing Body of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.**
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported on a recent meeting at which concerns were raised about expected numbers for Reception from the Nursery which exceed the places available. The Head teacher is also concerned about next year's budget allocation from the Local Authority.
- 10.11 Cowbridge Chamber of Trade.**
Councillor A E Banks reported on a meeting held on 1st December when the successful reindeer parade was discussed and next year's Christmas lights which the members want to become a feature of the town. The Head teacher at Cowbridge Comprehensive School has agreed in principle, once building work has been completed, that parking be made available during school holidays and at weekends.
- 10.12 Cowbridge in Bloom.**
No meeting.

- Item 10:** **Reports of Representatives (Continued).**
- 10.13** **Rural Vale Police/Community Consultative Group.**
Next meeting 25th January.
- 10.14** **Best Kept Village.**
No meeting.
- 10.15** **Ystradowen Recreation Ground and Allotments Charity.**
Councillor A E Banks reported on a 'low-key' meeting held on 2nd December.
- 10.15** **Community Liaison Committee.**
No meeting.
- 10.23** **Walled Towns Friendship Circle.**
No meeting.
- 10.23** **Vale of Glamorgan Buildings Preservation Trust.**
No representative.
- 10.23** **Age Concern 'Good Neighbour Scheme'.**
No meeting.
- 10.23** **Vale of Glamorgan Community Safety Partnership.**
No meeting.
- 10.23** **Cowbridge Charter Trust.**
No meeting.
- 10.23** **Fair Trade Group**
No meeting.
- 10.23** **Creative Rural Communities.**
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported on a recent all day meeting held at the Victoria Inn, Sigingstone. The day consisted of four workshops including the subjects of tourism, young businesses and local services. These were in relation to Axis 3 and 4 funding.
- 10.24** **Food & Drink Festival Committee.**
No meeting.
- Item 11:** **Report of Sub Committee for Tourism and Heritage.**
185/09 No meeting.
- Item 12:** **Closure of Vale of Glamorgan Office, Eastgate, Cowbridge.**
186/09 To consider individual letters of response received from Councillor G Kemp, Leader of Vale of Glamorgan Council, joint letter from Vale Councillors G Cox, H Jarvie and Mrs V Ellis and Clive Teague, Head of Financial Services at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
Members noted the content of the letter received from the Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council with the following observations being made.
- That the local Vale Councillors for the Cowbridge Ward were consulted but no reference was made to any consideration being given to consultation with any of the three Town Councils affected.

Page seven

Item 12: **Closure of Vale of Glamorgan Office, Eastgate, Cowbridge (continued).**
Members noted the content of the letter received from the three Vale of Glamorgan Councillors for the Cowbridge Ward and made the following observations:

- That whilst the views of the Town Council were put forward at a meeting between Councillor Geoff Cox and Clive Teague, the Town Council were not made aware at their meeting in November of the cash savings required to be made by the Vale of Glamorgan Council because of a reduced budget and how the closure of each of the ‘cash offices’ in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth played a part in that process.
- That had it not been for the article reported in the ‘Penarth Times’ and a discussion that took place at the AGM of the Citizens Advice Bureau held in Barry, the Town Council would have been totally unaware that a decision to close the cash office in Cowbridge was being considered.
- That Cowbridge Library has been used to run a ‘pilot scheme’ for the supply of commercial refuse bags and recycling bags for the past six months with little or no publicity being given to that fact and the majority of the Town Council members were unaware of the fact.
- The Town Council considers that the matter could have been ‘better handled’ with a consultation process being adopted before the decision was made rather than after it.

Members considered the letter received from Mr Clive Teague in which he has been asked to discuss the alternative provisions being made with each of the Town Councils affected by the closure of the ‘cash’ offices. The letter also referred to ‘the potential for joint working with the Town Councils’ to provide services in addition to the cash services being provided by the Post Office as well as the ‘Paypoint’ and ‘Payzone’ facilities. Mr Teague will be pleased to meet to discuss the programme and the way ahead.

Proposed by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty and **resolved**, that Mr Teague should be invited to discuss the matter with the whole of the Town Council before its next meeting in January and give any presentation that he considered appropriate.

Item 13: **Code of Conduct – Draft Guidance from the Public Services**
187/09 **Ombudsman for Wales.**

The importance for every member of the Town Council to read the document was pointed out by the Deputy Mayor and any comments that members wished to make should be passed to him as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in time for its next meeting on 5th January. The timescale for a response to the consultation document is 12th February.

Item 14: **Correspondence**
188/09

14.1 Letter from the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirming the successful Christmas CASH Grant Application.
Noted.

Page eight

- Item 14:** **Correspondence (correspondence)**
14.2 Communication received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council enclosing details of an application for a Premise Licence in respect of 31 High Street, Cowbridge. The hours being applied for are 8.30am until 10.00pm, 7 days a week.
Noted.
- 14.3 E-mail received from Cowbridge Comprehensive School advising that as part of the school's education for sustainable development and global citizenship initiative, 2 days of voluntary work is being sought for Year 9 students within the local community and is due to take place in June 2010. The email asks whether the Town Council would be able to offer a placement to a group of 12 or more students with an accompanying member of staff. A response is required by 15th January as to whether or not the Town Council is able to assist.
Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor Mrs S M Cox that a reply is sent asking for suggestion as to what type of voluntary work is being requested.
Resolved as proposed.
- Item 15:** **Publications** (All held by the Town Clerk unless otherwise stated).
189/09 Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales –Newsletter December 2009.
All publications noted.
- Item 16:** **Documents for sealing.**
190/09 None
- Item 16:** **Date and time of next Meeting.**
191/09 Tuesday 19th January 2010 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris
Mayor.

Date minutes signed.