

COWBRIDGE WITH
LLANBLETHIAN
TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the
of Council held on
22nd December 2020 by
video conference

Present: Cllr S Vaughan (Mayor), Cllr R Spencer-Downe (Deputy Mayor)

Cllrs J.Andrew, M Arnold, M Wilson, R Watkins, G Cox, S Cox, V Ellis, G Baty, A Trousdell, A Pritchard

Ms S Hookins (Assistant Town Clerk)

In attendance: Rev Heather Weddell and members of the public

The Rev Heather Weddell opened the meeting with a prayer and a minute silence was held for former Mayor Linda Adams now Osborn

82/20

1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr G J Baty – work commitment, Cllr N Thomas

83/20

2 Declarations of Interest: None

84/20

3 Confirmation of minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 20th Oct 2020

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 20th October 2020 are accepted as a true and accurate record

85/20

4 Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 20th Oct 2020

Regarding item 17 the Mayor reminded Cllrs that Declarations of Interest are the responsibility of individual Cllrs to make it is not for other Cllrs to state that a declaration of interest should be made. Declarations that are deemed to be personal if they are not also prejudicial mean that a Cllr can vote. Due to 2 Cllrs intervening at the start of item 17 and during the item the Mayor was incorrectly disenfranchised.

The Deputy Mayor responded that he did not think this was the case.

86/20

5 Community Police Matters

No police present

87/20.

6 Road Safety

Parking in the Limes on double yellow lines on a blind bend were discussed and parking outside Greggs on the Zig Zags. The new PCSO would be contacted re these items. Parking on a Zig Zag is a police matter as it is an endorsable offence. Speeding in Aberthin, Llanblethian and the High Street were matters of concern and community speed watch groups to be pursued and set up again. It was noted that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have a new enforcement car.

88/20

7a Mayor's Report

This was circulated to all Cllrs and in it recorded that the Mayor had sent out regular updates since the last meeting on the following dates :-26 Oct,16,22 Nov and 4,15 Dec.

89/20

7b Assistant Town Clerk's Report

The Office is now closed until 4th Jan 2021 and details have been put on noticeboards, website and answer phone. The Mayor would be covering emergency call outs between the 23rd and 27th Dec. Some faulty play equipment in the Twt had been removed for repair. The Christmas Lights on the Town Hall were down for a few days but were back on

now. The Llanblethian lights went off and could not be repaired. The Mayor arranged for replacement battery lights to be installed. A discussion with the contractor to take place in Jan. Wales is in a national lockdown again and working from home will resume and the Town Hall to remain closed.

90/20

8 Financial Report

Details were circulated. Accounts for end of Nov not completed yet due to time issues. Precept information and up to date accounts to be sent out for Jan meetings.

91/20

9a Planning

As the Mayor had chaired the meeting she reported that the meeting consisted of a lot of no objections and approval letters from the Vale.

Proposed by Cllr Arnold and Sec by Cllr Watkins and resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.
Resolved.

92/20

9b Leisure and Amenities

As the Chair had been ill and the Vice Chair who took the meeting was not present the Mayor reported on the meeting. Cllr Ellis stated that she had received no contact from the Assistant Town Clerk or the Mayor, this was refuted by both and the Mayor had sent out an update email on 16th Dec to all L and A members. Cllr Andrew offered to help progress the Southgate park trees by getting quotes. The Mayor had followed up the repairs required in the Dec playground reports. The minutes referred to an incorrect number of bins in the Twt park there are 7 bins and it was proposed to reduce these to 3. A link re suitable bins unfortunately had not been forwarded more details will follow. It was confirmed that 2 items of removed equipment were with the Contractor and quotes for repair requested. A grant of £3K was awarded from Play Wales making a total for the Llanblethian project £18k. Cllr Watkins was progressing and project managing this matter as agreed by the committee. He had meetings with the play equipment providers in the minutes booked in for Jan. The timescale for delivery is very tight end of March 2021. The committee need to do their budget for 2021 in the Jan meeting which would be moved from the 4th to 11th Jan.

At this point Cllr Ellis was put onto mute as she was talking inappropriately about staff off agenda and in the public domain. Staff matters are confidential part 2 items. She then swore and said to the Mayor who are you Hitler.

Proposed by Cllr Watkins and Sec by Cllr Andrew and resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

93/20

9c Town Hall

A new fire door had been installed and redundant doors were off to the tip. The Mayor had rescued one which could not be reused or stored anywhere. It was proposed by Cllr Andrew and seconded by Cllr Trousedell that the door be sold to the Mayor for £1. This was carried and the Mayor confirmed no money would be made out of the door. Health and Safety matters that had been dealt with by Cllr Andrew included :- Electrical inspection, Fire alarm, Boiler maintenance, Fire door repairs. The 6 mth lift inspection, Fire Risk Assessment. All of these items were time consuming and Cllrs were reminded of their H & S responsibilities and those of the Town Clerk. Ellis Whitam had been contracted back in 2018 to ensure that the Council are discharging their duties. A total of £12k was in the budget this included money for cemetery work and the actual expenditure to date was £3,030. Cllr Andrew clarified this as an email circulated to all Cllrs from Cllr Thomas completely misrepresents this Council's approach to H & S and due to the amount of time Cllr Andrew had spent on this he found the remarks made by Cllr Thomas in her email offensive. The annual cost of the lift inspections will be put into the budget as an annual item.

Proposed by Cllr Andrew and sec by Cllr Wilson and resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

94/20

9d Finance and Governance

A grant to Cowbridge in Bloom was considered. Unfortunately the St Athan Band were unable to perform on 23rd Dec due to the National Lockdown. The details required by our auditors were being collated and would be sent to them in one file in the New Year. A copy of the Precept information and year to date accounts will be sent out ready for all Jan meetings. Ideas for next year's budget to be submitted. The Independent Remuneration panel information would be updated. A meeting with the Vale and IT working group to be set up in New Year.

Proposed by Cllr Trousdell Sec by Cllr Andrew and resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

The Mayor stated that she was extremely grateful for assistance from the following Cllrs as it would not have been possible to run the Dec meetings without their input :- Cllr Trousdell Oct minutes, Cllr Andrew ran the Town Hall meeting and did the minutes, Cllr Thomas did the L and A minutes and the Mayor did the Finance minutes.

95/20

10 Reports from Various Bodies

Cllr G Baty had circulated information re the 2 Lag meetings she had attended.

Cllr Andrew reported on Chamber of Trade meeting and said there will be no more Cowbridge Guides and there was a new on line newspaper the Cowbridge Nub news.

Cllr Trousdell attended a lolo Morgannwg governor's meeting on 2nd Dec

96/20

11 Section 106 Funding

A lengthy discussion took place about the Aberthin Consultation run by Chris George which had received around 100 responses. It was proposed that the Council support the outcome of this consultation and write to the Vale Council to inform them of this support. Approved.

Cllr Andrew spoke about the on line consultation he had undertaken on behalf of this Council regarding Clare Garden village S 106 funds. He had sent out the report to all Cllrs on 26th Nov. Cllr Andrew proposed the 4 recommendations, Sec by Cllr Trousdell. There were 4 abstentions but the motion was carried.

1. In allocating the money the Vale of Glamorgan Council should be closely guided by the results of the consultation given the large number of respondents who appear to be a reasonably representative sample of the population of Cowbridge.
2. The funds should be used in ways which will benefit as many residents as possible rather than specific groups, clubs or societies.
3. There is clearly a strong desire for the Community Facilities money to be spent on Youth Facilities and in particular a skateboard park. The Town Council supports this and recommends that further consultation be undertaken in conjunction with Cowbridge Comprehensive School to determine exactly what young people would like to have.
4. In relation to Sustainable Transport the Town Council supports the order of priority expressed by the consultation which is to invest in footpaths, cycleways, electric car charging points and a redesign of Cowbridge High Street. The Town Council would like to work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in developing projects and consulting on them with local residents.

Cllr Andrew was thanked for his hard work on this consultation.

Both Cllrs Cox left the meeting at this point.

97/20

12 Governor Vacancy Y Bont Faen Primary School

There were 2 Cllrs that had expressed an interest Cllr R Watkins and Cllr V Ellis. After a vote Cllr R Watkins was chosen as the Council's representative for this vacancy.

98/20

13 Limes Shed

Two approaches had been received about purchasing the shed. Cllr Arnold proposed that the shed should not be sold. Sec by Cllr Pritchard. Unanimously agreed that it was not for sale.

The letter from an interested party in renting had been circulated and it was agreed that in principle this be accepted and the required legal documentation be drawn up. Approved.

99/20

14 Co-Opt Resolution under Standing Order 6 (a) (xi) public be excluded due to confidential nature of the business

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The casual vacancy was posted on the Town Council's Noticeboards and website. Closing date 18th Jan at 5pm. Cllr Wilson to contact the Cowbridge Nub News and Cllr Watkins to contact Cowbridge Hub to advertise on social media.

100/20

15 Correspondence – Love Cowbridge Hate Litter

The group had written to the Council re their concern about litter and rats under the Cowbridge by pass where a no of school children park their cars. Agreed the group be supported and Cowbridge School be sent a letter.

*A vote was taken to introduce standing orders
to extend the meeting past 9pm. Prop Cllr Baty Sec Deputy Mayor. Resolved.*

Resolution under Standing Order 6 (a) (xi) public be excluded due to confidential nature of the business

Normal order of business resumed

103/20

18 Date and Time of next Council meeting

Tuesday 19th January at 7pm