

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 4th February 2014 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman – Councillor J R Harris
Mayor – Councillor Mrs G Baty
Deputy Mayor – Councillor P J Knapp
Councillors – G A Cox, Mrs S M Cox, Mrs E George, D W Morris and Mrs S Vaughan.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk – Mr Andrew Davies

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillor Mrs F Blomeley.

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
None.

Item 3: Matters arising from the Committee Meeting held on 7th January 2014.
3.1 Members of the Committee were circulated with information, including quotations in relation to a CASH Grant application which is being considered for the benefit of Aberthin Village Hall for various items. Based on the items required by the Village Hall Committee and the quotations provided, the contribution to be made by the Town Council will be £609.71 which represents 25% match funding for the total grant application £2,438.84.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs E George, seconded by Councillor D W Morris, that a CASH grant application is submitted by the Town Council for equipment at Aberthin Village Hall which will improve the facilities available there and be of benefit to the local community.
Recommended as proposed.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 21st January 2014.
No matters arising.

Item 5: Receipts & Payments Account/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payments Accounts for period 1st April 2013 to 31st January 2014 and the statements of bank balances as at 31st January 2014 were circulated to members and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.

A list of accounts to be settled from 22nd January – 4th February was circulated to members and read.

The Committee were circulated with details of interest rates for monies invested on the ‘money market’ dependant upon the investment period.

Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor Mrs S M Cox that the identical sum of £60,000 is re-invested on the money market for a period of twelve months which will return 0.80%.

Recommended as proposed.

- Item 6: Grant Aid.**
- 6.1 Acknowledgement received from Urdd Eisteddfod for the Grant Aid payment made by the Town Council.
Noted.
- 6.2 Application for financial assistance received from Vale Market Action Group that has presented proposals for the livestock market site to the Vale of Glamorgan Council and have received a positive response. In order to progress the proposals further, funds are required and the group requests the Town Council to provide a grant of £250 in order to ‘kick start’ the work that is needed.
The Committee discussed the matter at length and was supportive of the project and the benefits it will bring to the town.
Proposed by Councillor P J Knapp, seconded by Councillor D W Morris, that a payment of £250.00 is made to Vale Market Action Group, subject to clarification being received as to how the money is to be spent and what other funding applications are to be made. Also to confirm who will be the responsible officers and has the group established proper banking arrangements.
Resolved that in pursuance of the power conferred by section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, the Committee approves the payment of the sum of £250.00 to the Vale Market Action Group, subject to the condition in the proposal.
- 6.3 Acknowledgement received from the Stroke Association Wales for the Grant Aid payment made by the Town Council.
Noted.
- Item 7: Application for Funding for Cowbridge Town Hall Cinema Equipment.**
- 7.1 Letter received from Phil Chappell of Big Screen giving details regarding the funding of a new electric screen and projector for the Main Hall which will not only be of benefit to the cinema, but also to other hirers. Big Screen was unsuccessful in its application to Creative Rural Communities for a grant to fund the equipment but received feedback that advised that if the application was submitted by the Town Council there was a strong possibility of it being successful. The Town Council had previously indicated that it would be prepared in principle to give a grant of up to £3,000 to Big Screen towards the match funding of the unsuccessful grant application for the equipment and this could now be used for a further application, for the same equipment, to be submitted by the Town Council itself.
Since the original application was submitted, a lower quotation has been obtained which would result in the Town Council being required to provide match funding of 30% which would equate to £2,775.46 of the total cost of £9,251.52.
Proposed by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor J R Harris and **recommended** that the Town Council pursues a grant application to Creative Rural Communities for a grant towards the cost of the provision of an electric screen and projector for the Main Hall on the basis that, if successful, not only will it be of benefit to the Big Screen cinema but will also improve the facilities available to other hirers.
- Item 8: Review of Town Hall Hiring Fees.**
After due consideration, it was **proposed** by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor D W Morris that the hiring fees for hiring the Town Hall are not increased for the forthcoming financial year.
Recommended as proposed.

Item 9: Review of Cemetery Fees.

The Committee recommends that paragraph 1(b) is amended to read:
“the parents of the deceased are resident within the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council Boundary”.

It was agreed that any recommendation in respect of the fees is deferred until the next committee meeting in order to allow the Town Clerk to make enquiries with other Town Councils to determine their current fees and any proposed increase.

Item 10: Standing Orders.

The Committee agreed to defer any decision to allow the Town Clerk to further examine the ‘Model Standing Orders’ provided by One Voice Wales.

Item 11: Correspondence.

11.1 Extract from ‘The Clerk’ in respect of audit changes which advised that the audit for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 will be concentrating on the budget procedures undertaken by Town and Community Councils and the appointment of the internal auditor.

Noted.

11.2 The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the complimentary ‘County Flag of Glamorgan’ has now been received and which he showed to the Members. Prior to receipt of the flag, an e-mail had been received from Mr Peter Boyce of the Historic Counties Trust who requested for any photographs showing the flag in use to be sent to him. Mr Boyce advised that it is a ‘long haul exercise’ to establish a flag and use by community and town councils would show that it has local support which would be a big help in the early stages of this procedure.

The Committee agreed that with the Town Hall only having three flag poles, opportunity to fly the ‘County Flag of Glamorgan’ would be very limited and that a response should be made to Mr Boyce in order to establish whether there has been any progress regarding days when the flag should be flown and what is the protocol when flown together with other flags.

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

None.

Item 13: Date and Time of next Meeting.

Tuesday, 4th March 2014 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris.
Chairman.