

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 11th January 2005 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman - Councillor J R Harris
Vice Chairman – Councillor H W Field
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Mrs G Baty
Councillors - W H Evans and Mrs M Y Williams MBE.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillors G A Cox, Mrs S M Cox and A Thomas.

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
None.

Item 3: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1st April 2004 to 31st December 2004 and the statement of bank balances as at 31st December 2004 were circulated to members and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.
A list of accounts to be settled from 22nd December 2004 – 11th January 2005 was circulated to members and read.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 7th December 2004.
Councillor J R Harris referred to the following matters:
Item 4.1 - The agreed amount of £50,000 from the Town Council's fund has been placed on the Money market and will attract interest at a rate of 3.74%.
Item 4.2 – An acknowledgement has been received from the Valuation Office in response to the letter sent by the Town Clerk about the main hall annexe being classified as an office.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 21st December 2004.
No matters arising.

Item 6: Budget 2005/2006
The Chairman circulated members of the committee with details of current and proposed budget figures together with budget requirements of the Leisure and Amenities Town Hall Committees. (Appendix I attached)
Members discussed the budget proposals at length.
Proposed by Councillor H W Field, seconded by Councillor W H Evans and **recommended** that in order to achieve a balanced budget the precept be increased by 5%. (Appendix II attached)

Item 7: Grant Aid.
No Applications.

Item 8: Correspondence.

8.1 Letter received from Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board in response to the letter sent by the Town Clerk about the decision not to hold a 'Public Consultation Meeting in Cowbridge. The letter stated that it is not feasible to hold a meeting in every town or village within a county, so it is ensured that meetings are held in a range of places across the areas concerned. The Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council advised that it would be appropriate to hold meetings in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

After discussion, members **recommended** that the letter should be replied to, expressing the disappointment in the response received and that Cowbridge is not a small village and that people travel into it as a town and a centre from many of the surrounding villages and in addition, the letter should point out that public transport between Cowbridge and Llantwit Major has been greatly reduced in frequency over the years. The Council feels strongly that Cowbridge be used as a venue for anything similar in the future.

Item 8: Correspondence.

8.2 Letter received from the Financial Department of Cardiff Council in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations - Actuarial Valuation. The letter contained details of the likely increases in Employers Contribution Rates between 2005 and 2007.

Noted.

8.3 Letter received from Welsh Assembly Government giving notice of a Public Meeting of the South East Wales Regional Committee to be held at Porthcawl on 21 January 2005 between 9.30 am and 12.30pm. The theme of the meeting is 'Smoking in Public Places' and an opportunity will be given for people in the public gallery to make comments on the subject. There will also be an 'open mike' session allowing questions to be put on any issue to Assembly Members or members of the panel. Details of booking places were also contained in the letter.

Noted.

Members of the committee commented on the short notice given of the meeting and also the venue and timing. Being held at that time in the morning did not allow for the use of public transport or any persons with work commitments. It was **recommended** that a letter should be sent to the Welsh Assembly requesting that these matters be considered in the future when any future meetings are arranged.

8.4 Newsletter received from One Voice Wales in respect of the Freedom of Information Act and General Right of Access January 2005. The document is for information purposes.

Noted.

8.5 Newsletter received from One Voice Wales enclosing details of Statutory Dismissal Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures. The document is for information purposes.

Noted

8.6 Letter from Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding Council Tax precepts and giving details of the Town/Community Council Tax base for the year 2005/06. A levy of £1.00 would produce £2,417.00 and reflects the Council Tax Rebanding. Precept payments of one third will be made on the last working day of April, August and December.

Noted

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- Item 8:** **Correspondence.(continued)**
8.7 Letter from Welsh Assembly Government enclosing a Consultation document –
 ‘Providing indemnities to members and officers of relevant authorities. Responses
 are required by 1 March 2005.
 Members of the Committee agreed that this is a document that every member
 should be given the opportunity to comment on. The matter was therefore
 adjourned for it to be listed on the Full Council Agenda under ‘correspondence’
 and every member not on this committee to be sent a copy.
- Item 9:** **Any Other Business.**
 No matters arising.
- Item 10:** **Date and Time of next Meeting.**
 Tuesday 8th February 2005 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris
Chairman.