

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 8th February 2005 at 7.00pm.

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

In Attendance:
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
All members present.

Item 2: Declaration of Interests.
Councillor Mrs M Y Williams MBE in respect item 8.1

Item 3: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1st April 2004 to 31st January 2005 and the statement of bank balances as at 31st January 2005 were circulated to members and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.
A list of accounts to be settled from 26th January - 8th February 2005 was circulated to members and read.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 11th January 2005.
No matters arising.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 25th January 2005.
No matters arising.

Item 6: Grant Aid.
6.1 Received from Vale of Glamorgan Preservation Society acknowledging the receipt of the payment made by the Town Council.
Noted.

6.2 Letter received from Wales Air Ambulance requesting financial assistance towards the running costs of two million pounds per annum for the two helicopters in their service. No government or National Lottery Funding is received for the helicopters, which depend on charitable donations and weekly 'in house' lottery subscribers.
Noted.

Item 6: Grant Aid. (Continued)

6.3 Letter received from Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association requesting financial assistance towards the running costs of the Association.

Proposed by Councillor H W Field, seconded by Councillor W H Evans, that a payment of £150.00 be made towards the association's running costs..

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 £150.00 in respect of Cowbridge Senior Citizens Association.

Item 7: Review of Hire Charges and Cemetery Fees.

Members considered the current fees charged for the Town Hall and Limes Cemetery.

a) Cemetery Fees.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty, that the cemetery fees be increased by 10% to be rounded up or down to the nearest whole pound. (*For calculation purposes 50pence and over would be rounded up and below fifty pence rounded down*)

Recommended as proposed.

b) Hire Charges Town Hall.

Proposed by Councillor G A Cox, Seconded by Councillor H W Field, that the hire fees for the Town Hall be increased by 5% and that any increase be rounded up or down to the nearest whole pound. (*For calculation purposes 50pence and over would be rounded up and below fifty pence rounded down*)

Recommended as proposed.

Item 8: Correspondence.

8.1 Letter received from Vale of Glamorgan Council – Round 3 Article 33 Funding. The letter offered a grant of 80%, from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, towards the total project cost of £5,000.00 for signage in Cowbridge. Therefore the grant is £4,000.00 in total and has to be claimed in full by 31st August 2005.

The letter further confirmed that the grant is made from monies awarded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Union, under a Welsh Development Agency project.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor W H Evans that that offer of the grant be accepted.

Recommended as proposed.

The Town Clerk advised members that a meeting is arranged on 9 February to finalise details of the project for which the grant has been offered and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs S M Cox should attend to represent the Town Council.

8.2 Letter received from Vale of Glamorgan Council in respect of the Christmas Tree Recycling Competition. The letter advised that Cowbridge had won the Town Council Recycling Competition having recycled 210 trees, which represented an average of 0.10 trees per household.

The competition was a great success and with the Town Council and Community Council areas a total of 1488 trees were recycled.

The prize for the winner of the competition was originally a bench made from reclaimed wood but to ensure that the bench will withstand being outdoors, this has been revised to hardwood. There may now being an alternative idea put forward so that recycled wood can be used.

Noted.

Item 8: Correspondence. (8.2 continued)

The Town Clerk advised members that the current prize being considered, to be constructed from recycled wood is a planter and that further information would be sent as soon as it is available.

Members were extremely pleased with the result of the competition and felt that publicity for any presentation should be maximised to the full. It is understood that this will be made by the Vale Council. A location for the planter would be considered once details of its dimensions are known.

8.3 Letter received from 'One Voice Wales' highlighting two matters:

1) A request for 'member' Councils to contact their local Assembly Member to request their support in securing the funding promised by the Welsh Assembly Government. The fact that funding has not been received has significantly affected the level of service that 'One Voice Wales' has been able to offer its members.

Recommended that a letter be sent from the Town Council to the local Assembly member as requested.

2) A number of half-day seminars have been arranged to deal with Freedom of Information Act issues, which may affect Town and Community Councils in Wales. The seminars are to be held at Mold, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen or Swansea at a cost of £45 per delegate.

Proposed by Councillor H W Field, seconded by Councillor W H Evans and **recommended** that the Council's 'One Voice Wales' representative Councillor Mrs S M Cox should attend the conference at either Carmarthen or Swansea. In the event of Councillor Mrs Cox being unable to attend, an agreed member should attend in her place.

8.4 Letter received from Welsh Assembly Government enclosing the final draft of Account and Audit Regulations currently before the Welsh Assembly Government and which are due to come into force on 1 April 2005. The accounts for 2004/2005 will be subject to the current regulations. The final draft is circulated for information not comment.

The actual regulations will be circulated together with some non-statutory guidance on the Assembly Government's view of good and best practice once the legislative process has been completed and they become available.

Noted.

8.5 Letter received from Welsh Assembly Government giving details of the revised appropriate sum under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The sum for the current financial year is £5.14 per local government elector and for the financial year 2005-2006 this will rise by 3.1% (increase in the retail price index) to £5.30 per local government elector.

Noted.

8.6 Letter received from Welsh Assembly Government enclosing and advising of borrowing by Community and Town Councils, Loan Sanction for 2005-2006.

Noted.

Item 9: Any Other Business.

None.

Item 10: Date and Time of next Meeting.

Tuesday 8th March 2005 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris
Chairman.