

**Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee**  
**held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,**  
**on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Chairman - Councillor J R Harris  
Vice Chairman – Councillor H W Field  
Councillors –W H Evans (arrived item 3), A Thomas and Mrs M Williams M.BE.

**In Attendance:**  
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

**Item 1: Apologies for Absence**  
Councillors Mrs G Baty, G A Cox and Mrs S M Cox

**Item 2: Declaration of Interests.**  
None.

**Item 3: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid**  
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and the statement of bank balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were circulated to members and read.  
**Recommended** that these accounts be approved.  
A list of accounts to be settled from 20<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 was circulated to members and read.

**Item 4: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005.**  
Councillor J R Harris referred to item 8.2 concerning the repair to the Mayor's chain. The Town Clerk confirmed that the repair has been carried out locally.

**Item 5: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005.**  
No matters arising.

**Item 6: Grant Aid.**  
6.1 Letter received from Childline Cymru/Wales requesting financial assistance towards the running of the organisation which involves a freephone helpline for children and young people .  
**Proposed** by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor H W Field, that a payment of £125.00 be made towards the costs of Childline Cymru/Wales.  
**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 £125.00 in respect of Childline Cymru Wales.

6.2 South Wales Police (We Are the Champions competition) acknowledging and thanking the Town Council for their financial assistance towards the costs of the event.  
**Noted.**

**Item 6: Grant Aid. (Continued)**

6.3 Letter received from Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village Competition asking the Town Council for financial support towards the Competition. The previous main sponsor, Calor Gas has seriously reduced the financial support it gives the competition.

The letter pointed out that the competition is not village orientated, but a large part involves primary, infant and nursery schools in the Vale and there is a separate section of the competition for these. It is also open to any scouts, brownies or other similar groups who are conducting a community/environment project and if the Council is aware of any such group, details should be forwarded to the secretary.

The competition encourages villages to look their best, which in turn encourages visitors to the Vale who will then proceed to local towns such as Cowbridge. After discussion, it was **recommended** that a letter should be sent to the Secretary of the Competition advising that before any further consideration is given to this matter that information is provided as to whether schools in the Cowbridge area are actively encouraged to take part in the competition and if so what their response has been.

**Item 7: Correspondence.**

7.1 Letter received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the Provision of Payroll Services to the Town Council and requesting an increase to the monthly standing order to cover the projected expenditure for 2005/2006 with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

**Noted.**

7.2 Letter received from Cardiff Council in respect of Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. Enclosed with the letter is a copy of the 2004 Actuarial Valuation Report, which also lists the revised Employers Contribution rates for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 and the following two years.

**Noted.**

7.3 Letter received from Welsh Local Government Association in respect of 2005/06 Car Allowances and Car Mileage Rates.

**Noted.**

A copy will be circulated to all members.

7.4 Letter received from Vale of Glamorgan Council attaching posters in respect of the Foster Carer Recruitment Campaign commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

**Noted.**

The Town Clerk confirmed that posters have been displayed.

7.5 Letter received from the Welsh Assembly Government containing details of the Account and Audit Regulations and Guidance Notes.

**Noted.**

The Town Clerk advised that there is no impact on the way the Audit is carried out in respect of this Council.

**Item 7:**

**Correspondence. (Continued)**

7.6

Letter received from the Valuation Officer at Cardiff in respect of the valuation of the Annexe and Kitchen on the first floor of the Town Hall. The letter advised that the rooms in question are valued correctly in that they must be valued in their entirety and having regard to its quality. The property must be valued as 'vacant and to let' and the rooms in question are perceived to be not dissimilar in quality to other office space in the accommodation and therefore should be rated as such. An office can be used as a store and have no telephone or computer lines but still be capable of use as an office of similar standards.

The Committee **recommended** that consideration is given by the Town Council to a possible appeal on the decision pending further investigation.

7.7

Letter received from the University of Gloucestershire, which is looking to produce a new publication in relation into 'Good Practice' in Community and Town Councils. The guide will look to provide sound principles and practical ideas for action in the community and it will include a selection of case studies providing examples of effective local action.

The project team seeks to identify case studies of exciting projects where Councils have played a key role.

**Noted.**

7.8

Letter received from Cowbridge Country Markets (formerly W.I. Markets) requesting that the Town Council consider not imposing the price increase of £1.50 per week, which came into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The charge for the Lesser Hall and Lounge has risen from £46.50 to £48 as a result of the increase. The Market Committee has discussed the impact, albeit modest, on the present income of the market. The weekly takings average £415 of which all but 10% is returned to the producers. Therefore in order to meet the basic cost of hall hire and insurance the weekly takings will have to rise to £500+ per week. The market has been a long established booking, which brings in regular customers and the Committee consider it to be quite an important part of 'Cowbridge Life'. Increased reliance on outside events such as the Farmers' Markets put extra strain on just a few people and this may lead them to decide that it will be neither possible nor profitable to continue with the regular Friday market. Members discussed the letter at considerable length.

**Proposed** by Councillor H W Field, seconded by Councillor W H Evans, that a reply is sent to the Cowbridge Country Markets advising that the Council Tax for the Town Hall have increased by 14% besides the increased heating and lighting costs and therefore the Council is unable to accede to their request but would respectfully suggest that maybe an increase of the 10% retained from takings might be considered.

**Recommended** as proposed.

**Item 8:**

**Any Other Business.**

None.

Councillor J R Harris thanked all the members of the Committee for their support throughout the year.

**Item 9:**

**Date and Time of next Meeting.**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at 7.00pm.

**Chairman.**