

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 7th June 2005 at 7.00pm.

Present: Mayor – Councillor Mrs G Baty
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Mrs L Adams
Councillors – G A Cox (arrived item 9), Mrs S M Cox, W H Evans,
J R Harris, A Thomas and Mrs M Williams M.BE.

In Attendance:
Town Clerk - Mr. Andrew Davies

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
None.

Item 2: Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor W H Evans
that Councillor J R Harris, be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.
Resolved as proposed.

Councillor Harris thanked members for his re-election.
(The following item was dealt with immediately prior to the close of the meeting)
Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor A Thomas,
that Councillor G A Cox be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.
Resolved as proposed.

Item 3: Declaration of Interests.
Councillor Mrs S M Cox – item 5 (item 7.6 of last minutes)

Item 4: Receipts & Payments Account/sundries/Accounts to be paid
Receipts and Payment Accounts for period 1st April 2005 to 31st May 2005 and
the statement of bank balances as at 31st May 2005 were circulated to members
and read.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.
A list of accounts to be settled from 20th April – 7th June 2005 was circulated to
members and read.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Committee meeting held on 4th May 2005.
Councillor J R Harris referred to item 7.6 in regarding the assessment of the Town
Hall for non-domestic rates purposes and specifically the annexe room and annexe
kitchen which are both classified as being office space.
Members **recommend** that further representations are made to the Valuation
Officer to highlight the fact that those rooms could not be let as offices
independent of the Main Hall as they form an integral part of the main hall facility
and additionally that there is no separate entrance available.

Item 6: Matters arising from the Full Council meeting held on 18th May 2005.
No matters arising.

Item 7: Grant Aid.
7.1 Letter received from Samaritans acknowledging the generous donation made by
the Town Council in response to the application for financial assistance.
Noted.

Item 7: Grant Aid (continued)

- 7.2 Letter received from Shelter Cymru requesting grant assistance towards the running costs of the organisation, which deals with those, who are homeless or who are under threat of becoming homeless.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs G Baty, seconded by Councillor W H Evans, that a payment of £60.00 be made towards the running costs of Shelter Cymru.
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 £60.00 in respect of Shelter Cymru.
- 7.3 Letter received from British Red Cross, Wales Area seeking financial assistance towards sustaining the 15 different services run by the British Red Cross in the South East Wales Area to assist vulnerable people in the local community.
Proposed by Councillor A Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs L Adams, that a payment of £50.00 be made towards the costs of British Red Cross.
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 £50.00 in respect of the British Red Cross.
- 7.4 Letter received from G A Cox a committee member of 'Cowbridge in Bloom', requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the work of 'Cowbridge in Bloom', a voluntary organization dependant solely on sponsorship to provide the floral displays in the town.
Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor W H Evans, that a payment of £225.00 be made towards the costs of 'Cowbridge in Bloom'
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 £225.00 in respect of 'Cowbridge in Bloom'
- 7.5 Letter received from Best Kept Village in the Vale of Glamorgan Committee in response to enquiries made by this Council concerning the number of local schools that take part in the annual competition.
The letter confirmed that no specific schools in Cowbridge took part last year although Cowbridge children attend two participating schools. The letter went on to ask if the Town Council could encourage Cowbridge Schools to take part and that late entries can be accepted up until the middle of June.
Noted.
- 7.6 Letter received from Holy Cross Church giving information about a proposed Christmas Tree Festival being held at Holy Cross Church this year on 2nd - 4th December. The letter explained the three ways in which organizations and individuals could assist.
(i) Providing a tree no taller than five foot, decorated in a manner determined by the provider. (approximately 50 sites will be available in the church)
(ii) Financial assistance towards the provision of platform and services.
(iii) Financial assistance towards a larger tree (approximately 25ft) being sited outside in the Church grounds and its lighting.
The profits of the venture will be split between a charity to be decided and church funds.

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7.6(*continued*) Members discussed the matter at length.

(Councillor W H Evans declared an interest in the item and left the Chamber before any proposition or voting took place.)

Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Williams, that a payment of £50.00 be pledged towards the costs of the 'Christmas Tree Festival' and specifically towards the lighting and decorating of the 25ft tree to be placed in the church grounds.

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 £50.00 as stated but subject to confirmation that the 25ft tree is to proceed.

Member recommend that letter should also state that should it be intended to place the 25ft tree on the part of the churchyard owned by the Town Council then no objection would be raised provided that no damage is caused and adequate insurance cover is provided.

7.7 Letter received from Childline Cymru acknowledging the grant made by the Town Council.

Noted.

Item 8: Correspondence.

8.1 Letter received from Pinnacle Office Equipment advising of a 7% increase in copy charges effective from April 2005.

8.2 Quotation received from Fattorini Ltd, suppliers of medals and ribbons, stating that the costs of their ribbons are £10.00 plus postage for standard 38mm wide ribbons that are available in red, dark blue, dark green, maroon or black.

Recommended that two black and two red ribbons are purchased.

Item 9: Any Other Business.

Councillor J R Harris referred to the Bridge Garage Development and the lack of progress to open up the footpath leading off High Street into the Limes.

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor W H Evans that a letter is sent to the developer, with a copy to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, requesting an indication of how soon the footpath will be open to members of the public who as they are still having to walk along the road and negotiate parked vehicles connected with the site as well as the traffic using the road.

Recommended as proposed.

Item 10: Date and Time of next Meeting.

Tuesday 5th July 2005 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris
Chairman.