

**Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,**  
**on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Mayor – Councillor D W Morris  
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Mrs E A George  
Councillors: Mrs M Arnold, Mrs G Baty, Mrs F Blomeley (*arrived item 3*),  
Mrs A Burges (*arrived item 3*), Mrs S M Cox, J R Harris, P J Knapp,  
D G Morgan, Mrs N C Thomas, A T Trousdell, Mrs S Vaughan and  
T L Williams MBE.

**In Attendance:**  
Town Clerk – Mr Andrew Davies  
Administrative Assistant - Mrs Jackie Griffin  
PC Stuart Elson.

**Item 1:**           **Apologies for Absence.**  
**88/15**           Councillor G A Cox

**Item 2:**           **Declarations of Interest.**  
**89/15**           None.

**Item 3:**           **The Financial Report.**  
**90/15**           The Report was presented by Councillor J R Harris. The Receipts and  
Payments Account for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and  
statement of bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 was circulated.

Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

Current Account:	£ 8,136.00
Investment Gold Account:	£ 44,611.59
Money Market	<u>£ 60,000.00</u>
Total	£112,747.59
Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 1,036.72</u>
	<u>£111,710.87</u>

**Proposed** by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor P J Knapp  
and **resolved** that the Receipts and Payments Account and statement of bank  
balance be accepted and adopted.

**Item 4:**           **To confirm the minutes of Mayor Making on 19<sup>th</sup> May and the**  
**91/15**           **Adjourned AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**  
**Proposed** by Councillor P J Knapp, seconded by Councillor T L Williams  
and **resolved** that the minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on  
19<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and duly  
signed.

**Item 5:**           **Matters arising from Town Council Meeting held on**  
**92/15**           **20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**  
No matters arising.

**Item 6:  
93/15**

**Community Police Matters.**

PC Stuart Elson outlined the crime figures for the month of May and gave background details.

He reported that the Food and Drink Festival went well and there were no major incidents.

PC Elson reported on the following that had been raised previously:

- PC Elson has visited the junction of Constitution Hill with Love Lane a number of times but has not identified any problems with traffic there. He is yet to look at the traffic lights at the junction of Primrose Hill and Aberthin Road.
- Parking along the Aberthin Road during school hours. PC Elson has met with the Head Teacher, Mrs D Thomas, at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and is in the process of drawing up a plan to educate the parents, who pick up and drop off students, to change to a safer and less congestive arrangement for all involved. PC Elson confirmed that he has taken a look at the current parking by Sixth Formers on the verges and in the lay-by and advised that this does not cause any obstruction either to drivers or pedestrians. The sixth form students have been advised regarding inconsiderate parking.
- PC Elson advised that PCSO Hilary O'Callaghan has resumed her duties.

**Item 7:  
94/15**

**Road Safety.**

No matters.

**Item 8:  
95/15**

**Reports**

**a) Mayor**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May** – The Mayor and Mayoress hosted the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Guests from the Twin Towns that were visiting the Food and Drink Festival.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – The Mayor and Mayoress attended Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club 'Open Evening' with a demonstration by Andrew Lloyd held at the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – The Mayor and Mayoress attended an Art Exhibition entitled 'The Ocean Within' by Regine Mercier-Williams at The Old Hall, Cowbridge.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** – The Mayor and Mayoress hosted a Coffee Morning in the Mayor's Parlour in aid of the Mayor's chosen charities 'Prostate Cymru' and 'Motivational Learning Trust' (MLT).

**b) Town Clerk**

Citizen of the Year Update.

The Town Clerk advised that two nominations had been received for the award. The recipient is decided by the Mayor and the four chairs of committees and as the chairs are yet to be decided by the Finance and General Purposes and Town Hall Committees, it was **proposed** by Councillor T L Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs N C Thomas and **resolved** that the presentation of the award is made on Remembrance Sunday this year.

Civic Sunday Update.

Regretfully South Wales Police Band is unable to perform at this year's Civic Sunday Parade. The Town Clerk has contacted Flight Lieutenant Dave Palmer, the Parade Marshal, who kindly offered to contact Swansea ATC who have a band and maybe able to assist, if not with a complete band, then possibly with a 'corps' of drums.

**Item 8:**

**Reports**

**b) Town Clerk (Continued)**

The Town Clerk circulated a letter received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding Flail Mowing of Highway Verges in 2015. The letter advises that following the reduction in local authority budgets and 'The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales', a revised programme of cuts has been introduced this year. Non-strategic routes (rural lanes) will only be cut after the optimum time of mid-July, which will allow sufficient time for the majority of flowering plants to set seed. The strategic routes (main roads) will be cut three times per year. This regime will not only achieve a financial saving but, more importantly, it will improve the verges as connected habitats for pollinators throughout the area.

**Noted.**

Work Experience Student.

The Town Clerk advised that Cowbridge Comprehensive School had asked if the Town Council could accommodate a student for 'work experience' for three days next month as he had been let down by his previous arrangement. This has been agreed to and will take place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Hanging Baskets.

The Town Clerk reported that the hanging baskets and troughs have been put up on the front of the Town Hall and extended his thanks to Mrs Griffin and Mr James.

***Dates for your diary:***

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Big Screen presents 'The Imitation Game'.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Mayor's Coffee Morning.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – Civic Sunday.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – Mayor's 'Strawberry Tea'.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Mayor's Supper and 'Murder/Mystery' Evening.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Remembrance Sunday.

Payment of the accounts to be ratified

Expenses totalling £10,169.27 to be paid.

**Proposed** by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs G Baty, that the payment of the accounts be ratified.

**Resolved** as proposed.

**Item 9:  
96/15**

**Reports of Committees.**

**a. Leisure & Amenities.**

Councillor Mrs A Burges reported on the meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

**Proposed** by Councillor Mrs A Burges, seconded by Councillor A T Trousdell, that the report be accepted and adopted.

**Resolved** as proposed.

**b. Planning.**

Councillor Mrs S M Cox reported on the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

**Proposed** by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs N C Thomas, that the report be accepted and adopted.

**Resolved** as proposed.

**c. Finance and General Purposes.**

Councillor D W Morris reported on the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015

**Proposed** by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor P J Knapp, that the report be accepted and adopted.

**Resolved** as proposed.

**Item 9: Reports of Committees (Continued)**

**d. Town Hall**

Councillor D W Morris reported on the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.

**Proposed** by Councillor D W Morris, seconded by Councillor

Mrs E A George, that the report be accepted and adopted.

**Resolved** as proposed.

**Item 10: Reports of Representatives & Other Committees.**

**97/15**

**10.1 Cowbridge and Llanblethian United Charities.**

No meeting.

**10.2 Evan Jenkins Charity.**

Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**10.3 Cowbridge Institute Charity.**

No meeting.

**10.4 One Voice Wales.**

No meeting.

**10.5 Cowbridge and District Museum Trust.**

Councillor Mrs S M Cox advised that the AGM and quarterly meetings were held on 11<sup>th</sup> June and were well attended.

**10.6 Cowbridge Town Twinning Association.**

Councillor Mrs G Baty advised that there had been a successful trip to Clission and that the Association is holding an event entitled 'Fest Noz' in the Town Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> July, tickets are priced at £15.

**10.7 Joint Liaison Association on Footpaths.**

Next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**10.8 Governing Body of Y Bont Faen Primary School.**

Next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**10.9 Governing Body of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.**

Next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**10.10 Cowbridge Chamber of Trade.**

No meeting.

**10.11 Cowbridge in Bloom.**

Councillor Mrs A Burges advised that the watering rota has been drawn up.

**10.12 Best Kept Village.**

Councillor Mrs E A George reported on a meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> June. The competition has been changed giving villages the opportunity to enter different categories and this has resulted in 11 villages submitting entries. Entries have also been received from 6 junior schools and 5 nurseries and results will be announced in July.

- Item 10:**        **Reports of Representatives & Other Committees (Continued)**  
10.13            **Community Liaison Committee.**  
Councillor Mrs N C Thomas reported on the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> June and at which the Local Development Plan and the 'Reshaping Services' programme were discussed. Councillor Mike Cuddy of Penarth Town Council and Councillor Graeme Smith of Llanmaes Community Council were selected as representatives for the Local Services Board.
- 10.14            **Age Connect 'Good Neighbour Scheme'.**  
No meeting.
- 10.15            **Cowbridge Charter Trust.**  
No meeting.
- 10.16            **Food and Drink Festival Committee**  
No report.
- 10.17            **Vale Market Community Enterprise.**  
Councillor Mrs S Vaughan reported on the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> June and advise that the group are faced with raising £500K by the end of March next year through grants, fundraising and possibly 'community bonds'. It is hoped that a stand will be provided by the NFU at this year's Vale of Glamorgan Show.
- 10.18            **Llanblethian Community Group.**  
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported that a successful funding raising event had been held between the Community Group and the Church which raised over £600 for the Nepal disaster.  
There will be a Village Fete on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June with free entry followed by a Barbeque at the Cross Inn.
- 10.19            **Cowbridge Town Team.**  
Councillor Mrs S Vaughan advised that the project is to close soon and she will give a further report at the next meeting.
- 10.20            **Local Action Group (LAG).**  
Councillor Mrs G Baty reported that the group are awaiting tenders and feasibility studies for the coming year.
- Item 11:**        **Vale of Glamorgan Council – Reshaping Services – Expressions of**  
**98/15**            **Interest.**  
Members of the Town Council were circulated were circulated with an 'Expression of Interest' form received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council together with a note regarding 'Asset Transfer'/Devolved Services, produced by One Voice Wales. In addition, they were provided with an extract from the 'Good Councillors Guide' listing statutory powers for Community and Town Councils.  
The object of the exercise is for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to discover exactly what Community and Town Councils, in its area, are responsible for and to enquire whether any council would be prepared to explore the possibility of taking on additional services or expanding their current services to a wider area.  
The initial question was to establish whether or not the Town Council was 'interested in exploring discussions with a view to providing other services'.

**Item 11: Vale of Glamorgan Council – Reshaping Services – Expressions of Interest (Continued).**

Every Member present was given the opportunity to put forward their individual views and concluded with the majority deciding that such discussions should take place. As far as an indication of services that the Town Council might be interested in, the car park was put forward over and above the services that are already provided.

Members then considered whether the Council would be interested in providing services across a wider area than they already do so and the consensus of opinion was that it should not. It did however agree that potential clustering arrangements could be discussed to work with other councils in the area.

The final part dealt with ‘back office’ services which the Vale of Glamorgan Council may be able to provide to Community and Town Councils and whether there would be any interest in these. The Town Council already uses a number of services including payroll, play equipment inspections and website hosting but would be prepared to engage other services dependent upon the demand and cost.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should complete the questionnaire based on the conclusions reached above.

**Item 12: Correspondence.**

**99/15**

12.1

Members were circulated with an e-mail communication received from the Royal Mail and which updated the current position regarding Post Office Service Provision in Cowbridge. A future service is in ‘application stage’ and until an interview has been passed, cannot progress to the public consultation stage. Subject to a successful interview, the Royal Mail would be in a position to publicly announce its plans to re-open the Post Office. It was agreed that the Town Council should continue to press for information and refer to a meeting held last year with the Royal Mail at which it was implied that the ‘public consultation’ might be dispensed with having regard to the length of time that the town has been without a Post Office service i.e. (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014).

**Item 13: Publications.**

**100/15**

None.

**Item 14: Documents for sealing.**

**101/15**

None.

**Item 15: Date and time of next Meeting.**

**102/15**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at 7.00pm.

Councillor D W Morris  
**Mayor.**

Date minutes signed.