

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Cowbridge Town Hall,
on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman – Councillor J R Harris
Mayor – Councillor Mrs S Vaughan
Deputy Mayor - Councillor T L Williams MBE.
Councillors: J M Andrew, G A Cox, Mrs S M Cox, R S Downe and C George.

In Attendance: Interim Town Clerk – Jackie Griffin.

- 1: Apologies for Absence.**
Councillor Mrs N C Thomas.
- 2: Declarations of Interest.**
None.
- 3: To confirm the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2018.**
Proposed by Councillor J R Harris, seconded by Councillor T L Williams, that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6th March 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and duly signed.
Resolved as proposed.
- 4: Matters arising from the Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2018, which are not already on the agenda.**
No matters arising.
- 5: Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 20th March 2018, which are not already on the agenda.**
No matters arising.
- 6: Receipts & Payments Account/Accounts to be paid for Period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.**
Receipts and Payments Accounts for period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and the statements of bank balances as at 31st March 2018 were circulated to Members and read.
Councillor C George requested that the Town Hall Rates figure is recorded as a separate item on the 'Receipts and Payments Account'.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor T L Williams and **recommended** that the Town Hall Rates are recorded as a separate item on the receipts and payments account with effect from the next financial year.
Recommended that these accounts be approved.

Lists of the accounts to be settled from 20th March to 31st March 2018 and 1st April to 10th April 2018 were circulated to Members and read.

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7: **Grant Aid.**

7.1 Application Received from Cowbridge in Bloom requesting financial assistance with the costs of the floral displays around the town.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S M Cox, seconded by Councillor T L Williams, that a payment of £400.00 is made to 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 £400.00 to Cowbridge in Bloom.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor T L Williams advised Members that the new Town Clerk, Ceri Anderson, has agreed to start work with the Town Council on Monday, 16th April 2018. It was suggested that an article should be published in the Gem newspaper advising residents of the appointment of a new Town Clerk.

8: **Service Level Agreement for provision of Town Council Website 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.**

A Service Level Agreement for the provision of the website by the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been received and must be signed and returned by the Town Clerk. Once this has been done, an invoice for £500, the annual fee for the service, will be issued.

A website is mandatory for all Community and Town Councils and Members of the Committee agreed the service provision should therefore continue, the agreement signed and the fee paid upon receipt of the invoice.

Councillor R S Downe requested that an enquiry is made with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's IT department, for individual e-mail addresses to be set up for each Town Councillor, solely for council business.

9: **Appeal Rateable Value of Town Hall**

The Interim Town Clerk advised that she has tried to contact the company 'Get your Rates Right' on numerous occasions, both by telephone and e-mail, to obtain an update on what progress has been made regarding the Town Council's appeal. To date, despite all efforts, the company has failed to respond at all. Enquiries and further attempts to make contact will continue.

10: **Cowbridge History Society – Production of a 'Blue Plaque' Self Guide Leaflet.**

Councillor J M Andrew reported that the sub-committee had contacted Nia Hollins from Vale Tourism. It is now suggested that a 'blue plaque trail' is drawn up by the History Society and uploaded onto the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website. The production of a leaflet can be carried out at a later date. A further meeting will be arranged with Ms Hollins and representatives from the History Society in order to progress the initiative. The process and criteria for the approval of new blue plaques will be investigated.

11: **5 Year Strategic Plan - Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Priorities in plan are subject to working in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

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12: National Non-Domestic Rates Demand Notice for financial year 2018/19 for Town Hall and Cemetery.

The non-domestic rates demand in the sum of £15,677.00 for the financial year 2018/19 for the Town Hall building has been received. Payment will be made by instalments over 10 months, the first being £1,565, followed by 9 payments of £1,568.

In addition, the non-domestic rates demand amounting to £125.93, for the same period, has been received in respect of the Limes Cemetery and this too will be paid by instalments over 10 months, the first payment being £8.93 and 9 payments of £13.00.

Noted.

13: Correspondence

13.1 To consider information from the Welsh Government on 2018-19: Funding to support the initial setting up of joint arrangements.

The Welsh Government recognises the potential benefits of the sector's existing interest in being able to address area wide issues, collaborate on specific areas and achieve economies of scale. In support of this 'agenda for action', the Welsh Government will continue to support setting up joint arrangements to address the core themes of community engagement, increasing citizen participation and engagement in local democracy, as well as continued support for clustering. A budget of £35,000 for 2018/19 will be made available to councils, with one off grants of £5,000 being awarded to accepted applications.

Noted.

14: Matters to be discussed at the discretion of the Chairman

None.

15: Date and Time of next meeting.

Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.00pm.

Councillor J R Harris
Chairman.