

Cowbridge Ministry Area

in the Diocese of Llandaff



The Parish Office
Holy Cross Church
Church Street
Cowbridge
CF71 7BB

Team Vicar
Chairman
Warden
Warden
Administrator

Revd Victoria Ashley
Miss Andrea Harries LL.B
Mrs Jan Reed OBE
Mr Peter Davies CBE
Mr David-Lloyd Jones

Cowbridge Town Council,
The Town Hall,
High Street,
Cowbridge.
CF71 7DD

28th February 2023

Holy Cross Churchyard

Dear Cathy,

We understand that you, the Mayor, and Tim Stephens met David-Lloyd in the churchyard of Holy Cross a few weeks ago to discuss issues with trees which had been raised by the managing agent of the Happy Days building. At that time David-Lloyd also pointed out several areas of concern with ongoing maintenance and lack, as far as we are aware, of any plan to take positive steps towards improvements. We appreciate that you have a gravestone safety check in train, which is of course important, but there are, in our view, other items which may be of higher risk which were explained on that occasion. We are also aware that David-Lloyd has raised these concerns with you and Members of the Town Council on several occasions over the last three years, and, to date, nothing like the work that has been promised has been started.

We should be grateful therefore if you would now express to the next full meeting of the Town Council our serious Health & Safety concerns regarding the Churchyard at Holy Cross, for which the Town Council is responsible. We ask that this matter is now treated with the utmost urgency before there is an accident which could well be as a result of the Council's neglect.

We are sorry to have to write to you in these terms, but as all efforts to resolve these issues informally have been ineffective and given, as you will appreciate, we have a duty of care to all those who visit Holy Cross Parish Church, we are left with little other choice.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Harries LL.B

Jan Reed OBE

Peter Davies CBE

From: [Cathy Kennedy](#)
To: ["Peter Davies"](#); office@cowbridgeparish.com; rector@cowbridgeparish.com
Cc: [Cllr John Andrew](#); [Beverly Tonkin](#)
Subject: Letter re Holy Cross Churchyard
Date: 06 March 2023 13:36:00
Attachments: [Letter from Holy Cross Church March 2023.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

(please pass email to Andrea Harries and Jan Reed as I do not have their emails)

I have today received the attached letter dated 28th February 2023.

I am disappointed to read that you feel there has been a lack of ongoing maintenance in the Holy Cross Churchyard and as a matter of information, I list below jobs that have taken place since April 2021, when I started in the role of Town Clerk.

- Extensive removal of ivy from church and church yard walls – during the summer of 2021 – equating to 2 weeks work
- Annual maintenance of the specimen trees at the front of the church and pruning of hedges – prior to Remembrance Sunday
- Regular grass cutting throughout the summer months
- Repairing of dangerous paving stones at the front of the church – (I paid an external contractor to attend within days of this being reported to me).

The recent meeting you refer to in the letter was called by me due to HRT the landowner of the Happy Days building, approaching David-Lloyd Jones, who passed them my contact details, regarding trees encroaching on their property.

The meeting took place and in addition to the matter of ancient Oak trees encroaching over the Happy Days building, we discussed other trees in the churchyard.

We agreed at the time that I would write to the agent to let them know it was their responsibility to prune the Oak trees to stop the needles from the trees blocking the guttering and that there was no question of removal of protected trees.

The agent responded and as far as I am aware were content with this explanation.

The tree in the bottom, left hand corner of the Churchyard was pointed out to me and I was told it was dead or dying, however, I have since checked with Ewart from ESA Tree Surgeons and he said that the tree is very alive, being monitored and does not pose a health & safety risk.

The only matter I can think you may be referring to is the tree next to the council owned shed and the smaller tree next to that, which I agreed that next time the Council organises tree removal, will be attended to, however, I am not of the opinion that these are in any way a risk to health & safety.

I am not aware of any other matters that were brought up at this meeting or indeed at any other time.

Please can you send a follow up letter and/or an email listing the items you perceive may be of higher risk, as I am sure when the Councillors see your letter at the next meeting, they will require more detail.

Best regards,

Cathy Kennedy

Town Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer, Chief Executive Officer

Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council

Cyngor Tref Y Bontfaen (Bwrdeustref Hynafol) gyda Llanfleiddan

Town Hall, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7AD

Neuadd y Dref, Y Bonfaen, Bro Morgannwg CF71 7AD

townclerk@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

www.cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Town Hall Office Opening Hours: *Monday to Friday - 9.30am to 1:00pm*

01446 773385 - 9.30am – 1.00pm

To contact me during office closing times, I am available on;

07708 443415 – 1.30pm – 5pm

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Ystyriwch yr amgylchedd. Peidiwch ag argraffu'r neges hon oni bai fod gwir angen.