



Be kind



Byddwch yn garedig

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH) with
LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF
Y BONTFAEN (Bwrdeistref Hynafol) gyda
LLANFLEIDDAN

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on
Tuesday the 18th of July 2023
at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber and remotely by Microsoft Teams.**

PRESENT: COUNCIL CHAMBER:

The Mayor Cllr Malcolm Wilson, Deputy Mayor Cllr Heather Weddell, Cllr John Andrew, Cllr Alec Trousdell, Cllr Peter Carter, Cllr Dave Breen, Cllr Terry Wilson, Cllr Lianne Evans, Cllr Rowena Harbour, Cllr Ian Watkins, Cllr Beverly Tonkin, Cllr Geraint Baty, Cllr Gwen Baty, The Deputy Town Clerk Sarah-Jane Marshall, The Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy.

MICROSOFT TEAMS; Vale of Glamorgan Cllr. Nicholas Wood plus one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr. Cecilia Hannigan-Davies, Vale of Glamorgan, and Cowbridge with Llanblethian Cllr. Charles Champion

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item of Planning (g. Cllr. Gwen Baty disclosed a potential conflict of interest since the proposed development is near her daughter's home.

3. COMMUNITY POLICE MATTERS

There were no reports received from the Police.

4. VALE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Vale of Glamorgan Cllr. N Woods provided a verbal report, highlighting the following:

1 Cllr. C Champion is attending a meeting with the Vale of Glamorgan council. He has requested Cllr. N Wood to remind the Town council that the proposal to consider reducing the current speed limit from 30 to 20 miles per hour is due to end on 19th July 2023, at 00:00hrs.

2. During the council meeting, Cllr. N Woods informed the members that Cllr. C Champion had shared news regarding the receipt of a funding report for Y Bont Faen School in the upcoming years. The funding is expected to have a positive impact, providing valuable support to the school and benefiting the surrounding community.

3. The Vale of Glamorgan Council is currently converting bins to recycling bins, in line with its

commitment to enhance recycling efforts and promote environmental sustainability.

4. Councillor N Woods provided information regarding the Vale Council Community Service Group. The group may extend its support to the town in various ways, particularly in addressing minor issues.

5. Councillor R Harbour raised two matters during the meeting:

a) Mobile Signal: Councillor C Champion is actively investigating mobile signal coverage within the area and has engaged relevant experts, including the phone doctor, to explore potential improvements.

b) Recycling of Medical Bags: Councillor R Harbour expressed concerns about the three-week interval between medical bag recycling pickups, which is deemed unacceptable. Councillor N Woods reported that this issue has been discussed in committee meetings regarding the frequency of pickups. Further discussions are ongoing, and Councillor N Woods will liaise with Councillor C Champion to explore possible solutions.

Cllr. N Wood agreed to continue monitoring and addressing the various topics discussed.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING RESOLVED

In UK clerk style, the minutes from the meeting held on June 20, 2023, were approved with the following amendments:

1. Cllr. T Williams and Cllr. D Breen were not recorded as attendees, and Cllr. L Evans provided apologies for absence.

2. Item 15: Cllr. C Champion and The Mayor were approved as representatives for securing funding and collaborating with the 106 Fund Officer, not Cllr. J Andrew.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTED, that the strike mechanism is currently en route from Italy.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED

The financial report ending 28th June 2023 was approved.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED

a. The recommendations of the Town Hall Committee held on the 4th of July 2023 were approved.

b. The recommendations of the Finance and Governance Committee held on the 4th of July 2023 were approved.

Sarah-Jane Marshall

10. MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor's report was noted.

11. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report was noted.

12. MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Ysgol Iolo Morganwg:

Councillor A. Trousdell reported as a school governor for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg that there is a circulating petition within the community to raise funds for the school's staffing requirements. Concerns were expressed over the current situation, which is considered unacceptable due to the impact of significant cutbacks. These cutbacks have affected various aspects, including children's participation in Civic Sunday.

Councillor T. Williams highlighted the issue of the Vale of Glamorgan Council providing the lowest funding allocation to the school. Consequently, every school in the Vale has been asked to contribute to fund a barrister who will investigate the matter. The sustainability of schools under these financial circumstances was reiterated.

Councillor R. Harbour informed the council about an online petition requiring a minimum of 10,000 signatures to support Ysgol Iolo Morganwg School. She encouraged everyone to participate in this initiative

b) Community Liaison Meeting:

Councillor A Trousdell reported on the local police's activities during the meeting and commended their efforts in addressing littering issues in the community.

Discussions were also held on the upcoming implementation of the twenty miles per hour speed limit. While there is limited time for expressing views on the matter, doubts were raised about the likelihood of significant changes.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended)

a) Application: 2023/00213/FUL

Location: HSBC, 61, High Street, Cowbridge

Proposal: Minor internal and external works to accommodate for branch closure. Removal of external ATM, with internal and external apertures infilled with matching materials. Removal of external signage and CCTV equipment. Removal of internal branch furniture / equipment.

Date: Approved on the 16 June 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00213/FUL>

NOTED

b) Application 2023/00643/LBC (GW)

Location: Rogers Takeway, Town Hall Square, Cowbridge

Proposal: The removal of the high level glazed rooflight system to the North elevation and upvc guttering and downpipes. The reinstatement of structure with a new natural slate finish to cover the complete North elevation roof, along with powder coated aluminium gutters and downpipes.

Date: Approved on the 11 July 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00643/LBC?cuuid=8B87CB99-70E6-4965-AD7B-9BFB9EC5F8EC>

NO OBJECTION

c) **Application** No. 2022/00820/FUL (HW)

Location: Tafarn Barn Stables, Trerhyngyll

Proposal: Proposed retention of gates to paddock (safety access for horses) and proposed security gate (vehicular access to existing stable block and approved agricultural machinery store 2020/00441/FUL)

Date: 20th July 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2022/00820/FUL>

NO OBJECTION

d) **Application** 2023/00424/FUL

Location: The Acorns, Maendy Road, Aberthin

Proposal: Replacement single storey side extension

Date: Approved on the 30th of June 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00424/FUL>

NOTED

e) **Application** 2023/00524/ADV

Location: Unit 1, 1 Birds Lane, Cowbridge

Proposal: Refurbishment of shopfront and replacement signage

Date: Approved on the 30th of June 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00553/FUL>

NOTED

f) **Application** 2023/00553/FUL

Location: 38, Cae Ffynnon, Cowbridge

Proposal: Use of the land for siting a mobile home for use ancillary to the main dwelling

Date: Approved on the 6 July 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00020/FUL?cuuid=90236CE0-CD9E-4EE7-B354-3917C576377C>

COMMENT

The council expressed their concerns regarding a stationary mobile home situated on a homeowner's property. They feel that this situation raises significant concerns and may

establish a precedent.

g) **Application** 2023/00709/FUL (SDB)

Location: Trosfaen, 4, Windmill Lane, Llanblethian

Proposal: Proposed loft conversion with dormers to the front and rear elevation, first floor extension above existing garage, new roof, proposed porch extension and alterations to fenestration.

Date: 1st August 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00709/FUL?cuuid=2E3F3601-4038-4EEC-9A8E-0FC3ED43EF65>

NO OBJECTION

h) **Application** No. 2023/00275/FUL (GG)

Location: 10, Downs View, Aberthin

Proposal: Proposed remodel of the dwelling, plus a ground floor rear extension to form a new kitchen, dining area, and an open plan family room

Date: Approved on the 2nd August 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00275/FUL?cuuid=0CC51AD5-0215-4FDC-BB5E-BE61CB2C1FFE>

NO OBJECTION

i) **Application** 2023/00716/FUL

Location: St Quentins House, Castle Hill, Llanblethian, Cowbridge

Proposal: Single storey extension with off road parking in a conservation area

Date: Approved on the 4th August 2023.

Link: <https://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2023/00716/FUL?cuuid=F853D7A4-362A-43AF-AC25-AE076E2E73E3>

NO OBJECTION

J) **Proposal for the redevelopment of land**

at Darren Farm, Darren Hill, Cowbridge, CF71 7AN

Date: McCarthy Stone will trigger the official 28-day consultation period Thursday (Thursday 29th June 2023)

COMMENT

The McCarthy Stone project has raised questions about accessibility and parking. McCarthy Stone responded by assuring the council that the parking ratio is consistent with their other sites, and they have been engaging in lengthy conversations regarding access and pathways.

Councillor P Carter expressed reservations about whether there would be enough parking for both employees and residents, citing previous experiences at Churchill Court when caregivers were not allowed to park on-site. Councillor A Trousdell agreed that evaluating parking problems for caregivers, given the project's out-of-town location, is crucial.

Based on the feedback collected on the proposal, there were no substantial complaints regarding parking for residents, visitors, and caregivers. However, the needs of caregivers must be properly considered. Some individuals prefer this type of housing near a slip road despite possible noise from the high street.

The Mayor inquired about the rationale behind the planned 30-car parking ratio for residents and caregivers. Questions were raised about whether this distribution would effectively meet the parking demands of both parties. A thorough analysis of the parking requirements is considered necessary to ensure acceptability for all concerned parties.

Councillor D Breen expressed particular concern about the narrow pavement and its potential limitations for people with disabilities or restricted mobility.

According to the Mayor, the offices in the project are designed to attract people to the region. However, there are questions about the lack of parking spaces, which currently number only eight.

Councillor P Carter also informed the council about discussions with Ben Foules concerning walkways and cycling lanes. The council decided to thoroughly evaluate and consider adopting these suggestions.

Furthermore, Councillor D Breen expressed concerns about archaeological considerations and a non-functional connection.

McCarthy Stone has offered to attend a meeting to present and discuss their ideas in light of these questions.

ACTION

To invite McCarthy Stone to the council to talk about proposed development.

14. SECTION 106

The Mayor informed the council that a meeting with Cowbridge Amateur Dramatics is still pending and awaiting confirmation.

The estimated cost for the park puddle repair work is £8,000. It was discussed that efforts will be made to recover the money spent and collaborate with Vale Consultancy, bringing the total to approximately £12,000.

Councillor J Andrew approached the 106 officer, who agreed that the necessary funds can be sourced from the 106 monies.

Councillor N Wood stated that they have not received any information on this matter but will look into it.

The Mayor expressed interest in the lack of a formal process, noting that the decision-making seemed to be based solely on conversations between cabinet members. The absence of a structured process for local councils was deemed peculiar.

Councillor N Wood agreed that it can be challenging to locate where funds are allocated, and they are often assigned from smaller pockets of available funds.

The Mayor raised concerns about the allocation of £30,000 to the Welsh school without consultation and without any process that relates to Cowbridge and other local town councils. This issue will remain open for further discussion.

15. CIVIC SUNDAY

NOTED

The Deputy Town Clerk made a Flyer highlighting the day.

The Mayor gave a quick overview of the recent event, stating that the weather was nice and that it was a terrific day overall. The efforts of the town council personnel in organising the event were recognised.

16. CHRISTMAS

The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Town Clerk presented reports on the status of Christmas preparations at the meeting. Cllr. Gus Baty reviewed the Aberthin Christmas tree, addressing electrical use and safety concerns. Two options were investigated: obtaining power from the Hare and Hounds in exchange for a small payment, as done last year or using some of the 106 monies to install an electrical outlet beneath the tree.

There was a discussion among council members about utilising 106 section monies for other purposes, specifically for lighting Westgate and Eastgate.

The Town Clerk delivered a report on lighting alternatives for Christmas lights in town, and a finance meeting was scheduled to finalise selections and place orders.

The Town Clerk recommended leasing streetlights over a three-year period, ensuring they would be looked after by the company, with the council having the option to change them every three years.

The Deputy Mayor emphasised that the Vale would not provide a grant for celebrations involving reindeer or other animals. As a result, there will be no reindeer parading, but fascinating LED drummers and walk-the-plank performances will take place. The Deputy Mayor is working on a large project for the Christmas event.

The Deputy Mayor is creating a comprehensive schedule of duties for a well-planned Christmas event. Cllr. Gwen Baty emphasised the importance of Cowbridge, Llanblethian, and Aberthin being represented in the preparations, ensuring the restored lights are ready for the holiday season.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported collaborating with Sarah Jones from The Vale of Glamorgan events team on road closures and exploring entertainment options for the parade scheduled to take place on Sunday, followed by a show with music and entertainment outside the Town Hall.

17. PLACEMAKING PLAN

The Mayor reported on the ongoing work being done on the Place Making Plan. Regular meetings with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the Mayor, and the Deputy Mayor are being held on a weekly basis to advance progress. Valuable feedback was received from the Place

Making Plan coffee morning, and it was noted that the school will be involved in September. The next stage aims to engage older groups in the community.

Cllr. D Breen inquired about the involvement of every trader in the process. The Mayor assured that he would personally hand-deliver forms to all traders on the High Street, ensuring their participation. Additionally, efforts will be made to target all age groups to gather feedback and gain a comprehensive understanding of what makes Cowbridge unique.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on actively involving the community to shape the Place Making Plan effectively.

18. 80th Anniversary D Day

The council has been requested to actively participate in the upcoming VE Day celebrations scheduled for next June. During the recent meeting, it was reported that preparations for the commemoration are already underway, and the council has been coordinating with relevant authorities to ensure a successful event. Plans include organizing a range of events and activities to honour the significance of Victory in Europe Day. The council members have been actively involved in shaping and planning the celebrations, and efforts will be made to engage various community groups and local organizations to ensure broad participation. VE Day next June holds great importance, and the council is committed to playing a central role in making it a memorable and meaningful occasion for the entire community.

RESOLVED

The Full Council unanimously supported the use of the Beacon to commemorate V.E. Day.

19. FLAGS

Cllr. I Watkins proposed raising flags to celebrate different monumental days throughout the town, utilizing the prime location on the high street to highlight various occasions, such as Breast Cancer Awareness, World Suicide Prevention Day, or Roald Dahl Day.

It was noted that prior to the current Town Clerk's tenure, flags were only flown on certain days, prompting Cllr J Andrew to suggest flag rotation. The Mayor proposed double flagging with the Union Flag and Welsh Flag, which would leave two flag poles available.

Cllr. Gwen Baty expressed support for the idea but emphasised the importance of proper advertisement to ensure community awareness. Cllr T. Williams suggested involving the public in the decision-making process.

Cllr. B Tonkin acknowledged the potential workload and proposed limiting such celebrations to once a month, except for other national days.

Cllr. Gwen Baty agreed that the Union Flag should take precedence and permanently remain above the country flag when double flagging.

RESOLVED

The proposal to change the flags to correspond with events was approved. Cllr I Watkins volunteered to provide a list of occasions for consideration.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

21. DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

There were no documents to be sealed.

22. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

To approve the following resolution.

By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussion of items 22 & 23 on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The member of the public and the vale councillor left the meeting.

23. STAFFING MATTERS

NOTED

A report from a meeting of the committee held on the 17th of July 2023.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19th of September 2023