



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 19th of September 2023

at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber and remotely by Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT in the: COUNCIL CHAMBER:

The Mayor Cllr Malcolm Wilson, Deputy Mayor Cllr Heather Weddell, Cllr Terry Williams, Cllr John Andrew, Cllr Alec Trousdell, Cllr Peter Carter, Cllr Cecilia Hannigan-Davies, Cllr Rowena Harbour, Vale of Glamorgan & Town Cllr Charles Champion, Cllr Geraint Baty, The Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy, The Town Hall/Finance Officer Clair Davis, Vale of Glamorgan Visible Services & Housing Support Carol Price, Mark Lawrence, Nicola Biddiscombe, Save Cowbridge Old Girls School Society Dr Tudur Davies.

MICROSOFT TEAMS: One member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Tonkin, Cllr Evans, Cllr Breen, Cllr Gwen Baty, Cllr Ian Watkins.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. COMMUNITY POLICE MATTERS

PC Elson extended his apologies for non-attendance and a police report was emailed to all members during the course of the meeting. Cllr Trousdell raised that several complaints had been received concerning the safety of the traffic lights at the Cross Inn.

4. RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

The following is a summary of a presentation received from the Vale of Glamorgan Visible services & Housing Support Team:

The team's primary objective is to align with the Welsh Government's plan to expedite the rehoming of homeless individuals. Their role involves exploring feasible solutions to move away from widespread homelessness. In pursuit of this mission, the team delved into the historical context of this longstanding issue. The housing crisis inevitably intersects with the problem of homelessness. It is worth noting that there is currently a deficit of 4.3 million homes in the UK. While some attribute this shortage to the sale of social housing during the 1970s, the root cause lies in the continuous decline in house construction, with national targets consistently unmet.

Builders have shifted their focus away from constructing social housing, instead prioritising properties for sale in the open market, exacerbating the issue. This problem traces its origins to the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947, which effectively halved the rate of house construction, making it a challenge that spans over seven decades.

5. VALE COUNCILLOR REPORT

The following is a summary of a verbal report received from Vale of Glamorgan Cllr Charles Champion:

Concerning the matter of parking beneath the flyover next to Cowbridge Comprehensive School, a bar was initially installed at the top of the track to prevent parking. However, this measure was short-lived, as the bar was removed within ten days. The person responsible for installing the bar remains unknown.

He noted that he is gathering information regarding the "shop local" initiative.

In response to his request for lighting improvements on the footpath leading to Cae Rex, this matter is ongoing.

Discussions have taken place regarding the allocation of Section 106 funds. There have been talks about using these funds for improving the leisure center and the footpath leading past the allotments and up to Cae Rex. Cllr Wilson expressed his concern regarding the Vale Council's apparent lack of collaboration with the town council prior to the allocation of 106 funds. He went on to raise doubts about the existence of a robust decision-making process and stressed the need for council members to assertively question proposals. He pointed out that a request for funds to make improvements to the front of the town hall had been declined.

Cllr Champion is addressing the issue that incontinence bags are only being collected every three weeks, Cllr Harbour responded that this is an urgent matter of health & safety.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

The Minutes from the meeting held on the 18th of July 2023, were approved subject to the following amendments:

Page One

Cllr Weddell pointed out that there is no Cllr Terry Wilson, as indicated in the list of present members in the Chamber.

Cllr Ian Watkins was stated as present at the meeting but had sent apologies.

Page six

Cllr Wilson pointed out that the figure allocated to the Welsh school is 3 million not 30,000 as depicted in the minutes.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Cllr Andrew pointed out that there is an apparent overspend in both the Civic and Personnel budgets. In response, the Town Clerk clarified that this apparent overspend in the Civic Budget is not an accurate reflection of the financial situation. The reasons for this discrepancy is as follows: the National Lottery Grant received for the Coronation event, was received on the 17th March 2023 and as a result is not reflected in the 2023/24 budget; additionally, there was a clerical error where ergonomic equipment for a staff member was mistakenly recorded under the Civic Budget. However, it's essential to note that the full cost of this ergonomic equipment is due to be reimbursed by the Department of Work and Pensions. Consequently, the Civic Budget actually maintains a surplus of approximately £2000.

On the other hand, the Personnel budget does indeed show a deficit. This is primarily due to the recent necessity of hiring temporary staff to cover instances of staff sickness.

RESOLVED

The financial report ending 31st of August was approved.

10. GRANT APPLICATION

Dr Tudur Davies provided a verbal update on the status of the Save Cowbridge Old Girls School campaign sparking a robust discussion regarding the suitability of allocating public funds to this endeavor and the underlying purpose of the grant fund. The consensus was that while there was admiration for the effort to preserve the old school buildings, the grant funds are intended to support community organisations such as scouts, guides, social clubs, and youth groups.

RESOLVED

The application for a grant from Save Cowbridge Old Girls School was declined.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 The resolutions of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on the 5th September 2023 were noted. Cllr Champion pointed out that he is not shown on the minutes as being a member of the committee or as being present at the meeting.

11.2 The resolutions of the Extraordinary Finance & Governance Committee meeting held on the 1st August 2023 were noted.

The Town Clerk stated that the purpose of the meeting was to approve Festive Lighting ensuring ample time for delivery early November.

11.3 The resolutions of the Finance and Governance Committee held on the 5th September 2023 were noted.

12. MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor's report provided with the supporting papers was noted.

13. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report provided with the supporting papers was noted.

14. MEMBERS REPORTS

14.1 Cllr Williams provided an update on the outstanding Estyn report received by Y Bont Faen Primary School.

14.2 Cllr Weddell provided an update on a Town Twinning visit to Clisson.

14.3 Cllr Wilson (on behalf of Cllr Gwen Baty) provided an update on the Llanblethian Residents Group.

14.4 Cllr Trousdell provided a One Voice Wales update.

15. PLANNING MATTERS

15.1 2023/00745/FUL 5, Town Hall Square

Ex Pebble shop. Proposed new use needs D1 as it will be community hub for a church - not a retail space. **RESOLVED No objection.**

15.2 2023/00795/FUL Cornerways, Graig Penllyn

Out of our area. **RESOLVED No objection.**

15.3 2023/00813/FUL Hunters Lodge, Graig Penllyn

Approved on 12 September 2023.

15.4 2023/00331/LBC 73, Eastgate, Cowbridge

Previously reviewed by the town council. Not clear why it is out for consultation again. Detailed and well researched application. Associated development has been done to a high standard.

RESOLVED No objection

15.5 2023/00588/FUL Llyswen, 14, Windmill Lane

RESOLVED No objection.

15.6 2023/00668/FUL College Lodge, Town Mill Road

Knock down and rebuild. **RESOLVED No objection.**

15.7 2019/01337/FUL Garwa Quarry, St. Mary Hill

2019/01340/FUL Garwa Quarry, St. Mary Hill

A robust discussion took place and the following was agreed:

RESOLVED

To communicate with the planning officer, expressing that the application documents are very lengthy, detailed and technical, and the town council is seeking a concise summary in laymen's terms explaining the impact on local roads and communities, and the reasons for needing to reopen this particular quarry.

15.8 2023/00836/FUL The Barns, Crossways

Rebuilding run down outbuilding th currently contains a swimming pool to remove pool and create a family space for grown up children and relatives to use.

No change to footprint. Improved elevations. **RESOLVED** No objection.

15.9 2023/00858/FUL 10, Love Lane

Creation of enclosed shelter for tractors

This seems to be a resubmission of a previous application. **RESOLVED** Express disappointment that this is a retrospective application

15.10 2023/00474/FUL The Old Red Cross Society Hall, The Broad Shoard

Proposed conversion of existing building into funeral home including external alterations.

Minor modifications to the building. Three windows replaced by two with a small change to the roofline. **RESOLVED** Object due to there not being any provision for parking and there are double yellow lines outside the building.

15.11 2023/00826/FUL Darren Farm McCarthy Stone

74 documents to consider.

Need more time to consider but not convinced that points raised during the pre-application consultation period have been adequately addressed. Particularly parking and access.

RESOLVED Request extension and ask McCarthy Stone to present to the town council regarding parking and access.

16. SECTION 106

Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. This funding is commonly known as 'Section 106'. Cllr Wilson gave a verbal update regarding 106 monies and the process involved when applying for funding from the pot.

At 8.55pm the following was resolved.

To suspend standing orders to allow the following items to be discussed;

17. VALE OF GLAMORGAN COMMUNITY REVIEW – NOTICE OF DRAFT PROPOSALS REPORT PUBLICATION

The Report has been published electronically and can be viewed on the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales [website](#). A hard copy is available for public viewing at the Council Offices, and at Barry and Penarth Libraries. The Commission welcomes any

comments on the Draft Proposals. The 8-week consultation period begins on the 5th of September 2023 and closes on 30th October 2023. A robust discussion took place regarding the sensibilities of the boundaries and how this would affect the wards and naming of the town council.

RESOLVED

To arrange a meeting with Llanfair Community Council.

18. CHRISTMAS

a. A report regarding the installation of the festive lights was considered.

RESOLVED

To offer the contract to WGS power at a cost of £3,480.

b. Cllr Weddell provided an update on the progress of the Christmas Working Group meetings.

19. PLACEMAKING PLAN

Cllr Wilson briefed the meeting regarding meetings that have taken place. He highlighted the launch of the High Street Grant, plus smaller grants and the pilot launch of a machine being trialled in Cowbridge to take cash and deposit straight into the recipients bank account.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to note.

21. DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

There were no documents for sealing to note.

22. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

The following resolution was approved:

By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussion of item 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.

23. STAFFING MATTERS

A report from the staffing committee held on the 18th September was noted.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The 17th October 2023.