



Be kind



Byddwch yn garedig

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

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber and remotely via
Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 2000hrs.

Present in the Council Chamber:

- Cllr Heather Weddell (ex officio)
- Cllr Geraint Baty (ex officio)
- Cllr Gwen Baty
- Cllr Alec Trousdell
- Cllr Lianne Evans
- Cllr Malcolm Wilson
- Cllr Biga John
- Town Clerk Cathy Kennedy
- Deputy Town Clerk Clair Davis

Remote Attendees: None

Committee Members:

- Cllr Heather Weddell (ex officio)
- Cllr Geraint Baty (ex officio)
- Cllr Gwen Baty
- Cllr Alec Trousdell
- Cllr Lianne Evans
- Cllr Malcolm Wilson
- Cllr John Andrew
- Cllr Biga John

1/F&G2024 CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Nominations for a committee chairperson for the mayoral year 2024/25 were invited from the new committee. Cllr Heather Weddell nominated Cllr Malcolm Wilson to chair the committee, with the nomination seconded by Cllr Alec Trousdell. The subsequent vote was unanimous in favour, and Cllr Wilson accepted the role of chair.

RESOLVED: Cllr Malcolm Wilson will chair the meetings of the Finance & Governance Committee for the mayoral year 2024/25.

2/F&G2024 DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Cllr Wilson nominated Cllr Biga John as deputy chair for the mayoral year 2024/25, with the nomination seconded by Cllr Lianne Evans. The subsequent vote was unanimous in favour, and Cllr Biga John accepted the role.

RESOLVED: Cllr Biga John will serve as deputy chair of the Finance & Governance Committee for the mayoral year 2024/25.

3/F&G2024 TERMS OF REFERENCE

During the discussion on Terms of Reference, members decided to incorporate a bad debtors report into the annual schedule. It was agreed that this report would be presented twice yearly, specifically in September and February, and this would be added to the Terms of Reference.

Cllr Weddell raised the matter of councillor attendance at meetings, seeking regular reports and requested this be included in the Terms of Reference. The Deputy Town Clerk noted that a spreadsheet on the website tracked attendance and this was accessible to all councillors and members of the public. The Town Clerk cautioned against discussing individual councillors' attendance during meetings, stating that attendance was monitored by officers. She then made reference to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, which stipulates that a member failing to attend any meeting for six consecutive months would be disqualified from service unless reasons for non-attendance were approved by the authority beforehand.

RESOLVED: The Committee Terms of Reference were approved for the mayoral year 2024/25.

4/F&G2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5/F&G2024 MINUTES

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that she had not been present at the mentioned meeting and upon reviewing the minutes, she brought attention to item 13b, which stated that the committee had approved a proposal to modify the grant application form to permit grants for individuals. The Town Clerk asserted that such a decision was considered unlawful and inconsistent with the regulations outlined in the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 137).

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows local councils to spend on specific activities not covered by other legislation, focussing on endeavours directly benefitting the community while explicitly prohibiting grants to individuals. Furthermore, the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 elaborates on the limits of council powers, stressing that grants should serve the communal welfare rather than individual interests.

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting held on the 14th of May 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record, pending the amendment to item 13b as proposed by the Town Clerk.

6/F&G2024 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

7/F&G2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED: The bank reconciliation, along with the income and expenditure report ending 31st May 2024, were approved. The May Management Accounts were studied and some tweaks were suggested.

8/F&G2024 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED: The Committee approved a proposal by the Town Clerk to defer this item to the next meeting.

9/F&G2024 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Biga John proposed consolidating the meetings of the Leisure & Amenities, Town Hall, and Finance & Governance committees to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, with each meeting allocated 45 minutes. After a thorough discussion, the committee reached a decision.

RESOLVED: The following was approved unanimously: Leisure & Amenities Committee from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm, Town Hall Committee from 7:15 pm to 8:00 pm, and Finance & Governance from 8:00 pm to 8:45 pm. Additionally, the Town Clerk clarified that councillors who are members of both the Leisure & Amenities and Finance & Governance Committees could still attend the Town Hall Committee meetings but only as members of the public, therefore, would not be able to take part in discussions or voting.

10/F&G2024 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2nd July 2024