

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST. SEPTEMBER 2014

Present : Councillor G Erasmus (Mayor)
Councillor N Turner (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Z Hammond, M Veater MBE, C Erasmus, D Davies, G Hale

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Farina-Childs, J Criddle, A Parsons & L Thomas

2. Policing Matters

Apologies had been received from Inspector Mark Thomas who was on NATO Summit duties, but has agreed to attend the October meeting.

3. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor announced the following engagements attended –

14 th . July	Initial meeting with Trustees etc. of Cancercareline
27 th . July	Armed Forces Services
15 th . August	Cancercareline Bake Off Event – approx £1,400 raised

4. Correspondence

The Clerk presented his report on correspondence received since the last meeting and all were noted.

In respect of the vacancy for minor authority governor representation on Cefn Fforest School Governing Body, nominations would be discussed at the next meeting.

In respect of the Budget Consultation Exercise to help shape services and inform further budget discussions, it was agreed no formal response be forwarded but that members take the opportunity to respond as individuals.

In respect of the Review of Polling Stations, members were asked to forward any comments to the Clerk as soon as possible. Councillor G Hale informed members he would be suggesting Plas Mawr Community Centre as a possible venue.

He then reported on several items of correspondence received since preparation of the report -

Caerphilly C.B.C. – Request to attend future meeting of Town Council to discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy and the implications of the neighbourhood portion of said levy which is to be passed to Community/ Town Councils to support local priorities.

Agreed the Clerk make contact and arrange meeting date.

Caerphilly C.B.C. – Invoice for Contribution to Beach Party £750 (as part of agreed £1,500 to support events – incl. Christmas Market)

Letter of Thanks from Lyn Wilstead & Dennis Bayliss

Invoice from Elsbury's £360 - erection of bunting

Invoice from Gibbon Hire £801.60 - equipment hire - carnival

Change Step – Details of Peer mentoring project for military veterans and others

British Legion – Details of Remembrance Parades & Services –

Saturday 8th November War Memorial Pontllanfraith Offices at 1.15pm

Sunday 9th November Blackwood War Memorial 10.40am for 11.00am

Sunday 9th November St.Thomas Church 10.00am followed by march to War Memorial for Wreath Laying

Tuesday 11th November Market Square Blackwood Service 10.40 am for 11.00am

It was **agreed** all invoices be paid.

5. To Deal with Business not transacted at the Town Council Meeting held on 7th. July 2014

The Clerk circulated Minutes of the Inquorate Meeting held on 7th July 2014, and these were accepted as a true record. It should be noted no decisions were taken at the meeting.

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2nd June 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

It was also **resolved** the Minutes of the Events Committee Meetings held on 10th. & 24th. June 2014 and the Town & Community Councils Join Liaison Committee Meeting held on 29th. January 2014 be received.

6. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 22nd. July 2014

The Clerk presented the minutes and it was **agreed** they be received.

The following grants were **confirmed** –

Blackwood Rugby Club (Funding of buffet following Armed Forces Day Service)	£ 80
Islwyn Old Comrades	£125
CANDO	£200
Thee Solitaires Marching Jazz Band	£ 50
DYT Dance School	£200
Blackwood Army Cadets	£250
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£250
Blackwood Rotary Club (Charity Night Opening of Maxime Cinema)	£100

7. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 12th. August 2014

The Clerk presented the minutes and it was **agreed** they be received.
Councillor Granville Hale, Chair of Events, asked the Clerk for copies of the correspondence outlined/reported in the minutes.

8. Vacancy – Cefn Fforest East Ward – following resignation by Councillor Maureen Franklin

The Clerk presented his report on the vacancy following the resignation by Councillor Mo Franklin. It was **agreed** a letter be forwarded thanking her for her service on the Council and wishing her well for the future.

After some discussion, it was **agreed** the necessary Notice of Vacancy be advertised, after consultation with C.C.B.C. when the Clerk returns from leave.

9. Blackwood in Bloom Competition Results

The Clerk presented his report outlining winners of this years competition –

6 Twynyffald Road
43 Twynyffald Road
52 Bloomfield Road
62 Cefn Road
13 Tree Tops Avenue
Newlyn, Cwmgelli
87 Montclair Avenue
14 Thornecombe Road

It was **agreed** to invite all along to the Civic Awards Evening to receive their Certificates and cheques.

Some discussion was had regarding possible notices/signs identifying winners that might be offered as prizes for placement in respective gardens. However, it was **agreed** to agenda same in readiness for next years competition.

10. Nominations for Civic Awards 2014

The Clerk reported that the proposed date for the evening was unavailable , and that the Institute had provisionally earmarked Tuesday November 4th.
It was **agreed** we proceed on that date.

The Clerk reminded members that two names had been suggested earlier in the year, Mavis Organ for her unstinting work with Pensioners/ Senior Citizens Clubs and Bill Bleazard, a former Town Councillor and member of Blackwood Methodist Church, for his work in the town.

The Clerk also reported on a letter he had been handed nominating Lyndsay Ann Davies, (nominated by her mother Cariann Davies), a 24 year old young lady who for the past 5 years has been running the DYT dance school, and has built up the school from humble beginnings. They have performed at several Town Council Events.

Several other possible nominations had been mentioned, namely Mynyddislwyn Male Choir and the Street Pastors.

After some further discussion, and due to the fact attendance was low, it was *agreed* to agenda this item again for the next meeting, where a decision on this years recipients would be made.

11. Notice of Motions to be discussed at One Voice Wales A.G.M. on Saturday 4th. October 2014

The Clerk circulated copies of the Motions in question, and a decision was taken on each that would need to be passed to Councillor Jim Criddle, who could then vote accordingly.

Motion 1 – Pentyrch Community Council - Election Costs - Support

Motion 2 - Carmarthenshire Area Committee – Coastal Defence Systems - Support

Motion 3 - Caldicot Town Council – Objection to further Severn River Crossing toll increase -
Personal view

Motion 4 - Tredegar Town Council – Percentage of Non Domestic Rates should be payable to
Community/Town Councils for the benefit of local economic
growth - Support

Motion 5 - Cynwyl Elfed Community Council – Call upon Welsh Govt. to work with mobile phone
providers to improve coverage across Wales –
Support

Motion 6 – Composite Motion – Urge One Voice Wales to call upon the Welsh Govt. as a matter of
urgency to provide definitive guidance on issues relating to Public
Services Governance and Delivery Review which proposes a
reduction in the number of Principal Councils, and the endeavour to
strengthen delivery of services as closely as possible to the citizen –
Support

Motion 7 - Felinheli Community Council – One Voice Wales calls upon the National Grid to ensure
it consultation practice is open & transparent and total
costs are identified for all transmission options when
considering transmission route plans – Support

Motion 8 - One Voice Wales – Increase membership fees by 3% for 2015/16 – Personal view

12. Audit of Accounts for Year Ended 31st. March 2014

The Clerk presented his report and it was ***resolved*** that the Annual Report be formally approved, and that Councillor G Erasmus as Chair of the Meeting sign and date Section 3 in accordance with Reg. 9 of the Regulations.

13. Planning Applications

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting. It was ***agreed*** no objections or issues be raised.

The Clerk reported that the application submitted previously in respect of 31 Clos Coed Bach to erect a new rear garage, provide new gate access to the rear garden boundary, convert existing garage to utility and office and erect a winter garden veranda to the rear of the property was refused.

14. Reports

It was ***agreed*** that a letter be drafted on behalf of the Mayor to all members to encourage better attendance at Town Council Meetings.

It was ***agreed*** to check availability of Markham Band for the Remembrance Service as last year.

It was proposed that Cancercareline be approached to provide refreshments at future Council Events. It was ***agreed*** to discuss at a future meeting.

Notification of a Table Top Sale at Blackwood Methodist Church on 20th. September 2014

15. Date of Next Meeting

It was ***agreed*** that to accommodate the Clerk's leave arrangements that the October meeting be postponed by one week and now be called for 13th October 2014 .

The Clerk thanked members and informed them he would be forwarding agendas prior to his leave, to meet the necessary statutory notice, but would e-mail reminders just prior to the meeting.