

## MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup>. MARCH 2015

**Present:** Councillor G Erasmus ( Mayor )  
Councillor N Turner ( Deputy Mayor )  
Councillors M Veater MBE, G Hale, M Harris, Z Hammond, J Criddle, C Erasmus, D Davies &  
L Thomas

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors P Cook, A Farina-Childs, B Baber & A Parsons

### **2. Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor announced that a Chinese Auction in aid of his charity had been arranged for 11.00am. on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>. March at the Pensioner's Hall, Woodfieldside.

### **3. Correspondence**

The Clerk presented his report on correspondence received since the last meeting, and all were noted. He also reported on further correspondence received that day –

SWALEC – Invoice for £288.67 in respect of Xmas Lighting charges

Mazars - Change of address and dedicated contact details for Town Council Auditor

It was agreed that payments be made in respect of Caerphilly C.B.C. (£17.32 ) and SWALEC ( £288.67 )

Furthermore, in respect of the invitation from Kidney Wales Foundation, a grant of £50 be awarded and in respect of the request from Blackwood Neighbourhood Policing Team for support towards the football tournament for local schools to be held on 16<sup>th</sup>. April, it was agreed a grant of £250 be awarded.

### **4. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup>. February 2015**

It was *resolved* the minutes be confirmed as a true record.

### **5. Matters Arising**

Councillor Zoe Hammond reported that she was liaising with the police via Adam Laing regarding the cheap alcohol and numbers admitted to the Vanilla Bar in High Street.

**6. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup>. February 2015**

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

**7. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup>. February 2015**

It was resolved the minutes be received.

The Clerk highlighted issues/ proposals that the Events Committee felt required specific agreement by Town Council, namely –

Continued sponsorship by last years sponsors if they are agreeable

The possible inclusion of boys/young males into the Carnival Court process

Negotiation with Classic Catering to provide Staging, Marquees etc. & Sound System for this years carnival with significant potential savings

That Cancercareline be invited to assist in hospitality at the Carnival, Awards Evening & Christmas Carol Concert at agreed rates.

After some discussion, it was *agreed* that planning for this years event continue on the basis of acceptance of the above proposals.

The Mayor reported that he had made a tentative approach to Cancercareline regarding their assistance as outlined above, and that they were agreeable in principle, but would need confirmation of dates etc.

He reported that the organisation had highlighted what they regarded as an issue that needed some deliberation by Town Council, namely the number of people making bucket collections prior to and during the parade.

Members raised several issues regarding this matter, questioning whether it might be possible to nominate just one or two charities to make collections on the day. The Clerk reported that collections were governed by licences granted by the Caerphilly C.B.C., and that strictly speaking, buckets should not be shaken to elicit donations. It was generally agreed any decision made would be difficult to police, but that this issue should be considered further by the Events Committee.

**8. Floral Decorations/ Displays in the High Street**

The Clerk presented his report, and after some discussion it was *unanimously agreed* that Town Council will continue with the floral decorations/ displays in the High Street from 2016/17. It was further *agreed* we explore possible watering alternatives and possible sponsorship over the next twelve months.

## **9. Planning Applications**

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting.

Councillor J Criddle proposed there were no issues in respect of the applications in respect of the Former Junior School or Y Coed Duon, but that he did have some reservations regarding application 15/0019 to erect a ménage to the rear of stables at Gelli Farm, Tredegar Road.

It was **agreed** that representations be made on the basis of concerns regarding the visual effect on the landscape resulting from necessary re-profiling, and the further enlargement of the plateau that already exists at road level.

## **10. Reports**

Councillor Zoe Hammond reported on the meeting she attended regarding issues at the Bus Station in Blackwood. She was pleased to report that anti-social behaviour matters had improved significantly over the past weeks, with the result that whilst patrols of the area would continue, police were now only keeping a watching brief.

Councillor G Hale again reminded and invited members to the World War 1 Commemoration at Blackwood Library at 11.00am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. March.