

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND. NOVEMBER 2015

Present : Councillor W Baber (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors J Criddle, M Gwynne, J Edwards

Also present Sgt. Mark Thomas

The Clerk informed those present that six members constituted a quorum. It was, however, decided to continue with the meeting, and whilst not in a position to make decisions would report to the next Council meeting due to be held on 7th. December 2015.

It was unanimously agreed that in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor. Councillor W Baber chair the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Cook, Z Hammond, G Hale, A Farina-Childs & M Harris

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received

3. Policing Matters

Sgt. Mark Thomas reported the following –

On Halloween there were very few calls. Engagement activity was very successful thanks to the funding by the Town Council, which enabled a screen to be hired at the Maxime Cinema on the Friday, and to Positive Futures holding activities in the Market Place on Saturday evening.

Crimes for the year to date are 395, which shows an increase of 18 when compared with the same period last year. Some of the increase is due to a change in recording of some harassment and malicious communication offences which were not recordable last year.

Anti Social Behaviour offences for the year to date are 350, which shows an increase of 54 when compared with the same period last year. Most of the increase is attributable to problems at the bus station earlier in the year. Whilst calls have reduced significantly, there are still issues causing concern. The Bus Station Problem solving Group is still meeting and the Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator and GDAs are working with individuals there.

Sgt.Thomas was thanked for his report, and he left the meeting.

4. Mayoral Announcements

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had attended the Old Comrades Celebration Dinner at Blackwood Rugby Club on 30th. October.

5. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence received since the last meeting –

- The Pensions Regulator Nomination of Contact
Whilst Staging Date is October 2016 it was proposed by the Clerk that Playworks be the nominated contact - Noted
- Caerphilly C.B.C. Notification of details re. Christmas Market 5th./6th. December - Noted
- Notification of revised costs for provision of floral hanging displays in Blackwood High Street - £3,213. Members will recall the original costs were quoted as £6,283.94
Members present were in favour of acceptance, but this would have to be place on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting

6. Schedule of Payments

The Clerk presented his report on Payments made/ due and the meeting **agreed to recommend** acceptance to the next Town Council meeting –

		£. p
John Hold	October Salary + reimbursements	682.82
Playworks	October Tax/N.I.	485.10
The Poppy Appeal	Grant	250.00
Blackwood Boys & Girls F.C.	Grant	250.00
Fitzroy Lodge Res. Assoc.	Grant	200.00
Islwyn Comrades Assoc.	Grant	200.00
PCSO Sue Faulkner/ Maxime	Grant	100.00
DYT Dance School	Grant	250.00

7. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12th. October 2015

Councillor J Criddle pointed out that Minute 16 Planning Applications seemed incomplete. The Clerk apologised for the error, and it was **agreed** the minutes be amended in readiness for the next meeting.

8. Matters Arising

It was **agreed** to deal with matters arising at the next meeting.

9. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 28th. October 2015

It was **agreed to recommend** these minutes be received

10. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 28th. October 2015

It was **agreed to recommend** these minutes be received

11. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Larger Council's Committee Meeting held on 15th. April 2015

It was ***agreed to recommend*** these minutes be received

12. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly Area Committee Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on 17th. July 2015

It was ***agreed to recommend*** these minutes be received

13. To Receive the Minutes of the Town & Community Council's Liaison Committee Meetings held on 24th. June and 29th. July 2015

It was ***agreed to recommend*** these minutes be received

14. To Consider Town Council Nomination for Minor Authority Representation (Governor) of Blackwood Primary School

The Chair indicated that Town Councillor Mark Harris was interested in the position but the matter would have to be determined at the next meeting

15. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Report –Implications for Town Council

This matter will have to be discussed at the next meeting

16. Planning Applications

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting. Councillor J Criddle agreed to check out both applications, and if necessary liaise with the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from Caerphilly C.B.C. in respect of our objection regarding the Application for Premises Licence by Skarla Retail (Bargain Booze) for 144/146 High Street, Blackwood. A Licensing & Gambling Sub Committee Meeting is to be held on 12th. November to consider the application, and Town Council were asked if we wished to be represented at the hearing.

The Clerk reported that the Police are no longer objecting as the hours of operation have now been amended to 0800-2200 hours, and other conditions proposed by them have been agreed.

Under the circumstances it was agreed Town Council would not be represented at the meeting, albeit our objection would still be considered.

17. Reports

The Clerk reported briefly on the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting held on 16th. October, but stated he would report more fully at the next meeting.