

**MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
2ND. DECEMBER 2013**

Present : Councillor G Hale (Mayor)
Councillor G Erasmus (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, J Criddle, L Thomas, M Veater MBE,
P Cook, C Erasmus

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Parsons, Z Hammond & M Franklin

2. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor reported on recent functions/meetings attended -

November 6th. Meeting with Blackwood Musical Theatre Group regarding links with Heritage Assoc. – portfolio for performing arts.
Sylvia Pitman & Gordon Thomas to be approached re. static arts

November 7th. Meeting with curator of St. Fagan's and British Legion re. World War 1 Books and possible future assistance in any commemorations

Civic Awards Evening – Congratulations and thanks to those who organised such a superb function

November 9th. Remembrance Concert at Central Methodist Church with Ystrad Mynach Choir & Markham Band

November 10th. Remembrance Day Service at Blackwood War Memorial

November 22nd./23rd. Plasmawr Open Weekend

November 23rd. Opening of new unit at Emily's Indoor Market

Switching On of Christmas Lights

November 30th./December 1st. Blackwood Town Christmas Market

Also received an invitation to celebrate 20th. Anniversary of Emily's Market on 9th. Dec.

3. Correspondence

The Clerk presented his report on correspondence received, and all were noted.

With regard the letter regarding development of website, it was *agreed* members interested in same be invited to attend initial meeting with Nick Rutter to discuss requirements and development.

4. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th. November 2013

With the addition of apologies received from Councillors L Thomas, G Erasmus & C Erasmus, it was *resolved* the minutes be confirmed as a true record

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

6. To Receive the Minutes of the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee Meeting held on 24th. July 2013

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

7. To Receive the Minutes of the Town & Community Council Joint Liaison Committee Meeting held on 23rd. October 2013

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

8. Attendance Report

The Clerk circulated a copy of Attendances by members since the Annual General Meeting, and informed members that he had contacted Councillor Diana Ellis who was in breach of the six month ruling, not having attended a meeting since the AGM on 20th. May 2013 informing her she was now disbarred as a Town Councillor.

Members were mindful of other poor attendance records, and it was queried whether the Clerk should inform members when they were likely to breach the six month ruling. After some discussion and further consideration, it was agreed responsibility rest with the individual member to ensure statutory attendance levels are achieved.

It was further agreed the Clerk now begin the necessary process to fill the vacancy on Town Council, and an update be provided at the next meeting.

9. Verbal Report on Civic Awards Evening & Christmas Lights Switch On

Councillor A Farina-Childs, Chair of Events Committee reported on another highly successful Civic Awards evening, and wished to place on record his thanks to all those involved in the organisation of same.

Members agreed that this evening was a vast improvement on previous Awards Evenings and that we should look to improve further if possible.

Two nominations were made for future consideration – Bill Bleazard & Mavis Organ, and members also queried if a further category in respect of young persons might be worthy of consideration.

It was **agreed** the Events Committee be asked to consider same at a future meeting.

Councillor Farina-Childs reported that the Lights Switch On had been well attended, and the Dance Group had proved an added attraction to the proceedings.

It was **agreed** consideration be given to amending time of switch on in future years.

10. Reports

It was reported that 28 local primary schools had been contacted regarding the essay competition being organised by the Heritage Association.

Members queried the status of the Newsletter, and after some discussion, it was **agreed** a meeting be called in the new year to discuss publication of same, with a request that the Heritage Committee be afforded the opportunity to include items.

11. Planning Applications

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

Councillor J Criddle reported that he had not had the opportunity to discuss the application to erect 5 new link houses with associated gardens, landscaping, access and parking on land at Cliff Road, Blackwood with CCBC officers, and after some discussion it was **agreed** plenary powers be granted to Councillor Criddle (Chair of Planning Committee) and the Clerk to make the necessary observations.