

**MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON 3RD. FEBRUARY 2014**

***Present*** : Councillor G Hale ( Mayor )  
Councillor G Erasmus ( Deputy Mayor )  
Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, C Erasmus, M Veater MBE, ZI Hammond,  
M Jackson, J Criddle, A Parsons, P Cook, M Franklin

The Clerk informed the meeting of the untimely death of Mr Richard Bullen, whilst abroad on holiday. Richard was one of the first recipients of the Town Council Civic Awards for his unstinting work in ensuring the return and continued success of the Blackwood Carnival and fully supported the Council in all its events.

The Mayor led a minutes silence in his memory.

The Clerk promised to inform members of the funeral arrangements once known.

The Clerk informed members that Inspector Mark Smith would be arriving at 7.15pm to give his Policing Report, and it was agreed the Agenda order be amended to cover this adjustment.

***1. Apologies for Absence***

Apologies were received from Councillor L Thomas

***2. Co-option of Member for Blackwood Central Ward***

The Clerk presented his report, and confirmed the four persons who had expressed an interest in being co-opted were present for interview, namely Mr W.L.F. Baber, Ms Jane Baulch, Mr Mark S Gwynne and Mr Noel Turner.

Councillor Margaret Veater MBE declared an interest, as her daughter was one of the interested parties. This was noted, but it was agreed by all present that Councillor Veater could stay in the room, but obviously not take part.

It was agreed that the questions notified to the candidates would be asked by the Mayor, and that the decision would be by secret ballot. Furthermore, any members who arrived during the interview process would not be entitled to vote, not having been present to hear all candidates.

The Candidates were interviewed in alphabetical order, and once the process had been completed, the secret ballot was held.

***The result was that Mr Noel Turner be co-opted onto the Town Council.*** Members wished to place on record their thanks to all who attended and agreed we had had a high calibre of persons expressing an interest on this occasion.

Mr Noel Turner was congratulated by the Mayor and members, signed the necessary papers and took his place immediately.

### ***3. Mayoral Announcements***

The Mayor reported that due to illness he had little to report, but would update members on Heritage Association later under reports.

### ***4. Correspondence***

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

In respect of Blackwood & Cefn Fforest Traffic Regulation Order 2013/14, it was ***agreed*** that due to the tight timescales involved, the matter be dealt with by the Planning Committee.

The Clerk also reported verbally on the following items received –

Invoice from Elsbury in respect of placement, removal & storage of Christmas lighting figurines, testing and repair where necessary in the sum of £4,083.72 ( incl. £680.62 VAT )  
***Payment agreed.***

Invoice from Caerphilly C.B.C. in respect of room hire and light refreshments for Civic Awards Evening in the sum of £82.50 ( incl. £7.50 VAT )  
***Payment agreed.***

Caerphilly C.B.C. Employment Sites Supply & Market Appraisal - A comprehensive study of the need and demand for office, manufacturing & warehouse space across the borough is required to update the Local Development Plan  
***Agreed*** this matter also be referred to the Planning Committee.

### ***5. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup>. January 2014***

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

**6. *Matters Arising***

There were no matters arising.

**7. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>. January 2014***

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

**8. *Matters Arising***

Members queried if we had had a response to the comments we submitted.  
The Clerk stated he had heard nothing to date.

**9. *Policing Report***

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Mark Smith to the meeting and he gave a very comprehensive report on Local Policing issues in the area ( Copy of Report Attached )

**10. *To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup>. January 2014***

Councillor A Farina-Childs, Chair of the Committee presented the minutes, and it was *resolved* they be received.

He confirmed that the Switch on of Christmas Lights was planned for November 29<sup>th</sup> and also made reference to the request for additional funding of £25,000 for replacement figurines that had been passed to Policy & Finance Committee.

**11. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup>. January 2014**

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

As the Budget Report and Determination of Precept for 2014/15 were to be discussed later on the Agenda, it was *resolved* that the recommendation made to Town Council in respect of the following grants be approved, namely -

The Stroke Association Wales	£ 50
Blackwood & District Heritage Association	£200
Urdd Gobaith Cymru – in support of National Eisteddfod in Caerphilly 2015	£250
Mayor's Charity	£250

Councillors G Hale, J Criddle & M Veater MBE declared an interest in the Blackwood & District Heritage Association and Councillor G Hale in the Mayor's Charity, and took no part in any discussion or decision in respect of these particular organisations.

**12. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales RCT/Merthyr/ Caerphilly Area Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup>. September 2013**

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

**13. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup>. October 2013**

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

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

The Clerk apologised for not circulating the minutes and promised to do so at the next meeting.

### ***15. Budget Report & Determination of Precept for 2014/2015***

The Clerk presented the budget report which highlighted that having given due consideration to the request from the Events Committee for funding of approx £25,000 to renew lamp post figurines and cross street figurine, the Policy & Finance Committee were recommending an increase of £2 per annum, thereby levying a precept of £17 per annum for Band D Properties.

After some discussion it was ***resolved*** that the Precept or 2014/15 be levied at £17 per annum for a Band D Property.

It was further ***resolved*** that the remainder of funding required to complete the renewal of the Christmas Lighting ( up to a maximum of £17,550 ) be met from balances.

### ***16. Planning Applications***

The Clerk presented his report on the one planning application received since the last meeting, and it was ***resolved*** no objection or comment was required.

### ***17. Reports***

The Mayor reported on arrangements for the WW1 Commemoration and Official Launch of the Blackwood & District Heritage Association to be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. February at 3.00pm at Blackwood Library.

The books will be on display in the Library in Blackwood, and then throughout local villages. A film will be shown throughout, and the A.T.C. will be assisting on the day.

All members will receive an invitation.