

**MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

**Present** : Councillor Z Hammond ( Mayor )

Councillors G Erasmus, C Erasmus, J Criddle, M Jackson, M Franklin, D Davies,  
M Veater MBE, A Farina-Childs, D Ellis, R Dimond

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors G Hale, S Lewis, A Parsons, P Cook & L Thomas

It was **agreed** by all present that Item 12 – Planning Applications be dealt with next on the Agenda, as members of the public were in attendance regarding same.

**2. Planning Applications**

The Mayor invited Mrs Jennifer Poole (36 David Street), Mr Ian Thirtle (22 Thornecombe Road ) & Mrs Judith Powell (1 William Street) to address the meeting in respect of their objections regarding **Planning Application 13/0005/RM Greenhill Construction seeking approval of the reserved matters regarding access, appearance, landscaping and layout in connection with the residential development approved under Planning Application 06/0821/ OUT on land at Thornecombe Road, Blackwood.**

The residents reported that a mixture of town houses, two and three bed flats and a supervised unit for 8 people was planned for the site, on what they believed was contaminated, built up land.

The objections raised concentrated on access and egress to the site, loss of privacy with the proposed development overlooking existing houses, the adequacy of proposed parking , potential nuisance from the supervised unit and the fact that local schools were already at capacity.

After some discussion and clarification on certain issues, they were advised to seek a site meeting with local county members, after which the individuals thanked the Council for their time and left the meeting.

The Town Council then **agreed** to object to the application on the lines outlined previously, and that the Clerk and Councillor Criddle agree the actual wording.

The Clerk presented the remainder of his report on planning applications received, and it was **resolved** that no other objections be raised.

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

The Mayor announced her attendance at a Blackwood Little Theatre - Calendar Girls Presentation Evening held at Wetherspoons, Blackwood on 14<sup>th</sup>. January, where cheques of £975 were presented to the four nominated charities – Macmillan, Hospice of the Valleys, Helping Hands & Cancercareline.

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

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

In respect of the offer of a payroll service to meet new HMRC guidelines ( all payroll information has to be sent in real time ), the Clerk was given permission to pursue the matter further with Playworks.

### **5. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup>. January 2013***

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

### **6. *Matters Arising***

Councillor A Farina-Childs declared his interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or decision making.

The Clerk reported on information received from Caerphilly C.B.C. in respect of land adjacent to Plas Mawr Community Centre and its potential use by Blackwood Town Boys & Girls Football Club.

It was obvious the Club had contacted several parties to assist in their quest to utilise this land, and albeit there was no covenant in place to curtail such usage, the County Borough Council have entered into a planning agreement with the developers of the surround estates for the area to be maintained and managed as an Amenity area.

Furthermore, it was apparent that significant work would be required to develop and establish a new pitch on this site.

After further discussion the Clerk was asked to enquire if there was any possibility of the planning agreement being revisited, if more and better use of the land could be identified.

**7. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup>. January 2013**

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

**8. To Receive the Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup>. January 2013**

The Clerk presented the minutes, and it was *resolved* they be received.  
Members fully supported the decision to disband this Committee in favour of forming a Heritage Group and agreed to advertise and host the Inaugural meeting of same.

**9. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup>. January 2013**

The Clerk presented the minutes, and it was *resolved* they be received.  
As the Budget Report & Precept were to be discussed later on the Agenda, it was *resolved* the following grants be approved -

Blackwood Town Cricket Club	£200
Shelter Cymru	£100
Macmillan Cancer Support	£100
Oakdale Silver Band	£200
Blackwood Town Boys & Girls Football Club	£200
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£100
Llangollen International Eisteddfod	£50
Tots R Us ( Plasmawr Community Centre )	£200
Blackwood Community Art Group	£100
Victim Support	£50
Fitzroy Lodge Residents Association	£100
The Moose	£200

Councillor A Farina-Childs declared his interest in respect of Blackwood Town Boys & Girls Football Club and Councillor D Davies declared his interest in respect of Fitzroy Lodge Residents Association & The Moose. Neither took part in the decision relating to those particular organisations.

**10. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Larger Local Councils Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup>. October 2012**

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

**11. To Receive the Minutes of the Town & Community Council's Joint Liaison Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup>. October 2012**

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

Councillor D Davies highlighted the presentation of the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service with regard the new fire station at Aberbargoed, and reported that he had received several queries /concerns regarding this reorganisation and its potential effect on response times. He had been informed an Action Group had been established, and queried why the Town Council had no representation on this Group.

Members were aware that the building of the new station had commenced, and whilst mindful that these issues should have been highlighted much earlier, *agreed* to invite representatives from the Fire & Rescue Service to a future meeting to satisfy members that legal responsibilities regarding response times etc. will be met.

**12. Budget Report & Determination of Precept for 2013/2014**

The Clerk presented the budget report, which highlighted that after much discussion the Policy & Finance Committee were recommending an increase of £3, thereby levying a Precept of £15 per annum for Band D properties.

After further discussion, Councillor M Veater proposed an amendment that the increase be limited to £1 per year for the next 3 years. This was seconded by Councillor D Ellis. A recorded vote was agreed.

Those in favour of the Amendment – Councillors M Veater & D Ellis

Those against – Councillors G Erasmus, C Erasmus, D Davies, A Farina-Childs,  
Z Hammond, R Dimond, M Franklin, M Jackson & J Criddle

The proposition to increase Precept to £15 per annum was then voted upon.

Those in favour – Councillors G Erasmus, C Erasmus, D Davies, A Farina-Childs,  
Z Hammond, R Dimond, M Franklin, M Jackson & J Criddle

Those against – Councillors M Veater & D Ellis

It was *resolved* the Precept for 2013/14 be £15 per annum for Band D properties

### ***13. Reports***

Councillor D Davies queried the status of the new notice board.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received revised quotes, albeit at the same prices quoted last year, and that as long as the new Blackwood Precinct Manager was in agreement with the proposed positioning, the order would be placed within the next few weeks.