

**MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2013**

Present : Councillor Z Hammond (Mayor)
Councillor G Hale (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Farina-Childs, G Erasmus, C Erasmus, M Veater MBE, J Criddle

Inspector Mark Smith, Blackwood Neighbourhood Policing Team

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M Franklin, D Davies, S Lewis, L Thomas, A Parsons, R Dimond, P Cook, M Jackson & D Ellis

2. Policing Matters

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Smith to the meeting.

Inspector Smith reported the following –

In the Blackwood Ward crime was currently down by 6.8%, with Anti-Social Behaviour down 41% year on year.

There had, however, been a recent increase in theft of handbags and contents whilst left unattended in some licensed premises within the town centre. There has also been an increase in dwelling burglaries, with some having had forced entry, whilst others have been entered via insecure doors and windows.

Ongoing preventative work including leaflet/poster distribution and social media activity, together with targeted patrols of areas concerned.

As reported previously, meetings with management are ongoing at the Vanilla Bar to improve working practices.

There is continued positive feedback on how much better the environment is at the Bus Station as a result of the effective partnership between Gwent Police and C.C.B.C.. The next meeting of the Problem Solving Group is 2.00pm. on 17th. April at Blackwood Police Station

The PACT priorities voted for at the last meeting were Anti-Social Behaviour on Apollo Way Estate and Blackwood High Street, and Noise nuisance in Hall Street.

122 Fixed Penalty notices had been issued to offending motorists between September and February.

Finally the Inspector reported on discussions regarding a Gwent Police I-Phone App and the effective use of Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter for sharing of information, appeals and crime prevention advice. OWL (On-line Watch Link) was also discussed and leaflets were handed to members.

The Mayor thanked the Inspector for his attendance, and he left the meeting.

3. *Mayoral Announcements*

The Mayor reported her attendance at the St. David's Day event held near ASDA, but said she felt it had been poorly marketed resulting in a poor turnout. The Deputy Mayor agreed with her comments.

Whilst disappointed with the event, members felt it would be beneficial if the Town Council were more involved, and it was *agreed* to contact Paul Hudson (C.C.B.C. Events) to ask if Town Council could be involved/ consulted well in advance of next years celebrations.

The Deputy Mayor reported on Plas Mawr, informing members that bookings were on the increase, and that the building was well used by youngsters.

C.C.T.V. cameras had been installed to combat the vandalism that had taken place and decoration was in progress.

Councillor Hale informed the meeting that the first meeting of the Heritage Group had been provisionally arranged for 6.30pm. on Monday 18th. March at St. Margaret's Church Hall.

4. *Correspondence*

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

He also reported on several items received earlier today –
Hafan Cymru – Newsletter

Aon Insurance – Quote for 2013/2014 Insurance in the sum of £1,452.37 (compared with £1,432.62 for last year)

In respect of the Aber Valley Heritage Group (Proposed Welsh National Mining Memorial), it was *agreed* further information be sought and the matter discussed at a future meeting.

In respect of Aon Insurance, on the recommendation of the Clerk it was *agreed* to accept the quotation for Town Council insurance for the coming year in the sum of £1,452.37

5. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th. February 2013*

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

6. *Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising, and it was *agreed* the cheques for financial assistance be forwarded.

7. *To Receive the Minutes of the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting held on 17th. October 2012*

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

8. *Traffic Management Issues – Blackwood High Street*

The Clerk presented his report and explained that he had ensured a proper period of consultation, in so much that the item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group, with the views of the Town Council being considered, not those of individual members serving on the Group.

After much discussion, it was *agreed* the Town Council oppose the replacement of existing pelican crossings in the High Street with zebra crossings, citing reports indicating that the majority of towns/ communities are moving away from zebra crossings and installing pelican or similar crossings.

Furthermore, the Town Council, who have raised the issue on several occasions previously **fully support** any moves to re-site disabled parking provision from Woodbine Hill to the High Street.

9. Proposed Changes to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni

The Clerk circulated copies of the Statutory Notice that Caerphilly C.B.C. are required to advertise.

He explained that after due consultation they propose to implement the alterations to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni in September 2013 to meet the ever increasing demand for Welsh medium education.

Members indicated their continued support of the proposals

10. Planning Applications

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting, and it was **resolved** no objections/issues be raised

11. Reports

The Clerk had already reported on the main items for discussion at the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group, and there were no other reports.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

It was **agreed** the April meeting be held on April 8th. and that the Annual General Meeting of the Council be held on May 20th.