

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

**Present :** Councillor G Hale ( Mayor )

Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, J Criddle, M Veater MBE, M Franklin, Z Hammond &  
P Cook

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors R Dimond & A Parsons

**2. Policing Issues**

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

With regard the Night-Time Economy ( Caerphilly After Dark ) Initiative, the Clerk queried whether it would be possible the Town Council have some representation at the meetings. The Inspector promised to check this out, and inform the Clerk as soon as possible. It was **resolved** if representation was agreed that Councillor D Davis be the Council's representative, with Councillor Z Hammond as his deputy.

With regard the Vanilla Bar, High Street, the Clerk having reported that the Town Council were not recognised as a responsible authority and as such there was no requirement to consult, asked the Inspector if a letter from Town Council supporting the Police appeal against the Licensing Committee decision ( if so minded ) would be beneficial. The Inspector stated any support would be welcomed for their initial hearing on 25<sup>th</sup>. November. It was **resolved** a letter of support be forwarded.

With regard the Problem Solving Group formed as a result of concerns raised by residents relating to the ASB Cefn Fforest/ The Showfield, it was **resolved** Councillor A Farina-Childs be the Council's nominated representative.

**3. Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor reported the following visits/meetings -

25<sup>th</sup>. October - Blackwood Musical Theatre Show

30<sup>th</sup>. October - Partnership for Renewals – Wind turbines at Penyfan

31<sup>st</sup>. October - 14<sup>th</sup>. Annual Art Exhibition

1<sup>st</sup>. November - Meeting re. Road Crossing/ Dropped Kerb at Sainsbury's

2<sup>nd</sup>. November - Blackwood Library – Display of WW1 Books containing details of those who lost their lives ( Royal British Legion also in attendance )

He also reported the following planned visits/invitations -

6<sup>th</sup>. November - Meeting with Blackwood Musical Theatre re. Heritage links & planning Mayor's Concert

7<sup>th</sup>. November - Meeting with St.Fagans at Blackwood Library re. WW1 Books display & Heritage links

7<sup>th</sup>. November - Civic Awards Evening

8<sup>th</sup>. November - Plasmawr – planning for forthcoming event

9<sup>th</sup>. November - Remembrance Concert at Central Methodist Church

10<sup>th</sup>. November - Remembrance Day Service at Blackwood War Memorial

22<sup>nd</sup>./23<sup>rd</sup>. November - Plasmawr Open Weekend – Chance for the community to see renovations

30<sup>th</sup>. November/ 1<sup>st</sup>. December - Blackwood Christmas Market

5<sup>th</sup>. December - Lantern Parade/ Carol Concert

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

The Clerk presented his report on correspondence received since the last meeting, and all were noted.

With regard the proposed Code of Conduct for Advertising Displays on the Highway, members were supportive of the initiative.

#### ***5. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup>. October 2013***

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

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

7. Minutes of Events Committee – Cllr. Davies queried the 51 figurines quoted in the minutes, believing the number to be 45 or 47. The Clerk stated he had used the number quoted on correspondence from electricity supplier, but that numbers would obviously be clarified once erected, and quotation sought for actual number.

10. Planning - The Clerk reported on a response received regarding the consultation on licensing applications.

The Licensing Act 2003 does not recognise Town & Community Councils as responsible authorities, and as such, there is no requirement that they be consulted on any applications received. Apparently several representations have been made to seek amendment to this part of the Act, but with no success.

However, Town & Community Councils do have a role to perform and as such could be identified as an interested party as defined in the Act and could, therefore, comment, object or ask for a review of any licence subsequently granted.

Under the Act, the applicant is required to serve notice of the application on statutory bodies and to advise interested parties via a notice in the local paper that is distributed within the local community and to display a notice on the premises detailing the application. It is at this stage Town & Community Councils would have the opportunity to submit their views to the local authority.

**7. *To Receive the Minutes of the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup>. July 2013***

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

**8. *To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup>. March 2013***

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

**9. *To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales RCT/ Merthyr/ Caerphilly Area Committee Meeting & Annual General Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup>. July 2013***

It was *resolved* that both sets of minutes be received.

**10. *To Receive the Minutes of the Town & Community Council Joint Liaison Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup>. June 2013***

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

## **11. Reports**

The Clerk gave a brief update on the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting where Paul Hudson updated the meeting on proposals for the Christmas Market, the results of a business survey were discussed and proposals outlined for the Unique Places Christmas Discount Card Scheme, which will run between 7<sup>th</sup>. & 24<sup>th</sup>. December.

The Clerk reported that he had queried whether the 2 hour free parking initiative in the run up to Christmas would be re-introduced this year, but was told no decision had yet been taken.

Councillor M Veater queried when the newsletter was to be produced, and if it would be possible to include items relating to the Heritage Committee. The Clerk responded that it would have to be in the new year, and any decision as to what is included rests with the Newsletter Committee and Council. The Committee itself did not meet formally last year but all the work was undertaken via e-mail correspondence between members.

Councillor Veater then queried who was on that Committee, and also on the Environment Committee, and when that would be meeting.

The Clerk agreed to circulate details of Committee membership, and Councillor J Criddle, Chair of the Environment Committee stated he was to discuss with the Clerk the possibility of a meeting within the next few weeks.

Councillor D Davies queried attendance of Councillor D Ellis, and whether the six month ruling should take effect.

It was **agreed** the Clerk produce an attendance report in readiness for the next meeting.

Councillor A Farina-Childs highlighted the issue of CRB checks, and who should have them in relation specifically to the Carnival.

After some discussion relating to whether existing checks would be valid, and for how long, it was **agreed** this item be discussed by the Events Committee, and bring recommendations forward to Town Council.

## **12. Planning Applications**

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting, and it was **agreed** no objections/comments be made.

Councillor Criddle reported that in respect of the outline application to erect residential ( 4 x 4 Bed Detached ) development at Wimpole, Gordon Road, initial discussions indicated sufficient space on the site to cater for proposed development. Access to site via Gordon Road/ St. Tudor's View.

Councillor Criddle also updated members on an application to provide works to existing buildings, as an alternative scheme to that approved by previous planning consent, at Park Service Station, Bedwellty Road, Cefn Fforest