

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH. JANUARY 2013

Present : Councillor Z Hammond (Mayor)
Councillor G Hale (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Farina-Childs, M Veater MBE, C Erasmus, G Erasmus, M Franklin,
D Davies, M Jackson, R Dimond, L Thomas
Inspector M Smith

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors S Lewis, J Criddle, A Parsons, P Cook & D Ellis

2. Policing Issues

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Mark Smith to the meeting, and the Inspector reported the following –

Crime currently down 5% and Anti Social Behaviour down 38% year on year for the Blackwood area.

There had been no significant problems/issues reported over the Christmas period.

Operation Arcade (Retail Theft Initiative) had been a success, and as a result of effective partnership working there had been an 11% reduction in shoplifting offences throughout December, compared with 2011.

Meetings are ongoing with management of the Vanilla Bar (Night Club) to improve working practices.

Blackwood Ward took part in the High Visibility Day initiative on 14th. December, and although being a very wet and windy day, the whole team actively patrolled the area and no issues/crimes were reported. The next one will be in Pontllanfraith on January 18th.

The situation at the Bus Station is still improving, and local users feel re-assured by the ongoing and effective partnership activity. The next Problem Solving meeting is to be held at 2pm. on 6th February at Blackwood Police Station.

The Inspector reported that he was still receiving excellent support from the Special Constabulary Team, and that the Blackwood Team had recently won the prestigious ‘ All Wales Team of the Year ‘ award.

Special Constable Dewi Roberts had also been awarded the Blackwood Special Constable of the Year award, recognising his 500+ hours and outstanding commitment during the last year.

The Mobile Police Station was now deployed each Thursday 10am.- 12am.at Sainsbury’s, 2pm.- 4pm. at Market Square and 7pm. - 9pm. at ASDA. Furthermore, CSO 133 Sam Evans and local County Borough Councillors now hold a Surgery between 10am. & 12am. on the first Thursday of each month in Blackwood Library.

Councillor L Thomas asked if the Inspector was aware of youths congregating near the alley way on Coronation Road and causing nuisance. The officer confirmed he was aware of the issue, but would request officers to keep the area under surveillance.

Councillor D Davies asked the Inspector to confirm the Police Station was not closing. Inspector Smith confirmed that albeit the Police Club had closed, the Station was open from 8.00am. to 8.00pm. for Counter Services, and that Officers were still working from there.

3. Mayoral Announcements

Both the Mayor & Deputy Mayor reported their attendance at the Lantern Parade/ Carol Concert, but had nothing further to report.

4. Correspondence

The Clerk circulated copies of his report identifying items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

In respect of Training events on sustainability, and general topics received from One Voice Wales, the Clerk proposed to e-mail details and asked any member interested in attending any of the courses to notify him as soon as possible.

5. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3rd. December 2012

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

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. To Receive Verbal Report on Lantern Parade/ Carol Concert held on December 7th.

The Clerk reported that despite the weather, the parade and carol concert was the most successful to date in terms of numbers in the parade and in the church. It was pleasing to see the numbers of children carrying their homemade lanterns, no doubt as a result of the lantern making classes arranged.

Oakdale Silver Band and Mynyddislwyn Choir had performed on the evening, together with choirs from Libanus and Blackwood Primary Schools, and all feedback received had been extremely positive.

He thanked all members who had assisted on the evening, along with Julie, Shannan & Jordan Farina-Childs and Matthew Davies.

One issue raised by the police was the possibility of delaying parade for 10/15 minutes to ensure the road closure was fully operational.

Councillor Farina-Childs (Chair of Events Committee) agreed with the Clerks comments and also thanked everyone for their support and assistance on the evening.

Councillor Hale was thanked for arranging the Lantern Making workshops which had proved both popular and successful as proved by the turnout on the night.

Councillor D Davies reported that the new Market Manager was unaware of the events and it was **agreed** he be notified of all future events held in town.

8. Blackwood Town Boys & Girls Football Club

Councillor Hale reported that as a result of meetings at Plas Mawr, he had been approached by representatives of Blackwood Town Boys & Girls Football Club regarding assistance in finding a ground for their games.

Land adjacent to the Community Centre, currently used as a kick about area, has been highlighted by the Club as a potential site, albeit significant work would be required, and approaches have been made to Caerphilly C.B.C.

Councillors A Farina-Childs & D Davies were of the opinion there may be some form of covenant on that piece of land restricting its use, and were certain there was a wild life area created nearby.

It was, therefore, **agreed** the Clerk contact Caerphilly C.B.C. to confirm the status of the land in question.

9. Planning Applications

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

10. Reports

Councillor G Hale informed members that Caerphilly C.B.C. had assisted towards the installation of a security system at Plas Mawr Community Centre. Furthermore, computer classes for the over 50's would be commencing shortly in the newly refurbished computer suite, and the Committee were eager to market the facilities available at the centre to ensure better usage.