

REPORTS TO TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH. OCTOBER 2014

Agenda Item 4 Correspondence

- One Voice Wales Copy of response to Consultation White Paper – Devolution, Democracy & Delivery – Reforming Local Government. Vast majority relates to Principal authorities, albeit a further White Paper on community councils is expected in the Autumn.
- Notification of Larger Local Councils Committee meeting to be held at Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd at 10.00am on Wednesday 15th. October
- Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report for 2015/2016
Determination of Payments to members of Community & Town Councils. These are permissive powers requiring a formal decision by each town/community council to implement. - Comments / representations by 27th. Nov.14
- Wales Audit Office Town & Community Councils not doing enough to improve financial management
- Caerphilly C.B.C. Notification of Planning Aid Wales Community Planning Seminar to be held on 18th. November at Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff.
- Invitation via Police & Crime Commissioner for Clerk and Chair of Community Councils to meet Commissioner and members of his office, together with Police Chief Officer team & Local Policing Unit Commanders. Provisional Date – Thursday 6th. November at Ty Penallta.
- Notification that Hanging Baskets/ Floral displays will be removed from Town centre locations across the Borough as part of proposed savings. Would Town Councils consider funding same in future – Costs for Blackwood £6,284 per annum
Similarly there will be a reduction in playing fields maintenance to remove fertilizer applications and cease end of season renovation works, and letters have been forwarded to Town/community Council and Sports Clubs seeking contributions towards same.
- Notification of Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting to be held on Friday 17th. October at 1.30pm
- Western Power Distribution Festive Lighting requirements – to be forwarded to Elsbury's
- Markham & District Colliery Band Invitation to Mayor to Remembrance Concert at Methodist Church Blackwood at 7.30pm on Saturday 8th. November
- Mazars Notification of completion of Audit and return of Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2014. Notice of Conclusion of Audit and right to inspect Annual Return has been completed and placed on Notice Board in Market Precinct. Invoice received in the sum of £354 (Incl £59 VAT)
- Playworks Invoice - Employers N.I./ Tax Payments £903.54

Disablity CANDO

Letter of thanks for recent donation

Blackwood Detachment Army Cadet Force

Letter of thanks for recent donation

D Rodrick

Application for donation to assist Cadet Corporal Rodrick to represent detachment at a remembrance parade in November at Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium – Cost £100
Given timescale would Town Council consider small donation rather than Policy/
Finance Committee

Agenda Item 6 Matters Arising

Correspondence

Nominations are requested in respect of the vacancy for minor governor representation on Cefn Fforest School.

Arrangements made for Lisa James, C.C.B.C. Senior Planner and colleague to attend meeting on November 3rd. to discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy and implications for the Town Council

Agenda Item 8 Vacancy on Town Council – Cefn Fforest East Ward

Contact has been made with Caerphilly C.B.C., and the necessary copy of the Notice Of Vacancy has been placed on the Notice Board in the Market Precinct.

If no call for an election has been received by the Returning Officer by 31st. October 2014, then the Council can make arrangements to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Agenda Item 9 Nominations for Civic Award

Nominations received to date –

Mavis Organ

Bill Bleazard

Lyndsay Ann Davies

Wendy Dando - Nominated by Chris Evans MP

Ian & Beverly Edwards (Tidal Stores) – Nominated by Bill Baber

Decisions must be made at the meeting, as the Awards Evening is arranged for Tuesday November 4th.

Agenda Item 10 *Proposal from St. Margaret's Parochial Church Council – Christmas tree in Church Grounds*

An e-mail was received from Philip Lambert outlining a proposal discussed by the PCC that they investigate the possibility of lighting up the large tree to the front of the church for the Advent season. They support the fact that this would at last provide Blackwood with a Christmas Tree, but would also light up what is a rather dark area at the northern entrance to the town's High Street. They would welcome Town Council's opinion on the proposal and any help or guidance in moving this forward.

The Clerk has made contact with Caerphilly C.B.C. and they have no issues as it is within the grounds of the Church. He has also asked Richard James (Elsbury's - Town Council's Xmas lighting contractors) to visit the site and if possible give an estimate to provide adequate lighting for the tree.

It is unlikely the Church can fund this project, but apparently an approach has been made to Aldi for assistance.

Many months ago, some Town Council members queried whether we should consider a Christmas tree towards the northern end of town, but no reasonable site was ever identified. This could be a solution.

Once an estimate has been received, and if members are supportive of the proposal, it might also be possible to make an approach to the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group for assistance.

Agenda Item 11 *Remembrance Day Services*

As outlined in Minutes of Meeting held 1st. September

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| Saturday 8 th . November | War Memorial Pontllanfraith Council Offices 1.15pm. for Service & Wreath Laying followed by Church Service at St. Augustine's |
| Sunday 9 th . November | Blackwood War Memorial 10.40am. for Service & Wreath Laying Refreshments at Moose Hall and Blackwood Rugby Club |
| Sunday 9 th . November | St. Thomas's Church, Cefn Fforest 10.00am. for Service, followed by march to War Memorial for Wreath Laying |
| Tuesday 11 th . November | Service at Market Square, Blackwood 10.40am. for 11.00am |

Agenda Item 12 *Planning Applications*

The following planning applications have been received since the last meeting -

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| 14/0590/FULL | Mr L Evans | Erect detached house & garage
Beech Tree Bungalow, Libanus Road, Blackwood |
| 14/0596/NCC | Mr C Vaughan | Erect a fence on the front & side boundary
44 Y Cedrwydden, Blackwood |