

**MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 21ST. OCTOBER 2013**

Present : Councillor G Hale (Mayor)

Councillor G Erasmus (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, C Erasmus, Z Hammond, M Franklin, S Lewis, J Criddle,
M Jackson, L Thomas, M Veater MBE

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Parsons & P Cook

2. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor gave a comprehensive report on visits/ activities –

May 30th. Oakdale Primary School - 2nd. World War Performing Arts

June 17th. Berisford Centre, Newport - To establish Mayor's Charity

June 18th./19th./20th. Various venues - Meetings relating to Books to commemorate First World War

June 24th. Age Cymru - Meeting to establish Mayor's Charity

June 26th. Caerphilly C.B.C. Mayor's Charity Launch

June 28th. Penallta - Armed Forces Day

June 29th. Blackwood - Summer Festival

June 30th. St. Margaret's Church - Armed Forces Service

July 6th. Blackwood Primary School - Fete

July 12th. Blackwood Primary School - Green Flag Raising Ceremony plus Concert

July 26th. Markham - Flower Festival commemorating the Centenary of the village

August 3rd. Town Carnival

August 14th. Oakdale Library - Meeting with James Williams re. play linked to Heritage

August 16th. Meeting with residents group re. production of play

August 17th. Bedwellty Agricultural Show

August 19th. Berisford Centre, Newport - 20th. Anniversary celebrations

August 20th. Pontllanfraith Bowls Club - Cardiff Live Music Club

Caerphilly - Proms in the Park

Mnyddislwyn Male Choir 43rd. Annual Concert

Visit to Gilwern House

Bargoed - The Royal Welsh March Past

Cwmcarn Miners Hall - St. Vincent's Community Support

Blackwood Town Cricket Club - Annual Dinner

Sept. 14th. Blackwood - Opening of Must Have Music Store

Penyfan Pond - ASDA Charity Walk

3. *Correspondence*

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

In respect of the request for nomination for Minor Authority Representation on the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Sannan, it was *resolved* Councillor J Criddle be nominated.

4. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2nd. September 2013*

Councillor Criddle pointed out that under his report on the One Voice Wales AGM (Minute 12) it stated Councillor Kerry Jones was re-elected as Chair, whereas he was elected as Chair.

The Clerk stated he had copied same from the actual minutes of the meeting.

It was *resolved*, that with this amendment, the Minutes be confirmed as a true record.

5. *Matters Arising*

Minute 12 – Reports

Members *agreed* a letter be forwarded to Caerphilly C.B.C. regarding the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group decision to replace Pelican Crossings with Zebra Crossings on the High Street.

6. *To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th. September 2013*

The Clerk presented the minutes and it was *resolved* they be received.

In respect of the Marshalling Initiative outlined by Inspector Mark Smith at the last meeting, the Committee recommended a contribution of £1,000 be made, however, Councillor Farina-Childs reported that he had been informed by the Inspector that Caerphilly C.B.C. had indicated they were prepared to fund the Initiative.

It was *resolved* the following grants for financial assistance be confirmed –

Hafan Cymru	£ 50
Shelter Cymru	£100
MIND Caerphilly	£100
Welsh Memorial in Flanders	£250
Trinity Fields School & Resource Centre	£ 50
First Blackwood Brownies/Rainbow & Guides	£250

7. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 18th. September 2013

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

He reported that in the absence of the Clerk, the Civic Awards Evening had been arranged in the Institute for 6.30pm. on Thursday 7th. November, with refreshments and entertainment organised. Blackwood in Bloom winners were to be notified and invited to attend within the next few days.

The Clerk reported that he had received one nomination for a Civic Award from Mrs. Lorna Stephens in respect of Bill Baber, and his unstinting service to the British Legion.

The Clerk read the letter, and members were unanimous in *agreeing* Mr Baber receive an award.

Councillor Farina-Childs nominated Bill Coppage, for his many years service as President to Blackwood Cricket Club and his significant charity work for local and national causes. Members agreed Mr Coppage receive an award.

Councillor Farina-Childs then reported that the necessary applications for road closures had been submitted in respect of the Switch On of the Christmas Lights on Saturday 23rd. November , with entertainment from DYT Dance Group @ 3.30pm (weather permitting) and switch on @ 4.00pm and the Lantern Parade on Thursday 6th. December @ 7.00pm. Again refreshments and entertainment had been finalised for the Carol Concert which follows, with Mynyddislwyn Choir and Oakdale Silver Band again in attendance. Local junior schools had also been contacted and again agreed their choirs would attend.

The Clerk placed on record his sincere thanks to Councillor Farina-Childs for progressing these issues in his absence.

In respect of the Lights Switch On, members asked if the single switch had been arranged. Councillor Delwyn Davies, Vice Chair, reported that he had met with Richard James from Elsbury's regarding same, but that unfortunately due to the poor state of the cross street decoration and many of the figurines, it would not be possible to provide this solution at the present time. Councillors Davies and Farina-Childs stated that Elsbury's would do all possible to ensure these figurines worked over the Christmas period, but did propose consideration be given to a programme of replacement of the cross street decoration and the 51 figurines (estimated cost £15,000 – £20,000) It was *agreed* this issue be considered at budget setting time, and in the context of balances available.

8. Remembrance Day Services

The Clerk reported the information passed to him by Bill Baber of the British Legion at the start of the meeting.

Saturday 9th. November, War Memorial at Pontllanfraith Council Offices 1.15pm for service, 1.30pm. wreath laying. Church Service follows at St. Augustine's followed by refreshments.

Sunday 10th. November, War Memorial at Blackwood 10.40am for service , 11.00am. wreath laying - (Markham Band in attendance). Refreshments at Moose Hall & Blackwood Rugby Club

Monday 11th. November, Market Square Blackwood 10.45 am. for 11.00am. – Service only

Councillor D Davies informed the meeting that a wreath had been ordered for the Mayor to lay on behalf of the Town Council at the Blackwood Memorial.

Discussion took place as to whether the Town Council should also lay wreaths at other memorials, but it was agreed we continue with the current practice, but members were free to do so if they so wished.

9. Reports

Councillor Criddle circulated his report on the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Annual General Meeting and Conference held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells on Saturday 5th. October.

10. Planning

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting, and it was **agreed** the following comments be forwarded to the planning authority –

13/0672 - 63 Addison Street - Draw attention to the potential overdevelopment of the site and lack of parking facilities

13/0712 - Land at Homeleigh, 1 Tuckers Villas - Potential highway access issues, proposed elevation being overbearing to neighbouring properties and lack of amenity space

13/0717 - Kingsley, Pentwyn Road - Potential impact on neighbouring properties

Councillor Criddle, Chair of Planning Committee, informed members that he had visited the Planning Department with regard to the amended plans received in respect of application 06/0821 – land at Thornecome Road, Blackwood, and was of the opinion that these amended plans did go some way to answering the concerns raised by Town Council following the meeting attended by residents in February this year. After some discussion it was **agreed** that no objections/ concerns be raised.

Members raised the question as to whether licensing applications should be consulted upon, as recently two issues have been raised, namely the Vanilla Bar & the Woodbine Club, and no documentation had been reported as being received from Caerphilly C.B.C.

The Clerk agreed to check this out, and whether it is identified as an issue in the Charter agreement.