

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST. FEBRUARY 2016.

Present : Councillor N Turner (Mayor)
Councillor W Baber (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Farina-Childs, J Criddle, Z Hammond, J Edwards, M Gwynne, M Harris,
P Cook & L Thomas

PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING MEMBERS OBSERVED A MINUTE'S SILENCE IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND & COLLEAGUE COUNCILLOR GLYN ERASMUS WHO HAD DIED SUDDENLY ON FRIDAY 15TH. JANUARY 2016

The Mayor paid tribute to the dedication of Councillor Glyn Erasmus to the work of the Town Council and said his knowledge and experience would be greatly missed and very difficult to replace.

The Clerk reminded members of the funeral details, and that donations in lieu of flowers were requested to Cancercareline.

It was **unanimously agreed** a donation of £50 be forwarded on behalf of Town Council.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors D Davies, G Hale, M Veater MBE
The Clerk reported that given the unfortunate circumstances he had not forwarded papers to Councillor C Erasmus, and it was **agreed** apologies be noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made at this point

3. Vacancy on Town Council – Cefn Fforest East Ward

Mrs J Weeks of 47 Sunnybank Road was interviewed, and after some little deliberation, it was **unanimously agreed** she be co-opted as a member for Cefn Fforest East Ward.
Councillor Weeks completed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form, and was welcomed to the meeting.

4. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor had nothing to report. However, the Clerk reported he had received an invitation to attend a Concert at Blackwood Methodist Church on Saturday 19th. March.

5. *Correspondence*

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

In respect of the request from Mr Ewart Smith, it was ***agreed*** the Clerk contact Steve Pugh from CCBC for possible photographs and also forward details to Councillors G Hale & M Veater .

In respect of the invitation from One Voice Wales to renew membership for 2016/17 at a cost of £1,016, it was ***agreed*** we continue membership.

In respect of the invitation for individuals to apply to be representatives on the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen School Governing Body, it was ***agreed*** the Clerk send application forms to Councillors J Weeks & M Gwynne and also post details on the Council Notice Board.

6. *Schedule of Payments*

The Clerk presented his report on payments made/due to be made, and the following were ***agreed*** –

		£. p
Caerphilly C.B.C	Sponsorship of Xmas Market	750.00
Elsbury	Placement/ Removal & Storage of Xmas figurines etc.	3,376.08
John Hold	January Salary & re-imbursements	701.66
Playworks	January Tax/N.I.	484.70

7. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th. January 2016*

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

8. *Matters Arising*

Councillor A Farina- Childs informed members he had made contact with Tom Forbes and was awaiting a response.

Councillor W Baber informed members that at the Bus Station Problem Solving meeting held on 12th. January, the issue regarding the individual defacating in and around the bus station/café area had now been referred to Social Services.

9. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 20th. January 2016

The Clerk presented the minutes and informed members that the Budget Monitoring 2015/16/ Budget & Precept requirements 2016/17 was a separate item on the agenda.

With regard the recommendations in respect of Applications for Financial Assistance, the following Councillors declared an interest, and took no part in the decision making in relation to the relevant applications –

Councillor A Farina-Childs as Chair of Governors for Blackwood Comprehensive School

Councillor W Baber as a member of the Royal British Legion

Councillor N Turner as a member of Fleur-de-Lys Institute & as Mayor of the Town Council

It was **agreed** the following grants be made –

Blackwood & District Branch Royal British Legion	150
Cefn Fforest Angling Society	100
Moose Lodge 11 Blackwood	200
Fleur-de-Lys Institute	50
Blackwood Comprehensive School	250
Cefn Fforest Boys & Girls Football Club	100
Rhymney Valley Athletics Club	100
Wales Air Ambulance	100
Mayor's Charity	250

10. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly Area Committee Meeting held on 21st. October 2015

It was **resolved** the minutes be received

11. To Receive a Report from the Task & Finish Group established to consider the future of the Carnival

The Clerk and Councillor A Farina-Childs (Chair) presented the Report of the Task & Finish Group. The resultant recommendation was that Town Council look to work with Caerphilly C.B.C. and include our event on the Sunday of their Beach Party Weekend at the Market Place if possible.

Councillor L Thomas wished to place on record his thanks to those members who had contributed to the exercise.

Councillor Thomas stated he was disappointed with the recommendation, and felt all efforts should have been made to run a stand alone event, that kept the identity of it being a Town Council organised event.

He queried some of the assumptions made by the Group, and felt a definitive response should be sought from Caerphilly C.B.C. regarding possible use of the site for this year's event. Furthermore, perhaps Blackwood Rugby Club should have been formally approached regarding possible use of their field.

After much discussion, Councillor Thomas proposed that a status quo should prevail, and that for 2016 the Carnival be held at the Civic Centre Site. This was seconded by Councillor P Cook. On being put to the vote, 5 members voted in favour and 6 against.

The original recommendation that we look to work with Caerphilly C.B.C. and include our event on the Sunday of the Beach Party Weekend at the Market Place was proposed by Councillor A Farina-Childs and seconded by Councillor Z Hammond.

On being put to the vote, 6 members voted in favour and 3 against.

Resolved that we look to work with Caerphilly C.B.C. and include our event on the Sunday of the Beach Party Weekend and site at the Market Place.

It was also **agreed** that the Clerk arrange a meeting with Paul Hudson of Caerphilly C.B.C. to discuss same with Councillors A Farina-Childs & Z Hammond.

12. Consultation Document – Proposal to re-designate the Social Inclusion Class at Cefn Fforest Primary School to Foundation Phase Complex Needs Specialist Resource Base

The Clerk presented his report and referred to the Consultation Document which had been e-mailed to members previously.

He reported that having contacted the Headteacher, Ms Julie Farmer he was aware the school itself had no objection to the re-designation from Social Inclusion to KS1 Complex Needs Base, and as the school already hosts the KS2 Complex Needs Base for the authority, from a transition point of view it makes sense for the most vulnerable pupils at the school not to have to move school so many times.

After some discussion it was agreed to support the proposal.

13. Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16 & Consideration of Budget & Precept Requirements for 2016/17

The Clerk presented his report which highlighted that the net effect of the various over and under spends for the current year 2015/16 results in £11,540 being transferred from balances.

It is anticipated that at 31st March 2016, reserves will total £42,380 –
General Reserves £13,106 & Environmental/Project Reserves £29,274 (Coed Duon £10,000, Xmas Lights £7,660, Other £11,614)

Members then scrutinised the budget provisions for 2016/17, and after some discussion, and bearing in mind the additional ongoing funding required to provide hanging baskets in town, and potentially the Children's Literature Festival, it was **agreed** that the precept for next year be increased by £2, and that Town Council levy a rate of £19 per annum for Band D properties.

14. Planning Applications

The Clerk presented his report on planning applications received since the last meeting.

Councillor J Criddle, Chair of Planning, stated he had concerns regarding 15/0757/FULL to locate catering trailer at Blackwood Workingmen's Club car park and 16/002/FULL to erect two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 11 Denhigh Close and intended checking out same with Caerphilly C.C.B.C. planning officers.

It was agreed to give the Councillor Criddle plenary powers to make any necessary comment or objection in respect of same in conjunction with the Clerk

15. Reports

The Clerk was asked to follow up on the plaque originally placed on the wall of 242 Blackwood Road, but removed during renovation works.

Councillor Z Hammond reported on the Holocaust Memorial Special Commemoration Event held on Wednesday 27th. January at Units 16/17 The Market Place.

She said the event had been well attended and that she had been moved by the work produced by local school children and the work of David Garner.

She also reported that it was hoped that whilst these units remained empty, they could house art projects.

The Clerk informed members that he had met with Iain Richards and colleagues of the Velvet Coalmine Festival regarding the Children's Literature Festival, and was pleased to report encouraging support for the event from several local schools and potential funding bodies. The Event was to focus on the work of Roald Dahl, as this year celebrates the centenary of his birth.

The Launch Event has been confirmed for Friday 29th. April at Blackwood Miners' Institute, and invitations would be sent out over the next few weeks.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

7TH.. MARCH 2016