

## **MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup>. JULY 2018**

**Present** : Councillor J Edwards ( Mayor )  
Councillor G James ( Deputy Mayor )  
Councillors D Davies, Z Hammond, C Erasmus, R Mills & A Short

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors N Turner, D Jones, A Farina-Childs & J Griffiths together with County Councillor K Etheridge

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this point

### **3. Police Report**

The Mayor welcomed PC Kramer Sloman, Ward Manager of Blackwood Neighbourhood Policing Team to the meeting, in the absence of Inspector Drayton.

PC Sloman gave a breakdown of crime statistics for Blackwood for the period to 30<sup>th</sup>. June 2018 compared with the same period in 2017

	2017	2018
Total Recorded Crime	68	49
Public Offence	6	13
Shoplifting	16	5
Dwellings Burglary	3	5
Criminal Damage	12	4
Violent crime without injury	10	12
Violent crime with injury	9	4
Theft	6	3
Vehicle Crime	3	1
Crime against society	-	1
Offensive weapons	-	1

The officer then highlighted the various initiatives and issues that had affected / will effect the town over recent/coming weeks

A Youth Day had been organised for 9<sup>th</sup>. August at the Market Place in Blackwood in an effort to engage with local young people. Borough Outreach workers, St. John Ambulance, The Basement ( Blackwood Library ) would be in attendance to assist, together with various activities.

Operation Bernie, where the Police, Fire and Local Councils were working together to try and deal with the unfortunate spate of deliberate fires.

There had been one case of Modern Day Slavery

Trading Standards had investigated Scrap Metal Dealers, and 8 vehicles were targeted

Operation Finch, a Regional Organised Crime Unit initiative had resulted in 14 arrests with substantial sentences handed down

Weekly parking operations had resulted in 50 tickets being imposed since the start of May & it had been reported residents of David Street had been very pleased with the outcome

Simon Jones, Landscape Officer was involved with an Off road Vehicle Operation which relied much on information and advice from the communities affected

The Velathon would result in many road closures, but it was hoped would be less problematic than previous years

Police presence at the Beach Party Weekend which had proved very successful and trouble free. Members placed on record their appreciation and thanks to the Inspector for the assistance of PC's and PCO's at the event

PC Sloman asked if members had any questions/ queries –

The Chartist Bridge issue was raised, and the officer stated that he would do all he could to ensure Town Council have representation at the MAG meetings in the future.

Members queried the incident in town last week on the High Street, near Wetherspoons. PC Sloman confirmed that a 32 year old man from Blackwood had died, but could not report further as the matter had been referred to IOPC by Gwent Police and an investigation had been launched.

PC Sloman as thanked by members for his full and informative report.

Before leaving the meeting, the officer reminded members of the Ride Along Scheme, where there was an opportunity to experience a day with Police Officers.

#### **4. *Mayoral Announcements***

The Mayor reported on the following visits/functions attended –

Moose Hall to present certificates re. defibrillator training

Blackwood Little Theatre production of Allo Allo

Libanus Lifestyle Centre Concert with Tenovus Choir

A photo shoot with Alzheimer's

Maes Manor for Blackwood & District Heritage Association Plaque unveiling

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre for Police Schools 5 a side and netball tournaments

Beach Party/ Carnival Weekend at which £180 was raised for his charity and £80 for Heritage Assoc.

## 5. Correspondence

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

One Voice Wales Notification of AGM/ Ordinary meeting of RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly Area Committee to be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. July 7.00pm. at Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen Offices, Newport Road, Bedwas CF83 8YB – parking on site

Notification of changes to Standing Orders – awaiting detailed notes

Caerphilly C.B.C. Minor Authority representation requested for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen & Bro Sannan

Notification of zero tolerance for advertising on highways

Community Infrastructure Levy funding – enquiry as to whether members would wish a visit to give general update on funds received and their usage

Surveillance Camera Commissioners request support or otherwise of use of CCTV in town –

1,731 targeted CCTV patrols carried out by operations

102 incidents reported to police by CCTV

534 incidents monitored by CCTV not requiring police attendance

263 police requests for assistance for live incidents

39 police requests to view retrospective footage after incidents

155 DVD's provided for evidential purposes

Between 1/4/17 & 31/3/18 1,212 recorded incidents in Blackwood Ward &

627 recoded incidents were in or near cameras

Ind. Review Panel Intend to host two information sessions over late summer to share their recommendations on future role of Community & Town Councils with the Final Report to Cabinet Secretary for Local Govt. & Public Services in October 2018.

Cty. Cllr. Kevin Etheridge Called for a Referendum over Leisure Centre Provision – no support

Request for Zebra Crossing near Blackwood Miners' Institute – Officers say a standalone crossing could only be located north of the BMI as it would be too close to existing junction if installed further south. Existing bus stop/lay by arrangement and entrance to car park effectively means one viable location where the dropped kerbs are provided on the eastern side of the road however in close proximity to the signalised junction at Pentwyn Road. Pedestrian crossings require a number of zig zag markings to be provided which prohibits vehicles to stop, thus sterilising 40 metres of parking in front of BMI, frequently used for drop off of customers. They, therefore, determined the incorporation of a pedestrian phase within the existing signal arrangements would be a better solution rather than a standalone pedestrian crossing facility.  
( This solution is still likely to cost £50 K )

Elizabeth Millington	Invitation to the Mayor to attend an Exhibition of Work ( Art Class for Adults with learning disabilities) on Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> . July at Libanus Lifestyle Centre
Blackwood DKF	Invitation to the Mayor to attend an open day on 13 <sup>th</sup> . July ( mid day ) and to cut the ribbon of their new store at Blackwood Service Station, High Street
Mia Rose Lewis	Application for Financial Assistance/Sponsorship to represent Wales in the Miss Teen Galaxy International competition in Florida early July
Blackwood Town Cricket Club	Application for Financial Assistance - Youth teams

Given the urgency attached to the application from Mia Rose Lewis, it was **agreed** the application be discussed, and after some deliberation it was **agreed** to award a payment of £250. It was further **agreed**, given her continued support at Town Council Events and her charity work to consider Mia for a Young Persons Civic Award and would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

The Clerk also reported verbally on an application from Libanus Lifestyle Centre requesting financial assistance towards removal of trees to enable the proposed Garden Project to proceed . After some discussion it was **agreed** an Environmental Grant of £500 be awarded to enable the Garden Project to proceed, given the centre’s ever increasing benefit to the local community

## 6. *Schedule of Payments*

The Clerk presented his report on payments made/ to be made and the following were agreed -

		£. p
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Licence Fee – Carnival	70.00
Dancelicious	Carnival Performance Fee	100.00
DYT Dance & Drama	“ “	100.00
KLA Dance Institute	“ “	100.00
Pride of Place	Carnival Sashes	50.00
M Z Jones	Carnival Staging & Sound	1,000.00
Samba Galez	Carnival Performance Fee	500.00
Cefn Hengoed Jazz Band	“ “	90.00
Tropical Inc.	“ “	441.60
Boverton Nurseries	Provision of Hanging Baskets	1,209.60
Police & Crime Comm.	Grant – Police football/netball tournament	250.00
Katherine Watkins ( Playworks )	June Tax/N.I.	275.27
John Hold	June Salary+reimbursements+£1,400 carnival cash float	2,314.34
Elsbury’s	Carnival Bunting erection	360.00

## 7. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup>. June 2018*

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

## **8. *Matters Arising***

There were no matters arising

## **9. *Verbal Report on Carnival/ Beach Party***

Councillor Zoe Hammond, Chair of Events, gave a brief report, saying the weekend had been a great success and thanked all members who had attended for their support.

There had been some issues – parking at Bridge Street and stage electrics – but these had been resolved, and she thought best to discuss in more detail at a planned De-Brief meeting.

Members placed on record their thanks to Councillor Hammond for all her time and hard work to ensure the event was a resounding success.

## **10. *Blackwood & District Heritage Association – Update on Coed Duon Project***

Unfortunately Granville Hale is not well and has sent his apologies.

It was *agreed* to defer this item to the next meeting

## **11. *Chartist Bridge***

The Clerk presented copies of correspondence in respect of the Chartist Bridge, and placed on record his thanks to Councillor Darren Jones for his assistance in drafting the Town Council's letter.

Members fully supported the letter and were pleased that CCBC had agreed to a 2 hour meeting with Town Council representatives to discuss our concerns in greater detail.

After some discussion, it was *agreed* that 2 Independent members, 2 Plaid Cymru members and 1 Labour member together with the Clerk attend the planned meeting, and that the Clerk is notified of names as soon as possible.

Councillors Andrew Short & Delwyn Davies had already been nominated previously.

## **12. *Caerphilly C.B.C. Sport & Active Recreation Strategy***

The Clerk presented his report which identified parts of the Committee report which highlighted net operating costs of the Centres together with net cost per visit. It proposed that a rationalisation of facilities would result in 4 strategic, high quality, multi service leisure centres managed by the authority's Sport & Leisure Service – located in Risca, Caerphilly, Newbridge and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas to serve the north of the county borough. It is, therefore, anticipated that the other leisure centres would either transfer to school management ( if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval ) or could close completely.

The Clerk stated he thought it would be in the best interests of Town Council to meet with all Borough members in wards that could/would be affected by closures of Pontllanfraith and/or Cefn Fforest Leisure Centres to ensure the same message gets back to Caerphilly C.B.C. and the general public can see a joint working across political parties.

After some discussion it was **agreed** the Clerk organise a meeting at Cefn Fforest Community Centre inviting County Borough Councillors representing Blackwood, Cefn Fforest, Pontllanfraith, Penmaen, Aberbargoed & Argoed Wards over the next week or so to organise a plan of action against proposed plans of closures.

### **13. Grit Bins**

It was **agreed** to defer this matter to the September meeting

### **14. Blackwood in Bloom**

The Clerk reminded members that nominations were still outstanding and requested they be forwarded as soon as possible.

### **15. Planning Applications**

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

#### **Case Ref. 18/0451/FULL**

Site Area: 1302m<sup>2</sup> Location: Site Of Former Lyndaryn Bungalow Cliff Road Blackwood (UPRN 000043054537)

Proposal: Erect two storey detached house

#### **Case Ref. 18/0513/FULL**

Site Area: 7636m<sup>2</sup> Location: Blackwood Rugby Club Hall Street Blackwood NP12 1NY (UPRN 000043055543)

Proposal: Replace existing grass rugby pitch with a 3G pitch of the same size plus up to 1.5m additional 3G around the perimeter

#### **Case Ref. 18/0518/FULL**

Site Area: 368m<sup>2</sup> Location: 32 Wheatley Place Cefn Fforest Blackwood NP12 1EU (UPRN 000043047545)

Proposal: Erect two storey extension to rear of dwelling plus alteration works

After some discussion it was **agreed** no objections be raised

The Clerk also reported that Notification had been received that Planning Application in respect of the proposed development at the rear of Coronation Road has been refused on the grounds of highway safety.

### **16. Reports**

Councillor D Davies informed members that a new Head had been appointed at Blackwood School, Miss K Davies, currently Acting Head at a George Street School in Pontypool, and she takes up her post from 1<sup>st</sup>. September.

He also reminded members of the invitation to Jane's leaving on Friday 20th. July

Councillor Z Hammond informed members that she had been asked to assist in the planning and organisation of the Youth Activity Day referred to PC Sloman earlier, and requesting members attendance on the afternoon if available.