

**MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup>. DECEMBER 2018**

**Present :** Councillor J Edwards ( Mayor )  
Councillors Z Hammond, T Evans, A Short, N Turner, R Mills, J Griffiths, D Jones &  
C Erasmus

Also present Mr J Steven ( FCFM ) & Mr. A Oldham ( Market Place )

Prior to the start of the meeting a minutes silence was observed in respect of Avril Hale, wife of our former colleague Councillor Granville Hale who had sadly died the previous week.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors A Farina-Childs, G James, D Davies, M Gwynne J Weeks, R Weeks & P Cook

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor A Short declared an Interest in Item 4, being the owner of a business in close proximity to the proposed development.

**3. Presentation by John Steven ( Consultant to FCFM ) on proposed Blackwood Shopping Centre Development/ Artisan Market**

The Mayor welcomed Mr John Steven ( Consultant with FCFM ) to the meeting who gave a detailed presentation on the planned housing development and artisan market.

A Copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

After the presentation Mr. Steven answered questions/ issues raised by members and before leaving thanked members for the invitation and encouraged members to take the opportunity to make suggestions or amendments which would be considered and possibly included.

**4. To consider Town Council's response to Pre Application Consultation on proposed Redevelopment of the former Somerfield Supermarket at the Market Place ( as above )**

Members were thankful for the presentation by Mr. John Steven who kindly afforded Town Council the opportunity to comment on the report he presented and to make suggestions or amendments we feel might make the proposal more attractive to the town.

After much discussion members **agreed** that they were broadly in favour of the proposals and would welcome such a scheme that promises to help regenerate the town. Furthermore they agreed that a Special Meeting be called within the next two weeks to fully consider our response, but that the following form the basis of that response -

- The proposals for the Artisan Market should in no way disadvantage existing businesses in the High Street
- Artisan should relate to home made/ crafted goods, specialist services and collectibles
- Consider identifying one unit for potential work with local schools, colleges to encourage entrepreneurial skills
- Query the possibility of one unit being identified as a Community Unit for use by the Heritage Association/ Historical Society/ Information Centre
- Recommend the existing Market Precinct units become an extension of new development proposals with consideration of more realistic rentals to ensure full occupancy
- Communal toilets planned are welcomed, but with existing toilets currently within the Bus Station wonder whether there may be room for negotiation with Caerphilly CBC if properly managed and maintained
- Consideration needs to be given to the definition of those who have lived in Blackwood etc. – will it be the Town Council area or wider ?

## 5. *Mayoral Announcements*

The Mayor reported on the following visits/ functions attended –

- 9<sup>th</sup>. November Visited Blackwood & Libanus Primary Schools for their Remembrance Services and then to the Market Place Blackwood to another well attended Service
- 10<sup>th</sup>. November Attended Memorial Service at Old Council Office Site and was invited to lay a wreath with Mike Adams ( Mayor of Caerphilly CBC ) and then to St. Augustine's Church  
Attended Carol Service at Blackwood Methodist Church – Markham Brass Band & Treharris Male Voice Choir
- 20<sup>th</sup>. November Collected for my Alzheimer's Charity at ASDA with the help of my wife, Zoe. Trefor and others. My thanks for their assistance in collecting nearly £100
- 21<sup>st</sup>. November Meeting with Head teacher and others at Libanus Primary School. Having heard I was a presenter on a radio station at Brynmawr [I am now assisting them in a project to set up a school radio, and have organised a trip to the radio station.  
Carol my wife has also offered to assist the children in replanting their gardens at the school.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>. November Attended photo shoot at Market Place for unveiling of Defibrillator with June Thomas & Andy Hill ( Jack's Appeal ABUHB ) – Thanks to Andrew Short for arranging Cabinet & electrics

A meeting with Blackwood Primary School has led to something different this year for their Nativity play. Teachers and children have made a short film of it this year, and I have arranged that a special showing be screened at the Maxime Cinema in December, where parents will be able to attend.

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>. December The Christmas Market Despite the weather the event was successful with those braving the conditions enjoying what was on offer. Special thanks to Zoe, John Rhys and Trefor for assisting on both days.

## 6. Correspondence

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

- Caerphilly CBC Copy of Draft Budget Proposals - Consultation
- Copy of letter sent by Cllr. S Morgan to Welsh Govt. urging relief for small businesses and requesting a level playing field in terms of valuation of properties/businesses in town centres
- Agenda for Multi Agency Meeting – Chartist Bridge – on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. December
- Welsh Govt. Notification of Section 137 Levels of Discretionary Payments for 2018/2019 increased to £8.12 per elector
- Aneurin Bevan UHB Offer of speaker to attend Town Council meeting from January onwards to update members on current developments in Health Services

In respect of the offer from Aneurin Bevan UHB it was *agreed* the Clerk make arrangements for their attendance at a future meeting

## 7. Schedule of Payments

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

		£. p
SP Services	2 x Anti Acid Kits ( incl. £21.17 VAT )	127.12
K & R Print	Printing of Newsletters	495.00
Playworks	Tax/ N.I. –November	294.86
John Hold	November Salary & Reimbursements	1,310.40
Wales Audit Office	Audit Fee	294.45
Groundwork Wales	Commemorative Garden ( incl. £1,320 VAT )	8,420.00
Halo Electrical	Install heated Defibrillator Cabinet	456.00
Blackwood RFC	Sponsorship Annual Fireworks Display	1,000.00
Mynyddislwyn Choir	Christmas Entertainment	400.00
DYT Dance	“ “	100.00
Peter Karrie Productions	“ “	200.00
Caitlin Mae Nedahl	“ “	150.00
Dancelicious	“ “	100.00
Blackwood Little Theatre	“ “	100.00
Blackwood Musical Soc.	“ “	100.00
Markham Band	“ “	500.00
KLA Dance	“ “	100.00
Side By Side Choir	“ “	100.00
Oakdale Band	“ “	200.00
Tongwynlais Band	“ “	150.00
M Jones	Staging/ Sound/ Pyrotechnics	1,230.00
B’wood Methodist Church	Hire of Church - Carol Concert	100.00
Pontllanfraith Rotary Club	Donation – Sleigh	100.00
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Civic Awards/ Room Hire/ Printing ( incl. £61.68 VAT )	408.07

**8. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup>. November 2018**

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

**9. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**10. To Receive the Minutes of Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>.November 2018**

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

Members *agreed* to the recommendations to continue with Hanging baskets in the High Street and to award financial assistance to the following -

Blackwood Boys & Girls Football Club	£250 + cost of Council logo on kit
Blackwood Town Cricket Club	£250
Past Mayor's Charity	£250

**11. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>. November 2018**

Councillor Z Hammond, Chair, presented the minutes and it was *agreed* they be received.

She reported that despite the bad weather the event had been well attended and well received. She took the opportunity to thank the Mayor, Clerk and Councillors T Evans & R Mills for their attendance and support on both days, and other members who had attended but expressed her disappointment at the response to her request for assistance over the weekend.

**12. Commemorative Garden Funding and further potential work**

The Clerk presented his report which identified the Garden cost £7,100, and had been generally very well received by the community.

Given that we received £5,789.53 in Community Infrastructure Levy and having checked this scheme meets the strict criteria, he recommends these funds be set against the costs of the Commemorative Garden and this was *agreed* by members.

Members had also expressed an interest, and actually agreed to purchase a Silent Soldier to be mounted at the Garden and it had been reported previously that we were unable to purchase same through the British Legion and that we would look for alternatives.

Councillor G James ( Deputy Mayor ) had been in discussion with Howe Engineering and sourced a suitable piece of artwork - photographs were circulated – with the Medium (1580mm wide) costing £461 and the Large ( 3080mm wide ) costing £625 – both 550mm in height but legs can be any length chosen. Members felt that this item, together with previously expressed interest in a flagpole and/or memorial bench also being installed at the site be discussed further at a future meeting when more members are present

( Given the issues with the garden, it is likely planning permission might have to be sought )

### ***13. Planning Applications***

The Clerk reported that no planning applications had been received since the last meeting

### ***14. Reports***

The Clerk reported briefly on the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, where Councillor T Williams was appointed Chair and Councillor A Farina-Childs appointed Vice Chair.

Presentations were made relating to-

Blackwood Market Place Shopping Centre Proposals by John Steven ( Consultant to FCFM ) which were generally well received

Civil Parking by Clive Campbell which identified that an application had been submitted to Welsh Government by the authority. Currently they are reviewing and consolidating Traffic Regulation Orders in readiness whilst also identifying staffing requirements to set up an in house service. They will be undertaking public engagement whilst also trying to manage the public's expectations, with the plan to go live April 2019.

Local Toilet Strategy by Sian Wolf Williams which identified that whilst the authority has a duty to prepare and publish a toilet strategy for its area and to improve access to toilets available for public use, they are not required to provide and maintain public toilets themselves.

Electric Vehicle Strategy by Tracy Evans which identified the aim to provide an electric vehicle infrastructure across the County Borough, by introducing/incorporating electric vehicles into their fleet and trialling new technologies as they evolve. Also to work with private developers to incorporate electric vehicle infrastructure into new builds and developments, whilst also working with partners and local businesses to encourage the adoption of a similar approach

Bi-Centenary of Blackwood by Lyn Pask which highlighted what he had previously reported to Town Council