

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH. JULY 2016.

Present : Councillor W Baber (Mayor)
Councillor J Weeks (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Z Hammond, C Erasmus, D Davies, G Hale, M Veater MBE, J Criddle, N Turner,
R Moore, J Edwards & M Harris

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Farina-Childs, M Gwynne, P Cook & L Thomas

The Clerk read correspondence from Councillor Leigh Thomas apologising for his absence, and requesting dispensation regarding 6 month ruling due to heavy work commitments, many abroad. Members ***agreed unanimously*** that Councillor Thomas be allowed dispensation

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this point

3. Policing Matters

The Clerk reported that he had received apologies from Inspector Jason White, and that he had arranged for a copy of his report to be forwarded.

The Clerk read the report, a copy of which will form part of the minutes.

Members raised a number of issues they felt should be addressed by the police –

Brick throwing incidents, delay in response to 101 calls, youths congregating at Market Square after 5.30pm/ free-running, rumours that hand held ticketing machines issued to operatives are inefficient in bad weather.

4. Mayoral Announcements

Councillor W Baber reported on visits made/ functions attended, namely –

ASDA Strawberry Tea in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness
Rhymney Flag Raising Ceremony (not as Mayor)
Armed Forces Day at Caerphilly
Blackwood Little Theatre Fund Raising Event
Caerphilly C.B.C. Mayor's Charity Launch
Blackwood Carnival

5. Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence, and all were *noted*.

Gwent Now - Notification that Cash seized from Criminals is Available for Community Projects via the Police & Crime Commissioner Partnership Fund. Bids are invited from charities, voluntary organisations and community groups involved in activities that have a positive impact on their communities in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. Closing date 22nd. July 2016

Bateman Opticians - Invitation to Mayor & members to celebrate the new refit and rebranding from Peter Hong Optometrists to Bateman Opticians – Wednesday 21st. September

Public Services Ombudsman - Copy of Annual Report for 2015/16

One Voice Wales - Notification of RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly Area Committee AGM being held at 7.00pm. on Wednesday 13th. July at Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen Community Council Offices, Newport Road, Bedwas

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council – Notification of Meeting taking place at 5.30pm.on Wednesday 6th July at Greenmeadow Golf Club Cwmbran

6. Schedule of Payments

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

Caerphilly C.B.C.	Hire of Rooms	£38.45 incl.VAT
K & R Print	Carnival printing	£60.00
Mindblowers	Stilt walker – Carnival parade	£408.00 incl. VAT
Samba Galez	Parade & Static set - Carnival	£400.00
Tropical Inc.	Dinosaur Show – Carnival	£609.60 incl. VAT
Side by Side Choir	Performance Fee – Carnival	£100.00
Lyndsay Davies	DYT Dance – Performance Fee – Carnival	£150.00
Blackwood Musical Soc.	Performance Fee - Carnival	£100.00
Peter Karrie’s Younger Gen.	Performance Fee – Carnival	£100.00
Kristie Booth	KLA Dance – Performance Fee – Carnival	£150.00
John Hold	June Sal + reimbursements incl. Carnival	£1,969.00
Playworks	June Tax/N.I.	£484.70
One Voice Wales	Conference Fee	£45.00
Classic Catering	Marquees, generator – Carnival	£564.00
Marcus Jones	Stages, sound system Carnival	£600.00

7. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6th. June 2016

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

8. *Matters Arising*

Minute 10 Minutes of Policy & Finance Committee held 25th. May 2016

Councillor G Hale queried the progress regarding Libanus Lifestyle Centre application for funding. Councillor J Criddle as Chair of the Committee promised to present the application to the next meeting planned for the following week with a decision to be resolved at the next Town Council meeting.

Minute 14 Reports

Councillor J Criddle queried progress with the schools on the Literature Festival, given them closing shortly for the summer holidays.

The Clerk responded by confirming the planned meeting with Iain Richards on July 19th. should answer all outstanding queries.

9. *To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 20th. June 2016*

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

10. *To Receive the Minutes of the Town & Community Councils' Liaison Committee Meeting held 3rd February 2016*

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

11. *To Discuss letter received from Blackwood Little Theatre*

The Clerk read the letter from Blackwood Little Theatre outlining their current problems with the building. The total cost of the roof project is in the region of £48k, with £30k grant secured from Caerphilly C.B.C. Regeneration Fund and approx £11k raised in the last 3 weeks from a high profile fund raising campaign. Unfortunately a number of other issues have come to light, the most pressing being repair to an external wall causing serious damp problems and which left unchecked may pose a threat to the structural stability – these works estimated between £10k - £15k.

After much discussion, where members applauded the work of the Little Theatre over the past 70 years and the sterling efforts of the fund raising to date, they were adamant in their wish to support the group.

The Clerk reported that it seemed likely certain provisions made within the accounts for last year would not now materialise, in effect increasing balances by approx £1,000. After a little further discussion, it was *unanimously agreed* that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Blackwood Little Theatre. It was also *agreed* that members of Blackwood Little Theatre be invited along to the next Policy & Finance Committee to explore any other possible additional assistance that might ensure the future of building.

12. Libanus Primary School – Community Governor Vacancy

The Clerk reported on an e-mail received from the Governor Support Team which identified that Councillor C Erasmus term of Office as a Community Governor appointed by the Town Council had ended on 11th. June 2016.

It was ***resolved*** Councillor C Erasmus be re-nominated as the Town Council's Community Governor at Libanus Primary School.

13. Verbal Report on Carnival

The Chair, Councillor Z Hammond reported that the Carnival had gone without any major hitches, and that the vast majority of feedback had been positive.

She placed on record her thanks to the Clerk for all his hard work, members who assisted on the day and to Sarah-Kate Ackerman (Caerphilly C.B.C.) and Ruth Stockley (Local Churches Group).

Rather than engage in any discussion on the event, it was agreed a Meeting of the Events Committee be called next week for a De- Brief on the Carnival.

14. Blackwood in Bloom Competition

The Clerk presented his report which identified that members needed to nominate the best front gardens on view by 29th. July, so that judging could take place the following week.

15. Planning Applications

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

Councillor J Criddle, Chair of Planning proposed he query 16/0425/NCC vary condition 8 of planning consent P/099/0063 to convert garage into living accommodation at 40 Rhos Y Dderwen with planning officers, but that there were no issues regarding the other applications.

This was ***agreed***.

16. Reports

There were no reports.