

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH. DECEMBER 2016.

Present : Councillor W Baber (Mayor)
Councillor J Weeks (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Z Hammond, J Criddle, P Cook & M Veater MBE

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, M Harris, G Hale, R Moore, M Gwynne & C Erasmus

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this point

3. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor announced his attendance at the following –

Remembrance Day Services
Art Exhibition at St. David's Church
Moose Lunch
Civic Awards Evening
Christmas Market/ Light Switch On

4. Correspondence

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

Blachere Illuminations	Quotation for Bespoke Motif – Christmas Cross Street (Welsh Version) In the sum of £1,446.35 (after negotiated 15% discount)
C.C. Liaison Comm.	Notification that meeting scheduled for 7 th . December has been postponed
Welsh Government	Consultation Document – Draft Account and Audit Regulations (Wales) (Amendment Regulations) 2016 - Closing Date 6 th . February 2017

Caerphilly C.B.C. Changes to Bus timetables taking place from January 2017

Draft Budget Proposals for 2017/2018

Get Set for Winter – useful tips and handy hints to help residents and Businesses deal with severe weather – See website www.caerphilly.gov.uk
– covers such topics as -
Steps to take to reduce the impact of severe weather on family & home
Getting around safely
Looking after yourself in the winter months
How to help vulnerable friends, family & neighbours
Useful links & telephone numbers – 105 introduced by electricity network operator to provide local single point of contact for help during power cut
How to keep up to date with current weather and travel conditions

Coun. Alan Higgs Cancer Hospital Transport - willingness to support & sponsor this proposed new project

Mrs Christine Dash Note of thanks to Town Council for Posthumous Award to Peter

Llamau Application for Financial Assistance

DYT Dance School Application for Financial Assistance

Blackwood & District
Crime Prevent. Panel Application for Financial Assistance

In respect of the Blachere quotation, it was agreed the Clerk make efforts to ascertain if the cross street decoration could be mounted on the Institute and building opposite.

It was agreed the Draft Account & Audit Regulations be deferred to the next Policy & Finance Committee for discussion, together with the Applications for Financial Assistance.

The Clerk referred to a recent request from the Velvet Coalmine for Town Council to nominate 2 members to serve on the Committee planning next years event (The Clerk was also invited to join the Committee). It was agreed that given their involvement in the recent Festival, Councillors J Criddle & Z Hammond represent Town Council and report back to members at regular intervals regarding progress.

Velvet Coalmine had also requested whether it would be possible to release £2,500 of the agreed sponsorship early as planning was already underway. The Clerk reported that members had agreed to a similar request last year, and it was unanimously agreed that £2,500 be released prior to Christmas.

5. *Schedule of Payments*

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

		£. p
K & R Print	Banners/ Certificates etc	115.00
John Hold	October Salary + Reimbursements (Civic Awards etc.)	936.63
Cwm Bakery	Buffet – Civic Awards Evening	740.00
Traditional Signs	New Honours Board + updates	755.00
Caitlin Nedahl	Performance Fee - Light Switch On	100.00
Mynyddislwyn Choir	Performance Fee	100.00
Oakdale Silver Band	Performance Fee	50.00
Peter Karrie Product.	Performance Fee	150.00
Lyndsay Davies (DYT)	Performance Fee	150.00
KLA Dance Inst.	Performance Fee	150.00
Playworks	November Tax/N.I	530.49
John Hold	November Salary & Reimbursements	720.54
K & R Print	Posters/ Flyers Christmas	68.50
M Z Jones	Staging/ Sound System/ Snow Machine	640.00
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Room Hire	42.75
Markham Silver Band	Remembrance Service	100.00
British Legion	Hosting at Civic Awards/ Carol Concert	100.00
British Legion	Poppy Wreath	20.00

6. *To Receive the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th. November 2016*

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

7. *Matters Arising*

Members agreed that the introduction of a Church service at the Moose Hall prior to the Remembrance Day laying of poppy wreaths had been a great success, and something to build on for the future.

8. *Events Update – Verbal Report on*

(a) Civic Awards Evening

The Clerk and Councillor Z Hammond reported that the evening had been a resounding success, with in excess of 150 people present. All recipients had commented on how honoured they were to be receiving the awards, and the inclusion of the Velvet Coalmine Awards ceremony had made this a memorable evening. The buffet had been first class, and it was agreed the Clerk pass on Council's thanks to Nathan from Cwm Bakery for his services.

The only disappointment had been with the press coverage of the evening, concentrating mostly on the posthumous award to Peter Dash

(b) Christmas Market/ Lights Switch On

Again the Clerk and Councillor Z Hammond

(c) Lantern Parade/ Carol Concert

9. Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been received since the last meeting –

16/0972/COU	Office Vision Ltd.	Change of use to Class A2 (Financial & Professional Services) Employment Centre Aldi Stores, High Street, Blackwood
16/0997/ADV	Papa John's	Install an internally illuminated fascia & projection sign, lit via LED and an LED poster frame mounted inside the store just behind the shop front window facing outwards towards the street 201 High Street, Blackwood
16/1006/COU	Blackmarsh Props.	Sub divide existing A1 retail unit into three units, provide associated changes to the external appearance and servicing arrangements, and change the use of one new unit from A1 retail to D2 gym Former Somerfield Stores, Market Place, Blackwood
16/0999/ADV	HSBC	Replacement of the existing external HSBC signage with HSBC UK equivalent 91 – 93 High Street, Blackwood

10. Reports

11. To Agree date of January 2017 meeting

Given that Monday 2nd. January was identified as a Bank Holiday, the next Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 9th. January 2017