

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH. JUNE 2016.

Present: Councillor W Baber (Mayor)
Councillor J Weeks (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, Z Hammond, C Erasmus, M Veater MBE, P Cook,
G Hale, J Edwards, N Turner & J Criddle

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor M Gwynne

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made at this point

3. Vacancy on Town Council – Blackwood North Ward

Mr Roger Moore of 3 Rock Villas, Argoed was interviewed, and after some little deliberation, it was **unanimously agreed** he be co-opted as a member for the Blackwood North Ward.

Councillor Moore completed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form, and was welcomed to the meeting.

4. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor reported that he had received an invitation to attend a Strawberry Tea in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness on Saturday 11th. June at the Dragon Circle near ASDA

5. Correspondence

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

In respect of the Bands in the Park, it was **agreed** to sponsor same at a cost of £280.83

In respect of the Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Order, whilst members were broadly in agreement, issues were raised regarding the final point which proposed excluding dogs from all council owned marked sports playing pitches. Members queried whether this related specifically to the actual marked pitch, say at the Showfield, or the area as a whole.

It was agreed the Clerk seek clarification on this particular point.

With regard the naming of developments in the area, members felt that out of courtesy, Caerphilly Borough ward members could consult with Town Council.

It was also **agreed** that the correspondence regarding potential sponsorship of the proposed Flower Festival to celebrate 140 years of St. Margaret's Church be passed to the Policy & Finance Committee for deliberation.

6. *Schedule of Payments*

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

Caerphilly C.B.C.	Premises Licence Fee	100.00
John Hold	May Salary + reimbursements	1,195.42
Playworks	May Tax/N.I.	484.70
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Room Hire – Institute	23.75
Andrew Jervis	Internal Audit Fee	120.00

7. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 9th. May 2016*

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

8. *Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising

9. *To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 17th. May 2016*

It was *resolved* the minutes be received.

Councillor Z Hammond reported that she had negotiated the use of the Black Sheep on Pentwyn Road for the Carnival girls on the morning of the event.

10. *To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 25th. May 2016*

Councillor J Criddle, Chair of the Committee presented the minutes and it was *resolved* they be received.

It was *unanimously agreed* the following grants be awarded –

Libanus Primary School	£250
Blackwood Musical Theatre Society	£250

Councillor G Hale queried if any decision had been reached regarding the application from Libanus Lifestyle Centre relating to the cost of removal of overhanging tree.

The Chair & Clerk apologised for not formally responding, and Councillor A Farina-Childs reported that he had arranged for a Caerphilly C.B.C. officer to met on site to discuss same, and would arrange a mutually convenient date/time after the meeting.

11. *Annual Return for the Year Ended 31st. March 2016*

The Clerk presented his report, and also referred members to the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee

He explained that the figures shown in the Accounting Statement was based on the figures contained in the Annual Accounts approved by Town Council at the last meeting.

Members compared the figures on the Statement and satisfied themselves all was in order.

It was **resolved** the Accounting Statement be approved and accepted.

Members then turned their attention to the Annual Governance Statements Part 1 & 2 and considered each in turn.

After some discussion members were confident that Part 1- Statements 1 – 8 could be answered positively

Statement 9 Trust funds – Not Applicable

Part 2 – Statements 1 – 3 could be answered positively

It was **resolved** the Annual Governance Statements be approved and accepted.

Members then reviewed the Annual Internal Audit Report, and after some discussion **resolved** it be approved and accepted.

The Mayor, Councillor W Baber signed the Approval, confirming that the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement had been approved by Town Council.

The Clerk ensured members that all other supporting information requested by the Auditors would be prepared and forwarded in advance of the prescribed date of 11th. July 2016.

12. *Welsh Government Amended Model of Conduct for Local Government*

The Clerk circulated copies of the Amended Model of Conduct, and reported that as far as he could ascertain, the major differences related to the fact that responsibility for the Register of Members Interests now rested with the Responsible Officer of the Town & Community Councils (The Clerk) and not the Monitoring Officer of the Borough Council.

After some discussion it was **resolved** the Amended Model Code be adopted/ implemented.

13. *Planning Applications*

There were no planning applications received in respect of our area.

14. *Reports*

The Clerk reported than Iain Richards, Director of the Velvet Coalmine, had confirmed that both Sophie Mckeand (Young Peoples Laureate) and Ifor ap Glyn (National Poet of Wales) would be in attendance at the Children's Literature Festival, and saw this as a major coup for the event.

He also informed members that Iain had forwarded a first draft of the Festival Schedule and that he would forward a copy via e-mail to members for their perusal. It was hoped that Iain might attend the next meeting of Town Council, as he plans to be in Wales that week.

Councillor Jim Criddle agreed that this was a great boost for the festival, and that as volunteered at the Launch evening, he was working hard to ensure the Local History event scheduled would be a success.

15. *Dates of Future Meetings*

The Clerk presented his report, and after some discussion it was *agreed* the following dates be earmarked for future meetings for this calendar year –

4th. July

15th. August

No meeting in September

3rd. October

7th. November

5th. December