

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH. NOVEMBER 2018

Present : Councillor J Edwards (Mayor)

Councillor G James (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors P Cook, R Mills, Z Hammond, N Turner, C Erasmus, J Weeks, R Weeks & A Short

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Farina- Childs, D Davies, J Griffiths, D Jones, T Evans & M Gwynne

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made at this point

3. Police Report

The Mayor welcomed PC Kramer Slocombe to the meeting.

PC Slocombe presented his statistical report which highlighted police incidents and crime figures for both the Blackwood Ward (CC81) individually and Blackwood Local Policing Area as a whole for the period August to October 201 & 2018 respectively (Attached as part of minutes)

PC Slocombe also reported on the very successful event organised as a diversionary tactic during Halloween

Blackwood officers continued to patrol the High Street issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to offending vehicles, whilst also taking steps to combat speeding complaints along Bloomfield Road and conducting safety patrols to deal with parking issues in and around the various schools in Blackwood. He stated the police were committed to dealing with inconsiderate and illegal parking issues, particularly around schools, but that the schools need to work with partner agencies in educating the parents.

Parking generally is and always has been a problem and long term solutions are needed, tickets are only a short term remedy.

A prolific shoplifter who targeted both local and large businesses has been arrested and charged and should be off the streets for a short while.

Operation Sceptre saw in excess of 100 knives being recovered and 12 arrests made across the Force

Gwent Police Cadets are currently recruiting - The Volunteer Police Cadets are a nationally recognised group for young people

Members were extended an invitation to the Ride Along Scheme which enables you to join officers and staff and observe their work.

The Clerk took the opportunity to thank PC Slocombe for his support in ensuring Town Council became represented on the Chartist Bridge Multi Agency Group.

The Mayor thanked PC Slocombe for his attendance and the officer left the meeting

4. *Mayoral Announcements*

The Mayor reported on the following visits/ functions attended –

Islwyn Comrades Dinner at Blackwood Rugby Club – October 26th.

Fashion Show at Libanus Lifestyle Centre in aid of Tenovus Cancer

Blackwood Primary School – he had arranged for a Schools produce sale to be held at the Libanus Lifestyle Centre prior to Christmas

The Annual Firework Display – he asked a letter of thanks be sent to Blackwood Rugby Club congratulating them on another excellent Community Event and for the hospitality shown to Town Council especially by Joe.

The Mayor had thoroughly enjoyed all events and welcomed the opportunity to raise Town Council's profile.

He also reported that he was trying to organise a Christmas Carol Service in aid of his Alzheimer's Charity and would update members at the next meeting.

5. *Correspondence*

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

County Cllr. K Etheridge Notification of petition

“ We the undersigned parents, family friends on behalf of our children who attend Blackwood Primary School request immediate enforcement action in regard the unauthorised , speeding and parking of vehicles in and around the school site at the commencement, and finish times prior to an accident occurring. We call on the Council , Police and Governors to address this problem with urgency and wish a site meeting called having contacted our Councillors to take these matters forward,. We also ask for effective engagement and communication from all parties please.

Caerphilly C.B.C. Notification of Blackwood Town Centre Management Committee Meeting being held on 13th. November 2.00pm.

Request for Minor Authority nominations to the following schools –
Cefn Fforest Primary, Ysgol Bro Sannan & Ysgol Cwm Derwen

Boverton Nurseries Quotation for hanging baskets in High Street for 2019 – 14 half baskets/
28 cup & saucer baskets £1,008 + VAT – as current year

Elizabeth Millington Invitation to members to Mencap Tea Party on Wednesday 7th.
November 3.00pm-5.00pm at Libanus Lifestyle Centre members

In respect of the Petition regarding traffic issues at Blackwood Primary School the Clerk had been informed by Councillor D Davies that a Governors meeting had been arranged for 2.00pm on 23rd. November with the School Health & Safety Committee, 3 ward members and CCBC officers.

In respect of the Minor Authority nominations, Councillor G James queried the reported vacancy at Cefn Fforest, as he had been nominated previously. After some discussion it was **agreed** the Clerk Query this position and notify that other nominations would be advised in the near future. The Clerk reported that he had attached the Disclosure & Barring Service Application Forms to the packs distributed and asked they be completed and returned to him.

It was **agreed** that the quotation from Boverton Nurseries or Hanging Baskets for 2019 be accepted.

6. *Schedule of Payments*

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

		£	p
Jason Howells	Sign writing Honours Boards	150.00	
Market Place Caffi	Buffet – Awards Evening	720.00	
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Room Hire / Printing	90.46	
Blackwood Basement	Financial Assistance - Halloween Project	500.00	
John Hold	October Sals & Reimbursements (Civic Awards)	1,471.98	
Playworks	October Tax & N.I.	282.66	
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Agreed Contribution to Beach Party + Funfair Tickets incl VAT	1,051.20	
J V Graphics	50 Lamp post poppies	150.00	
J S Lee Ltd.	Placing/watering/removal of hanging baskets(incl.£624 VAT)	3,744.00	
Billyboard Marketing	Printing of names for lamp post poppies	120.00	

7. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1st.October 2018*

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

8. *Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising

9. *To Receive the Minutes of Newsletter/ Web Page Committee Meeting held on 15th.October 2018*

It was **resolved** the minutes be received

10. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 15th. October 2018

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

11. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Larger Council's Committee Meeting held on 18th. April 2018

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

12. To Receive the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Caerphilly/Merthyr/RCT Annual General Meeting & Area Committee Meeting held on 12th. July 2018

It was *resolved* the minutes be received

13. Bi-Centenary Celebrations

The Clerk suggested that following the recent presentation by Lyn Pask and the previous presentation by Granville Hale (where he stated that letters would be forwarded to all organisations in the area within a few weeks), perhaps Town Council should take the lead and form a Bi Centenary Committee to ensure plans for the celebrations are properly co-ordinated and that various groups do not go off at tangents and do their own thing.

The Mayor stated there had been a recent meeting of the Blackwood Heritage Association to which Lyn Pask and members of various local organisations had been invited and all were very positive about the proposed celebrations.

After some further discussion it was *agreed* the Clerk organise a meeting in January inviting as many local organisations, schools, churches etc. to form a steering Bi Centenary Committee to start planning in more detail how the celebrations should look.

Some members were concerned that the celebrations will require additional funding and queried whether we had received the Accounts of the Velvet Coalmine, which we sponsor for £7,500 per annum. The Clerk stated that he was of the opinion they were readily available online, albeit the accounts for the current year would not be available but last years would. It was agreed to agenda for a future meeting of the Events Committee.

14. Proposed Newsletter

The Clerk reported that he had forwarded copies of the proposed Newsletter to all members and had asked for any comments or amendments. He had liaised with Councillor G James regarding some minor amendments/typos but was now confident the draft was as good as we were likely to get. After some further discussion it was *agreed* quotations be sought for the printing of same and discussed at the planned Policy & Finance Committee meeting to ensure the deadline for printing and delivery is met

15. Remembrance Services

The Clerk reported the following for members information -

Friday 9th November Market Place, Blackwood 11.00 a.m. Service only, no wreaths

Saturday 10th November Pontllanfraith House 1.30 p.m. Service & Laying of Wreaths followed by Remembrance Service at St Augustine's Church, Pontllanfraith, 2.00 p.m.

Sunday 11th November Moose Hall, Pentwyn Road, Blackwood 10.00 a.m. Service followed by Laying of Wreaths at Blackwood Memorial, 10.45 a.m.

Sunday 11th November

St Thomas' Church, Cefn Fforest 10.00 a.m. Service followed by parade to Cenotaph for Service and Laying of Wreaths

16. Lamp Post Poppies

The Clerk presented his report -

It was agreed this time last year that Town Council in conjunction with Royal British Legion consider the provision of Lamp Post Poppies in town similar to other local towns.

I was of the opinion that RBL would be leading on this, but in an email from W Baber on 19th October he queried what was happening with same. I asked Bill if he could arrange same as soon as possible and I suggested we look to add the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to make it a more poignant and personal tribute. I took the names from the war memorial and initially tried adding names with a felt tip pen but failed miserably. Councillor G James suggested he visit Billyboard to see if we could get something printed. I contacted C.C.B.C., gave the necessary indemnity and assurances and got confirmation it was in order to place the poppies on nominated lamp posts in the town.

Councillor G James arranged with other members – A Farina-Childs, R Mills & T Evans (apologies if I've missed anyone as I know he received several offers of help) to fix the poppies Wednesday or Thursday.

I contacted members and a majority had said they were in favour of progressing this tribute as a matter of urgency.

Request confirmation of action taken at approximate cost of £255.

After some discussion, it was **unanimously agreed** to confirm the action of the Clerk

17. Scrutiny Review of C.C.B.C. Events Programme/ Request for additional contributions

The Clerk reported that he had forwarded a copy of the Scrutiny report in full for member's attention, but highlighted that the main recommendations were as follows -

- * Continue to run Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed & Blackwood Xmas Markets & Risca Summer Music in the Park together with the Regional tourism events (Caerphilly Big Cheese, Food Festival & Medieval Market – saving circa £49,494
- * Continue with only 2 of the Regional tourism events – saving circa £ 94,000
- * Cease Events Programme in its entirety – saving circa £125,902

Members voiced their disappointment that Blackwood were being disadvantaged yet again when compared with Caerphilly.

The Clerk pointed out that whilst Town Council only directly contributed £1,500 to events in the town as identified in the report, that did not properly reflect the fact that we also contributed to the Summer & Winter events by organising the Carnival and Switch On of Christmas lights together with entertainment stages at both events at an additional cost of approximately £8,500 - £9,000 if we include our Lantern Parade/ Carol Concert.

After some discussion it was **agreed** the Clerk write pointing out Town Councils additional indirect funding of these events. Furthermore, members like the Clerk queried the benefits of weekend events and suggested events just be held on the Saturday, thereby presumably reducing costs.

18. Planning Applications

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

Case Ref. 18/0825/RET

Site Area: 280m²

Location: 53 Lewis Lewis Avenue Blackwood NP12 1JQ (UPRN 000043055276)

Proposal: Retain and complete gazebo and raised decking in rear garden

Case Ref. 18/0840/FULL

Site Area: 161m²

Location: Land At Junction Of Gordon Road And High Street Blackwood (UPRN 000043082143)

Proposal: Design and create World War 1 memorial garden

Members queried whether they should declare an interest regarding the Memorial Garden but the Clerk advised he did not feel this was necessary.

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

19. Reports

The Clerk reported that with the assistance of Councillors A Short & Z Hammond the defibrillators would hopefully become operational over the next few weeks, and that he would be contacting June Thomas (Jack's Appeal ABUHB) to arrange unveiling of same together with Town Mayor and members and would be in touch with members once confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request(and donation of £100) from Blackwood Rotary Club that they be acknowledged as having contributed towards the Defibrillator in town. After some discussion it was **agreed** something could be included on any plaque attached to same.

Members commented on the Commemorative Garden at the bottom of Gordon Road and how things had progressed. It was anticipated planting would be completed by Wednesday/ Thursday 7th/ 8th November. The Clerk apologised that he had not been able to source a Silent Soldier for the site but hoped we might be able to get a bespoke piece of artwork installed in the near future.

The Clerk reported that he had ordered 2 Acid Attack Kits directly from the supplier thus saving the VAT. After some discussion members **agreed** the Kits be donated to Blackwood Street Pastors & Preachers Bar.

