

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH. MARCH 2016

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P Cook, M Veater MBE, G Hale & M Harris

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Farina-Childs declared an interest in Item 12 on the Agenda as he is Chair of Governors at Blackwood Comprehensive School

3. Vacancy On Town Council - Blackwood North Ward

The Clerk apologised for identifying a vacancy in the Cefn Fforst East Ward, when it was the Blackwood North Ward, due to the untimely death of our friend and colleague Councillor Glyn Erasmus.

It was ***agreed*** the Clerk contact Caerphilly County Borough Council and make the necessary arrangements to proceed with advertisement

4. Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor informed members that he had received an invitation to open the newly re-furbished Pets at Home Store in Blackwood, including the Vets4Pets Practice on Friday 18th. March and also an invitation to a Concert at Blackwood Methodist Church on Saturday 19th. March.

5. Correspondence

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

In respect of the One Voice Wales Response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Consultation, it was ***agreed*** the Clerk would forward same to members via e-mail.

In respect of the letter from the Planning Inspectorate, it was ***agreed*** the Clerk contact them to ascertain what constitutes developments of National Significance

In respect of the Welsh Government Amended Model of Conduct for Local Government, it was **agreed** this be circulated and discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

In respect of the letter from Sgt. Mark Thomas, it was the Clerk write to thank Mark for all his assistance and support over the past years, and wish him every success for the future.

6. *Schedule of Payments*

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

		£. p
Cancercareline	Donation in lieu of flowers	50.00
Playworks	Tax/N.I. February	487.70
John Hold	February Salary + reimbursements	669.10
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Room Hire – December & January	33.25
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Room Hire - February	14.25

7. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1st. February 2016*

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

8. *Matters Arising*

14. Planning Applications

Councillor J Criddle reported that we had forwarded our concerns regarding Application 15/0757/FULL - to locate catering trailer at Blackwood Workingmen's Club – quoting possible traffic implications at the entrance.

It does, however, appear that the van is currently trading at the site.

15. Reports

The Clerk reported that in respect of the plaque at 242 Blackwood Road, he had been in contact with the new owners who were not only eager to replace same, but possibly enhance the property by installing a new railings, possibly depicting the Chartists struggle.

He had picked up the plaque that was in need of some repair – re-housing and general cleaning, and sought members views on commissioning the work, given the plaque was originally supplied by Islwyn B.C. and the N.U.M.

Members agreed the Clerk make contact with Everson's in Ystrad Mynach and arrange the necessary works, but contacting C.C.B.C. to inform them that we were undertaking the work as a gesture of goodwill.

Furthermore, the Clerk agreed to make contact with officers at C.C.B.C. on behalf of the owners to see if they were aware of any grants that might be available to assist in the proposed new railings to be front of the property.

Councillor J Criddle asked if there were was any progress regarding the proposed readings by children on the Launch Evening At the Institute on April 29th.

The Clerk reported that h was due to contact Iain Richards next week and would raise the issue with him.

The Clerk reported that a defibrillator was now in place at the Institute.

Councillor A Farina-Childs stated that he would be meeting with Tom Forbes to firm up prices of defibrillators within the next week or so.

After some discussion it was agreed that the ideal place for the defibrillator to be purchased by Town Council would be somewhere near the Market Place/ Bus Station, and Councillor Farina-Childs said he would discuss same with Tom Forbes to identify the best position.

9. *To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee held on 15th. February 2016*

It was ***resolved*** the minutes be received

10. *To Receive the Minutes of the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee Meeting held on 2nd. December 2016*

It was ***resolved*** the minutes be received

11. *To Consider request for funding towards locking of Gates at the Showfield*

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from County Councillor Nigel Dix that the Town Council consider making a financial contribution towards the closure/locking of the gates at the Showfield, as cuts by C.C.B.C. had meant local residents were being disturbed in the evenings by cars in the car park.

However, he had now been informed that local residents had volunteered to carry out the duties and that C.C.B.C. were considering this option.

Councillor Zoe Hammond informed members that a similar issue had arisen in Pontllanfraith, but that volunteers had been stopped from assisting due to health and safety/insurance problems.

It was ***agreed*** the request not be considered at this time.

12. *To Consider request for funding/sponsorship towards proposed WRFU Coaching Scheme at Blackwood Comprehensive School*

Councillor A Farina-Childs who had declared an interest in this item took no part in the discussion.

The Clerk read a letter from the Headmaster of Blackwood Comprehensive School requesting Town Council to consider funding towards a proposed WRFU Coaching Scheme to be based at the school whilst working with all junior schools in the area.

After some discussion it was ***agreed*** this item be considered by the Policy & Finance Committee

13. Replacement Caerphilly C.B.C. Local Development Plan up to 2031 – Deposit Plan Consultation

Councillor J Criddle reported that having studied the document in some detail, there were a number of issues he wished to raise concerns over, namely –

Why the designation of land near Plas Mawr has changed ? – now in revised Settlement area

The proposed build of 120 houses on the Cwmgelli Farm Site – visually damaging to the area, especially from the Chartist Bridge area a identified previously

The proposed build of approx 200 houses on land to the north west of Grove Park

Why the designation of land at the Blackwood Golf Club has changed ? – now in revised Settlement area

He also informed members that any objections/observations submitted should not be totally negative, and that we should look to offer possible alternatives, for example, if members were adamant they didn't wish to see the proposed Cwmgelli Farm Site development proceed we should maybe recommend the necessary additional houses be developed on the proposed Grove Park Site.

After much discussion, it was proposed a Special Meeting of the Planning Committee be held, with all members being invited, so we can properly consider our formal response to the consultation. This was ***agreed*** by all present.

14. Planning Applications

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

Councillor J Criddle, Chair of Planning stated that he intended speaking to planning officers regarding the proposed petrol filling station at ASDA, but had no issues regarding the other application.

15. Reports

Councillor Z Hammond reported that the OWL Service was being stopped, albeit a similar version was to be re-introduced.

Councillor M Gwynne and other members questioned the advertising of the St. David's Day Events in town, as it appeared not many people seemed to be aware what was going on.

Councillors Z Hammond & C Erasmus reported that at the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting it was stated the event had been well advertised. It was agreed to contact Caerphilly C.B.C. and work with them in future to try and rectify the apparent problem.