

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 8TH MAY 2018**

Present : Councillor J Weeks (Mayor)

Councillor J Edwards (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, W Baber, P Cook, Z Hammond, N Turner C Erasmus,
R Weeks, D Jones, A Short, G James, M Gwynne & R Mills

Also present County Councillor K Etheridge & L Gardiner

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were receive from Councillor J Griffiths

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor M Gwynne declared an Interest in Item 9 as Governor at Ysgol Cwm Derwen and Councillor R Mills in Item 8 as Chairman of Pentwynmawr Community Centre

3. Introduction of new Co-opted Member (Rhys Mills) and his Signing of Acceptance of Office

Newly Co-opted Member Rhys Mills introduced himself to members and signed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk

4. Outgoing Mayoral Report

The Mayor reported her recent visits to Blackwood Musical Theatre Society's production of Fiddler on the Roof and the Welsh Film Festival at the Maxime Cinema, both of which she thoroughly enjoyed.

She then thanked members for their support during her year of office, with special thanks to Councillors Bill Baber & Zoe Hammond & the Clerk. She had been honoured to represent the town and had enjoyed the whole experience, especially having the opportunity of meeting so many different people.

Councillor D Davies thanked the Mayor on behalf of the Independents on Town Council for being the public face of the town and for all she had done during her year of office.

These sentiments were echoed by Councillor D Jones on behalf of Plaid Cymru and Councillor P Cook on behalf of the Labour Party.

Thanks had also been forwarded by Jane Mather Thomas, Head of Blackwood Primary School for the Mayor's support throughout the past year.

5. *To Elect a Mayor*

It was proposed, seconded and ***unanimously agreed*** that Councillor Jim Edwards be elected Mayor.

The new Mayor thanked Councillor Jan Weeks for her support during the past year, and said what a privilege it was to become Mayor of Blackwood, having had a business in town for many many years, and only recently having retired.

He said he was eager to raise the profile of Town Council, and engage with the general public maybe via pop up shop in the High Street, where the public could drop in and meet members to discuss ongoing issues. He also thought there might be an opportunity to invite along various charities who could outline the services they provide.

Members were supportive of this proposed initiative.

The Clerk highlighted the Review Panel considering the future role of Community & Town Councils, were asking Councils to organise pop-in sessions prior to end of May, and perhaps this could be the catalyst for this initiative. It was ***agreed*** to try and obtain permission to use a vacant shop in town. He felt Town Council needed to let the public know exactly what we do, and we should take that opportunity by producing a Newsletter sooner rather than later.

The Mayor reported his charity would be Alzheimers and that he had been in touch with the local branch who were very willing to work with him throughout the year to highlight the issues and educate the public on this devastating condition.

Members wished the Mayor well for his term of office, and he received an invitation to the Moose Hall for the unveiling of their defibrillator. The Moose also thanked Town Council for their donation towards same.

6. *To Elect a Deputy Mayor*

Councillors G James & A Short were both nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

After some discussion it was ***agreed*** that nominees should give a very brief resume as regards their suitability for the position. Both nominees spoke briefly, and after a secret ballot it was ***resolved*** that Councillor G James be elected Deputy Mayor.

It was ***agreed*** that future nominees be asked to provide a similar resume.

7. *To Nominate Members to the following –*

It was proposed by Councillor D Jones and seconded by Councillor Z Hammond that Chairs of Committees be appointed this evening. Once put to the vote, this proposal was defeated and status quo remains – Chairs to be elected at first meeting of Committees

(a) Finance & Policy Committee

It was ***resolved*** the following members be nominated –

Councillors P Cook, Z Hammond, D Davies, A Farina-Childs, W Baber, A Short & R Mills

(b) Planning & Licensing Committee

It was ***resolved*** the following members be nominated –

Councillors J Weeks, R Weeks, Z Hammond, N Turner & J Griffiths

(c) Environment Committee

It was **resolved** the following members be nominated –
Councillors W Baber, J Weeks, C Erasmus, D Jones, & M Gwynne

(d) Newsletter/Web Page Committee

It was **resolved** the following members be nominated –
Councillors R Weeks, W Baber, D Jones, Z Hammond & P Cook

(e) Twinning Committee

After some discussion, it was **resolved** this Committee be open to all members

(f) Events Committee

This Committee is open to all members.

8. To Nominate Members to the following

(a) Town & Community Council Joint Liaison Committee

Three members were nominated for the 2 positions – Councillors D Davies, C Erasmus & Z Hammond. After a vote, it was **resolved** that Councillors D Davies & C Erasmus be appointed

(b) C.C.B.C. Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee

Both Councillors D Davies & C Erasmus were nominated, and after a vote it was **resolved** that Councillor D Davies be appointed with Councillor C Erasmus his Deputy

(c) Blackwood Town Centre Management Group

Four members were nominated for the 2 positions - Councillors W Baber, G James, C Erasmus & Z Hammond, and after a vote it was **resolved** that Councillors C Erasmus & Z Hammond be appointed

(d) Blackwood Retail Partnership

It was **resolved** Councillors J Edwards & C Erasmus be appointed

(e) After Hours/ Night Time Economy Group

It was **resolved** Councillors Z Hammond & G James be appointed

(f) Bus Station Multi Agency Group

It was **resolved** Councillors D Davies & Z Hammond be appointed

(g) Mid Valleys East Steering Group

It was **resolved** that Councillors J Weeks & R Mills be appointed

(h) One Voice Wales Area Committee & Larger Councils Committee

It was ***resolved*** that Councillor C Erasmus be appointed

(i) Blackwood Town Centre Art Panel

It was ***resolved*** that Councillor C Erasmus be appointed

(j) Plas Mawr Community Centre Committee

It was ***resolved*** that Councillor J Griffiths be appointed.

It was also ***resolved*** that County Councillor N Dix be asked for a report on the Centres work over the past 12 months

(k) Velvet Coalmine Festival Planning Group

It was ***resolved*** that Councillors Z Hammond & R Mills be appointed. The Clerk also sits on the Group

It was noted that neither the Mid Valleys East Steering Group or the Town Centre Arts Panel had met for many years, and County members ***agreed*** to check whether they were still current.

9. To Consider Governor Representation – Ysgol Cwm Derwen & Ysgol Bro Sannan

After some discussion it was ***agreed*** to defer this matter.

Members queried whether all members should have DBS checks and it was ***agreed*** this would be beneficial and the Clerk was asked to obtain the necessary forms.

10. To Confirm Provisional Dates & Times of Future Council Meetings & Method of Notification (E mail)

It was ***resolved*** to continue with current arrangements – First Monday of each month commencing at 6.30pm at the Blackwood Miners’ Institute, unless first Monday is a Bank Holiday, and then we meet on second Monday. Provisional dates are as follows - 4th. June, 2nd. July, 3rd. September, 1st. October , 5th. November, 3rd. December, 7th. January 2019, 4th. February, 4th. March, 1st. April

It was also ***agreed*** method of notification to members be by e-mail, albeit paper copies of agenda/ minutes and reports be available at the meeting, and a copy of the Agenda will also be posted on the Town Council website and on the Notice Board in the Market Precinct

11. Correspondence

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

Councillors A Farina-Childs, D Davies, - Notification under Determination 44 that they will not
G James & J Edwards be claiming the £150 payable to members

County Councillor K Etheridge - Persimmon Development Update

County Councillors K Etheridge/A Farina-Childs Sirhowy River bridge update

Councillor Etheridge gave a brief verbal update on the above, and assured Town Council he would continue to keep on pressing officers to ensure as positive an outcome as possible.

One Voice Wales

- Notification of National Pay award from 1st. April 2018
The pay award amounts to approx. 2% and results in an increase from £ 13,039 per annum to £13, 299 per annum (£260) for the Clerk

Message from Independent Review Panel on Community & Town Councils – they are seeking views from members of the public on the future role of same and need some help. Request to hold a drop in session on Thursday 24th. May to collect views from the community and promote the event in our area – putting up posters etc. The session does not have to be hosted all day (clearly advertise timings) and evenings would be acceptable. They will provide all marketing materials, feedback sheets etc. They also offer to reimburse should we offer refreshments or those who pop in.

A Guide to One Voice Wales Services

Update on GDPR and Data Protection Bill

Iwan Thayer

Requesting consideration of Bench Memorial in respect of former Town Mayor Colonel Ken Robinson (1999/2000) his grandfather who died at his home in France last year.

Caerphilly C.B.C.

Notification of release of 1st. instalment of Precept £29,311

Response re. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre/ Review of Sport & Leisure Services

With regard the pay award members **agreed** implementation.

The proposed drop in session was covered earlier in the meeting.

With regard the consideration of a bench memorial, the Clerk suggested that given the fairly recent untimely deaths of two other mayors, perhaps consideration be given to the purchase a bench honouring all past mayors. It was **agreed** to discuss this at a future meeting.

12. Schedule of Payments

The following payments have been made / are due for payment –

		£. p
Moose International (Blackwood)	Grant	200.00
Blackwood Musical Theatre	“	200.00
Aber Valley Wolves Junior Rugby League	“	150.00
S W Davies (SSAFA)	“	200.00
Wales Int. Documentary Film Festival	“	250.00
Blackwood & District British Legion	“	200.00

Velvet Coalmine	Sponsorship	7,500.00
John Hold	April Salary + reimbursements	969.34
Playworks	April Tax/N.I	275.27
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Hanging Baskets	2,986.64
K & R Print	Carnival Application Forms	45.00

13. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9th. April 2018

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

14. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

15. Financial Accounts 2017/2018, together with Internal Auditor's Report & Annual Return for the Year Ended 31st. March 2018

The Clerk presented his report and the Accounts, and commented on variations to the original budget and previous monitoring report. The Internal Auditor was not available, and so he proposed to present the Annual Return to the next meeting.

It was *resolved* the Annual Accounts be approved.

16. Planning Applications

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

Case Ref. 18/0295/FULL

Proposal: Erect single storey extension to the rear and side

Applicant: Mr G Taylor 20 Caldicot Close Cefn Fforest Blackwood NP12 1HH

Case Ref. 18/0336/FULL

Proposal: Demolish existing single storey extension and construct part two storey, part single storey extension to side and rear including rear balcony

Applicant: Mr & Mrs J Price Gernant Brookside Bungalows Cwmgelli Blackwood NP12 1BQ

Case Ref. 18/0366/TPO

Proposal: Carry out crown reduction by 2m and removal of deadwood on Beech tree at front of property (Tree Preservation Order 2/82/IBC)

Applicant: Mrs A Bartle Jasmine View Sunnybank Road Blackwood NP12 1HT

After some discussion it was *agreed* there appeared no real contentious issues and no objections would be raised.

17. Reports

The Clerk reported that he had received a copy of the Proposals from Groundwork for the Memorial Garden at Gordon Road, and had forwarded same to Councillors Farina-Childs, Baber & Hammond for their attention. Whilst not as we had initially envisaged, the options seemed viable and certainly affordable.