

MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21ST. JANUARY 2019

Present : Councillor Z Hammond (Chair)
Councillor C Erasmus (Vice Chair)
Councillors J Edwards, G James, A Farina-Childs, D Davies, T Evans

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Griffiths R Mills, M Gwynne & D Jones

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made

3. To Receive the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 12th.November 2018

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

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. To Discuss issues relating to Velvet Coalmine Sponsorship withdrawal

After some discussion it was ***agreed*** the letter from Iain Richards reported at Town Council form part of the minutes of that meeting and it was also reiterated that letters of thanks be sent to Iain & Estelle Wilkinson for all their efforts over the past years.

Members were in agreement that we should not lose the close working relationship built up with the schools, and that we need to make contact with the head teachers to ascertain what they feel the benefits have been and look to build on those in future years, but more especially gain their support for participation in the planned 2020 celebrations.

The Clerk reported that he planned to recommend to Council via the budget deliberations to earmark the freed up £7,500 as a contribution towards the Bi Centenary Celebrations.

6. *To Discuss issues relating to 2020 Bi - Centenary Celebrations*

The Chair reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Blackwood & District Heritage Association, where she had been perturbed to hear the apparent expectations that Blackwood Town Council via the Clerk and the Events Committee would be responsible for organising the Bi-Centenary celebrations whilst also being likely to finance same.

The Clerk queried whether Lyn Pask had been invited to that meeting, and was assured by Councillor T Evans that he had, but was unfortunately not able to attend. Both he and Councillor J Edwards assured those present that the Historical Society were fully engaged.

The Clerk informed members he had written to Granville regarding the Town Councils intention of trying to get all interested parties together to firm up on proposals and to try to bring all organisations representatives under a Bi-Centenary Committee banner as opposed to an adjunct of an existing organisation. A initial meeting could formalise the said Committee and these organisations representatives can then keep their groups up to speed and perhaps take on specific responsibilities to ensure all angles are covered – Town Council might for example take responsibility for working with schools.

Councillor Z Hammond said she had requested information from Granville that might assist in discussion at this meeting. Councillor A Farina-Childs apologised to members that Granville had delivered same to him, but that he had unfortunately forgotten to bring same along to the meeting but would deliver to the Clerk tomorrow.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with Lyn Pask, and had asked if he had any notion of what the Printing costs of their proposed publication would be, he hadn't, but would aim to get a rough cost very soon.

Councillor Hammond reported that the Heritage Association were looking to involve all local villages in the celebrations, and felt this might be problematic as this was the Bi-Centenary of Blackwood, whilst understanding these villages had contributed to the development of the town. There may be opportunities for some involvement from neighbouring areas, but if Town Council were a major funder of celebrations, the Clerk urged caution as we would not want to be seen as acting ultra vires.

After much discussion, it was ***agreed*** the Clerk organise a meeting, hopefully at the Institute on Monday 16th. February @ 6.00pm inviting representatives from the Heritage Association, Historical Society, Blackwood Little Theatre, Blackwood Musical Society, Blackwood Miners Institute, the Library, Studio 54, local schools, local churches, sports clubs, youth groups (brownies, scouts, A.T.C. etc.), Caerphilly C.B.C., Gwent Archives, Police, Town Council with a view to creating a Bi-Centenary Committee