

## ***MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup>. APRIL 2023***

***Present :*** Cllr. G Edwards ( Mayor )

Cllrs. A Farina-Childs, K Etheridge, K Jones, A Bradfield, K Williams, C Clark, J Pearce  
& D Box

### ***1. Apologies for Absence***

Apologies were received from Cllrs. C Erasmus, D Davies, A Short & R Mills

### ***2. Declarations of Interest***

There were No Declarations of Interest

### ***3. Police Report***

There was no police presence

### ***4. County Borough Report***

Cllrs. K. Etheridge & A. Farina-Childs reported on the following –

An Armed Response unit deployed at Cefn Fforest Institute after reports of youngster with a firearm

The Planning application for garage at William Street was denied planning approval

A dispute with Pobl means the flats adjacent to the Institute will not become occupied until late April/May

No further movement regarding Drainage issues at Taylor Woodrow site at Cwmgelli. Cllr. Etheridge stated that the Company had announced redundancies and that he had requested a meeting to check progress

Skateboard Park at Showfield – response still awaited from Parks & Housing

Members had requested a more meaningful consultation on the Draft Waste Strategy which identifies possible 3 weekly refuse collection service/ a Booking system for Civic Amenity Sites and possible closure of Penmaen Site

### ***5. Mayoral Announcements***

The Mayor reported that he had made some visits to local schools, and had also attended Blackwood Little Theatre's production of the Classroom Comedy - Teechers ( directed by Cllr. C. Clark )

He also reported that he had started making arrangements for the Remembrance Service, together with a Concert at the Blackwood Miners Institute on 22<sup>nd</sup>. November

## 6. Correspondence

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

Caerphilly C.B.C.	Footfall figures – forwarded to members
	Invitation to Blackwood Town Centre Stakeholder Event Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> . April 5.30pm.@ Blackwood Miners – forwarded to members
	Event Report for Blackwood Spring Fair – forwarded to members
	Agenda Community Council Liaison Sub C'ttee on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> . April
Cllr. P Cook	Resignation from Town Council
Audit Wales	Notification of change of address to 1 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ
	Pro forma Annual return for 2022/2023
Insp. Oliver Petty	Councillor Catch Up - Sunday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> . 10.00am via Teams Meeting
One Voice Wales	Training Dates – March & April – forwarded to members
Head Libanus School	Querying if T.C. had any plans for Coronation
Louise Dewsbury	Request to add Pharmacy Near Me to Resources page of T.C. website
Mary Williams	Request to add Dentist Near Me to Resources page of T.C. website

The Mayor and Clerk both stated they had written to Pat Cook thanking her for her dedicated service to the town over many years

## 7. Schedule of Payments

The Clerk presented his report on payments made/ due for payment, and all were *unanimously agreed*

		£. p
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Poster design costs Christmas Events	40.00
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Cancelled Beach Party Costs	2,979.38
Blackwood Comp. School	Financial Assistance	214.41
John Hold	March Sals/ reimbursements	1,061.90
HMRC	March Tax/ N.I.	318.47
Katherine Watkins	March Fee	20.00
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Web Maintenance	200.00
Caerphilly C.B.C.	Printing/Photocopying ( Incl. £22.25 VAT )	133.50
Blackwood Meth. Church	Room Hire	180.00
Members x 5	Members Allowances	683.00
Blackwood Garden Centre	Materials/ Plants for Rememb. Garden ( Incl. £16.64 VAT )	99.80
One Voice Wales	2023/24 Membership Subscription	1,426.00
Zurich Ins.	2023/24 Insurance Premium	1,351.61

**8. To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> .March 2023**

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

**9. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**10. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>. March 2023**

The Clerk presented the Minutes and the recommendations that -

In the case of HOPE Food bank, an initial grant of £250 be made, with the request for a receipt of the spend and also a list of all streets that deliveries of food parcels are delivered to.

Furthermore, members reconsider an additional payment of £250 in 3 months time.

In the case of Comic Con Project at Blackwood Library, no support be given at this time. Members were concerned that no specific business case or marketing strategy had been prepared/ presented, that 17 schools supposed catchment had been identified ( with realisticall only 3 being in the Town Council area ), whether perhaps too many projects would compromise volunteer availability and that the total £2, 200 funding was expected up front.

In the case of an Application from the Tuesday Club, Fitzroy Lodge for £250 to assist with transport costs to take members on various trips in the summer, as no members currently resided in the Town Council area, they be advised that the application did not meet our criteria.

These were *agreed* by members

**11. Provisional Out- turn for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2023**

The Clerk presented his provisional out-turn report, which projected a surplus of £75k for the year albeit £69k was in respect of unbudgeted Community Infrastructure Levy.

He explained he hoped to present the final Out–turn, together with the Annual Return and Internal Audit Report to the next meeting.

The Report was received.

## ***12. Review of Community Arrangements in Caerphilly***

The Clerk presented his report which identified notification had been received that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission are undertaking a review of all community boundaries in the County Borough, and consultation expires on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, I contacted Dave Beecham for some advice, his response is as follows -

The consultation is about boundaries, your outer boundary and wards.

This first stage is an opportunity for your Council to submit any changes you may want to make. For example there may be new housing somewhere that would be better off in a different ward or even community. There are maps on the commission website

Of course you may not want to change anything – this is the first opportunity and there is a second stage where the Commission will publish draft proposals where you can comment if you wish.

Further information can be found on their website:- [Caerphilly Community Review | LDBCW \(gov.wales\)](https://www.ldbcw.gov.wales)

Any enquiries to [consultations@boundaries.wales](mailto:consultations@boundaries.wales) or to the Caerphilly review officer Carys Vayghan [carys.vaughan@boundaries.wales](mailto:carys.vaughan@boundaries.wales)

***Copies of the document were forwarded via e mail to members for their attention/ reference***

After some discussion it was ***agreed*** that current boundary should remain but that a request be forwarded that Cefn Fforest East Ward be renamed as Blackwood West Ward

## ***13. Planning Applications***

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

### ***Case Ref. 23/0040/RET***

Location: Blackwood Service Station 275 High Street Blackwood NP12 1AW

Proposal: Retain installation of modular self-service laundrette facility and associated works

Case Officer: Joe Simmons 07874 641751 [simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

### ***Case Ref. 23/0108/HH***

Location: 62 Beaumaris Way Cefn Fforest Blackwood NP12 1DE

Proposal: Erect single storey rear extension and convert garage

Case Officer: Joe Simmons 07874 641751 [simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

### ***Case Ref. 23/0135/OUT***

Location: Land At Newlyn Lon Pennant Cwmgelli Blackwood NP12 1BR

Proposal: Erect a single detached dwelling and garage

Case Officer: Joshua Burrows 07874 641749 [burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Case Ref. 23/0177/FULL**

Location: Brynderi 7 Sunnybank Road Blackwood NP12 1HY

Proposal: Erect two storey dwelling

Case Officer: Joshua Burrows burroj1@caerffili.gov.uk

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

**14. Reports**

Cllr. D Box reported that she had received information via Champs which showed that over a given period, certain CCTV cameras namely 177 & 178 positioned on the Chartist Bridge were out of action on 70 & 34 occasions respectively, which surely raised questions on the validity of information provided.

Information had also been obtained from Sustrans which indicated that the height of barriers on the Bridge as part of the National Cycle Network should be 1.4 metres high to be compliant with current safety standards.

These issues were to be raised with the Borough.

She also informed members that Caerphilly C.B.C. were one of a few authorities that Records Deaths from Structures

Cllr. A Farina-Childs reported that he had attended the Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair the previous weekend where he had picked up various promotional items, namely pens & bags being distributed free to visitors by Gelligaer Community Council and raised whether this might be something Town Council should consider.

**15. Date of Annual General Meeting**

The Clerk reminded members that the scheduled date of our next meeting the Annual General Meeting 1st. May was a Bank Holiday as was the following Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. May

The options therefore would seem to be to hold the AGM on another evening or wait until Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. May which should give time for interviews for the 3 co-options ( providing no call for Election ) and enabling the successful candidates to then attend the A.G.M.

After some discussion it was agreed the Annual General Meeting be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2023