

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH. JUNE 2024

Present : Cllr R Mills (Mayor)

Cllr. G Edwards Etheridge (Deputy Mayor)

Cllrs. K Williams, C Clark, A Farina-Childs, D Davies, C Erasmus & K Jones

Cllr D Box attended remotely

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs. K Etheridge, M Gwynne, N Dix, A Short & P Cook

2. Declarations Of Interest

Cllr. A Farina-Childs gave notice of potential Declaration under Planning Applications

3. Co-option to Town Council

The Mayor reported that the Co-option Interview Committee had met earlier and interviewed former Town Cllr. Janet Griffiths who had expressed an interest in being co-opted.

The Committee were unanimous in their decision and recommend to Town Council that Janet Griffiths be co-opted onto Town Council to represent the Cefn Fforest East Ward.

Members present were unanimous in agreeing to the recommendation.

Cllr. Janet Griffiths was welcomed to the meeting and signed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk

4. One Voice Wales Advice - Pre - Election Timetable of Actions

The Clerk presented his report on the Pre Election Period (previously known as Purdah) which identified the restrictions Community & Town Councils should observe during this period to avoid any allegation that public money is being spent to influence the outcome of the election – publicity, use of council facilities and resources, code of conduct, holding of events including some meetings featuring elected officials should all be carefully considered during this period.

The report was received and noted.

After some discussion and taking into consideration that two members are directly involved in the forthcoming General Election it was **unanimously agreed** the next Town Council meeting be postponed from Monday 1st. July to Monday 8th. July

5. *Police Report*

There were no Police present to report.

However, Cllr. A Farina-Childs reported that he had contacted the Police & Council with regard issues reported by residents in respect of the Bus Station. He was disappointed at the response from Adam Laing who intimated there had only been 3 calls regarding ASB at the Bus Station over the past weeks. This is obviously not a true reflection of the situation, and probably due to frustration of the public in reporting issues – police advise emailing as response could be quicker and it will be logged.

6. *County Borough Report*

Cllr. A Farina-Childs reported on a meeting with residents of Cwm Gelli and CCBC officers held at Ty Penallta, where they outlined their case/ grievances

He also reported that members had not been involved/ consulted on the works due to start on the Pobl development on Coronation Road, to the dismay of residents.

Joy riders are becoming an issue again, with several frequently congregating near KFC and riding over the bridge and around the vicinity.

7. *Mayoral Announcements*

The Mayor reported that having only been in Office 3 weeks, and being on holiday for 2 of those weeks he had little to report, other than that he had attended the Office last Tuesday to welcome HSBC to their first monthly pop up session, which had in their view been quite successful with several customers dropping in for advice/ service.

8. *Correspondence*

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

<i>Welsh Govt.</i>	Councillor Allowances Homeworking & consumables
<i>One Voice Wales</i>	Guidance on Multi locational / Hybrid Meetings Training Sessions – forwarded to members
<i>Caerphilly C.B.C.</i>	Notification of Nil CIL Receipts for 2023/24 also request of details of CIL spend for 2023/24 with supporting invoices Footfall figures – forwarded to members
<i>Blackwood Little Theatre</i>	Thanks for most generous support

9. *Schedule of Payments*

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

		£. P
John Hold	May Salary + reimbursements	827.38
HMRC	May Tax/ NI	606.05
Playworks	May Fee	20.00
A Short	Reimbursement – Fixing of Post Box	250.00
Blackwood CCTV	Installation of CCTV cameras	1,215.00
Bebb Tasker & Sucksmith	Lease Payment (incl. VAT £160.00)	960.00
Blackwood Little Theatre	Financial Assistance	1,095.00
Spectrum Fibre Ltd	Broadband (incl. VAT £20.73)	124.40
Mayors Charity	Financial Assistance	250.00
Boverton Nurseries	Hanging Baskets (incl. VAT £227.14)	1,662.84
United Graphic Design	Website hosting & support (incl. VAT £33.27)	199.62

10. *To Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Annual General Meeting held 20th. May 2024*

It was *resolved* the Minutes be accepted as a true record

11. *Matters Arising*

Cllr D Davies reported that the D Day Celebration Service at Cefn Fforest Cenotaph had been very well attended and that Cllr A Short had laid a wreath on behalf of Town Council

12. *Verbal Update on Beach Party to be held Saturday 13th. July*

The Clerk reported that the Caerphilly team had plans well in hand for the event and that realistically Town Council were responsible for the Entertainment Stage throughout the day. Local Community Dance/ Performance Groups had been contacted and Jenna (Studio 54, with her numerous contacts) was assisting in the booking of other performers. Members were requested to show their support in and around the Stage area throughout the day if at all possible.

The Deputy Mayor raised some concerns regarding some of the associated costs of the Events in town, namely Spring Fair, Beach Party & Christmas Market – road closures and street entertainment.

The Clerk agreed some of the costs seemed excessive and has queried costs of advertising of/ and physical road closures but has been assured these are best quotes available and minimum requirements for said event.

After some discussion it was agreed that if we wish these events to continue in the future we may need to scrutinise costs more closely whilst realising Town Council wouldn't currently be in a position to consider organising these without the Borough's assistance.

13. Planning Applications

The Clerk presented his report on Planning Applications received since the last meeting -

Case Ref. 24/0364/CLPU

Location: 30 Parc Plas Blackwood NP12 1SJ

Proposal: Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for permission for the erection single storey detached garage for Planning Consent (2/12308)

Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (01443 864427 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Case Ref. 24/0370/HH

Location: Laurels Tredegar Road Cwmgelli Blackwood NP12 1BW

Proposal: Replace existing conservatory with new rear extension and side extension to existing garage

Case Officer: Joe Simmons (01443 864428 : simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Case Ref. 24/0390/COU

Location: 195-197 High Street Blackwood NP12 1AA

Proposal: Change of use of commercial ground floor space and lower ground floor commercial storage to part commercial and part residential, creating 2 No. two bedroom flats

Case Officer: Joe Simmons (01443 864428 : simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

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

The Clerk reported on a letter of consultation received in respect of an Application for change of use from Restaurant to Children's Nursery at Chef Ceylon, 10 Bridge Street, Blackwood.

This was the potential item Cllr A Farina-Childs Declared an Interest in, as a family member is involved in the Nursery in question, and he took no part in the discussion or decision making.

After some discussion members agreed that no objections be raised, but had concerns / reservations regarding positioning of same on a busy road and trust the business will be advised that all children are dropped off and picked up in the car park, and not on the main road.

14. Reports

The Mayor reported that with an additional staff member, potential additional co-opted members and the need for a dedicated lap top for the office, realistically an additional 3 such lap tops were required. Members **agreed** the lap tops be purchased from Curry's as per original purchases.