

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON DECEMBER 2ND.2024**

Present : Cllr. C Clark (Vice Chair)
Cllrs. R Mills, G Etheridge, C Erasmus & Cllr N Dix

Also Present Cllrs. J Griffiths & A Short

In the absence of the Chair it was ***unanimously agreed*** Cllr C Clark (Vice Chair) Chair the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs. K Williams (Chair) D Box & D Davies

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this time

3. To Receive the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held 11th. November 2024

The Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on 11th. November were received and ***agreed*** by members

4. Update on the following –

- ***Potential security works at Offices - inner door and possible shutters for external door and window screens***

Cllr. G Etheridge reported that he had received one quotation in respect of mag locks for the two internal doors from J Manny for in excess of £3,000 and was now awaiting other quotes. Whilst this does seem excessive both he and Cllr R Mills suggested this might be a realistic quote and Council might have to reconsider further in coming weeks.

Furthermore, he had arranged for a company to attend and quote for potential shutters to the external door and windows later in the week.

- ***Deep Clean of High Street***

Cllr. R Mills reported he had made contact with several companies regarding this potential work and that the likely costs could be several £'000 for the whole High Street, whilst the cleaning of the Pierhead area would cost in the region of £1,500 - £2,000.

Members were mindful that if any specific area were singled out for this treatment, then it could ultimately show up the remainder of town and potentially raise residents/visitors expectations for further works.

After some further discussions it was agreed we do not proceed at this point, but instead contact Caerphilly Borough Council to see if a road sweeping vehicle could drive through town and help tidy up the High Street.

- ***Potential for Use of CIL Monies***

The Clerk reported that whilst he was still awaiting official confirmation from the relevant Borough officers, he was confident that having already sanctioned initial works and furniture purchase at the Offices that the works currently under consideration would also be an agreed use of CIL monies.

5. Flooding of Blackwood Rugby Club – Possible Financial Assistance

The Clerk stated that members would all be very well aware of the of the horrendous consequences of Storm Bert at Blackwood Rugby Club, and this following a similar occurrence back just 5 years ago (Storm Dennis).

Having had discussions with the Mayor & Deputy Mayor, who were both eager to try and assist the Club financially as best we could, he reported that he had made contact with the Borough to check whether CIL monies could be used to make some Financial Assistance, as the Club was an integral part of the local community.

The response was positive from Officers and whilst in correspondence having also queried if there were any additional CIL monies due to Town Council during the current year, had been informed an additional £4,000 was due.

Cllr. R Mills informed the meeting he had visited the Club and spoken to the Chair & Members offering Town Council Assistance where possible, whilst also visiting Blackwood Garden Centre (whilst not in our area) and the Gym both also affected badly by the storm.

After some discussion, it was moved by Cllr.R Mills seconded by Cllr G Etheridge and ***unanimously agreed*** by Committee that we recommend to Town Council that a Grant of £5,000 be awarded to Blackwood Rugby Club from CIL monies.

6. Application for Financial Assistance - Libanus Primary School

The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the above just after forwarding the Agenda for tonight's meeting. He had forwarded a copy of said application to all members suggesting this be dealt with at the meeting, and all had agreed.

Cllr C Erasmus declared an Interest as Governor at the School and took no part in the discussion or decision making.

The Clerk reported the School were seeking assistance towards an outlay of £357 to create a more welcoming space for parents and members of the community when visiting the school by purchasing sofas etc. to furnish a suitable room.

After some discussion it was moved by Cllr G Edwards & seconded by Cllr. R Mills and ***unanimously agreed*** that the Committee recommend to Town Council that a Grant of £357 be awarded to the School.

