



Draft Minutes of the Blackwood Town Council Meeting held at 6.30pm on 2nd March 2026, at Blackwood Town Council Offices

Present: Councillor G Etheridge - Mayor, Councillors D Box, C Clarke, P Cook, D Davies, K Jones, L Perkins, A Short, Councillor K Etheridge

1. Acceptance of Office

Leanne Perkins was recently co-opted as a Member for Blackwood North. Acceptance of office was signed in the presence of Members, and the Clerk.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors C Erasmus, J Griffiths (Deputy Mayor), R Mills, K Williams.

3. To receive Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest made at this point.

4. Police Report

A confidential report was submitted by the police updating Members on various operations in the Town.

5. County Borough Report

A recent site meeting was held with Taylor Wimpey.

Pobl site issues, a meeting was due to be held on 2nd March.

Fly tipping and parking continue to be issues of concern.

Proposed skate park; further delayed due to contractor being unable to comply with Health and Safety requirements.

6. Mayoral Announcements

It has been a busy time, the Big Welsh Festival held on 28th February went well, no footfall figures yet but it was a busy day and there has been good feedback, especially on the provision of children's books. It is planned to have a stall at future events; the next will be the Beach Party on 18th July.

7. Correspondence

Main items of correspondence received were as follows: -

Pensions Regulator Re-enrolment information

Grant Application from the Air Cadets



CCBC

Information from the Events Team for the Spring Fair

Invitation to the Town Centre Stakeholder Meeting on 15th April

Town Centre Audit Report

Traffic Orders

Survey re the value of the Town and Community Council Liaison Committee

Footfall figures for February.

Request for information on the spend/allocation of CIL monies.

One Voice Wales

Covid 19 National Day of Remembrance 8th March; information requested from Town and Community Councils on how they supported residents during Covid.

Minutes of Area Meeting held on 28th January 2026

Boundary Commission Annual Remuneration Report 2026/27

National Awards Categories

Presentation slides from larger councils meeting held on 11th February

Aneurin Bevan UHB

Information on Conference for International Women's Day 3rd March, Newport

Various circulars Stroke services, new chemotherapy unit.

Items of correspondence were noted.

There was some discussion on the value of the Stakeholder meetings. **Council asked the Clerk to write to the Town Centre Manager** to request a meeting to discuss this and to find out what the Town Centre Management Team can do to assist footfall and support local businesses.

Council approved a grant of £250.00 for the Air cadets.



8. Schedule of Payments Made/Due

Supplier	Description	Amount
The Works	Books for Events	£48.00
Currys	Laptop	£499.00
Big Bear Promo	Promotional Items (Bags)	£768.00
Tinted Vision	Tint to Office Windows	£80.00
Zurich	Insurance	£1,661
HMRC	PAYE/NI	£877.80
One Voice Wales	Training: The Council as an Employer	£376.00
Adam Unwin (Carpenter)	Relocate and Refix Handrail to internal steps	£50.00
Notetop Office Solutions	White A4 Paper	£80.64
Notetop Office Solutions	Bookcase	£174.00
Notetop Office Solutions	Suspension Files	£95.95
British Gas	Gas	£421.71
Plan.com	Mobile Phones	£64.80
Ogi	Broadband	£204.60
Male Voice Choir	Mayor's Concert-Donation	£250.00
J Manny	Site Visit for the front door repair	£178.80
J Manny	Front door repairs	£1,213.14
K Watkins	Payroll fee	£20.00
Dwr Cyr	water rates	£725.00
Bebb et al	Office lease	£960.00
Amazon	Office Supplies	£20.99
NNDR	Business rates	£680.00
The Publicity Centre	Promo flags, tablecloth, bookmarks	£1,027.20
British Gas	Electricity Bill	£74.38
Jack's Appeal	Defibrillators	£3,742.00
Imagin	ID Badge and Holder	£12.84
Imagin	ID Badge and Holder, Lanyards	£48.42
		£14,354.27

The Clerk highlighted some of the larger payments such as door repair, insurance and defibrillator costs. The defib in the marketplace had to be replaced so this added to the cost. Another quote has been requested for insurance.

Council resolved to approve the payment schedule.

9. To confirm the draft Minutes of the last Town Council meeting held on 2nd February 12th 2026.

Council approved the minutes.

10. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

11. Reports



An anonymous email had been received in respect of Jane's Baby Bank. An appropriate response had been sent.

12. Appointment of Internal Auditor

The previous auditor has retired and so there is a need to appoint a new internal auditor. It was proposed that Mr John Hold be appointed. The proposal was unanimously approved. **The clerk was requested to contact Mr Hold to advise of the approval.**

13. Policies

Council resolved to approve the updated sickness absence, grievance procedure and co-options policy.

14. Planning Applications

Planning Case Ref BT/26/0001 Remove BT public payphone, High Street Blackwood

GRID REFERENCE-312717 (E)210036 (N)

The clerk advised that the payphone shelter could be retained if required as a defib station. Councillors agreed that this would not be needed.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Erection of a garden studio 2 Graig View Highland Terrace Blackwood NP12 1QN GRID REFERENCE - 317322(E) 197099(N).

No objections from the Town Council to either of the applications.

15. Date of Next Meetings

Monday 16th March, Policy and Finance Meeting, BTC Offices 6.30pm

Monday 13th April, Council Meeting, BTC Offices 6.30pm. Easter Monday is the first Monday in April, so meeting put back to the 2nd Monday

16. Creative Kids Christmas Lights

There is an opportunity to involve local children in designing Christmas lights. It was suggested that the three local schools be approached to be involved.

The lights created could include the school name and winners could be invited to be involved in the Christmas lights switch on. **It was agreed to bring further details for a decision at next Council in April.**

Other Issues

Concerns were raised by Members about the current Accident and Emergency provision for the Blackwood area. Councillors are aware of long waiting times at



Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and at other local hospitals including The Grange (18 hours in some cases). Town Council will be lobbying for improved service delivery.

It was agreed to consider sending a letter from the Town Council to the Health Board, and new Health Minister after the Senedd elections in May.

It was also suggested that the County Borough Councillors put forward a cross party motion to CCBC full council in June

Meeting closed at 7.30pm