

Minutes of meetings 13th April 2026

In attendance:

Cllr's G Etheridge –Mayor, J Griffiths (Deputy Mayor) D Box, C Clarke, D Davies,
N Dix, A Farina-Childs, M Gwynne, R Mills, L Perkins, A Short



1/23/26. Apologies for Absence

Cllr's K Etheridge (OBE) K Williams, P Cook

2/13/26. Declaration of Interests

None received

3/13/26. Police Report - It is positive to see the good work the police are doing within the area and that in a variety of areas crime is on the decrease.

4/13/26. County Borough Report - for information

- Showfield Car Park
The car park in the Showfield is currently having new drainage and the potholes been addressed
- Congratulations - Best wishes to Margaret and Brian Main from Cwmgelli Blackwood who has celebrated 64 years of marriage
- Litter / Recycling
Thanks to the Mayor for bringing concerns about litter and recycling at the rear of High Street to the council and grateful thanks to Alma Jones from CCBC for visiting this location
- Stakeholders Meeting
The next meeting for traders, stakeholders and interested parties will be held on Wednesday 15th April at 6pm in The Social Bull (the new darts/pool centre) 115 High Street NP12 -1AD. It will provide networking and collaborative working and allow you to find out what's going on in the town centre.
Formal complaints have been made to the Minister and the Planning Directorate for the non-response to letters and queries over the proposed Persimmon Development North of Grove Park Rear of Coronation Road - Houses Pobl. There has been much controversy over this housing development. Meetings, queries and representations are currently being made by residents and Councillors to Pobl and Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- United Welsh Flats by Snap fitness. Ongoing issues with water pooling on site.
- Pobl Development. On-going issues especially in relation to flooding of properties.
- Fly Tipping / Litter: Rear of the Foresters. You highlighted this issue, which I do thank you for requesting this issue be resolved.
- Chartist Bridge. Unfortunately, there have been a few instances here since the last TC Meeting.
- Speed Ramps Sunnybank Rd: We have been contacted by residents in relation to the height of the speed ramps. CCBC have confirmed that they are within current criteria.
- Bollards Blackwood Primary School. Following requests from residents for the installation of Bollards we met with the Highways Inspector who informed us that Bollards couldn't be installed as



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the path is only 1.2Metres wide and legislation states that the path must be a minimum of 1.5Metres wide for Bollards to be installed.

- Potholes: Again, all of us have been contacted by residents in all areas of Blackwood and have requested that potholes be inspected and filled.

5/13/26. Mayoral Announcements

None given.

6/13/26. Correspondence

- Blackwood Cricket club application for grant – they are asking for £250.
Resolved: To defer the application so that more information can be sought re previous grants provided. The Club has explained the balance sheet figure includes a one-off grant for specialist equipment.
- A meeting date with the town management team has not been possible due to staff absence.
- The clerk & deputy clerk have attended several training sessions, the most recent being on minutes and agendas.
- Blackwood Rugby Club – presentation to be arranged to publicise the grant given for flood defences.
Date - TBC
- Letter from Lewis Street Allotment Association – It was reported that it is a good project and it would be useful for the council to have more information. The Chair is happy to come to a meeting and give a presentation to members.
- Cllr K Williams requested a dispensation for leave of absence and this was unanimously approved.
- There have been four Freedom of Information requests. Instructions have been given to direct the applicant to the information requested readily available on the website.
- TV Licence Declaration – None required
- Torfaen Pension Fund End of Year Figures are £2808.98 and estimated contributions for 26/27 are £5966.87
- Democracy and Boundary Commission has now published recommendations for electoral arrangements in Caerphilly County Borough.
- Footfall Figures – circulated to members
- Pre-Election Period guidance has been issued to members
- CCTV Review for Cefn Fforest, - acknowledgment sent to CCBC
- Details of upcoming events given to members
- Confirmation from CCBC has been given regarding BTC stall at Beach Party and Christmas Fair
- Invitation to workshop on 6th May to discuss Festoon Lighting regulations
- No response from Audit Wales in regard to further queries on recent audit
- Information for Annual Return 2026.
- One Voice Wales membership renewal notice
- One Voice Wales Papers for Area Meeting on 8th April 2026
- National Awards Reminder from One Voice Wales



713/26. Schedule of Payments - for approval

Payments List from 26th February

Supplier	Description	Amount
SLCC	Course for Clerk and Deputy	£184.80
SLCC	Webinar for Clerk	£36.00
British Gas	Gas	£247.10
K and R Print	Letterheads	£126.00
BTC	Member Expenses	£2,843
Digital Systems UK	New Photocopier	£2,034.00
Bebb et al	Lease	£960.00
Torfaen Pension Fund	Pension Contributions	£497.23
Spectrum Fibre	Broadband etc	£409.20
British Gas	Electricity	£74.38
Ove Voice Wales	Training: Understanding the Law	£376.00
Amazon	Office Supplies	£70.87
Post Office	Postage	£20.40
The Works	Children's Books	£100.00
BTC	Petty Cash	£50.00
Amazon	Office Supplies	£31.90
SLCC	Arnold Baker Book	£149.40
Plan.com	Mobile phones	£64.80
Dwr Cymru	Water	£77.73
CCBC	Big Welsh Festival	£3,000
Post Office	Postage	£8.19
Canva	Design Software	£256.16
Torfaen Pension Fund	Pension Contribution arrears	£648.44
Digital Systems UK	Monthly bill	£65.99



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K and R Print	Letterheads	£126.00
Torfaen Pension Fund	Employee Contributions	£178.57
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British Gas	Gas	£247.10
Marc Price	Santa/Santa Train	£500.00
BTC	Salaries	£2,438.82
British Gas	Electricity	£61.20
HMRC	PAYE/NI	£877.18
Post Office	Postage	£20.88
BTC	Salaries	£2,438.32
Post Office	Postage	£6.96
Zurich	Insurance	£1,676.35
Bebb et al	Lease	£960.00
Spectrum Fibre (Ogi)	Broadband etc	£204.60
	TOTAL	£22,564.80

It was resolved to approve all payments.

8/13/26. Confirm minutes of last Council meeting held on 2nd March 2026

Resolved - That the minutes are an accurate record.

9/13/26. Planning Applications - for consideration

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Alter existing shop front in order to remove the stepped access and install a new glazed entrance door within the existing screen. Principality Building Society 129 High Street, Blackwood NP12 AB

Grid Reference –317432(E) 197129(N)

No Objections were raised

An application for a property in Oakdale is outside of the Town Council area,

10/13/26. To consider approval of writing formally to CCBC regarding the status of ARUP bridge report and Chartist Bridge alterations. The report was concluded over a year ago and despite numerous requests the report has not been shared.

Resolved – On behalf of the council a letter will be sent to the chief executive Mr Richard Edmunds and FOI sent to ask them to share the report.

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11/13/26. Creative Kids: Christmas Lights Design for consideration and decision. Schools create a design for the Christmas lights.



Resolved – the criteria to be decided later.

12/13/26. One Voice Wales Membership- for consideration and decision,

Resolved – Members agreed to renew at a cost of £1685.

14/13/26. Office Cover: for discussion.

The office is short of cover as it has become busier since the LA has been advertising our services which is having a positive impact on footfall. If councillors are able to assist with any help this would be appreciated.

Resolved – Councillors were directed to the diary for days where assistance is needed.

15/13/26. Defibrillators – Two new ones have been installed outside of BMI and the Methodist Church and are now ready for use.

Resolved - training will be sought for all councillors.

16/13/26. Franking Machine – for discussion and decision

Discussion regarding the cost of postage to residents. Costs presented for last financial year and this year so far, an increase has been identified. We need to ensure inclusivity; therefore, we will monitor how much is being spent on postage going forward.

Resolved – Monitor the cost of postage and bring back to the council at a future date.