



**CABINET SITTING AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS'
INSTITUTE, THE NINE MILE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
AND THE JOHN EDWARDS FUND**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2019 AT 11.25 A.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor D.V. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), N. George (Neighbourhood Services), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), B. A. Jones (Finance, Performance and Governance), P. Marsden (Education and Achievement), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services), M. S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and S. Harris (Interim Head of Business Improvement Services).

Also in attendance:

P. Hudson (Marketing and Events Manager), M. Eedy (Finance Manager) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

**3. CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE MINUTES –
17th OCTOBER 2018**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2018 (minute nos. 1 - 4) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. **BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/2018**

The report updated Cabinet as Trustees of the Blackwood Miners' Institute (BMI) of the operational activities and financial position of BMI for the financial year ending 31st March 2018. BMI was conveyed as a charitable trust to Islwyn Borough Council, (and subsequently to Caerphilly County Borough Council), and was registered as a charity on 13th November 1990. The local authority, acting as sole corporate trustee has a legal duty to operate the charity in accordance with the governing document, and has a legal obligation to account for the charity's finances in accordance with the Charity Act 2011. The annual report and audited statement of accounts for 2017/2018 were appended to the report. Cabinet as Trustees of BMI are required to consider the accounts prior to the annual report and accounts being submitted to the Charity Commission as part of the annual return, in compliance with the requirements of the Charity Act 2011.

Members were advised that in response to the ongoing reductions in Council subsidy, BMI is working hard to increase the income from shows by changing the way it agrees profit sharing, and also by bringing in new acts to attract new audiences. Income generated from shows in 2017-18 was £302,315 which continues to increase from £249,768 in 2015/2016 and £275,119 in 2016/2017 (an increase of 21% £52.6k in two years). Bar and vending services which only operate when there are events in the building also generated combined profit of £13,449 towards the aims of the charity and to improve financial viability. The Arts Council Wales - Arts Portfolio Wales (APW) grant of £129,376 allocated to BMI provides additional funding for programme support. This will help with arranging a full programme including offsite performances and an increased number of accessible performances. It will also increase marketing and technical capacity, allowing BMI to continue co-producing and increase participation in the arts.

Members discussed the annual report and debated how opportunities can be maximised ensuring that BMI remains sustainable and resilient in moving forward. It was suggested that Officers seek advice in respect of reviewing the membership of the trustees. This will include the arts and commercial sector within BMI and ensure revenue remains sustainable and resilient and a further report be brought in response. Officers advised that a meeting is scheduled with the Arts Council for Wales on the 17th January 2019 regarding the funding agreement. Officers will then develop a business plan in line with the funding allocation. The funding had been increased 3 years ago and the last 2 years has remained the same.

Following consideration and discussion, and subject to the foregoing it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to an additional recommendation that Offices to seek advice in respect of reviewing the membership of the trustees to include arts and commercial sector expertise to maximise opportunities within BMI and ensure revenue remains sustainable and resilient and a further report be brought in response, and for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the contents of the Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts for Blackwood Miners' Institute for financial year 2017/2018, be noted and endorsed;
- (ii) Officers to seek advice in respect of reviewing the membership of the trustees to include arts and commercial sector expertise to maximise opportunities within the BMI and ensure that revenue remains sustainable and resilient, and a further report be brought in response.

5. CABINET SITTING AS TRUSTEE OF THE NINE MILE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE JOHN EDWARDS MEMORIAL FUND

The report sought Cabinet as Trustees approval to amend the rules of the Nine Mile Scholarship Fund and the John Edwards Memorial Fund (“the Charities”).

Members were advised that following the closure of Pontllanfraith and Oakdale Comprehensive Schools, the objects of the above Charities can no longer be applied for their original purposes. The Officer explained that the Council by its Cabinet sitting as a corporate trustee is required to pass a resolution altering the objects of the Charities so that the charitable funds may in the future be applied for the benefit of pupils attending the newly opened Islwyn High School.

The trustees discussed the report and were pleased to acknowledge that the charities had been set up with good intention and respect. They also discussed exploring the possibility of changing the trustee membership that will consider such reports in moving forward.

Following consideration and discussion, and subject to the foregoing it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to an amendment at paragraphs 10.1.3. and 10.2.3. to include *and the relevant Cabinet Member* and an additional recommendation that *Officers to explore the possibility of changing the trustee Membership that will consider memorial fund reports in moving forward*, and for the reasons contained in the Officer’s report: -

The rules of the John Edwards Memorial Prize Fund be amended as follows:

- (i) the Prize Fund continues to be administered by the Council’s Cabinet sitting as Corporate Trustee;
- (ii) the income of this charity be utilised in the award of a prize to a pupil or pupils of Islwyn High School that reside in the catchment area of the former Oakdale Comprehensive School who have shown good academic progress and worthy of merit;
- (iii) the award of a prize or prizes shall be made by the Chief Education Officer and the relevant Cabinet Member upon the recommendation of the Head teacher.

To resolve that the rules of the Nine Mile Point Lodge Scholarship be amended as follows: -

- (i) the Scholarship continues to be administered by the Council’s Cabinet sitting as Corporate Trustee;
- (ii) the income of the Scholarship Fund be utilised annually for the purchase of books or equipment for the pupils of Islwyn High School who reside in the villages of Ynysddu and Cwmfelinfach;
- (iii) the award of the scholarship or scholarships will be made in September each year by the Chief Education Officer and the relevant Cabinet Member upon the recommendation of the Head teacher;
- (iv) Officers to explore the possibility of changing the trustee Membership that will consider memorial fund reports in moving forward.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

CHAIR