TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 4th December 2013 at 6.45pm to follow the Events Sub-Committee.

Present:	**Councillor**	**T. Smith**
		R. Watkins
		A. Tippings
		R. Thomas
		G. Meredith
		M. Cross
		B. Willis
		J. Morgan
		M. O'Sullivan
		P. Prosser
		G. Meredith
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**

226) Apologies Cllrs. A. Cotton; T. Gregory, D. Howells, G. Bowen-Knight, D. Rowberry and S and H. Trollope

A message had been received from Mr. Lewis to advise that he was running late and it was agreed to take his presentation on his arrival.

227) <u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137</u>

Thanks received from Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

Hafan Cymru – Having received further information from the organisation it was agreed to invite them to meet with Council.
Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Neighbourhood Watch Association – There was some discussion relating to the name of the organisation and a vote was taken with the majority agreeing to recommend a grant of £200 but it was agreed that the RFO was to contact to confirm.
Sirhowy Senior Citizens – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Cllr. P. Prosser declared an interest in the following matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir - A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Cllr. M. O'Sullivan declared an interest in the following two items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.
Tredegar & Rhymney Veterans Golf Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

228) Grants to Churches and Chapels

None received.

Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

229) Planning

a) To consider an Officer's Report

List of Delegated Items determined between 21st October 2013 and 15th November 2013:-

C/2013/0271 Ground floor rear extension, 147 Vale Terrace – Approved.

C/2013/0258 Erection of one two storey four bedroom property – Outline (formerly known as Plot 8), 20 Maes Morgan, Nantybwch – Approved.

C/2013/0257 Provision of single storey buildings to accommodate day-care and community facilities, with associated access road, parking, landscaping and refuse store, land at former Sirhowy Infants School – Approved.

Planning Report:-

C/2013/0175 Retention of change of use of building from dwelling to community centre, change of use of parcel of land at side of property to community garden, boundary fence and access gate, metal shutters for doors and windows to front and side of building and ramp to front entrance, 87 Attlee Way - Recommending planning permission is GRANTED.

C/2013/0276 Change of use to hairdressers and extension of the existing single storey building and roller shutter doors. Create rear parking areas and erection of garage for employees and customers, vacant shop adjacent to Degfan Charles Street – Recommending application is GRANTED.

Members were pleased to note that application 2013/0257 had been approved ad welcomed the provision of community facilities in the Sirhowy area.

b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0340	EJL Properties LLP 32 Rowan House Nursery Lane, Tamworth.	Construction of 7 detached houses with 4 bedrooms and two storeys, with off off street parking for 3 cars per house, footpath cross-overs, hard & soft landscaping - land at lower Charles Street.

No objections.

c) To consider other planning matters.

Received as part of Planning Committee report.

Draft Supplementary Planning guidance on Hot Food & Drink uses in Town Centres – Recommendation is that it is approved for consultation

Received.

230) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) Re: Consultation Town Community Councils 12.12.13 – Committee Room 3 booked for 2pm.

Received. There was some discussion regarding the relevance of this meeting in relation to an imminent meeting to discuss budgets. It was agreed that there had been a lack of consultation with Town and Community Councils regarding the possible cuts and that Town and Community Councils needed to be present to make their voices heard.

b) M Howland, Re: Bedwellty Park Lodge – Asking for clarity on the Council's proposal for the property.

Received. It was agreed that no decisions could be made until the questions relating to the Covenant were clarified.

Cllr. A. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(c) A. Tippings Re: Book Launch – Sunday 8th December 2013 at Tŷ Ebbw Fach, Chapel Road, Six Bells from 4.30pm to 7.30pm author Sebastien Boyesen signing 1st edition copies of his new book "Guardian".

Received

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Re: Follow up to Project Meeting held 22.11.13 – Date and times for supportive project visits where the project team will visit our office to meet members and any key stakeholders Council wishes to invite – Wishes Council could confirm their preferred date out of the two options offered, 13th or 16th January 2014.

Received. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the delegates regarding the January meeting (TS RW AT OP JM). A Member stated that he would try to organise a visit to a local hydro generation plant. A short report was received on the meeting held on 22nd November which had dealt largely with coastal flooding, however the increased possibilities of bracken fires would affect the more upland areas. It was noted that the Circuit of Wales may be interested in the alternative energy side of the project.

(b) Revised Model Standing Orders available at http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/members-area/resources/good-practice-general?set_language=en

Received.

(c) Re: War Memorials – With the forthcoming centenary of World War 1, One Voice Wales has recently met with Cadw, CyMal & War Memorials Trust to discuss issues around war memorials. Request all One Voice Wales members inform War Memorials Online of the current condition of their war memorial – already listed on the War Memorials Online site, Ref No: 120537 after completion of restoration.

Received. It was noted that the War Memorial was already listed. A Member raised the question of uptake of the Burma Daffodils and the Clerk informed Members that only one school had responded. It was agreed that the Governors would pursue this matter.
It was also agreed that a number should be planted near the War Memorial.

(d) Training Module 9 Code of Conduct Tuesday 10.12.13 at Cwmbran.

Received.

3) Christmas Lights:-

(a) Gala Lights:
(i) Re: Testing motifs 25.11.13 and contact details for cover.
(ii) Re: Testing of Lights – Centregreat looking at three columns that there are issues with and further testing on Friday before event.
(iii) Confirming all parties – BGCBC & contractors - had been informed of the burn times and timers should have been set accordingly, requests we inform him which are on in the day so it can be rectified (Email dated 3.12.13).

(b) Check down on Xmas Lights on Monday 2.12.13:
(i) A. Jones - List of issues identified approximately 4.30pm

(ii) Cllr Smith – Amendment to the issues identified, checked late evening.
(iii) A. Jones – Querying whether there is an issue with the timers as light burn times not matching our requested times.
(iv) Cllr Tippings – Amendment to the issues identified, checked approximately 5pm.

This matter taken with the report from the Event Committee.

4) Gwent Police — Sgt S. O'Brien Re: Council meeting 20.11.13 – Copy of email he has sent to Cllrs expressing thanks for the positive comments at the meeting and proposed events for the new year.

Received. Members remarked again on the improving collaboration between Town Council and the local police officers. However concerns continued to be raised regarding parking in town. It was agreed that Members report all incidents to the Police.
It was further agreed to send Sgt. O'Brien a list of groups and organisations that may benefit from the events in the New Year. An event being held at the Police Station was highlighted.

5) Cllr Smith — Request that the proposals to cut the Meals on Wheels service is raised at our next meeting and included on the agenda for the next JCLC (copied to C. Keane, JCLC Secretary).

Received. Members noted that this was not confirmed and that many different proposals were being suggested. It was agreed that such cuts should be objected to.

6) Carillion — Re: Helping Elderly People in Borough – Would prefer two to three distribution points as there will not be a massive amount of wood available.

Received. Carillion were thanked for their kind offer and it was agreed to try to find one site per ward.

7) R. Tucker — Re: Planning Aid Training – Would like to arrange the training at her offices in the New Year and is enquiring how many Members would be interested in attending.

Received. It was agreed to support the training.

8) L. Herring — Cameron Herring has gained a place on the first Tom Maynard Academy intake.

Received. Members agreed that this young man was a fine example to all and that it was commendable that he continued to recognise the support given by Town Council in the past. It was agreed to invite him to a Civic Presentation.

9) Royal Welsh Agricultural Society
Featured County 2015 is Gwent – asking it Council would consider making a donation, currently raising funds to improve the equine facilities at the showground.

Received. Members agreed that further information was required regarding the legalities of Council support and it was agreed to seek further information via the RFO.

10) Children with Cancer — Invitation to purchase a Christmas raffle ticket, £1 each.

Received – available for Members.

11) N. Smith MP — Poster for surgery being held 4-5pm on Friday 13th December 2013 at Tesco Abertillery – added to website.

Received. Members congratulated the MP on his recent engagement and also his continuing pursuit of progress regarding Operation Jasmine.

12) Gavo (a) Alive & Kickin' Community Choir Blaenau Gwent starting Thursday 30.1.14 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at The EVI, Ebbw Vale. The choir is open to everyone from age 10 upwards and no past singing experience needed. Cost is £6 per session. Contact Tanya Tel: 07723 016837 or email: tanyawalkermusic@hotmail.com .

Received. Interested Members to support.

(b) Communities First Ebbw Fawr Community Health Event poster, Friday 6.12.13 Ebbw Vale Institute 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Received.

The Mayor spoke to Members regarding the recent GAVO Awards night held on 29th November, following the Lights Switch-On which he had attended with the Clerk. He raised the question that the original funding request had been for the 2014 awards and that there had been little notice of the 2013 ceremony which had prevented many other Members from attending. It had been agreed unanimously to pay the 2014 award and then it was agreed unanimously that there should be no contribution to the 2013 award.

It was noted that the categories for awards were quite difficult to fill, but that Lesley Watkins of the Valleys Life After Stroke group had won an award.

231) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 29.11.13 & 6.12.13; One Voice Wales, Public Appointments opportunities – National Library for Wales & National Museums Wales – closing date 12.12.13.

Available for Members

232) AGENDA

Executive Wednesday 27th November 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee, advance notice, Monday 2nd December 2013 at 10am Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at 10am – Cancelled; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Monday 2nd December 2013 at 10am Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for Members

233) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

a) Members agreed to write to the Manager and Leisure Services to complain about the poor state of the driveway and a man-hole cover near the tennis courts.

b) The Lodge – Following discussion it was agreed that the legal question relating to the Lodge needed to be pursued and that the future of the building secured.

c) Daffodil trail – a Member pointed out that a selection of daffodils had been planted across the Park, sponsored by Town Council, which could be marketed in the Spring.

d) Artefacts – it was agreed that photographs taken down for recent displays be re-instated and that all photos originally in the Assembly Room should be returned and fixed to the battens as previously.

234) To receive a verbal report from the Events Committee Meeting held prior to this.
The verbal report was received. It was noted that some lights were still not working and to pursue this with the contractors, Gala Lights.

235) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/working Parties.

i. Tredegar Twinning – It was reported that 59+ people were expected from France in Spring and that hosts were urgently required.
ii. School Governing Bodies – Georgetown – attendances were up. Glanhowy similarly Bryn Bach Primary – had recently lost two lollipop people over the lunch hour and were still pursuing a limited weight restriction for lorries during busy times of the day. St. Joseph's – it was noted that they hoped a new head would be in place early in the New Year.
iii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee –It was noted that there had been no mention of the Golf day sponsored by Town Council, that a seminar was to be held to show members various aspects of the Park. The list of representatives of Town Council to be checked and updated with the Borough.
iv. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – Community Partnership funding was available – it was agreed to circulate to all Members, representative changed.
v. Tredegar Business Forum – Details of the Funday were given. It was agreed to inform them of the Window Dressing Competition and encourage their participation.
vi. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Dinner well supported guest speaker Roy Noble very interesting.
vii. Tredegar Heritage – It was noted that the group were beginning to move forward, but that there had been no meeting with CREW. It was agreed to pursue a meeting with Council.

234) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice)
a) A Member reported that a grave had been vandalised. Others reported that the gates had been left open. It was agreed that this should be reported to the police.
b) Local success at the Winter Fair in Llanelwedd was reported with Justin and Carl Walters taking 3 first places.

235) To receive a presentation by Mr. Tim Lewis MD of Commercial Christmas.
Mr. Lewis was received by Council. He gave details of the displays that they provided and informed Members that they were G39 registered which was a requirement of BGCBC. They did comment that the display on the Clock was very eye-catching.
He had been approached to take a look at a sign for Armed Forces Day and advised that he would come back to Council.
After a number of questions and responses it was agreed that the company be approached to quote for the supply and fitting of the Lights once the present contract was completed.
Mr Lewis was thanked for his presentation and diligence

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9pm.

_____Chair