TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 3rd July 2013 to follow Events at 6.45pm.

Present:	**Councillor**	**T. Smith**
		A. Cotton
		A. Tippings
		H. Trollope
		M. Cross
		R. Thomas
		B.G. Willis
		D. Rowberry
		S. Trollope
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**

078) Apologies **Cllrs: Watkins; G. Bowen-Knight; T. Gregory; D. Howells; J Morgan;M. O'Sullivan; P. Prosser; O. Price**

079) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants.
Thanks received from the Oak Football Club.
Completed Financial Assistance Project form from Tredegar Town Band.

Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137

Heads of the Valleys Gateway Club –A grant of £200.00 was recommended.
Tredegar Town Band – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Cllr. T. Smith declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
Valleys Life After Stroke - A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Grants to Churches and Chapels
None received.

080) Internal Auditor – to arrange transfer of Auditor duties.
The transfer of duties from Mr. Clive James to Mr. Stuart Bees was considered by Members and agreed unanimously. His past history was recognised and it was felt that he was tried and trusted. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mr. James and to invite him to the next Civic Presentation.

Cllrs. Rowberry and Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
081) Planning

a) OFFICERS REPORT
List of Delegated Items determined between 23rd May 2013 and 21st June 2013:-
C/2013/0114 Proposed conversion of two commercial properties into a single unit, alterations to front façade of no. 22 and change of use of building to A2 use, 22 & 23 Commercial Street – Approved.
C/2013/0093 Provision of 2m wide footpaths (1.3km in length) along existing contours and provision of timber foot bridges and associated works, North of Shepherds Close/Ystrad Deri linking to Crown Business Park Tredegar and Bryn Serth Road near junction with Rassau Road Ebbw Vale – Approved.
Enforcement Officer Report – Development at Woodfield Road, Tredegar, Re: Complaint about new section of culvert. Recommendation is to agree both BGCBC officers view on the issue raised and resolve file is to be closed, complainant to be formally advised of Committee's decision.
RECEIVED.

b) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0186	Mr H Cliff 24 Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar	To install EWI to front & top half at rear of main house

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters
It was agreed to clarify a point with One Voice Wales regarding voting/discussion at Town Council Meetings by Borough Members. It was also noted that the agenda etc had been received a little late.

082) Correspondence
1) BGCBC (a) Cllr McCarthy Re: Consultation with Town/Community Councils agenda items – due to cancellation of meeting the new agenda will show the removal of the items concerning Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Campaign has been launched to increase the usage of the Minor Injury's Unit; Dialysis issues – correspondence has been sent to Chairman of Aneurin Bevan Health Board & Alun Davies AM to address such matters, copies of all correspondence have been passed to local Councillors who raised the concerns.
This was noted.

(b) Re: Official Opening – Bedwellty Park Pavilion, Tredegar, Wednesday 24th July 2013 at 11.30am – Invitation for 3 representatives to attend.
It was agreed that the Mayor/Deputy Mayor and Leader attend.

Cllr. Cross and Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
(c) List of Licensing Applications week ending 21.6.13
Received.

2) One Voice Wales
(a) Lyn Llewellyn Re: New arrangements for Audit of Town & Community Councils – response to concerns raised.

Received. Thanks were expressed to the RFO for raising these concerns, which had now been widely highlighted. It was also noted that Mr. Llewellyn was to leave his post shortly and that a letter be sent to him.

(b) Welsh Affairs Committee - Evidence session on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales Thursday 11th July 2013 at 11am Committee Room 4, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff.

Received. Members noted this session with interest and that there had been much recent media coverage. Concern was expressed that "crime figures" were falling and there had "been an increase in incidents"

(c) Training Module 6 – Local Government Finance, Wednesday 10th July 2013 at Sessions House, Usk 6.30pm-9pm £30 members.

Interested Members to contact the Clerk.

3) Carillion: Safety of pedestrians from the North of Tredegar during upgrade of A465

(i) Alun Davies AM – Concerned by the points raised and believes it would be beneficial to arrange a meeting with Tredegar Town Council, Carillion and himself to discuss these concerns in depth. Once agreement has been received for the meeting to go ahead his office will be in touch to discuss suitable dates.

(ii) Nick Smith MP - Letter of support to ensure the safety of both children and pedestrians who need to cross the Heads of the Valleys road. Written in similar terms to convey his views to Carillion.

Both received. Members were quick to commend Carillion for the speed with which they had introduced safety measures which had been suggested by local Councillors and groups. There were still some concerns about lighting around the pelican area but it was noted that quarterly meetings were to be introduced and that there were hopes that the road bridge might be completed in July.

4) Mrs A Jones Requesting change of hours to continue University course.

Received. The Clerk was asked if she had any queries on concerns relating to this change – she had not and congratulated her colleague on her recent exam success. It was agreed to write with the congratulations of Council. It was agreed that the hours be changed for the start of the new Term.

5) Meeting Place Communications

Re: Pen Bryn Oer Wind Farm - Planning application submitted 28th June 2013. Will be producing a briefing note, to be sent out, which gives an overview of the final proposal, the public response to the proposals and the community benefit fund.

Received. It was noted that the Mayor had previously attended to press the case for Tredegar and he stated that he would continue to fight for a 50/50 split with Rhymney. Members agreed that the amount currently being discussed was too low.

6) Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls

Invitation to Mayor and four Members to Ladies Day on Monday 29th July 2013, starts at 2.30pm with a friendly game of bowls followed by buffet tea to celebrate the opening of the new pavilion.

Received. It was agreed that the Mayor and two Councillors attend.

7) Mrs B Berry Re: Eisteddfod Yr Urdd – Thank you for the opportunity to fundraise at the Sunday concert, £83.87 was amount raised. Will be putting together a programme of fundraising activities for the next 2 years. Next event is

being held at Bedwellty House on Friday 2.8.13 "story telling for all the family" from 10am to 12 noon, £2 per child. Open invitation to anyone who would like to join their fundraising group.

Received. This was received with thanks and that future events be advertised on web and in notice boards.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Notice of consultation on the Schedule of Matters Arising Changes, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority LDP - representations can be submitted between 19.6.13 to 31.7.13 via ldp@breconbeacons.org or by post.

Received. Members noted that there had been much comment relating to the use of local stone which was required in the National Park, and the fact that there had recently been a sustainable development of housing in Bwlch.

9) GAVO (a) Community Events Blaenau Gwent – Barnardo's Big Toddle, charity event for under 5, Friday 5th July 2013 10.30am to 2.30pm sponsored walk around the lake at the Festival Park, Ebbw Vale.

Received and noted.

(b) Welsh Government School Uniform Grant Scheme 2013/14.

Received – information available for all Members.

(c) Continuity and Change - Refreshing the relationship between the Welsh Government and the third sector in Wales, Tuesday 9th July 2013 at 9.30am Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Received. The Mayor to attend.

083) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 28/6/13; Ombudsman Annual Report 2012/13; BGCBC Road works report week ending 5/7/13; J. Parker's wholesale catalogue Autumn 2013; Clerks & Councils Direct July 2013 Issue 88; L. Evans, Now & Then Gig guide; One Voice Wales, The Voice Issue 23 Summer 2013; Commercial Christmas leaflet (official partner One Voice Wales).

It was noted that the Tulip bulbs which had been planted in the Town Clock were ready to be uplifted and it was agreed to donate them to the Friends of Bedwellty Park

At this point queries were raised relating to the planting of the Clock and it was agreed that the Clerk source plants as a matter of urgency and that discussions take place with the voluntary group involved to clarify queries.

084) AGENDA

Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 26th June 2013 at 1pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Cancelled; Special Executive Monday 1st July 2013 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 27th June 2013 at 4pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 26th June 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Audit Committee Thursday 27th June 2013 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Audit Committee Thursday 27th June 2013, time changed to 9.30am; Special Executive Monday 1st July 2013 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 2nd July 2013 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 3rd July 2013 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

085) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
It was agreed that this item be taken with the following.

086) To receive a verbal report on the Events Sub-Committee meeting prior to this with a de-brief of Armed Forces Day.
Members noted that the Clerk had prepared a comprehensive report on the event and it was agreed to follow the recommendations made by the Events Sub-Committee prior to this.
a) If available the Trophy to be relocated.
b) To procure a gazebo to be used as a central control point at all Town Council events.
c) Once again the PA system was felt to have let the event down and it was agreed that professional advice be sought to source more substantial system for use at Town Council events. The question of the location of the old "Buddy" system was raised – to be investigated when the trees were removed from the lock up.
d) It was agreed to investigate the costs of fold up tables and chairs and the possibility of spare items being available via the Leisure section was to be followed up.
e) It was agreed to look at the date of next year's event in order to encourage participation and that there was no clash with other events.

Following a recent meeting with One Voice Wales it was agreed to approach their new partner "Commercial Christmas" to cost a "Help for Heroes" sign to advertise Armed Forces Day on the underpass.
It was further agreed that a number of the problems experienced during the day were beyond the control of Town Council and that there definitely needed to be a back-up plan for the supply of ice-cream and drinks in particular. Apologies were noted from Cllr. Rowberry who had heard excellent reports of the day. It was noted that a number of people had attended from outside the town and that there had been praise for the Town Council by Borough Cllr. John Hopkins.

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

i. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – Cllr Cross was delighted to announce that he was the new Chair. The Meeting was informed that Bedwellty House was to be the venue for the meeting in April when a presentation would be made by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board on the proposed new hospital. The grant available for web-site update was noted and Town Council were congratulated by One Voice Wales on the current web-site. He also asked for consideration be given to open the Clock for the visit in April 2014.
ii. Tredegar Twinning – Comments and complaints relating to the Armed Forces Day event had been noted. It was noted too that there was a barbeque due in the James St Community Centre. Members further noted that a model clock had been made at the Green Shoots project in Nantyglo – which might be a suitable gift for the French next year.
iii. School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary – the recent meeting with Carillion and other groups was outlined once again and the company were praised for their prompt response to some safety issues.
iv. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – the Town Council representative note that he had not been informed of any meetings – the Clerk to inform the Panel.
v. Tredegar Business Forum – A number of items were listed by the Town Council representative including the fact that painting was ongoing on the main entrance, the walkway had been power washed, bins modified for cigarette ends, the chewing gum boards were being emptied regularly. Members of the forum were happy with the litter picking and sweeping but that there was a lack of dog bins. It was pointed out that this could present a problem outside shops

due to problems with odours. Details of proposed meeting with Regeneration were given as well as a re-vamped kick start grant for businesses in the town that met the stated criteria.

vi. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – It was noted that they had made a good contribution to the Armed Forces Day event and had donated books to the Mayor for his Appeal. This was noted with thanks.

vii. Tredegar Heritage Once again concern was expressed at the direction this group was taking – more towards regeneration than heritage which had been the original remit. It was pointed out once again that the Heritage Group had been set up under the umbrella of the Town Council and that should there be any change we would need to be informed.

088) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice)

a) Stewards for remaining Band concerts – the Clerk asked for Members to step forward and they were received.

b) It was noted that Cllr. O'Sullivan was recovering from a major operation and it was agreed to send our best wishes.

c) Following the recent decision of the Welsh Government to introduce presumed consent with regard to organ donation it was agreed to write to Ministers involved with our congratulations and a note that once again we are leading the way in the UK.

d) Artefacts/ Mayor's Parlour – it was noted that there had been little progress – the Clerk assured Members that the designs for the Parlour were imminent and that proofs seen that morning had been most acceptable. She had already spoken to the Manager regarding the artefacts and was once again assured that it was a priority, it was particularly noted that the photo of the late Barrie Meredith had been missed by many.

e) Thanks were extended to Trefil RFC for the warm welcome received at their Annual Dinner and it was agreed to write with our best wishes for the coming season.

f) It was noted that the artwork was being installed on Sirhowy Hill and Members wondered whether there would be an Official opening ceremony –Clerk to check.

g) Members requested that their benches be screwed to the floor.

h) Many complaints had been received by Members relating to the duck droppings at Parc Bryn Bach. Members suggested that the public only be allowed to feed in certain areas – away from the Visitor Centre. Lack of seating on the far side of the Lake was noted.

i) The re-opening of the Cambrian had been welcomed by all and it was agreed to send a letter of congratulations.

j) The Clerk was asked to chase up repairs to lighting on the War Memorial.

k) The pop-up banners which had recently been received were displayed and approved by all Members.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.50pm

_____Chair