TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 6pm

Present Cllrs: **T. Smith**
R. Watkins
A. Tippings
R. W. Thomas
M Cross
P. Prosser
B. Willis
J. Morgan
M. O'Sullivan

Also Present: **Ms C M Keane – Clerk**

312) Apologies Cllrs. T. Gregory, H Trollope S. Trollope D Watkins, D. Rowberry, O. Price

313) Declarations of Interest
The Mayor reminded Members to make declarations of interest as and when necessary.

314) GRANTS: Approval required for payment as part of this month's Schedule of Payments.

To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137

Hafan Cymru – A Grant of £50 was approved.
Moose International Tredegar No. 1 Lodge – A Grant of £200 was approved.
North Gwent Archers – A Grant of £100 was approved.
Friends of Valleys Karate Club – A Grant of £100 was approved.
Tredegar Reavers Wargames Club T/A Tredegar Wargaming Club – A Grant of £100 was approved.
Tredegar Business Forum – A Grant of £200 was approved.
Tredegar Youth Café – A Grant of £200 was approved.

Churches & Chapels – None Received

315) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2014.
Members considered partial payments for work on the Parlour which were agreed.

316) To Receive and agree the Allotment policy for Council as amended.
The new Policy with amendments that there should be an Annual Meeting and that the committee should include a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

317) An additional item was added to the agenda to accommodate the arrival of PC's Stephen Connelly and Tanya Williams.

They reported on a number of ongoing problems relating to parking in the Town Centre which were compounded by the fact that some of the road markings were incorrect. There had been a concerted attempt to stop illegal parking in the Town and around the Circle which had culminated in tickets being issued to individuals. Members urged the Officers to be consistent with their implementation of the regulations.

They reported back on an accident which had taken place at the crossing on the Heads of the Valleys with details of additional measures being put in place to increase safety. There were requests for increased lighting on that section of road.

A Member who had been present at a meeting of the Sirhowy Tenants and Residents Association asked the police officers present if it would be possible for them to attend on a Friday morning when the centre was open for the distribution of food parcels. This would give the residents a chance to get to know their local officers and build up a rapport. There had also been an increase in the number of quad bikes and off road bikes being ridden in a dangerous manner in the area and they were asked to keep an eye on the situation. Other Members raised issues regarding parking around Venue 1 and ongoing problems at Glanhowy Primary School.

A Member raised complaints by residents living near a pub in Charles Street relating to loud music and people urinating in public. It was also noted that there were similar issues in Market Street. It was highlighted that Bryn Bach Primary were having a new crossing patroller and a Member asked if officers of PCSO's could help support the new person. Once again the attempt to get a timed weight limit in place in from of the school during the pick-up and drop off times.

PC Connelly noted that they had been monitoring off road vehicles in the Trefil area but had experienced some problems due to health and safety issues.

It was noted that Constable Williams was leaving Tredegar and she left with best wishes from the Council. It was noted that Sgt Petrie had now retired. Congratulations were passed to Sgt Steve O'Brien on passing his Sergeants exams.

The Police withdrew at 7pm.

318) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

a) Minutes of the Events Sub Committee held on 22nd January 2014
b) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting held on 22nd January 2014.
c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd January 2014.
d) Minutes of the Civic Sub Committee of Council held on 5th February 2014
e) Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held on 5th February 2014.
f) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee of Council held on 12th February 2014.

The above minutes were received and agreed as a true record.

319) Matters arising from the Minutes

1) Minute No 260 (1) Events Sub – Memorabilia – it was agreed to ask the House Manager to have Memorabilia in place in plenty of time for the visit by the Ambassador.

2) Minute No 281 - Ordinary– Comprehensive School and Mural – it was agreed to write to the Art Department officially and ask them to take part in the commemorations.

3) Civic Sub – Members commented on the diversity of organisations represented and noted that many people travelled from outside Tredegar to take part in events, proving that Tredegar was still a cultural hub for the Valleys.

4) Minute No. 303 (4) – Civic – Toilets. There was much discussion regarding the facilities in town and concerns expressed that some groups were preferring not to use the town centre due to the lack of toilet facilities. It was agreed that a task and finish group of six Members, some with the appropriate skills, be set up to make progress on the situation.

5) Minute No. 303(11) – Civic- land adjacent to Mountain Air – it was agreed that Tai Calon be contacted by Town Council to confirm ownership and that preference should be given to the use of the land for parking close to Venue 2.

320) Chair signed the Minutes at this point.

321) To receive an update and agree arrangements for the Commemoration of the Battle of Tredegar Hill on 21st March 2014 and the Queen's Baton Relay 24th May 2014.

a) Tredegar Hill – The minutes of the Events Sub Committee Meeting had previously been agreed.

b) Queen's Baton Relay -It was reported that Cllr. Willis, in his role as Deputy Mayor for BGCBC, had taken part in a ceremony to receive the Commonwealth Flag to mark Commonwealth Day in March.

Members expressed great concern that the event timings had been changed. It was agreed to ask the Borough Council to review timings.

322) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC

(a) A. Jones - Re: Area Review of Property – Council should already have copies of the Covenant affecting the Park but if these cannot be found they can obtain a copy for Council – Christine has requested a copy.

(b) H. Phillips – Copy of Bedwellty House/Park trust deed/Covenant.

Received

(c) <u>M. Hicks Re: Meeting with BG Leadership</u>

(i) Informal meeting arranged for Thursday 27.2.14 at 1pm Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, invitation extended to Clerks & representatives of the Town Councils.

(ii) Meeting relates to the operation of the Charter and Liaison Committee.

Received

(d) Cllr Trollope – forwarded email received from BGCBC notifying Councillors of the temporary closure of Bedwellty Mountain Road, Tredegar.

Received

(e) List of licensing applications week ending 14.2.14.

Received

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Solicitor's advice regarding the Gala Lights contract and issues.

Received

(b) Re: Motions for 2014 Annual Conference/AGM Saturday 4th October 2014 – Council can submit a maximum of two motion for debate at the AGM, must be submitted no later than Thursday 17th April 2014 for consideration by the Conference Agenda Committee.

It was agreed to Agenda

(c) Annual renewal notice for £1896.

It was agreed unanimously to renew

(d) Re: The Voice – Submission of stories or news to be made by 28.2.14 to enable inclusion in the March edition.

Received

(e) Conserving and maintaining Welsh War Memorial Heritage Conference at Royal Welsh Showground, Built Wells on 27th March 2014 from 10am.

Received

(f) Climate Change Phase II Project:- Forwarded to Members, to respond direct.
(i) Formal project meeting 21st February 2014 – Council invited to send up to 7 representatives.
(ii) Re: Meeting 21.2.14 – needs to know today who is attending the meeting.
(iii) Re: Focus Group Meetings – Request for Council to select a preferred date for the meeting, must notify them asap to book the preferred slot.

Received – Interested Members to inform.

3) Queens Baton Relay:-

(a) BGCBC, D.Griffths – Confirming A. Tippings is representing TTC on the main steering group (only one per event required); all three can attend the safety & traffic management group meetings and the meetings with Vicky.

(b) (i) BGCBC, D.Griffiths – The time the plane lands has been amended to 11am from 7am therefore the new schedule is 1.30-2.45pm Six Bells; 3-5.15pm Ebbw Vale; 5.30-6.30pm Tredegar.
(ii) Cllr Tippings - Asking can timings be changed for Tredegar to correspond with shops being open.
(iii) BGCBC, D.Griffiths – Unable to shorten the time it is at Ebbw Vale anymore as this is the main event. Suggests just relaying the Baton from the Clock to the Park instead.
(iv) Cllr Tippings - Did not realise Ebbw Vale was the main event, will try to make an afternoon of it in Tredegar.

(c) Cllr Tippings - Baton bearer nomination forms for M. Higgs & G.Watkins.

All above received.

4) Deep Place Study:-

(a) Regeneration Wales, M. Lang Re: CREW meeting in Tredegar 28.4.14 – offer of 5 tickets to the conference as our Council participated in the research process.

(b) Cllr Price – if possible would like one of the tickets for the CREW conference and as also asked if they will present to Council.

Received and noted.

5) Mayor's Parlour:-

(a) Sofa Magic:
(i) Invoice for half of £4600 + VAT for the manufacture of the bespoke

sofa for the Mayor's Parlour = £2760.00 – please approve for payment with this month's Schedule of Payments
(ii) VAT Number & confirmation copy of invoice will be posted direct.

Following discussion it was agreed that an initial payment of £800 plus VAT should be made.

(b) G. Plenty:
(i) Invoice for part payment of his design fees, £500 payable now & £300 on completion (based on the estimation that the project costs will total £8000 therefore final payment may be lower/higher) – please approve for payment with this month's Schedule of Payments

This was agreed unanimously.

(ii) Quotation from Oak Furniture Land for Mayor's Parlour cabinet & copy of Owner's manual for the cabinet.

Deferred

6) Gwent Police Matt Williams introducing himself as the Chief Inspector, Head of Neighbourhood Policing, interested in attending a meeting to meet Council, asking for dates of forthcoming meetings to be sent.

Received. It was agreed to invite the Inspector to meet Council and also to attend the 70th Anniversary of Tredegar Hill.

7) P. Morgan Jones Re: Alun Davies AM talk, Thursday 20.2.14 at 2.30pm Bedwellty House – Invitation to all Members to attend.

Received - copied to all Members

8) Welsh Government

(a) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2014/15 available at
http://wales.gov.uk/irpwsub/home/publication/201415/140212-irp-annual-report-1415/?lang=en .

(b) Local Government (Wales) Byelaws Act 2012 – Implementation. Consultation document available at:-
http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/140213-local-government-byelaws-consulation/?lang=en

Both received – available for Members.

9) Kidney Wales Foundation's Walk for Life:-

(a) Cllr Watkins - Would prefer to use Parc Bryn Bach again this year due to it being an accessible site & has suitable facilities. Asking if any PR materials are available yet?

(b) Kidney Wales Foundation - Good luck to anyone participating in this year's Walk for Life taking place on 27.4.14.

Both Received. It was agreed to use Parc Bryn Bach again this year and that any information would be forwarded to Cllr. Watkins.

10) Royal Mail Changing the delivery system in Tredegar which means they will continue to deliver all through the day and our standard delivery time will now depend on where we are on the new delivery route, may be delivered earlier/later.

Received – it was agreed to arrange a meeting for them to inform Council of changes.

11) Cllr Watkins Has chosen RNIB wales as his forthcoming Mayor's Appeal charity.
Received and noted.

12) Groundworks Caerphilly
Currently involved with Renew Wales, a national project which supports community projects that aim to tackle the effects/prevent Climate change. Groundworks Caerphilly have heard that Tredegar Town Council is interested in a hydro project and is offering to meet to see whether they can offer any support to this project.
Received – it was agreed to respond with interested Members attending with the Clerk and Mayor.

13) Residents correspondence:-
(a) L. Prothero Re: Parking & road condition in Gwent Way – asking for advice/support regarding the ongoing issue of parking and road condition in Gwent Way which he has tried to discuss with BGCBC but says they are not willing to listen!
Received – it was agreed to pass this information to the Neighbourhood Police and Borough Highways agency.

(b) Mr A Fulcher Re: New County Club & Institute - Asking whether Council would meet with their members to discuss the difficult situation they are currently in regarding renovation of the building and finance.
Received. It was noted with regret that Council was unable to help on this occasion.

14) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Agenda for meeting on Thursday 20.2.14 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.
Received

15) K. Dyer Copy of email & poster sent to Cllr Tippings for the Orienteering Event in April.
Received

16) Teenage Cancer Trust
Asking for consideration for financial support either as the Mayor's Charity of the Year or via a donation.
Received

17) R. Jones MBE Requesting Council/Members write to AM asking them to attend the launch of Dementia Friends in Wales on 19.2.14 – link to prewritten invitation included in email.
Received

323) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC Road works report week ending 14.2.14; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi January 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 21.2.14.
Available for all Members

324) AGENDA
Advance notice of Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 13th February 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 11am Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 17th February 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Post Inspection Action Plan Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 9.30am – POSTPONED; Executive 19th February 2014 – Social Services, Children & Active Living Matters, Item No. 11 Report; Executive 19th February 2014 – Leadership Matters, Item No. 12 Report; Executive Committee 19.2.14 – Item No. 9 report; Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Post Inspection Action Plan – postponed from Tuesday 18.2.14 to **Friday 7th March 2014 at 11am** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for all Members.

325) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – None Received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0025	Mr S Jones Highbrook House Penheolferthyr, Mountain Hare Merthyr Tydfil.	Subdivision of Unit 1 to provide 3 units for B2 Uses and use of Unit 2 as an MOT Testing Centre and proposed external alterations, Sirhowy Bridge Garage Dukestown Road.

NO OBJECTIONS

2014/0028	Mr N Williams 5 White Lion Cottages Tredegar	Outline planning for the construction of 1 detached dwelling, land adjacent to 5 White Lion Cottages.

NO OBJECTIONS – as such, but a request that a right of access be allowed between No. 5 and the new plot.

2014/0031	Gryphonn Quarries Ltd C/o. Mr A Muir, Harmers Ltd 39 Lambourne Crescent Cardiff Business Park, Cardiff.	Drilling of a borehole to allow monitoring of groundwater, Grid Ref: SO11915 14584, land to the North of Trefil Quarry.

Minded to object on the grounds of impact on the SSSI and Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2014/0032	Mr T Worgan 2 Bush Bach, Tredegar.	Single storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation.

NO OBJECTIONS

2014/0035	Mr K Miller Victoria Garden Centre Unit E Crown Business Park Tredegar.	Two storey workshop with storage on the second floor, Victoria Garden Centre Crown Business Park.

NO OBJECTIONS

c) To consider other planning matters – None

326) Matters of Local Interest or Concern - this had been taken earlier.

The Mayor invited Members to join him at the Civic Presentation in the Carriage House which followed.

_____Chair