# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 5th March 2014 at 6pm.**

**Present: Cllrs:** **T. Smith**
**R. L. Watkins**
**A. Cotton**
**A. Tippings**
**M Cross**
**B. Willis**
**M O'Sullivan**
**R W Thomas**
**S. Trollope**
**G. Meredith**
**J. Morgan**
**O. Price**
**H. Trollope**
**G. Bowen Knight**
**D Howells**

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

**327) Apologies: Cllrs:** **T. Gregory and P. Prosser**

**328) To receive Mr Paul Shackson, of Good Relations Wales, with an update on the Circuit of Wales Development.**
The Mayor welcomed Mr. Shackson who showed updated artists impressions of the site, to include a new skid-pan area.
He explained that there were still a few issues to be discussed and clarified with local environmental and wildlife groups. However he did confirm that tests showed that the land could not be defined as a peat source but that no soil would go off site. He outlined a number of new and innovative energy sources and it was suggested that hydro-electric power might also be sourced. This was something that the Council's panel working with OVW on the Climate Change Project showed interest in.
It was noted that local schools had already been contacted with regard to future skills needed and that future suppliers had already had a meeting regarding the project.
Funding was again reported as being in place to be drawn down as the project progressed. He did note that there was insurance cover in place and reiterated that this was a regeneration project funded commercially.
Mr. Shackson was thanked for attending and he withdrew.

**329) <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>**

Completed End of Grant form received from Tredegar Ironsides RFC, Tredegar & Rhymney Veterans Golf Club, Cefn Golau Tenants & Residents Association and Tredegar Junior Netball.

**GRANTS**

Talking Books Wales – To invite to meet Council.
NSPCC – A grant for £50.00 was recommended.
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – There was some confusion regarding this grant request in relation to events they are organising in commemoration of World War I and it was agreed to invite them to meet with the Events Committee of Council to further explain their plans.
Tredegar Camera Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended. It was noted that the Club were looking for bigger premises.
Tredegar Junior Netball Club – A grant for £200.00 was recommended. It was noted that a member of the Club was to be a Baton Bearer for the Queens Baton Relay.

***Cllr A. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon-***
Trefil Rugby Welfare Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

**330) To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).**
None received.

**331) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice)**
**a) Verbal update re Toilet provision in Gwent Shopping Centre**
It was noted that the building was in a good state of repair but that some electrical items had been removed for safety.
Town Council was still awaiting a response from the Receiver. Councillors were thanked for attending the inspection and it was agreed that a further inspection be carried out to try to assess the costs of works suggested.
Members were reminded that the original plan for café's etc to be used as Community Toilets partly funded by the Borough Council was not proving to be a success. It was agreed to seek further information regarding whether provision of hot/cold water was required. It was further suggested that local businesses be asked if they were prepared to help fund any provision of services by the Town Council. A further meeting of the sub-committee was agreed.
**b) Verbal report of meeting between Town and Community Councils and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.**
The Clerk reported that the County Borough readily admitted that the terms of the Charter agreement had not been fully implemented on their part and that they would take measures to ensure that Borough Officers were made aware of the Charter. The communication failure between Borough Council and Town and Community Councils had been highlighted following discussion of the Lodge in Bedwellty Park.
It was agreed that the implementation of the Charter would be closely monitored and that there would be a more Borough wide slant to questions put by the JCLC, however urgent questions or those that were unanswered despite being requested via the correct Borough Officer would still be put by individual Councils.

***Cllr. Willis declared an interest in the following matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.***

**332) Planning**
**a) To consider an Officer's Report**
**List of Delegated Items determined between 20th January 2014 and 17th February 2014:-**

C/2011/0273 Change (part constructed) hot food takeaway to general store and change existing general store to hot food takeaway, land at Ysgurbowen, Tredegar – Approved.
C/2013/0351 Sign advertising land availability, land at entrance junction to Tredegar Business Park – Approved.
C/2013/0348 Sign advertising land availability, land South of Innova 1 Tredegar Business Park – Approved.
C/2013/0307 Installation of mechanical extract equipment for proposed Chinese takeaway, 97 Attlee Way – Approved.
C/2013/0340 Construction of 7 detached houses, with 4 bedrooms and two stories, with off street parking for 3 cars per house, footpath crossovers, hard and soft landscaping, land at lower Charles Street – Approved.
**Planning Report:-**
C/2012/0327 Erection of a single wind turbine and associated transformer enclosure, Waldrons Commercials, Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate. – Recommending permission is GRANTED subject to conditions set out in February 2013 Planning Committee Report with the exception of Condition No. 16.
C/2013/0324 (Listing Building Consent) Removal of present "strip lights", addition of moulded panel to ceiling and picture rails around room, replacement lighting to ceiling and reinstatement of smoke alarm, Bedwellty House & Park - Recommending Listed Building Consent is REFUSED.
C/2014/0013 Construction of 23 dwellings and associated works, former Sirhowy Infants School, Rhoslan – Recommending permission is APPROVED.
**Ref item C/2013/0324 – Those Members qualified to speak for the application were urged to do so.**

**b) Applications – None Received.**

**c) Other Planning Matters**
Planning Application C/2014/0031 Bore Hole on land north of Trefil Quarry – This was a resubmission of one of the four applications submitted to the Authority last year; this borehole was deemed unacceptable by NRW therefore it was withdrawn and resubmitted with a revised position which was informally agreed with NRW prior to submission. Requesting, in light of this information, if Council would be prepared on this occasion to withdraw their objection.
**After a short discussion it was agreed to retain the original objection which was further thought to be preliminary works to extend the Quarry.**

**333) To put forward items for the Consultation between Town and Community Councils and the Borough of Blaenau Gwent scheduled for Thursday 20th March 2014.**
Items previously agreed were submitted together with a query relating to checks on school governors.
A question was raised regarding introducing a Flying Start programme in the Waundeg/Tynewydd area.

**334) Correspondence**

1) BGCBC (a) D. Watkins Re: Commonwealth Games, Queens Baton Relay 24.5.14 – Unable to change the timings of the event in Tredegar as this is not within their control.

**Council received an update on the situation following a recent meeting where it had been agreed that former Paralympian Mark Colbourne MBE together with the Town Band would**

**move from the Shopping Centre down to Castle Street where the parade would meet up with the Baton and Bearers and proceed to the Memorial Gates at Bedwellty Park.**
**It was agreed to contact the Camera Club to take photos of the event, and council was informed that the BBC would be filming part of the event live. It was confirmed that road closures were being handled by the Borough and that there would be no cost to the Town Council. Town Council were awaiting information from the Borough regarding how many stewards would be required**.

(b) Y. Tovey Re: Pre meeting Consultation Town/Community Councils 20.3.14 – Committee 2 booked for 2pm.

**Received.**

(c) Re: Rural Development Plan:-
(i) Consultation available at http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/wales-rdp-2014-2020-final-proposals/?lang=en summaries of topics covered are from pages 58-70, comments invited by 14.4.14.

**Received. Members were encouraged to take part.**

(ii) Booked Parc Bryn Bach on Monday 17th March 2014 at 9.30am for Blaenau Gwent Local Action Group partners to have an opportunity to comment on the consultation.

**Received.**

(d) Event Organisers Forum Seminar Wednesday 26th March 2014 at 6pm Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Rhadyr.

**Received.**

**Cllrs Willis, Morgan and Cross declared an interest in the following matter:**

(e) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 21.2.14.
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 28.2.14.

**Received.**

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Training Course Schedule Feb to July 2014 – asking for names of Members who wish to attend any of the courses so there are sufficient numbers for them to proceed.

**Received. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.**

(b) Appointment of Members – Financial & Professional Services Sector Panel, closing date 11.3.14; Chair of Emergency Ambulance Services Committee, closing date 4.3.14.

**Received.**

(c) Re: Positive Planning – A consultation on proposals to reform the planning system in Wales – Copy of responses submitted by One Voice Wales.

**Received.**

(d) Re: The Statement of Public Participation for the Welsh National Marine Plan. Consultation document and response form.

**Received.**

3) G. Plenty Quotation from Oak Furniture Land for Mayor's Parlour cabinet and dresser plus copy of Owner's manual for the cabinet.

**Received. This matter was discussed and the quotation for the furniture required to refurbish the Parlour was viewed. It was agreed unanimously to purchase the furniture as per the quotation.**

4) Carillion Local Authority Liaison Committee (LALC) Meeting Notes 21st January 2014.

**Received. It was noted that Carillion had offered free wood for local people with fires and that they had even paid to have wood cut up as kindling.**
**It was agreed to ask for an update on the footpath in front of the garage on the Tredegar roundabout.**

5) Welsh Government

(a) Re: Marine Planning – Public events in March 2014, details on the events can be found at
http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/marinefisheries/planning/?lang=en

**Received.**

(b) Re: Disposal of Local Authority playing fields – consultation documents available at
http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/draft-regulations-and-statutory-guidance-for-playing-fields/?lang=en

**Received. It was agreed that anything that might adversely affect the health and wellbeing of local children and remove local resources should be further scrutinised by Council. It was agreed to Agenda this item for discussion at the next Meeting of Council.**

6) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) Invitation to attend BBNPA Town & Community Council Liaison Meeting 29th March 2014 at Elim Church Centre, Canal Road, Brecon 9.45am to 12noon.

(b) Audit & Scrutiny Committee 7th March 2014 – forwarded to Cllr Price

(c) EGM meeting 11.3.14 – forwarded to Cllr Price

**Received. It was agreed to contact the Councillor concerned to ensure that she was able to attend and to put forward a reserve Member if not.**

7) Royal Mail Notification of postage price increase, franking machines 1st class from 47p to 50p and 2nd from 33p to 37p.

**Received.**

8) Featherstone Town Council

Asking whether Council would consider twinning with them. They are a small ex-mining town in West Yorkshire, population around 15,000 and they have a professional rugby league club Featherstone Rovers.

**Received. It was agreed to Agenda this item for discussion at the next Meeting of Council.**

9) Civic Trust Re: Goodbye to Open Doors – unable to secure funding for this programme to continue.

**Received. It was noted that CADW had expressed interest in taking on this programme.**

10) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

Blaenau Gwent Area Committee meeting on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 5.30pm Raglan House, Llantarnam Business Park, Cwmbran – displayed in noticeboard & on website.

**Received. A Member stressed how important this organisation was and how much help it could give to people who had experienced problems with the Health Service.**

11) S. Rogers Email Re: World Heritage Centre, Outdoor Events Programme 2014 – Asking whether we would be willing to promote their programme.

**Received. This was agreed.**

12) N. Evans Re: Tredegar Urdd Appeal Committee - Thanks for invitation to the presentation evening, they had a lovely time. Poster for Curry & Quiz night 26.3.14 at 7pm Railway Tavern £10 – on board & website.

**Received and displayed.**

13) Gavo Support for carers in Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent – Hafal Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent Carers' participation project. Information on training and support for carers of people with serious mental illness.

**Received. It was agreed to put on web-site**

14) J. Karn Minutes of the BG Heritage Forum World War 1 Commemoration.

**Received. – to be copied to all Members.**

15) Cllr Tippings Details from Nick Smith MP of the proposed visit to House of Commons on Wednesday 9th July 2014.

**Received. It was noted that numbers would be required asap.**

**335) PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Road works report week ending 28.2.14 & Road works report week ending 7.3.14; Communicorp Local Councils Update March 2014 Issue 171.

**Available for all Members.**

**336) AGENDA**

Advance notice of Special Environment Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 11.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council **POSTPONED** from Tuesday 5th March 2014 at 9.30am to **Friday 7th March 2014 at 9am** Council Chamber, Civic Centre; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Monday 3rd March 2014 at 2pm – **CANCELLED**; Licensing Committee Tuesday 4th March 2014 at 10am – **Postponed;** Special Meeting of Council Friday 7th March 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council, Friday 7th March 2014 at 9am, report for item No. 6; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 5th March 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Friday 7th March 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive 12th March 2014 – Deferral of Item No. 8 and reports for Item Nos. 12 & 13.

**Available for all Members.**

**337) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park**

1) Update on the Commemoration of the Battle of Tredegar Hill event on 21st March 2014.

a) A Member put forward the name of a young singer who might be available for the event.
b) The Leader of the Opposition suggested purchasing the Flag of St. David to fly over the House on special occasions – this was agreed unanimously.
c) It was agreed to add the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent to the invitation list and to ensure that future invitations included a "respond by" date.
d) It was agreed to check which Churches and Chapels had been invited.
e) It was agreed to check how many people would be required for Readings during the Service.
f) It was pointed out that there was some very relevant information relating to the Battle in the book "Tredegar's part in the World War 1939-1945" details of which are in the Clerk's office.
g) It was agreed to finalise music for the Service and a bugler.
h) The purchase of the Chinthe from the Embassy at a cost of £50 was agreed unanimously.
i) It was noted that the Casket was being made from Welsh Oak and that a plaque/plaques with bilingual inscription be attached.
b) Additional items.
2) The lack of lighting in the Chamber was raised by Members. It was noted that this had been pointed out to House Management previously.
3) Memorabilia – required erection urgently.
4) Concerns were raised that young children were being unsupervised in the Council Chamber and it was agreed to write to the House Management seeking to address this matter. It was suggested that the door be propped open and that signs regarding CCTV coverage and the fact that children should be supervised be displayed. It was agreed that following the refurbishment the Parlour be locked to prevent any damage.
5) A Member suggested erecting a "Blue Plaque" in the Chamber to mark the fact that this was where Nye Bevan had "cut his political teeth", with possibly a visitor book. It was agreed that this be funded by Town Council if necessary.
6) It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the Management and Staff of Bedwellty House to recognise the success of the Half-Term activities.

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

i. Bedwellty Park Management Board – There had been a great deal of discussion regarding the Chairmanship of the Board.
   There was also discussion concerning the transfer of ownership of the Park from the Urban District Council which no longer existed and queried regarding the forthcoming Leisure Trust formation.
ii. Tredegar Twinning – Following the AGM all serving offices had been re-elected. Problems relating to the lack of teaching of French in local schools was mentioned and it was suggested that the Twinning Association write to Orvault to inform them. Hosts were still being sought for the upcoming visit.
iii. School Governing Bodies
   a) Bryn Bach – Questions were raised regarding CRB checks for Governors which applied to all Primary schools. It was agreed that the question of checks, and the question of payment be put as a question to the JCLC for the next Consultation. It was also agreed to write to the Director of Education seeking clarification.
iv. Tredegar Youth Café – had held a successful fund-raising event.
v. Blaenau Gwent CAB – Members were informed that the group held a meeting in Cefn Golau on Tuesday mornings – it was agreed to write and ask for other dates and locations across Tredegar.

vi. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – It was noted that Peacehaven TARA was no longer registered for Neighbourhood Watch and that the Town Council delegate was liaising with them and the local Police to get them re-registered.

vii. Tredegar Business Forum – Following action by local Police regarding parking some members of the Forum had complained that they were being too hard on shopkeepers and that they were concerned it might affect local trade. The Forum had been advised that Town Council were trying to seek a solution to the lack of toilet provision in the Town Centre and had been kept up to date regarding the problems regarding ownership.
The Young Firefighters were to be contacted to help with Town Centre planting.
It was noted that the Forum and Town Centre Manager would be invited to relevant Events Committee Meetings of Town Council and the delegate was congratulated on his progress with the group.
He advised Council of an event in August to bring a Vintage Car Show to the Town and reported the request of the Forum for the Clock to be opened to the public for this event. It was noted that the date was close to the previous "Open Doors" scheme date and that this should be possible as a joint event.

**339) Matters of local interest and concern – response from OVW legal section regarding the payment of the Gala Lights invoice.**

The invoice from Gala Lights had previously been received and Town Council's request for a reduction had previously been refused.
The information from OVW had been copied to all Members and lengthy discussion ensued.
It was agreed unanimously that the contract with Gala Lights be terminated, as agreed by them, by mutual agreement.

Following further lengthy discussions and a vote by show of hands it was agreed by a majority vote that the invoice be paid in full.

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

**_____ Chair**