TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House Wednesday 17th July 2013 at 6.30pm or immediately following the Performance Review Sub Committee.

Present:	**Councillor**	**T. Smith**
		A. Cotton
		A. Tippings
		G. Bowen-Knight
		P. Prosser
		B. Willis
		R. Thomas
		O. Price
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**
Also Present:		**Mrs A. Jones – RFO**

091) Apologies Cllrs: Watkins; T. Gregory; D. Howells; J Morgan; M. O'Sullivan; H. Woolf and M. Cross.

It was agreed to send best wishes to all those Councillors who were ill.

Please note revised item 094.

092) Declarations of Interest

The Mayor reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

093) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.

This was agreed unanimously.

094)

a) To receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Sub Committee of Council held on 17th July 2013

It was agreed that the recommendations to the Ordinary Meeting of Council be accepted in that the Actual against Budget figures be accepted, the Reserve Account be closed and that more information was to be gleaned from the Bank Manager with reference to the bonds available.

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

Thanks received from Tredegar Angling Club, Tredegar Quilting Circle and Hospice of the Valleys.

Completed Financial Assistance Project Form from Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group.

Heads of the Valleys Gateway Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Tredegar Town Band – A grant of £200 was approved.

Cllr. T. Smith declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
Valleys Life After Stroke – A grant of £200 was approved.

Grants to Churches and Chapels
None received.

c) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in July 2013.
The invoices and cheques had previously been inspected by Members. The only point that was queried was the concert payment for the Comprehensive School following deliberation it was agreed that the payment to the Comprehensive school be of £300 to reflect their involvement as part of the annual Concert Season. It was noted too that a number of items remained unsold in support of the Help for Heroes Appeal and that these would be held as stock for future events or swapped if possible in Cardiff (Members who were travelling to Cardiff to contact the Clerk for further details).
Bank Reconciliations were available for all Members. It was pointed out to Members that urgent invoices during the August recess would be submitted to the Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader to sign.
The RFO was thanked by all Members and invited to remain – she declined and left.

095) To re-open the meeting to the public.
This was agreed unanimously.

096) To appoint a replacement to serve as Deputy Mayor until 2014.
It was agreed to defer this matter and that the present Deputy Mayor would continue until a suitable replacement was found.

097) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Events Sub Committee held on 19th June 2013
The Minutes were received and agreed as a true record. No matters arising

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th June 2013.
The minutes were received and with the addition of apologies from Cllr. O'Sullivan were agreed as a true record.
Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 19th June
i) Minute No 033(5) Mr Allen – It was confirmed once again that it was not possible to use the old gas works site as a temporary car park.
ii) Minute No 054(iii) Bryn Bach Park – Concerns were once again raised regarding the provision of cycles.

Cllr. D. Rowberry arrived at this point.

c) Minutes of the Events Sub Committee held on 3rd July 2013
The minutes were agreed as a true record.
Matters arising from the Minutes

i) Minute no 075 (f) – it was agreed that some sort of alternative be sought for the ice cream machine. Also that the display provided by an artist had not been properly displayed after the event as had been promised, but there had been agreement for the following year.
ii) Minute No 076 – it was further agreed that thanks be given to Mrs Fox for the loan of her memorabilia for display on Sunday 21st the final concert date by Ebbw Valley Brass Band which was to be dedicated to him, a prize for English and the Arts be established in Memory of Michael Foot, a Charity football match be held, benches be placed in the Park and School, a Question Time event be held at the School
iii) Minute No 077) It was further agreed to invite Commercial Christmas to a meeting and to seek the costs of a bespoke lighting arrangement to advertise the Armed Forces Day event.

d) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 3rd July 2013.
The Minutes were agreed as a true record.
Matters arising from the Minutes
i) Minute No 080 – thanks were again expressed to Mr James and it was noted that an invitation be extended for the next Civic Presentation.
ii) Minute No 082 (a) a) It was noted that another item had also been removed from the agenda which had been submitted by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council who had objected strongly.
iii) Minute No 082) 5) A report was received from Cllrs Smith and Tippings who had attended the Meeting on behalf of the Town Council. It was agreed that Cllr Smith had already done a splendid job in fighting the corner for Town Council and a 50/50 split of funding had been agreed. The payments were to be handled by GAVO who would be made very aware that the money was bound for Tredegar Town Council only. Costs of managing the funding would be met by the wind energy company.
iv) Minute No 083) A meeting to be arranged with the Green Shoots Project.
v) Minute No. 087) ii) It was agreed to clarify the role of House staff during Town Council events.
vi) Minute No. 088 b) It was agreed to send wishes to all Members recovering from illness.

e) Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held on 10th July 2013
The Minutes were agreed as a true record.
Matters arising from the Minutes
Members felt disappointed by the meeting and the fact that consultation with Town Council had been a very last minute affair with the third sector being approached before elected representatives. It was felt that many of the projects were too generic and that none stood out. Members noted with disappointment that no mention was made of refurbishing the General Hospital something which it appeared that the Health Board could not afford, but which would have been an excellent flag-ship project for the Town – home of the NHS.
Members were further disappointed by the inclusion of the bunkhouse at Parc Bryn Bach – which they felt clearly was not going to happen, raising the expectations of local people. It was explained to all Members that this was a "wish list". Again it was pointed out that a number of projects were already established.

098) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) P. Gray. Re: Sirhowy Hill A4047 – No plans for any additional provision to deal with an increase in traffic flow; no complaints received.
Received. It was noted that there had been a number of accidents on the road with one of the latest being on the 19th June which had involved a mother and her disabled child – the car had been a write off . The Clerk was instructed to write again stating that the letter was a complaint, further pointing

out that the weight restrictions had been ignored on a number of occasions and suggesting a site meeting with the Borough during the busy times ie 5pm.

(b) **<u>Bedwellty Park:-</u>**

(i) Agenda Bedwellty Park Management Board Wednesday 31st July 2013 at 5pm Learning Centre, Bedwellty House.

Received – it was agreed that matters raised by Town Council be further submitted and that Council ask for the Agenda to be amended.

(ii) K. Stowers Re: Areas for concern – reply to the concerns raised.

Received – concerns highlighted were regarding the mess on the Memorial gates and it was agreed to write to the Masons regarding this matter. Armed Forces Day flag to be removed and the Welsh Dragon repaired; Sacks by Events Arena to be cleared. Tarmac and lighting around the War Memorial – it was noted that a quote was pending for lighting but it was unlikely that the tarmac would be resurfaced this year. House and Leisure staff to look at methods of making the area safer. It was pointed out by a number of Members that this problem was widespread over the Park. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the Management to suggest that the work had not been carried out in a proper manner. With regard to artefacts it was agreed that these needed to be in place as soon as possible, that the list previously circulated be re-sent and that they needed to be in place prior to Armistice Sunday.

(c) **<u>Parc Bryn Bach:-</u>**

(i) Agenda Management Committee Thursday 18th July 2013 at 4pm, Visitor's Centre.

Received – Members were asked for their concerns in preparation and the following were raised: losing money via refreshments; need to push for franchising; Vision Statement had not been forthcoming; request by Members to know how often the Manager is off site leading "expeditions" and if he is offering value for money at the Parc; Members to find out how to move franchising idea on. It was noted by other Members that there was to be a review of services regarding alternative delivery which may well affect the Parc.

(ii) J. Kivell. Re: Golf Tournament – details of the event due 17.7.13, received 15.7.13 and the associated correspondence.

Received. The Mayor and Clerk detailed their concerns relating to this event – short notice/lack of advertising and promotion and general lack of communication. It was felt that better communication between the Parc Management, event organisers Inspire and Town Council be encouraged. Only 20 youngsters took part in the event and it was agreed to ask for a breakdown of costs. Members were disappointed that there was little advertising outside schools and it wasn't considered to be a very inclusive event.

(d) **£300 grant from Tredegar Ward Members for Armed Forces Day –** Letter of thanks sent 9.7.13

Received with thanks and noted

(e) **Forwarded letter from Carillion regarding the meeting at A465 Tredegar Roundabout to discuss construction works and pedestrian movements.**

Received. It was noted that whilst many concerns were being addressed the pathway in front of the garage was still giving cause for concern – especially with the holidays pending and people on foot using the area throughout the day. Members wondered if the purchasing process could be speeded up. It was agreed to monitor this at quarterly meetings of the Local Authority Liaison Committee (see later correspondence item no 5)

2) One Voice Wales

(a) **Paul Egan. Re: Getting your message across - this info was requested at recent the recent One voice Wales AGM.**

Received.

(b) **<u>Training:-</u>**

(i) 2013 Training Programme.

(ii) Module 5 The Council Meeting – Monday 22.7.13 Community Centre, 10/12 Orchard Street, Neath 6.30pm – 9pm, £20/30/40 per person depending on size of Council & membership status.

(iii) Module 8 Introduction to Community Engagement – Monday 22.7.13 Council House, Cwmbran 6.30pm – 9pm, £20/30/40 per person depending on size of Council & membership status.

(iv) Appointment of Members to the Advisory Panel to Welsh Ministers about Public Policy Institute - closing date for applications 2.8.13.

(v) Appointment of Members to the Wales Programme Monitoring Committee - closing date for applications 25.7.13.

(vi) July/August 2013 External funding newsletter.

All above received interested Members to contact either directly or via the Clerk.

3) Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Responses to questions raised by Council.

Received. Questions asked related to the use of the "docking System" which had been mentioned by Ms. Bolt previously. New indications were that this had not been intended for dialysis – and also that the facility had not been used at all. Detailed figures of people using the Minor Injuries Unit and Council were informed that the recent "Use it or Lose it" campaign had seen an increase in user numbers.

4) Cllr Thomas **Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel Meeting Tuesday 3rd September 2013 at 6pm 87 Attlee Way, Tredegar. The meeting will be the AGM and the panel will also consider a proposal to merge with Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel.**

Received. The lack of interest from younger people was noted and the idea to merge with Ebbw Vale supported, however Members asked if we could help to promote the Panel.

5) Carillion **LALC Meeting, offering dates for week commencing 22.7.13 -** suggesting either Tues/Thurs 10am or 2pm.

Received – it was noted that 10 am or 4pm would best suit Members.

6) Meeting Place Communications

Pen Bryn Oer wind farm planning application – confirming application has now been submitted to Caerphilly County Borough Council and submission documents have been uploaded to www.PenBrynOer.co.uk. Also attached a Non-Technical Summary as information.

Received – see Minute 097) d) iv)

7) Open Doors Events

(a) **<u>Civic Trust For Wales:-</u>**

(i) Order form for promotional material.

(ii) Reminder that earlier info sent is still under embargo.

(b) **Zurich Insurance –** Additional premium of £106 would be due to cover

the Open Doors event at the Clock.

RECEIVED. The additional payment was agreed and accepted by Council unanimously. It was agreed that the Civic Trust for Wales be informed of the lengths taken by Town Council to take part in the event this year.

8) Bedwellty Park Bowling Club

Invitation for two Councillors to attend a special opening game against Barbarians B A at the new pavilion on Thursday 18th July at 2pm.

Received. Cllrs Smith and Price to attend

9) Kidney Wales Foundation

Letter of thanks for the money raised at this year's Walk For Life.

Received. Letter to be placed on web-site.

10) M. Fox **Letter congratulating Cllr Smith how on well he spoke on the radio.**

Received. All Members congratulated the Mayor on the way he had presented the argument for the race track project (letter to be placed on web-site)

11) Armed Forces Day

(a) **Tredegar Scouts -** £10 donation to AFD and thanks for inviting them to participate, they enjoyed the day and hope to support the event next time.

(b) **Tredegar Angling Club -** really enjoyed the day & will support TTC again.

Thanks received and noted.

12) Website

(a) **H. Lewis -** Confirming that as a result of last night's meeting he has now setup a Facebook account and wants to know who will be admin on it.

(b) **D. Collins, Clerk to Cwmbran Community Council –** Very impressive site.

Received. It was noted at the meeting that Cllr Cotton had agreed to be the administrator and it was suggested by another Member that the RFO be included. This was in her absence.

13) Mid Rhondda Band

Sunday's concert (7.7.13) went well, it was a great day.

Received with thanks.

14) R. Williams **Re: Improvements to Tredegar –** Queries concerning alcohol free zones, Cefn Golau ponds and Parc Bryn Bach.

Noted. It was agreed to seek further information from local police and to forward the correspondence to Borough Members.

16) Mrs Lewis **Concerns regarding the street lighting in Morgan Terrace –** forwarded to Cllr Trollope.

Cllr Trollope - Copy of letter sent by Cllr Thomas to K. Weeks & reply from Mr Weeks.

Received. Response from BGCBC Lighting Dept. that the light in question was removed by the property owner and that they are in the process of costing the new installation.

17) Goldies Cymru **Asking for financial assistant towards their project, relating mainly to the group they have now setup in Rhymney. Aim of project is to**

improve the health and wellbeing of older and disabled people through song. Rhymney group is based in the Oaklands Day Centre and is open to everyone throughout the area.

Received. It was noted by a Member that if based in Tredegar the Council would fully support. It was agreed to send a letter of support and to put the item on the Council Web site.

18) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) NPA Agenda 12th July 2013.

(b) Request to complete Webcasting survey available at Brecon Beacons NPS.

Received. Cllr. O. Price delegated.

19) Sue Oldham **Thank you from the Market Street Committee for helping to get "drinking of alcohol prohibited" signs erected.**

Received. It was agreed to forward to Helena Hunt at Community Safety.

20) Heads of the Valleys Stationers

Leaflet/advert for business cards, graphic design services.

Received – to be kept on file for future reference.

099) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 12.7.13; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings June 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 19.7.13; Communicorp Local Councils Update July 2013 Issue 164.

Available for Members.

100) AGENDA

Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 10th July 2013 at 1pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale plus agenda; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 11th July 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 15th July 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 17th July 2013 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Additonal item no. 15; Special Executive – Advance notice of meeting Wednesday 24th July 2013 at 4pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive 17th July 2013, report for item No. 11; Heritage Forum meeting Thursday 18th July 2013, Tredegar Library at 9.30am; Advance notice of Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 22nd July 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for Members.

101) Planning:

a) OFFICERS REPORT –

2012/0373 Installation of a 500KW wind turbine generator together with 11KV substation/transformer house, construction of access track, electrical cabling and ancillary works, Penrhiwgwaith Farm, Mynydd Bedwellte, Hollybush, Blackwood – Recommending planning permission granted subject to conditions.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0196	Mr A Davies 31 Bush Bach, Tredegar	Detached dwelling and detached garage (revised proposal – amended siting), land at Pinetree Cottage adjacent to Tafarn Ty Uchaf, Trefil

Council were minded to object on the grounds that this was a completely different design and location to that put in initially. The original design was for a barn conversion whereas this was a separate building and it was felt that this constituted ribbon development. It was also felt that the design was not in keeping with the area.

c) Other Planning Matters
None received.

102) Matters of Local Interest or Concern
a) It was agreed by all to send a letter of congratulations to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for passing the initial planning application for the Circuit of Wales.
b) Trefil Barrier – it was noted that there had been correspondence from the estates office of the Duke of Beaufort stating that if the Circuit of Wales did increase visitor number s substantially that they would reconsider the barrier.
c) A number of names were put forward for recognition at our next Civic Presentation evening.
d) The artwork from Tredegar Comprehensive which was on display in the Walkway of the House was commended by all Members.
e) Members were encouraged to look at the designs for the Parlour which had been submitted by Mr Gareth Plenty of Tredegar – these were received with much praise, however there were a couple of items which may need to be “tweaked”.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

All Members were reminded that the Council would be in recess in August.

_____Chair