TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 19th June 2013 following the Events Committee at 6.45pm

Present:	**Councillor**	**T. Smith**
		R. Watkins
		A. Tippings
		H. Trollope
		M. Cross
		B. Willis
		D. Rowberry
		P. Prosser
		J. Morgan
		S. Trollope
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**
		Mrs A. Jones – RFO
Also present:		**Mr. S. Bees and Mr. C. James**

065) Apologies – were received from Cllrs. Cotton; Gregory; Price and Thomas.

066) Declarations of Interest
The Chair reminded Members to make declarations as and when necessary.

067) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th May 2013.
b) Minutes of the Civic Sub Committee Meeting held on 5th June 2013.
c) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 5th June 2013.
d) Minutes of the Events Sub Committee held on 12th June 2013.
All the above were moved as a true record.

068) Matters arising from the Minutes
(a) Minute No. 033 (3) (i) CREW - Councillors who had attended spoke of further workshops/updates that were planned with a number of ideas being put forward such as setting up training for carers and "pop up" shops so that people could try out their retail ideas.
(b) Minute No 033 (5) – Mr Allen – it was noted by Ward Members that a suggestion had been made to use the old gas works site as a car park as a temporary measure but this had not been possible.
(c) Minute No 048 (5) Clock planting – It was noted that the Green Shoots project had been contacted by the Clerk, a Member suggested that they have two weeks to respond also that the same gentlemen carry out planting and maintenance this year
(d) Minute No 054 (iii) Parc Bryn Bach – Members noted with disappointment that the pedaloes had not been available during warm weather and it was agreed to agenda this matter for the next meeting of the Management committee.

(e) Minute no 057 – it was noted that members of Tredegar Comprehensive School would be taking part.

069) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC Environmental Awards general entry forms and entry forms for School Governors to take to next meetings – available to Governors.

RECEIVED. Copies to all Members.

2) One Voice Wales AGM Gwent Valleys Partnership Area Committee Tuesday 2nd July 2013 at 7pm Pontypool Community Council, 35a Commercial Street, Pontypool. Nomination forms included for election of Chairman & Vice Chairman 2013/14.

RECEIVED – Cllrs Willis and Cross to attend.

At 7.10pm Mr. Clive James arrived and the following item was taken:

070) To receive the report of the Internal Auditor and to confirm the Annual Accounts and Return for 2012/13 prior to External Audit (Please Note this item may be moved to accommodate the arrival of the Internal Auditor)

Mr. James apologised for his late attendance and then went on to detail the audit procedure and the assurances which would be required to complete the Audit form.

He highlighted changes to the audit time table and that a number of things might adversely influence completion with the allotted time scale. He noted too that One Voice Wales might take up the point that there were only a few recalcitrant councils (as a result of external auditor failure)and that the majority were now paying the price.

He stated that the Business Reserve Account was no longer required and it was unanimously agreed to close this account.

Grants to organisations – he noted that a number had been written in advance of their presentation – he suggested that the cheques not be physically written until they were due to be presented – this was agreed unanimously.

Mrs A Jones (RFO) then went on to explain that the budget was within estimates.

Mr. James highlighted possible security issues relating to the window which was accessible from the roof and it was suggested that this be looked at in greater detail by Council – which was agreed.

He then went on to state that this would be his final audit for Council and that he was standing down.

He noted to Council that the change in management of Council accounts in the past years had been remarkable with greater clarity, and that the challenges to meet the Governance and Accountability criteria were daunting - but had been met.

Members thanked him for his tireless and constructive help and guidance. He was invited to attend a Civic Presentation evening to receive a gift from the Council for his sterling service and he was wished a long and happy retirement.

The RFO read through the statements required on the internal audit which were unanimously agreed by all Members.

The RFO then introduced Mr. Bees who was stepping in to the role. Mr Bees was well known to most Members of Council and gave a quick reprise of his career to date. He was welcomed to his role as the new Internal Auditor by all Members.

The Annual Return was agreed and signed. Messrs. James and Bees were invited to stay but declined and withdrew.

The meeting then resumed on Correspondence.

3) Cllr Watkins Letter offering his resignation as Deputy Mayor due to ill health, wishes to remain as a Councillor.

Received with regret. It was noted that although only in the post for a short time Cllr. Watkins had been very active. He received the best wishes of all Members of Council and it was agreed to agenda a replacement for the next meeting. Cllr. Watkins agreed to stay ion the post until a suitable replacement was found**.**

4) Armed Forces Day:-

(a) BGCBC, H. Probert Re: Catering – confirming stall holders cannot do catering such as burgers/ice creams/hot dogs & that House catering facilities will be sufficient.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

(b) Cllr Thomas - Confirming availability of Six Nations Trophy and details that need to be confirmed to Rachel Newberry.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to check details of collection.

5) Open Doors:-

(a) Civic Trust Re: Town Clock – unable to provide insurance for the clock opening this year due to people having to climb via ladders. Requesting confirmation that we have insurance to cover the event before they will register it. – Emailed our insurance company, waiting for reply.

(b) Zurich Insurance - Requesting further information on Open Doors event which will then be used to make a decision about insurance cover.

Received. Information to be passed on – to be updated at a later meeting.

6) Tredegar Heritage Are unable to implement any changes to Council representatives on their association until their meeting 27th June 2013.

Received and Noted.

7) Aneurin Bevan Health Board:

(a) South Wales Programme Consultation document, consultation running until 19.7.13, poster detailing public events. Request to advertise/distribute as much as possible. – Added to our website & poster in noticeboard.

Received. It was agreed to encourage as many people as possible to attend.

(b) They have received the request for information under the Freedom of information Act and they will be in contact again shortly.

Received.

8) Cllr Trollope Copy of letter received from Alun Davies AM Re: Lack of dialysis facility in Blaenau Gwent.

Received. The minutes of the original meeting with Ms Bolt were made available for all Members and the "docking station" was further explained. It was agreed to keep the issue active.

9) Welsh Government Re: Your views on public services in wales - Requesting Council to encourage people to engage with the Commission's work in helping shape the future of public service delivery in Wales. Comments can be submitted via on-line, email, post or face to face at the drop-in sessions being held. www.wales.gov.uk/publicservicecommission

Received. It was agreed to encourage as many people as possible to take part.

10) Mrs B Berry — Re: Eisteddfod Yr Urdd – Unfortunately folk dancers & school choir now unavailable to perform with Orpheus 16.6.13 due to other commitments. Thanks to Council for their support and will be in touch in the future as they hope to organise more events to raise the profile of the forthcoming Urdd.

Received. It was agreed that a firm policy for "bucket collections" should be agreed by Council.

11) L. Evans — Poster advertising Now & Then Charity concert 17.8.13 at The Rhyd Hall – added to web.

Received

12) ITV — Request to advertise their search for participants in Come Dine with Me – added to web & emailed to Tredegar.co.uk.

Received.

070) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique June 2013 #146; HAGS SMP Ltd Parish & Community News leaflet; BGCBC Road works report week ending 14.6.13; Ashwood Promotional leaflets; BGCBC Road works report week ending 21.6.13; One Voice Wales Public appointments advert – Residential Property Tribunal paid part time professional members, application closing date 1.7.13; One Voice Wales Draft Technical Advice Note (TAN) 23 Economic Development – comments to be submitted by 5.9.13; L. Downer Re: Consultation Town Community Council 20.6.13 – copy of Abertillery & Llanhilleth's agenda item; One Voice Wales Welsh Government ICT websites grant programme – copy of correspondence sent to all Unitary Authority Chief Executives setting out Welsh Governments proposed approach to the distribution of the £375,000 ICT websites grant programme across Wales; Shelter Cymru People & Homes 2013 conference programme, Thursday 27th June 2013 at Swansea Marriott Hotel; One Voice Wales Re: - Funding Fair 1st July 2013 in Swansea; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Town & Community Council Charter and meeting update; Gavo - Tai Calon Community Housing Awards 2013; Aberfest Summer Festival information; Room hire info for Aneurin Bevan House; GAVO Blaenau Gwent Network Forum 9th July 2013 at 9.30am Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale. Re: Continuity & Chamge – Refreshing the relationship between the Welsh Government & the 3rd sector in Wales consultation.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

071) AGENDA

Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Monday 17th June 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Joint Education & Skills/Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee being held Wednesday 3rd July 2013 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 19th June 2013 at 4pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 17th June 2013 at 2pm – Updated reports for item Nos. 9 & 9(a); Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 20th June 2013 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Special Planning Committee Tuesday 25th June 2013 at 2pm at Rhyd Y Blew car park, Ebbw Vale.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

072) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT –

None received.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0173	Mrs M Godfrey 20 Harford Gardens	Erect rear 2 storey extension.

No Objections.

c) Other Planning Matters
None received.

073) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN.
1) Members noted that the Homfray trail artworks were ere being installed but queried the safety of the item outside the NCB which had a sharp exposed edge. It was agreed to highlight this problem with the Tourism Officer.
2) A Member highlighted the scheme by Crime Prevention to supply alarms and other equipment to vulnerable people.
3) It was noted that the law on methadone had been changed – something that Town Council had been very active in supporting. This was welcomed by all.
4) It was noted that the closing date for the environmental awards was approaching and it was agreed to seek an extension.
5) Members noted with interest the powers of the new police Commissioner.
There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

_____ Chair