TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 16th October 2013 following the Performance Review Meeting.

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

161) Apologies Cllrs. Gregory, Howells; Watkins and S. Trollope

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

163) 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**.**

164) To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Completed End of Project Grant forms have been received from Tredegar Town AFC Seniors, Trinity Spiritual Church and Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum.

<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137</u>
Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls – A grant of £200 was approved.
Bryn Bach Park Model Boat Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Punch House Amateur Boxing Club – It was agreed that Members would visit the Club.
2167 (Tredegar) Squadron ATC – A grant of £200 was approved.

Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
None Received.

165) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in October 2013.
The RFO noted that bank reconciliations were available for all Members.

It was noted that an invoice had been received for the work carried out on the floor of the Parlour and the quality of the work was commended.

Cllr. Cotton arrived at this point.

166) To receive a verbal report on the Performance Review Meeting of Council held prior to this meeting and to receive any recommendations.

It was unanimously agreed that the following recommendations be received by Council:

a) Funds be made available for any work that needs to be carried out to pictures in the gallery.

b) An allotment policy be formulated and allottees be informed

c) A meeting of the Publicity Committee be called to begin work on the Town Guide.

The RFO was thanked by Members for her control of the budget.

The RFO then left the Meeting.

167) To re-open the Meeting to Members of the public.

This was agreed unanimously.

168) To welcome the New Executive Member for Economic Strategy and Development and to receive any communication he may make to Council.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Graham Bartlett who had recently been made the new Executive Member and also Mr. Mark Price of the Regeneration Division of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Councillor Bartlett thanked Members for the invite. He then went on to assure Members that he would be in regular contact with Town and Community Councillors who were the elected representatives of the people. He explained that the main bid had been lost but that there was an opportunity to put in for a smaller amount of money, £5million, this bidding process was open to other Councils too.

Mr. Price explained that the new bid would be more focussed on projects which tackled poverty. He expressed Councils disappointment that the original bid had failed. It was noted that although the original bid had followed the guidelines issued by the Welsh Government it had involved a large number of projects. He reiterated their commitment to the new bid and that they would liaise closely with Town and Community Councils.

Members congratulated the new Executive Member on his appointment and hoped that it would be a long and fruitful partnership.

He was asked if the Borough had received much guidance on the new bid and if the time that had been invested in the initial bid could be used as match funding for the new bid.

To this he replied that he was still awaiting guidance in connection with the new bid. Members noted their support for the new bid and they were reassured that they would be fully informed and consulted throughout.

The gentlemen were thanked and then withdrew.

169) To welcome Insp. Russell Thomas and/or Sgt Steve O'Brien of Gwent Police to answer questions previously put by Members.

It was noted that Insp. Thomas was unable to attend but that Sgt O'Brien was accompanied by Constable Andrew Jenkins the Sirhowy Ward Officer. It was noted that both Officers were quite new to the area.

The following items had previously been sent to the Officers:-

1) Double yellow lines – A number of Members are concerned that parking on double yellow lines is rife throughout Tredegar. Many streets could be named in any part of Tredegar, but we shall name Church Street and Charles Street as just two examples. Members question whether there is any point to having the lines if they are not adequately policed.
The Officers noted that there is currently a campaign being run in Castle and Commercial Street (both with double yellow lines) which entailed warning letters being posted to all households and businesses with a one week warning of enforcement.
A Member pointed out that there was a great deal of illegal parking all over Tredegar and asked that the police response – whatever it may be – should be consistent. The Officers requested details of other streets with double yellow lines which were continually ignored.

2) Town Centre – illegal parking. A Member has asked how many prosecutions/fixed penalty notices have been issued in the shopping precinct for illegal parking since January 2013.
This information was still being sought by the Officers and would be reported back to Council. Members raised issues with some people continually parking illegally apparently without any sort of prosecution. Details were given to the Officers to pursue.

3) CCTV in the Town Centre – again a Member has asked how many prosecutions have been made using evidence from CCTV and the operatives in the Control Centre since January 2013. In the present economic climate – is it worth it?
Unfortunately these figures were also not available. However Officers did point out that CCTV was used by the operators to direct Police areas where there was trouble and this often led to situations being defused. It was also useful in keeping watch over the town when officers were deployed elsewhere.

4) Tredegar Police Station – are there any plans to re-open Tredegar front desk? Will we be seeing more Police Officers on foot patrol throughout the Town and the outlying parts of Tredegar?
The Officers reported that there were no plans to re-open the Station, However it had been suggested that there be more surgeries in the Station in Town. No other directives had been issued.

Cllr. O' Sullivan arrived at this point and offered his apologies.

A couple of general points were raised by one of our Members from Trefil –
5) There was a recent rave at the quarry and the Member in question asked several questions of the Inspector at the time regarding policing - there has been no response as yet.
The Officers, who were both quite new to their postings in Tredegar, could not comment and were given information by a Member relating to the protocol set up to deal with raves in the past.

6) Also she made a complaint regarding off road bikes circling the village on Sunday last - but again had no response.
This matter, together with the more general complaint regarding all off-road vehicles, was raised by a number of Members. Again the barrier in Trefil was mentioned as an obstacle to law abiding citizens. The Officers advised that they were unable to actively pursue such vehicles off-road but welcomed information from members of the public reporting sightings of such vehicles. A Member noted the effectiveness of the OWL (Online Watch Link) project but noted a lack of feedback to members of the website. The Officers agreed that they would take this information back.
Members took the opportunity to congratulate the Officers on their recent successes in the battle against drug dealing. It was further noted that the new film which highlighted such problems was currently being filmed in the area.

The importance of co-operation between police and public was stressed and the Officers agreed to report back the information previously requested. It was agreed to meet on a regular basis. Both Officers were thanked for their attendance and then left.

170) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th September 2013
b) Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held on 2nd October 2013.
Both sets of Minutes were agreed as a true record.

171) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Ordinary Meeting held 18th September 2013
i) Minute no 137 (ii) It was agreed to chase the management at Parc Bryn Bach for the breakdown of costs of the tournament.
b) Civic Meeting held on 2ndOctober 2013.
i) Minute No 150(1)(d) It was agreed to approach the Town Centre Manager to ascertain whether planters on the lamp-posts contained a plastic inner which could be removed.
ii) Minute No 153 – it was noted by Members that the AGM of the Bedwellty House and Park Management Board was to be held the following week and that no agenda had been received by Council. Items for the agenda had been noted.

172) Chair to sign Minutes.
Duly signed.

173) Climate Change Adaptation Programme Phase II – to discuss Council involvement in project as previously agreed (copy to all Members)
A number of Members expressed interest, however without definite dates agreed it was impossible for Members to schedule this in advance. It was agreed to contact One Voice Wales and seek clarification.

174) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) D. Watkins Re: Oak Football Club – requests that we ask them to contact either himself or Alun Watkins to discuss the matter further. There are other criteria they would need to meet to be part of the Gwent County League such as provision of covered standing area and dug outs therefore there is a need to investigate the options available. The costs of achieving these provisions are usually borne by the respective football clubs.

Received. Certain Members felt more information was required and requested a meeting with the Club and Borough officials.

Cllrs. Morgan, Cross and Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the voting or discussion thereon

(b) (i) List of licensing Applications week ending 27.9.13.
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 4.10.13.
(iii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 11.10.13.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Badger vaccination grant open for applications – closing date 13/12/13
Further details available from www.wales.gov.uk/bovinetb

Received. It was noted by the Leader of the Opposition that such culling was not taking place in Wales.

(b) Training:-
(i) Planning Training is available on a demand basis. The cost is £400 per course and the lead Council would need to provide a venue plus refreshments. The course is available for 20 people per session, each session runs for approximately 2.5hours. One Voice Wales will advertise any places not filled by the lead Council to the neighbouring Councils.
(ii) Health & Safety at Barry 24.10.13.
(iii) Module 10 Chairing Skills at Barry 28.10.13.
(iv) Module 11 Community Emergency Planning at Usk 16.10.13.
(v) Training courses in South Wales for October 2013.

RECEIVED. Available for interested Members. It was noted that the Borough Council also provided Planning Training, interested Members to contact.

3) Welsh Water Letter in response to concerns raised regarding Shon Sheffrey Reservoir
Hard copy received too.

Received. Members were concerned to note the content of the letter and it was agreed that a meeting with the Water Authority and the Angling Club should be facilitated as soon as possible, during Council office hours.

4) Brecon Beacon National Park Authority
Re: Meeting with Tredegar Town Council on 2.10.13 – response to questions raised.

A number of Members again queried responses that the road from Tafarn ty Uchaf was a bridleway and that the road itself was owned by Duke of Beaufort "we believe that the road is owned by the Duke of Beaufort as well as the surrounding land, as he owns all the common land in that area and the road crosses the common" – this statement led to a deal of debate regarding the ownership of the road to Llangynidr. It was agreed to seek a meeting with interested parties.

5) Christmas Lights Switch On

Cllr. A. Cotton declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(a) J. Cotton – available for switch on at a cost of £175.

Received. It was agreed by a show of hands that Mr. Cotton be engaged. It was further agreed that the purchase of a sound system be expedited.

(b) Dinky Donuts - Details of stall available.

Received. Evidence of certification was being sought from the Port Talbot Env. Health Dept.

(c) Round Table - Santa Sleigh available, requesting sponsorship from Council for remedial works required on the sleigh. Also requesting sponsorship for the Fireworks Display on 5.11.13 (grant form emailed to A. Clayton).

Received. It was noted that grant forms had been sent. However it would be too late to give grant support for the fireworks display.

6) Tredegar Heritage Copy of a letter from Tredegar Heritage to the Minister for Housing & Regeneration, Mr. Carl Sergeant AM regarding the recent rejection of the bid by BGCBC for funding under the Vibrant and Viable Places scheme (Copied for all Members).

Received.

7) M. Higgs Press release for Quiz Wizards which commences on Thursday 7th November 2013 at The Moose Lodge, Tredegar. Further information on the remaining dates will be issued shortly – Added to our website.

Received. E-mail had been sent to Mr. Higgs informing him of Council Meeting dates to avoid any clashes.

8) Sherman Cymru Re: Night Out Scheme – dates available for performance. (Emailed Bryn Bach School to check which date is best)

Received – awaiting reply from Bryn Bach.

9) Cllr Thomas Forwarded email from PC Green regarding putting forward initiatives for the next meeting on 15.10.13.

Received.

10) Cllr Smith Forwarded information relating to the HLF programmes and Heritage Alliance Funding Directory.

Received. This information had been requested from Mr. Olding as a result of a meeting of Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales.

11) Mr W Roberts Re: Restoration of Ex-Hills of Tredegar Bus – continuing maintenance and further restoration is required. Would be grateful if Council offer any information with regards to available grants that they can apply for to help with this work.

Received. It was agreed to contact the Re-Liance Bus Preservation Society to see if they had any knowledge of this project. It was also agreed to check eligibility for Town Council funding.

12) Mrs A Jones Letter to request approved time off for exam study & exams.

Received and approved.

13) Fthr Davis (i) St George's Church website, http://stgandj.wix.com/st-george#!home/mainPage .
(ii) St James' Church website http://stgandj.wix.com/st-james .

Received.

14) Civic Trust Open Doors 2013 feedback form.

Received.

15) GAVO (a) Re: Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards 2013 – reminder that closing date is 31.10.13.

Received. It was agreed to put forward nominations.

(b) Welcome Friends Project for Over 50's presents Willowtown Community Primary School Choir at Beaufort Ballroom Wednesday 23.10.13 11am to 2pm, an opportunity to meet representatives of local community/interest groups looking for new members. Tickets 50p available from Ebbw Vale Library or pay on the door.

Received. It was noted that the local History and Archive Society would be taking part.

16) Children with Cancer UK
Asking for donations towards their continued research work.
Received. Individual Members to contribute.

17) Tredegar Thespians Re: Michael Foot event – noting that Theatre is available until 24th November at latest at a basic cost of £100 per evening (lighting engineer approx. £7 per hour extra)
Received with thanks. It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Events Committee as soon as possible but that this event may need to be held after Christmas.

175) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC Road works report week ending 11.10.13 & week ending 18.10.13.
Available for all Members.

176) AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 10th October 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 14th October 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 29th October 2013 at 2pm – additional item for consideration; Executive Wednesday 16th October 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Tuesday 29th October 2013 at 2pm additional item No. 5 Future of vacant Ebbw Vale Sports Centre – report to follow; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 22nd October 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting Thursday 17th October 2013 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.
Available for all Members. It was noted that an item relating to the Lodge in Bedwellty Park had been included on the agenda for community Asset Transfer. It was agreed to write objecting in the strongest possible terms, since there had been no consultation with Town Council.

Cllrs. Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
177) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – None Received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal

Cllr. Price declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

2013/0293	EJL Properties LLP 32 Rowan House Nurser Lane Hopwas Tamworth	Construction of 5 semi-detached pairs of two storey, 3 bedroom houses with off street parking for 2 cars per unit, land at lower Charles Street.

No Objections

2013/0296	Mr J Williams Greengate 25 Glanhowy Street	Retention of boundary wall to the front of the property.

No Objections

2013/0300	Mr A MacDougall Tai Calon Community Housing Ltd , Solis One, Rising Sun Ind. Estate, Blaina	Creation of 18 residents car parking open space to the rear of Nos. 96-98 St James Way, Tredegar.

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters – None.

178) Matters of Local Interest or Concern – There were none.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

_____Chair