TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillor** **T. Smith**
R. Watkins
A. Cotton
A. Tippings
M. Cross
G. Meredith
D. Howells
D. Rowberry
B. Willis
J. Morgan
H. Trollope
P. Prosser
G. Bowen-Knight
S. Trollope
R. W. Thomas

In attendance: **Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**

359) Apologies: **Cllrs. T. Gregory and O. Price.**

360) To receive and welcome Chief Inspector Matt Williams, Head of Neighbourhood Policing
The Mayor welcomed Chief Inspector Williams who had taken over from Marc Budden. He began by explaining his background in Neighbourhood policing and his three main aims. Which were 1) Engagement and understanding the Community. Members commented that by stabilising the team in Tredegar this was already in motion. 2) Victim Focussed and 3) Leadership development. He mentioned at this point the introduction of a couple of new Officers to the area.
Members welcomed the news and congratulated the Chief Inspector on the ongoing success relating to alcohol and drug abuse, some of this being as a result of information from members of the public, including youngsters.
The Chief Inspector had brought along a copy of the Local Policing Update magazine and it was agreed that this would be sent to the Clerk for inclusion on the Town Council web-site.
A Member mentioned the fact that it had been announced that a number of local stations would be re-opening, but that this did not include our own in Tredegar. The Ch. Insp. Highlighted the fact that the Mobile Police Station was a presence in the area, but Members remarked that there was no set pattern to the appearance of the Mobile Unit, which was probably more suited to a more rural area, and that the re-opening of the front desk would be a better option. Members asked again for the status of the Station in Tredegar to be reviewed and the Ch. Insp. agreed to take the request back for consideration. Once again Members asked for more Officers to be seen "out and about" on foot, and urged him to encourage local Officers and PCSO's to interact with local Tenants and Residents Associations who had advised that local officers would be welcomed. This would be seen as another way of engaging the community and building up a rapport with local officers which could result in intelligence being fed to them regarding activities in various areas.
Once again questions were raised regarding parking in disabled bays and loading/unloading bays in the Town Centre. A number of Members reported on-going concerns regarding vehicles which continually flouted the law. A Member reported that one of the main problems with regard to enforcement was the poor state of the lines themselves and the fact that many were not fully up to

standard. Having approached the Borough Council regarding this matter he had been informed that a programme to refurbish all yellow lines in Tredegar would be too costly but that they would look at areas designated by Borough Members of the Town Council. Areas put forward had been Commercial Street, Castle Street and the area near Barclays Bank.
A Member raised a matter of great concern regarding "bogus" police cars seen on the Mountain Road flashing drivers to stop, with blue "Police type" lights built in to their vehicles. The dangers of this were apparent and information was given to the Ch. Insp..
It was noted that the information board outside the Ebbw Vale Police Station contained information regarding arrests etc and the Ch. Insp agreed that they had had good feedback. Similar information was requested to be displayed in Tredegar.
The recent visit of the Police Commissioner to Tredegar was welcomed, however it had been reported that the Commissioner and his staff left the location prior to the end of the advertised time of the event, which meant that some people who were intending to see him might have missed him.
The forthcoming Queen's Baton Relay event was discussed and the Ch. Insp. assured Members that he would contact his colleagues who were involved in the event for a full discussion and liaise with Town Council regarding road closures for the event.
The Mayor thanked Ch. Insp. Matt Williams for attending and he then withdrew.

361) <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 2167 Sqdn ATC, Tredegar Gardeners Club, Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls, Royal British Legion Tredegar Branch, Tredegar Reavers Wargames Club, Tredegar Orpheus Choir and Tredegar Thespians Players.

Thanks received from NSPCC.

Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group – A grant for £200.00 was recommended. The news that they were expected to take part in the Vintage Car Rally being organised by the Business Forum in Tredegar in August was welcomed by all.
Tredegar Angling Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended and the Club were praised for their local involvement. It was agreed that they should be invited to AFD 2014. It was reported that the works at the Reservoir were still ongoing.

362) To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).
None Received.

Cllrs. Rowberry and Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
363) Planning
a) to consider an Officer's Report
List of Delegated Items determined between18th February 2014 and 21st March 2014:-
C/2014/0018 Proposed new dwelling, Plot 20 Maes Morgan, Nantybwch – Approved.
C/2014/0002 Alterations to shop front to incorporate new roller shutter, 25 Commercial Street – Approved.
C/2014/0019 Change of use of land to residential curtilage, erection of detached garage and new front boundary wall and gates, land adjacent to No. 1 Hughes Cottages, Merthyr Road, Tafarnaubach – Approved.
C/201/0005 Outline planning permission for residential development and the demolition of church building, Calvery Pentecostal Church, Sycamore Avenue – Approved.
Received en bloc.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0053	Mr A Rees 124 Peacehaven, Tredegar.	Retention of a wooden garden shed in rear garden.

NO OBJECTIONS

2014/0054	Mr A MacDougall Tai Calon, Solis One Rising Sun Industrial Estate Blaina.	Community open space and parking improvements to include play area, community area, car parking, landscape works and retaining walls, land to the rear of Bevan Avenue & Pembroke Street.

NO OBJECTIONS

c) To consider other planning matters.
S. Smith Re: C/2013/0324 List Building Consent, Mayor's Parlour – Confirmation that planning permission has been granted and the steps/paperwork required to proceed.
It was noted that this was an item on the agenda for the next Bedwellty House and Park Management Board Meeting and Tredegar Members were urged to attend and support.

364) Correspondence
Cllr. J. Morgan declared an interest in the following item 1(a) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

1) BGCBC (a) M Howland Re: Community Asset Transfer Application in respect of Aneurin Bevan House, Castle Street, Tredegar – Initial expression of interest has been received from Coalfields Regeneration Trust to utilise Aneurin Bevan house as a project base for a number of services.

Received. It was agreed to write to Mr. Howland thanking him for the information received (as part of the Charter agreement) and to support the use of the House by local and national groups and charities.

(b) P. Miles Re: Circuit of Wales Development – Replacement of Common land – Comments to be submitted by 4.4.14 (sent out to all Members)

Received. Initial concerns that Members had regarding the grazing of animals had been answered and the transfer was widely welcomed as a way of securing the land from future development and ensuring the continued use by the general public.

(c) Special Meeting of Bedwellty Park Management Board on Wednesday 9th April 2014 at 5pm Bedwellty House, Tredegar.

Received. It was agreed that Board Members support the Meeting and that the future Chairmanship should not exclude either Town or Borough Councillors which was thought to be discriminatory.

(d) A. Tippings – forwarded D. Griffiths email Re: QBR planning – forms to be completed & returned by 5.4.14.

Received.

(e) Y. Tovey Re: CBR/DBS for governors – 2 emails confirming that as governors are voluntary there is no charge for the checks.

Received. Although this was welcomed by all, Members still expressed concern that difficulties were being placed in front of schools who have made it a condition that all Governors are checked. It was agreed to seek further clarification.

(f) D. Ware Re: Blaenau Gwent's response to Rural Development Plan Consultation.

Received.

Cllrs. Morgan, Rowberry, Cross and Willis, declared an interest in the following item 1(a) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(g) List of licensing applications week ending 14.3.14.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Gwent Valleys Partnership Area Committee Meeting Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7pm Tredegar Town Council Offices, Bedwellty House.(Hard copy received 31.3.14)

Received.

(b) Re: Land & Asset Transfer Shared Learning Seminar, Thursday 3.4.14 Wales Audit Office 9am to 1pm.

Received.

(c) Training – Module 15 Information Management on Monday 14th April 2014 at Cwmbran 6.30pm to 9pm.

Received.

(d) ICT Sector Panel, appointment of up to 4 Members – closing date for applications 11.4.14.

Received.

3) Mazars Annual Return for 31.3.14 to be completed and submitted by 30.6.14 for an external audit – copied to internal auditor.

Received.

4) Gala Lights Re: Cancellation of contract – will be in touch to arrange collection of decorations and the return of our keys. Asking whether Council wishes to purchase the bespoke sign £975 excluding VAT – (not purchased as part of previous invoices).

Received. Members suggested that the company be approached to donate the sign to Council as a gesture of goodwill. It was agreed to write to them.

5) Gwent Police <u>Re: Queen's Batton Relay</u>

(i) Insp Thomas – no problem supporting the event, Sgt Matthew Briggs from Ebbw Vale will be in contact with TTC to discuss the detail.

(ii) PS783 Matthew Briggs – has organised resources for the event; off work until Monday 7.4.14 but will contact us then to discuss further.

Received. This matter had already been discussed with Ch Insp Williams.

6) Tredegar Business Forum

(a) Re: Retailers petition against charges for external boards/seating etc. Asking Council Members to sign the petition to show support against the

proposed charges (Petition attached).

Received. Unfortunately whilst Town Council could sympathise with the Forum the need for the Borough Council to increase revenue was also acknowledged. Members were concerned that businesses both in and out of the Forum had not been approached by the Borough Council prior to the notification of charges to explain why the charges were being introduced. Members acknowledged the problems caused to people in wheelchairs and those with prams trying to negotiate narrow pavements with obstacles. The possible increase in litter was also highlighted although the ambience of the Town was often improved by the "café culture" of outdoor seating and the fruit and vegetable displays were a reminder of past times and a colourful addition to the townscape.

(b) K. Lamb Re: Classic Vehicle Event Saturday 30.8.14 – The event will take place from 10am to 3pm with the vehicles situated through town and around the Clock. Asking whether Council would open the Town Clock to the public for this event.

Received. It was agreed to contact CADW who were now organising the Open Doors scheme to try and get both events co-ordinated on the same day. It was noted that if anything was to be placed around the Clock the Bevan Roundels would need to be protected. (Town Centre Manager to be advised of this)

7) L. Doel Invitation to all Members to join Alun Davies AM and members of the Blaenau Gwent branch of the National Autistic Society at a coffee morning on Friday 4.4.14 between 11am & 12.30pm at Ebbw Vale Institute – copied/sent to all Members.

Received. It was agreed that all available Members should attend and support this worthy cause.

8) Easter Services in Tredegar

Details of Services being held between 14th & 17th April 2014 – displayed in noticeboard & on website.

Received.

9) Shelter Cymru Changes to Housing Advice surgeries in Blaenau Gwent – Monday 10am-12pm Abertillery Communities 1st Office and Monday 1pm-4pm Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre; both are drop in events.

Received. It was noted that there were no surgeries listed for Tredegar and it was agreed to write and invite them to hold one in the Town.

10) Lite Ltd Asking to be given the opportunity to tender for this year's xmas lights contract.

Received.

11) Tredegar Camera Club

2 x discs of photos from Tredegar Hill Event (available in office for viewing)

Received. Congratulations were given to all those involved in what was a wonderful event for the Town and people of Tredegar. The Ambassador was very touched and thrilled to be invited to Wales for the first time. Thanks extended to all those involved.

12) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 28.3.14 & 4.4.14; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi February 2014; Ashwood buyers guide catalogue; Communicorp Local Councils Update April 2014 Issue 172; GAVO Network 2014 Spring Newsletter.

Available for all Members

13) AGENDA

Audit Committee Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 27th March 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Democratic Services Committee on Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 10am Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on Monday 31st March 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee on Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 10am – **Cancelled;** Executive on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre – replacement report for agenda item no. 8; Planning Committee 3rd April 2014 – Urgent agenda item, No. 6 WG Consultation; Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skill Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 8th April at 2pm Mary's RC Primary School, Catholic Road, Brynmawr.

Available for all Members

365) To receive quotes for the Town Clock Planting and agree a supplier.

Despite six companies being approached for quotes only one responded. It was agreed to accept this is principal and the Deputy Leader was charged with ensuring that the planting around the Clock would be in place and of a standard for the Baton Relay Event on 24th May 2014.

366) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

a) Members noted an increase in vandalism in the Park. It was noted that a youth worker had been engaged by local police to engage youths in the Town and Park.

b) The Bandstand – Members were concerned that the access for the electricity supply was still covered by a heavy concrete cover which was extremely difficult to move. It was agreed to approach the House management to see if other arrangements could be made for forthcoming concerts.

c) An offer had been made by a private security firm to stay overnight in the Park it was agreed that the details be given to the Clerk to pass on to the Park Management and Borough Officers.

d) Artefacts – the continuing absence of the photos from the Assembly Room was highlighted, with comments made that there was nothing on the walls for visitors to take a look at.

e) Questions were asked regarding arrangements for Mother's Day at Bedwellty House and there were questions as to whether there may have been more opportunity to make even more money on the day.

f) Members noted a large lump of chewing gum on the carpet in the Chamber which had been reported to the Duty Manager.

g) Continuing concerns expressed regarding poor quality of the main driveway.

h) It was requested that the House Manager be contacted re the re-location of the glass cabinet once in the Parlour to in front of the cupboard doo in the Chamber.

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

i. Tredegar Twinning – still looking for some accommodation. It was agreed that the Twinning Association should cater for the Civic Reception for the visitors from Orvault at the Moose Hall and that they be given an amount of £350. This was agreed unanimously.
ii. School Governing Bodies – It was reported that Tredegar Comp had appointed a new deputy Head, that Glanhowy had a new Head teacher,

groups of children from primary schools had been visiting the Museum – more welcome

iii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – It was noted that the Parc would be taken over by the Trust in June 2014.
iv. Blaenau Gwent CAB – It was agreed to write to them asking for venues and dates in Tredegar.
v. Communities First Advisory Panel – It was agreed to write to them asking them to make a presentation to Council with details of progress.
vi. Tredegar Business Forum – good reports regarding cleaning.
xv. Tredegar Heritage – It was noted that cancellation of meetings should be notified to the Clerk and Bedwellty House Management.

368) Matters of Local Interest and concern

1) Congratulations were given to Cllr. Bernard G. Willis on his election as Mayor of the Borough of Blaenau Gwent for the forthcoming year. Good wishes were sent to his daughter Kym who would be acting as Mayoress.
2) Web-Site – the RFO was asked to bring a report to Council regarding the updating of the Town Council web-site.
3) It was suggested that Ward Members be informed when the Mayor was due to make presentations in their area. This could facilitate transport for the Mayor but it was agreed that there may be some operational difficulties.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

_____ Chair.