# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 6th November 2013 at 6.30pm**

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| **Present:** | **Councillor** | **T. Smith** |
| | | **R. Watkins** |
| | | **A. Tippings** |
| | | **H. Trollope** |
| | | **R. Thomas** |
| | | **B. Willis** |
| | | **J. Morgan** |
| | | **M. O'Sullivan** |
| | | **P. Prosser** |
| | | **M. Cross** |

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| **In attendance:** | **Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk** |
| | **Mrs. A. Jones - RFO** |

**186) Apologies Cllrs. A. Cotton; D. Howells, G. Bowen-Knight, T. Gregory, D. Rowberry, O. Price and S. Trollope**

**187) To consider the exclusion of the Press and Public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12a and the Data Protection Act 1998.**
This was agreed

**188) To receive a verbal report of the Civic Sub Committee held prior to this Meeting and to receive its recommendations to Council.**
It was noted that a number of groups had not attended nor offered their apologies and that information requested had not been received. However a group from the Urdd Eisteddfod Fundraising Committee had attended and made a presentation to the Sub-Committee. It was recommended that they receive a start-up grant of £100 and this was agreed unanimously by Council.

**189) To consider quotations and approve a contractor to carry out tree work on the Southend Allotments.**
A number of quotations had been received and presented to Council. Two quotations were for the same amount and following discussion it was agreed initially to give the work to the company who had been most eager in coming forward – subject to the work being carried out in a timely manner – with the final decision between the two companies being given to the Officers.
It was noted at this time that the Clerk was to write a Policy to be presented to Council, as a matter of urgency.

**190) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants.**
Thanks received from Shelter Cymru and Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls.

**<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>**
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales – A grant of £100.00 was recommended.
Royal British Legion – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.
Tredegar Christians Together – Following discussion it was agreed that the grant received in June 2013 for their DVD project would be considered as a Special Project grant and that this application would be given as their annual grant – this was agreed unanimously.
Tredegar Town AFC Seniors – A grant of £200.00 was recommended. It was further agreed to contact the Club regarding advertising the sponsorship by Town Council by banner at the field.
Urdd Gobaith Cymru – It was agreed unanimously that Council would support the Urdd via the local fundraising campaign, as agreed in the Civic Sub-Committee meeting earlier.

**New applications received by the Civic Sub-Committee today:-**
Urdd Eisteddfod Fundraising Committee – as previously agreed a start-up grant of £100 was unanimously agreed by Council.

**191) To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).**
Trinity Spiritual Church – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

**192) To re-open the Meeting to Press and Public**
This was agreed unanimously and Members of the public were invited in to the Meeting.

**193) To welcome Ms Rachel Elston of Communities First to explain the Cluster system and the part that Town Council plays.**
The Mayor welcomed Ms. Elston who explained that the programme was still run by GAVO but that the emphasis was now on anti-poverty programmes – themes being "healthy, wealthy and wise". She noted that the new cluster covered slightly different parts of Tredegar. She noted that the Partnership Board no longer existed and that involvement by Council would be on a more individual basis. Their newest campaign would be to tackle worklessness households – where no one had ever been in employment.
It was outlined that there would be robust regulations and safeguards relating to funds. Members requested to be kept up to date with the groups involved in the scheme and it was agreed that a briefing note would be issued by Communities First. There was some discussion about the need for provision for youngsters in communities outside the Town Centre. A further report on progress was promised for December.
Ms Elston was thanked for her attendance and then withdrew.

**194) Planning**

**a) OFFICERS REPORT**
**List of Delegated Items determined between 19th September 2013 and 18th October 2013:-**
C/2013/0246 Application for prior notification for the installation of a PCP cabinet, side of Tredegar Telephone Exchange, Iron Street – Approved.
C/2013/0135 Removal of impervious textured coating, failed render, in appropriate sand cement mortar, frost damaged bricks and stone mouldings; repointing in lime mortar, replacement of frost

damaged bricks and moulded stone, rerednering in lime render including rum mouldings (Listed Building Consent), Saron Congregational Church – Approved.
C/2013/0260 Illuminated lettering on the ATM fascia, Post Office 54-55 Commercial Street – Approved.
C/2013/0233 Extensions to side & rear elevations and provision of access to existing garage, St Georges Vicarage, Church Street – Approved.
C/2013/0257 Provision of single storey buildings to accommodate daycare and community facilities, with associated access road, parking, landscaping and refuse store, land at former Sirhowy Infants School Site – Approved.
C/2013/0248 Change of use from B2 to storage and second hand retail goods sales outlet with ancillary refreshment area, Unit H Crown Business Park – Approved.
C/2013/0261 To provide off road parking for community hall use and associated works, Kidz R Us Community Hall, Golwg-y-Mynydd – Approved.
C/2013/0226 Replacement detached garage and decking area, 63 Ashvale – Approved.
C/2013/0245 Erection of a conservatory to the rear and a porch to the front, 70 Peacehaven – Approved.
C/2013/0236 Detached dwelling – renewal of outline application no. C/2009/0392 land opposite 4 & 5 Picton Road – Approved.
C/2013/0242 Single storey rear extension, 5 Bryn Meadow Close – Approved.
**Planning Report:-**
C/2013/0175 Retention of change of use of building from dwelling to community centre, change of use of parcel of land at side of property to community garden, boundary fence and access gate, metal shutters for doors and windows to front and side of building and ramp to front entrance, 87 Attlee Way - Recommending application is REFUSED.
**The above were received and noted en-bloc.**

**b) APPLICATIONS**

| App No | Applicant | Proposal |
|---|---|---|
| 2013/0303 | Mr S Whyman Bt Plc<br>C/o. Harlequin Group<br>Innovation Centre, Maidstone Road<br>Chatham. | Installation of BT exchange Iron Street Tredegar. |
| **No Objections** | | |
| 2013/0307 | Mr Tac Dip<br>71 Cornwallis Square<br>London. | Installation of mechanical extract equipment for proposed Chinese takeaway, 97 Attlee Way. |
| **No Objections** | | |
| 2013/0311 | Mr A Davies<br>60 Beaufort Street<br>Brynmawr. | New shop front, new roof structure over existing flat roof to rear and roller shutters to shop front, Refresh Café 29-30 Commercial Street. |
| **No Objections** | | |
| 2013/0312 | Mrs N Jones<br>2 Heol-y-Twyn, Rhymney. | Change of use from A1 Retail to cafe A3 (Retention) 5A Morgan Street. |
| **No Objections** | | |

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| 2013/0321 | Bank of Ireland<br>C/o. EC Harris LLP<br>Baskerville House<br>Broad Street, Birmingham. | New Bank of Ireland ATM to be installed through shop front glazing to the far right of the main entrance door when viewed from the outside, The Post Office, 54 Commercial Street. |

**No Objections**

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| 2013/0324 | Ms C Keane<br>Tredegar Town Council<br>Bedwellty House & Park | Removal of "strip lights"; addition of moulded panel to ceiling and picture rails around room; replacement lighting to Ceiling; reinstatement of smoke alarm – Mayor's Parlour, Bedwellty House. |

**No Objections**

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| 2013/0327 | Mr M Prosser<br>28a King Street, Nantyglo. | Proposed installation of awning, Top Banana, 51 Commercial Street. |

**No Objections**

**c) Other Planning Matters**
None received.

**195) To consider an open invitation received in person by Mr. Gary Dann for Council to visit Venue 2 at Nantybwch.**
Received. It was agreed to contact Mr. Dann for a suitable date and time.

**196) Correspondence**

1) BGCBC (a) M. Howland Re: Bedwellty Park Lodge – Community Asset Transfer (CAT) document and a template to guide any potential applicants under the CAT scheme.

**Received. It was noted that further information was required regarding the covenant to the Park.**

(b) Melinda Powell Re: Glanhowy Primary School entrance from Scwrfa Road – she has spoken to the crossing lady who has assured them that she is ok; they have raised concerns with the police on two occasions at PACT meetings regarding parents parking on the pavement; Ian Cole, Road Safety Engineering will be making a site visit 6.11.13 to look at the problems being experienced there.

**Received. The Mayor explained the problems occurring in the area caused largely because the main gates of the school had been closed. Members noted that there was an ongoing problem with parking in this area.**

(c) Confirming planning application for the Mayor's Parlour has been submitted and a decision will be made on 24.12.13.

**Received and Noted.**

(d) New draft SPG(Supplementary Planning Guidance) for controlling A3

uses within the town centres, comments to be submitted by 1.11.13 and these will then be considered before the policy is finalised for public consultation.

**Received. Members requested that abbreviations not be used in future.**

(e) Re: Town Centre Public Conveniences – Further information on the costs and repair schedule, closing date of facilities remains as 4.11.13.

**Received. It was agreed to write to the liquidators of the Gwent Shopping Precinct to ascertain whether they would be maintaining the facilities as in other shopping precincts.**

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

(f) (i) List of licensing applications week ending 18.10.13.
(ii) List of licensing applications week ending 25.10.13.

**Received.**

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Re: Project Meetings in Mid Wales – Climate Change Project Phase II
(i) Council is invited to nominate 5 Councillors to attend the three formal meetings which have been arranged for the Hafod Y Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells from 10am to 4pm on 22.11.13, 21.2.14 and 9.5.14.
(ii) First formal project meeting – 10.30am 22nd November 2013 at Hafod a Hendre building, Royal Welsh Showground. Confirmation of representatives attending to be sent by 13.11.13.

**Both Received – interested Members to attend.**

(b) Link to updated Financial Regulations on their website.

**Received.**

(c) Service Delegation guide and Double Taxation guide.

**Received.**

(d) The 5th report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its implications for Wales – Written statement by the Welsh Government.

**Received.**

(e) Welsh Government Natural Resource Management Bulletin Issue 4 October 2013.

**Received.**

(f) Welsh Government Nature Funding – Currently consulting on the use of its new £6m Nature Fund, please contact Luned Evans by 22.11.13 with a written summary of ideas of any nature projects which you think is worthy of this funding.

**Received. It was agreed to contact the Borough Council to check if they were putting forward any ideas.**

(g) Review of the Regional Technical Statements of the North and South Wales Regional Aggregates working parties – views on the first review are invited, submit via email by 23.12.13, public consultation documents and other related documents available at

http://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk/Html/rtsreview2013.html

**Received. Forwarded to Cllrs. Tippings and Price.**

(h) Actif Woods Wales Seminar Day 6.11.13 at Margam Country Park from 10am.

**Received.**

(i) Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918 – website is now live http://www.walesremembers.org/ and is the official site for information on how Wales will mark the centenary of the First World War in Wales.

**Received. It was agreed that a meeting of the Heritage group of Council be called.**

(j) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Improvement Plan (Stage 2), How did we do in 2012-13? Plan & brief questionnaires available at: www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/how_did_we_do_in_2012-13 .

**Received. Members to respond individually.**

(k) Wales Audit Office – Guidance on Auditing Requirements, press release available at: http://www.wao.gov.uk/news/news_5307.asp .

**Received. RFO to attend any meeting as required.**

(i) Training:-

(i) Training Programme 2014 – additional training modules available from early 2014.

(ii) Module 4 Understanding the Law – Various dates/venues in November.

(iii) Module 10 Chairing Skills, Cwmbran 13.11.13.

(iv) Module 8 Introduction to Community Engagement, Bridgend 14.11.13.

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

3) Gala Lights

(a) Confirming all lights are up & those that can be tested have been; issue with one column which he is currently discussing with David Hale BGCBC; will forward contact details for Centregreat to us once he has received them.

**Received. Members were concerned that all the lights be tested a couple of days prior to the Switch-on.**

(b) Christmas lights on Clock – Centregreat will check lights at Clock and detangle.

**Received. It was noted that there was a possibility of damage to the paintwork and that the problems encountered last year were largely due to the motifs on the Clock. It was agreed that this should be rectified urgently. It was also noted that a motif in Castle Street was loose – Clerk to contact Gala Lights. Members requested that they see a copy of the contract with Centregreat to satisfy themselves of the service being offered and that response times were minimal.**

(c) Switch On Event – They have sufficient people for the switch on around the Clock and Castle Street, those lights under the control of BGCBC will still come on precisely at 6pm.

**Received. Members were relieved that they were no longer required to physically switch-on the motifs.**

(d) Invoice for Xmas Lights contract – 3rd year.

**Received. It was agreed to hold payment until the end of the festive season as previously.**

**Members were informed by Cllr Tippings that Mr Gareth David Lloyd ( Ianto Jones of Torchwood) had agreed to Switch-on the Lights for no fee. Mr. Lloyd had recently been involved in filming in Tredegar with Mr. Peter Watkins-Hughes, for a new anti-drug film. An alternative celebrity, from the world of rugby was also suggested.**

4) Carillion (a) Re: Site Tour - offer of 5th or 12th November for next meeting date. (forwarded to Cllrs MC/AT/TS)

**Received. It was agreed to request a tour for Town Council.**

(b) Re: LALC – minutes of the last meeting. (Forwarded to Cllrs MC/AT/TS)

**Received. A Member informed Council that Carillion had contacted a Member of Council offering to supply firewood/logs to older people for winter. This was welcomed and the Member was requested to contact Carillion and inform them. Members noted that there was still an issue regarding the lack of a pathway in front of the Garage and that cars were still being offered for sale near the roundabout. It was further noted that some traffic had begun to use the road in front of Bryn Bach Primary school as a "rat-run" to avoid the road works and this too was causing concern.**

5) Mr Meredith Letter expressing his interest in becoming a Town Councillor.

**Received. The Clerk advised members that the necessary notices had been posted and that the Returning Officer had received no request for an election. Consequently the Co-Option notice had been posted and only this response had been received. It was agreed to agenda this item for the next Council Meeting.**

6) Cllr Price (a) Re: Closure of public toilets – request relevant information regarding the closures and those involved is added to our website.

**Received. It was noted that the Borough Council had a link in their site which detailed alternative facilities. It was noted by Members that the signage was to be improved. It was agreed to put the link on the Town Council site too.**

(b) Letter of resignation from the board of Governors at Bryn Bach Primary School (forwarded to Bryn Bach Primary 4.11.13).

**Received. This had been forwarded to Bryn Bach Primary School. Members noted that the role of Governor was changing and involved more responsibility than previously.**

7) Cllr Thomas

(a) Forwarded email from Gwent Police regarding thefts.

(b) Link to latest edition of the Senior Siren, http://www.sclt.moonfruit.com/#/senior-siren-editions/4573598653

**Received and noted with interest.**

8) Ms Keane Re: Joint Committee of Local Councils – confirming acceptance of their secretary role.

**Received. There were no objections and best wishes were extended.**

9) Caerphilly County Borough Council

CCBC Local Development Plan – First Review, notification of Public Consultation Exercises (October 2013). 6 week public consultation from 17.10.13 to 28.11.13 on Draft Delivery Agreement; Call for candidates sites, submissions by 6.3.14; Local housing survey, comments by 31.10.13.

**Received.**

10) K. Dyer Email Re: JK International Festival of Orienteering 2014 – information on the 4 day orienteering event Easter 2014, just north of Trefil.

**Received. It was noted that Ms Dyer would be visiting on 26 November for a site inspection and it was agreed to ask her to meet interested members at Bedwellty House. It was further noted that this was a possible opportunity for a major boost to local tourism and business in the area.**

11) Tredegar Thespian Players

Re: 70th Anniversary Battle of Tredegar Hill – delighted to take part.

**Received. A Member noted that she had created a page on a social networking site which had already created interest.**

12) Mr P Morgan-Jones Re: Photographic Project – Photographic record of the Morgan to Commercial Street central corridor. Prime intention is to create material that would support any future improvement grant applications and provide a valuable archive. It is hoped that Town Council will support the project in principle and even become involved; establish a Council/Heritage Group action committee.

**Received. It was noted that this correspondence was from the Heritage Group conceived from an idea by Town Council and that Council already had a Heritage Committee. It was agreed to have discussions with the group.**

13) M. Higgs Dates for Quiz Wizards – 8.30pm start at all venues, Moose Lodge 7.11.13, Willows Social Club 13.11.13, Bedwellty Park Bowls Club 21.11.13, final qualifying night will be at the Conny Club 27.11.13. The final will be held at the Rhyd Hall & date will be announced shortly.

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

14) Kidney Wales Foundation

Invitation to attend Reflections Concert at The City of Parish of St John the Baptist, The Hayes, Cardiff on Thursday 12.12.13 at 7pm. To reserve a place contact Melanie Wager Tel: 02920 343940 or email Melanie@kidneywales.com.

**Received. Interested Members to contact.**

15) Tredegar Youth Café Updates on how on the Café is progressing with regards to the half term activities, nightly and Saturday youth sessions.

**Received. It was noted that the free activities at the Café had been accessed by a number of children during the holiday and that the cafe was prospering.**

16) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Meeting on Thursday 21st November 2013 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

**Received.**

17) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Audit & Scrutiny agenda 8th November 2013 (forwarded to Cllr Price).

**Received.**

18) Gavo Volunteering in Wales Fund, Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale on 20th November 2013 at 10.30am.

**Received. A Member volunteered to attend.**

19) Communicorp Local Councils Update November 2013 Issue 168 (items copied from Members).

**Received.**

20) S. Jagger Jagger & Woody (Real Radio breakfast show presenters) are still currently available for the Switch On at a fee of £1000 (2x£500). The fee includes their presence from our specified time until event ends and they would also plug the event on their show.

**Received. It was agreed to thank them for their kind offer, but it had already been noted that a celebrity had already been procured.**

**197) PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Road works report weeks ending 25.10.13, 1.11.13 & 8.11.13; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings September 2013; Ville D'Orvault Le cens pratique #149 November 2013; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct November 2013 Issue 90. **One Voice Wales:-** Isolated Communities – correspondence between One Voice Wales and BT/Mobile Operators Association Re: Poor network coverage; The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 14, http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/en/publications/the-ombudsmans-casebook.aspx; Forwarded letter from Christine Chapman AM, Communities, Equality & Local Government Committee Re: Housing (Wales) Bill; Consultation on the introduction of a table valuation system for TB compensation; Advertisements for Appointment of Chemist/Pharmacologist and Criminologist Members to the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse (APoSM), closing date 15.11.13; Annual Conference Update – photographs from the conference is now available online; Link to letter to Chief Planning Officers in Wales: Mobile Infrastructure Project – Information for Planning Services, http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/dear-cpo-letters/mobine-infrastructure-project-letter/?lang=en.

**Available for Members.**

**198) AGENDA**

Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 22nd October 2013 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 29th October 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 30th October 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Friday 1st November 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Friday 1st November 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – withdrawal of item No. 4; Licensing Committee rescheduled from Tuesday 5th November 2013 to Friday 15th November 2013 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 6th November 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 6th November 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional item No. 5a; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 7th November 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for Members.**

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

a) Members were informed that schools were to be invited to plant "Burma " bulbs to commemorate the Battle of Tredegar Hill, bulbs would be planted around the Clock and that Bedwellty Park had been contacted about planting a "daffodil trail". It was agreed to order bulbs and to redistribute if some schools were not interested.

b) An update was received from the former Mayor regarding the recuperative garden planned.

c) Once again the lack of pictures in the gallery was highlighted and it was agreed that they should be fixed to the battens as previously and that this matter should be put on the agenda for the next Management Board Meeting.

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

i. **Bedwellty Park Management Board –** It was noted that there had been discussion of the pond leak, signage and car parking. The introduction of sporting clubs to the Board was welcomed.
ii. **Joint Committee of Local Councils** – Discussion regarding the Capital asset Transfer programme and the apparent disregard of the Charter was raised. New Secretary was agreed.
iii. **Tredegar Twinning –** Christmas Dinner Saturday 14th December – tickets available.
iv. **School Governing Bodies** – clarification had been sought for the standing of some Governors.
v. **Tredegar Youth Café –** report on activities had been received.
vi. **Communities First Board** – It was noted that this was now an Advisory Panel and the comments of Ms Elston noted.
vii. **Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel –** Report received.
viii. **Tredegar Business Forum –** the representative informed members that Council needed to advertise more widely and it was agreed that this information be related to the Town Centre Manager. It was agreed to invite all traders to participate in the Lights Switch-on and to encourage them to stay open late on the night. A mention was made of a scheme to spend £5 per week in the Town Centre and this was supported.
ix. **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum –** details of their Christmas Dinner on 3rd December with Roy Noble as guest were received.
x. **Tredegar Heritage –** It was noted that the Chair had changed at that this would hopefully lead to a more interactive approach.

*Standing Orders suspended.*

**201) Matters of Local Interest and concern**

a) It was noted that a local skip firm had been prevented from purchasing a prominent piece of land.

b) Council were informed that a member of the public had offered an item of memorabilia relevant to the Miners Room and it was agreed to accept.

c) The need for a Presentation Evening was highlighted.

d) Purchase of sound system was an urgent requirement.

**The Mayor outlined details of tickets available for forthcoming events and the Meeting closed at 9.15pm**

**_____ Chair**