# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 5th February 2014**

**Present: Cllrs:** **T. Smith**
**R. L. Watkins**
**A. Cotton**
**A. Tippings**
**D. Rowberry**
**B. Willis**
**M O'Sullivan**
**P. Prosser**
**R W Thomas**
**S. Trollope**
**G. Meredith**
**O. Price**
**H. Trollope**

**Also Present:** **Ms C M Keane – Clerk**
**Mrs A Jones - RFO**

**297) Apologies: Cllrs:** **T. Gregory, G. Bowen Knight, D Howells and M Cross**

**298) Matters of local interest and Concern – this item was taken early in the agenda at the request of Members present.**
The Williams Report – Members were urged to read the report which included a discussion of Council and Community Council amalgamations and the possible increase in responsibilities held by Town and Community Councillors

**299) To receive the recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee of Council held prior to this Meeting.**
The recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee as noted above were received and agreed unanimously and were as follows:

(Cllrs Cotton, Willis, Smith, Watkins and H. Trollope all declared an interest prior to discussion regarding Moose International)

Tredegar Moose International No. 1 Lodge – a grant of £200 in recognition of their charitable work and previous co-operation at Town Council events – was recommended.
North Gwent Archers – a start up grant of £100 was recommended.
Sirhowy Tenants and Residents Association - not appeared
Friends of Valleys Karate Club – a start up grant of £100 was recommended.
Tredegar Reavers War Games Club – a start up grant of £100 was recommended. To invite to AFD
Hafan Cymru – it was agreed to recommend a grant of £50.

**300) <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 Youth Café, Tredegar Business Forum (x2), Trinity Spiritual Church and Tredegar History & Archive Society.

Cllr. M. O'Sullivan arrived at this point.

Tredegar Business Forum – a grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Youth Café – a grant of £200 was recommended..

**<u>Grants to Churches and Chapels</u>**
None received.

**301) To set a revised date for the Armed Forces Day Event to accommodate Fr. Davis, Chaplain of the Royal British Legion.**
It was agreed to revise the date to Sunday 29th June 2014.

**302) Planning**
Cllrs Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the following:

**a) To consider an Officer's Report**
**List of Delegated Items determined between 18th November 2013 and 6th December 2013:-**
C/2013/0284 Change existing social offices to residential use and associated access road improvements, The Grove Church Street – Approved.
C/2013/0285 Change the use from offices to residential and associated access road improvements, Registry Office Church Street – Approved.
C/2013/0227-0230 (4 applications) Drilling of a borehole to allow monitoring of background groundwater (4 various sites), land to the North of Trefil Quarry Trefil – Approved.
C/2013/0327 Proposed installation of awning, 51 Commercial Street – Approved.
C/2013/0312 Change of use from A1 Retail to A3 Café (Retention), 5a Morgan Street – Approved.
C/2013/0331 1 Internally illuminated fascia sign & 1 internally illuminated projecting sign, 106 Commercial Street – Approved.
C/2013/0330 New detached two storey house (outline), garden of New House St James Close – Approved.
C/2013/0311 New shop front and roller shutter and new roof structure over existing flat roof to rear, Refresh Café 29-30 Commercial Street – Approved.
**Planning Report:-**
C/2013/0264 Detached 4 bedroom dwelling with garage and parking spaces (Outline), land North of Harford Gardens - Recommending planning permission is GRANTED.
C/2013/0115 Retention of dwelling and double garage and conservatory on Plot 93, Plot 93 (house No. 5) Larch Lane, Peacehaven – Recommending application is GRANTED subject to the conditions listed in the report.
C/2012/0327 Erection of a single wind turbine and associated transformer enclosure, Waldrons Commercials Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – Recommending planning permission is Granted subject to conditions.
Received en bloc.

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

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| 2014/0019 | Mr C Hind<br>6 Is-fryn, Rhymney. | 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. |

**No Objections**

c) To consider other planning matters – **none received**.

**303) Correspondence**

1) BGCBC (a) Andrea Jones Re: Bedwellty Park – Letter has been forwarded to their property solicitor Mr Hugh Philips for a response.

**Received – it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue.**

(b) A. Jones Re: Council tax notices 2014/15 – letter has been passed to Resources who will respond to us directly.

**Received**

***Cllr A Tippings declared an interest in the following:***

(c) M. Howland
(i) Re: Summary of meeting held 23.1.14 – copied for all Members.
(ii) Re: Community Asset Transfer Application in respect of The Lodge – Currently under stage 1 of the process and is now seeking the views of local Members before asking Transition Counselling to undertake stage 2 of the process. Views to be submitted by 19.2.14.

**Received – there were queries relating to the lease of the Lodge and the future use of the Thomas Richards Centre was also discussed. The lack of a list of buildings of local interest was again noted as was the need to preserve an attractive built-up environment. The possibility of a Leisure Trust was raised and the future of the Lodge was again raised as a concern.**

(d) Bedwellty Park Management Board meeting Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 5pm Bedwellty House.

**Received – amongst items on the agenda was the Leisure Trust. Concerns raised by Members.**

(e) List of Licensing Applications Week ending 24.1.14.

**Received.**

(f) D. Ware Re: Redrafted Regional Development Plan Expression Of Interest (Draft version received 30.1.14 superseding the previous versions received).

**Received.**

**Cllr A Tippings declared an interest in the following:**

(g) A. Tippings Re: Groundwork Caerphilly – Since the demise of Groundwork Merthyr & RCT this organisation is now able to work in this area on environmental projects and are interested in working with local groups. They will charge a fee but they can access funding which is not readily available to other groups for environmental work. More

information on them is available at http://www.wales.groundwork.org.uk/caerphilly .

**Received. It was suggested that they make a presentation to Council**.

2) One Voice Wales — Appointment of Members to the Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework Group, closing date for applications 14.2.14.

**Received.**

3) Cllr Trollope

(a) Invitation for Honours Nominations for New Year 2015.

**Received. It was agreed to nominate an individual and to send paperwork to follow. It was further agreed to chase OVW for a response regarding St David's Awards.**

(b) Introduction from new Head of Neighbourhood Policing Chief Inspector M. Williams, would like to attend a Council meeting.

**Received – it was agreed to invite to meet Council.**

4) Public Toilets:

(i) Cllr Smith - Requesting that Council have a meeting with BGCBC and the Gwent Shopping Centre owners to discuss the reopening of the facilities. Brynmawr Business Forum & Ebbw Vale town centre partnerships are currently in talks with BGCBC about reopening their town facilities.

(ii) Cllr Smith – Suggesting Council discuss this matter before involving the business forum who have already expressed an interest in working with Council to reopen these facilities.

**All above received. It was agreed to contact the receivers to seek further information.**

5) Gala Lights — Response to letter, no reduction being offered – Copied for all Members.

**Received, It was agreed that the matter be referred for legal advice and that Gala lights be informed accordingly.**

6) Tredegar Youth Café — Re: Christmas Eve Carol Singing Event – Thank you for inviting them to participate; they felt that with fewer homes to visit it was less rushed and more enjoyable; the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting the residents.

**Received – it was agreed to co-ordinate the event with the Café.**

7) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

"Have your say on what we scrutinise next" – Asking for help in selecting the next topic for scrutiny which will start in the spring. Votes to be submitted by midnight on 6.2.14 http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/who-we-are/scrutiny/have-your-say-on-what-we-scrutinise-next .

**Received – forwarded to Cllr OP.**

8) K. Gullick — Re: 6th Tredegar Scout Group, Founders Day Celebrations – Invitation to all Councillors to attend the Founders Day Celebrations being held at St George's Church on Saturday 22nd February 2014 – Copied to all Members & sent out with agendas.

**Received – Members were urged to support.**

9) Tredegar Quilting Circle

Re: Baton Relay – unable to participate in this event but members will be amongst the crowd showing their support.

**Received**

10) J. Karn — Re: World War I – Minutes of meeting held on 19.1.14 and information from Peter, all for the meeting on 6.2.14.

**Received.**

11) J. Bevan — Asking for help/advice with regards to land that BGCBC had previously told him was not owned by them but which they have since sold off to Tai Calon, even had fenced the land off next to the Mountain Air Pub on the advice of BGCBC to claim it, wanted to use the land for the community.

**Received. It was widely agreed that this land would be better suited as parking or for use as a public allotment – not to be sold to any individual.**

12) Civic Trust — Open Doors 2014 – in discussions with Cadw at present and will circulate further information in due course.

**Received.**

13) Welsh Government — (i) Link to Allotment Questionnaire, respond by 7.2.14.
(ii) Confirming survey is aimed at community councils has these are usually responsible for the sites and is therefore only requesting info on the sites you are responsible for.

**Received – Clerk to respond.**

14) Communicorp — Local Councils Update January/February 2014 Issue 170 – Copied relevant parts for Members.

**Received. There were a couple of interesting articles relating to double yellow lines and parking. Discussion ensued regarding the number of people parking in the Shopping Centre to use the buses – and it was suggested that a ticket scheme – redeemable at local businesses – might be considered as a deterrent.**

**304) PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Road works report week ending 31.1.14; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi December 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 7.2.14; One Voice Wales Homes for Wales Bulletin January 2014; Natural Resource Management Bulletin Issue 7 January 2014

**Available for all Members.**

**305) AGENDA**

Special Meeting of the Council Thursday 30th January 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee **rescheduled** from Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 2pm to Monday 3rd March 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for all Members.**

**306) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park**
The use of the Parlour as storage was noted and it was agreed to ask the Management to remove them. It was also agreed to seek re-instatement of the Burma Wall. It was noted that the planning application for the Parlour was imminent and Borough Members agreed to speak for it.

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

i. Tredegar Twinning – Still seeking hosts, fund raising events well supported, youth exchanges in danger due to the Orvault Committee seeking fluent French speakers only. Members were reminded that the Association was not solely about language but was a cultural/sporting exchange. It was agreed to contact the Association.
ii. School Governing Bodies – Glanhowy and St Joseph's advertising for new head teachers. Georgetown attendance up – good reports.
iii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee- No information about Leisure Trust forthcoming – was seen as a foregone conclusion. Vision document supplied sadly out of date
iv. Blaenau Gwent CAB – now holding a meeting at Cefn Golau and expressed interest in travelling to other areas.
v. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – seeking new Members.
vi. Tredegar Business Forum – a comprehensive report received and a number of items discussed – it was agreed to invite them to Events Committee meetings which were relevant.
xv. Tredegar Heritage – investigating further funding and seeking further meetings re the General Hospital

**308) Matters of Interest and Concern – further raised.**
*1) Tredegar Hill event – to be progressed*
*2) CREW Regeneration meeting – to seek tickets.*

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

_____Chair