TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 2nd October 2013 at 6.00pm.

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

146) Apologies Cllrs, Gregory, Howells; Woolf; Cotton; Tippings and M. O' Sullivan

147) To welcome Mr. John Cook, Chief Executive of the Brecon Beacons National Park and Ms Tracy Nettleton, Head of Strategy, Policy and Heritage.

The Mayor welcomed both members of the BBNP and asked them to address the Meeting.

Mr. Cook explained that there had not been a good relationship between the Park and Town and Community Councils which formed part of it and this was in part a reason for his visit. It was noted that Tredegar Town Council was a signatory to the Joint Charter with the Park.

Ms. Nettleton explained that the Local Development Plan for the Park was in due to be adopted very shortly. Mr Cook outlined a number of changes to the Local Access Forum on which the Council had been represented and assured Members that their input at this Forum would now be welcomed.

Recent changes to Planning which had been introduced by Welsh Government in an attempt to make Planning easier had been embraced by the Park Authority.

The planned Circuit of Wales development was discussed together with possible impact on the Park. Mr. Cook pointed out that the Park had recently been granted Dark Sky Reserve Status – only the 5th destination in the World to achieve such an award. However they were mindful that the development may affect this award and would monitor the situation very carefully.

Members took this opportunity to raise questions surrounding the barrier across Trefil which restricted access to the Park from the Northern end of Tredegar. Mr. Cook acknowledged the reasons that the barrier had been put in place by the local police and also the limited police resources which are currently available.

Members disputed the statements which had been issued calling the access to the quarry site a 'private road' and recalled public use of the path over a number of years. They called for evidence that this was in fact private.

Members stressed to Mr. Cook that the barrier had not stopped illegal access to the mountainside and that they simply found other routes. What it had done was to restrict access for those who were unable to walk from the barrier to the Duffryn Valley in particular which was a very popular area for locals and visitors alike and was used as the starting point for many sponsored walks etc.

Mr. Cook agreed to make enquiries relating to the barrier on his return to his office. It was agreed that he would respond to our queries relating to a) ownership of the road b) possible effects of Circuit of Wales on the Dark Sky status c) the T2520 memorial cairn and access issues.
It was agreed that information on the T2520 crash site would be updated on the leaflet and information issued by the National Park on all crash sites and that this would be supplied to other agencies for their use.
Mr. Cook and Ms. Nettleton were presented with a small memento with thanks from Tredegar Town Council and then withdrew.

148) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137

Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls – A grant for £200 was recommended.
Bryn Bach Park Model Boat Club – A grant for £200 was recommended.
Punch House Amateur Boxing Club – Members agreed to visit the Club.
2167 (Tredegar) Squadron ATC – A grant for £200 was recommended.

Grants to Churches and Chapels
None received.

149) Planning
a) To consider an Officer's Report
List of Delegated Items determined between 19th August 2013 and 18th September 2013:-
C/2013/0139 Conversion of one residential property into a pair of semi-detached properties including raising of the main roof, two storey extensions to the rear and alterations to windows and doors on the front elevation, 96 Church Street – Approved.
C/2013/0066 Replacement storage container & construction of single storey valeting bays, Gwent MOT Station, Gelli Road – Approved.
C/2013/0217 Single storey extension to side and rear elevations, 3 Frondeg – Approved.
C/2013/0218 Single storey extension to main building and proposed extension to existing detached garage to provide an annexe of one bed living accommodation, Rhyd Cottage, The Rhyd – Approved.
C/2013/0196 Detached dwelling and detached garage (revised proposal –amended siting), land at Pinetree Cottage adjacent to Tafarn Ty Uchaf, Trefil Road – Approved.
C/2013/0140 Two storey detached house and detached garage, Plot 2 Maes Morgan – Approved.
Planning Report:-
C/2013/0115 Retention of dwelling and double garage and conservatory on Plot 93 (House No. 5) Larch lane, Peacehaven, Tredegar – Recommending permission is GRANTED and secondly that delegated authority is given for the Head of Development Services to agree further deeds of variation for other applications on the same development site.
Received and agreed en bloc.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0284	Mr A Thomas 18 Carn-y-Tyla Abertysswg, Rhymney	Change existing social offices to residential use and associated access road improvements – The Grove, Church Street.

No Objections

2013/0285	Mr A Thomas 18 Carn-y-Tyla Abertysswg, Rhymney	Change the use from offices to residential and associated access roads improvements – Registry Office, Church Street.

No Objections

2013/0222	Mr A Smith Davies Homes Ltd	Plots 90, 91 & repositioning of Plot 114 Larch Lane, Peacehaven – revised site plan.

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters – none received. However a Member did raise the question of the amount of time and due process that was given over to considering planning matters. The planning training available via One Voice Wales was highlighted and it was agreed to put forward Bedwellty House as a suitable venue for future events held by One Voice Wales.

150) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) I. Cole Re: Prohibition of Waiting Order, Stable Lane Tredegar – Aim of the Order is to prevent housing frontage parking from the new development and inconsiderate parking by parents at school pick up times. To remove the Order would result in obstructing vehicle movements on the highway and obstruct the cycle lane which runs through the bus bay area. Therefore unable to accede to the request to revoke the traffic order and remove yellow lines.

Received. Members questioned the benefit of double yellow lines that were not regulated in a satisfactory manner. This to be put as a question to the Inspector.

(b) L. Squire Re: Town/Community Council website – request for invoice from Attic Web Design outlining the work.

Received. It was noted that this matter had been discussed with One Voice Wales and that they were to look into it for Town Council.

(c) J. John Re: Tredegar (Upper Sirhowy) Vibrant and Viable Place – Bid submitted to Welsh Government has not been successful. £5m will be ring fenced over the next 3 years to invest in key projects aimed at tackling poverty. Tredegar meets the criteria set and WG have stated "We would like you to consider options for a potential project which could access this funding"; feedback on the unsuccessful bid and advice on the way forward is being sought from WG.

Received. It was noted that this letter had been received from the Executive Member prior to his resignation. A number of actions were considered by Members, however it was agreed that any action considered by Council be delayed until after the Executive Member had been replaced.

(d) <u>Karin Lamb, Town Centre Manager:-</u>

(i) Re: Planters on lamp posts in Town – request from Business Forum for help from Town Council. The planters on lamp posts throughout town were always too high to be maintained and they have now become unkempt and unsightly. Asking whether our contractor could remove them at the same time as erecting the this year's festive lighting.

Received. It was agreed that the contractor be approached with regard to the removal of the planters, provided that it did not detract from their work for the Town Council.

(ii) Re: Public Toilets – Confirmation that the toilets will close on 4.11.13, no extension of date. Matt Perry will be in contact directly shortly with further information.

Received. Members noted that the Community Toilet scheme was operating throughout the Borough and queried whether the Borough needed to raise the profile of those businesses taking part. Members noted that there was a substantial need for toilets with disabled access throughout the town. It was also noted that some of Community Toilets in the scheme were not located in the Town Centre.

The location of the toilets within the privately owned Gwent Shopping Centre, raised the question of whether the owners should be responsible for their upkeep as they are in other Centres across the UK.

However it was noted that further information was had been requested from the Officers of BGCBC and it was agreed that no decision could be made until this information had been received.

(iii) Re: Tredegar Business Forum – Agenda for meeting Monday 14th October 2013 at 5.30pm Restaurant Europa, Tredegar.

Received.

Cllrs. Cross and Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part.

(e) List of licensing applications week ending 20.9.13.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

Training:-

(i) Module 8 Introduction to Community Engagement – Thursday 3.10.13 The Sessions House, Usk 6.30pm to 9pm.

(ii) List of various Training courses for October.

(iii) Details of Training Module 1 The Council, Usk 8.10.13.

(iv) Training courses for week commencing 8.10.13.

Available for all Members. Please contact the Clerk if interested in attending- to view courses available please view details on www.onevoicewales.org.uk

3) Cllr Smith

Copy of email sent to K. Lamb requesting a stall at Tredegar Business Forum's Christmas Event to sell Town Council Memorabilia in aid of the Mayor's Appeal.

Received.

4) A. Tippings

Horeb & Sardis Harvest Thanksgiving and Flower Festival 6th-8th October 2013. The Chapels will also be collecting gifts in aid of Romania (items of toiletries and medicines). All proceeds from the Flower Festival – floral displays will be in Horeb Chapel – will be donated to Tredegar Mayor's Appeal. Enquiring as to whether Council wish to sponsor a display, cost £25. Eryl Evans is to be contacted asap if Council wishes to go ahead with sponsorship. All are welcome to their services.

Received. It was agreed unanimously to sponsor the event in the sum of £25.

5) A. Davies AM

Confirming a letter of support has been sent to David Manning- Lee, Tredegar Division.

Received.

6) P. Watkins-Hughes

Thanks for exploring the option of filming at the Town Clock and he

agrees the risk of copycat is too high.

Received. It was noted by Members that filming had already commenced and was drawing a great deal of interest.

7) Smith of Derby — Thank you for confirming Council's intention to continue on an annual contract only.

Received.

8) P.Morgan-Jones — Heritage Forum Day School day flyer, Saturday 12th October 2013 starting at 9.30am Bedwellty House. Tickets £7.50 (includes buffet lunch) available from Forum Members and the Library.

Received.

9) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfodd
2013 Souvenir Programme which includes Tredegar Town Council in the list of Donations & Grants.

Received.

10) D. Davies — Asking for information on the sculpture sited on the Sirhowy Green.

Received. It was agreed to forward the information.

Cllr. Rowberry declared an interest in the following item.

11) Gwent Police

(a) First edition of the Local Policing Unit Update newsletter – feedback on it is welcome.

(b) Re: Police Commissioner's Partnership Fund – Victim Support can apply to the fund and are aware of its availability.

Received.

12) Communities 1st — Re: Elected Members Meeting:-

(i) Notice of meeting for elected Members on 8.10.13 at 10.30am Vitcc Centre.

(ii) Confirming that the meeting is to share information and news around the Tredegar Cluster areas and work together with services to highlight any issues. So if Town Councillors have any information to report they are welcome at the scheduled meeting.

(iii) Meeting has been cancelled due to the staff, who are necessary for the meeting, being off work.

Received. Although the meeting had been cancelled Members queried the purpose of the Cluster and how it contributed to the Community and also how much of the funding for Communities First was spent on salaries.

13) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) BBNPA Town & Community Council Liaison Meeting 18th November in Penderyn Community Centre from 6.30pm to 8pm. Items for agenda to be sent to BBNPA prior to meeting and confirmation of attendance to be received by 6.11.13.

(b) Local Access Forum 9th October 2013 at 2pm Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus.

Received. Delegates to attend if possible.

14) Gavo (a) Informal Open Morning Re: Blaenau Gwent Substance Misuse Services –

Citadel on Tuesday 15th October 2013 10am-12pm where the different agencies will outline the services they offer locally.

Received – Members to attend if possible.

(b) Re: The Wales Report – Education in Wales – Parents' perspective – looking for a parent/group of parents to participate in The Wales Report with Huw Edwards. Any interested parties should contact Dani Thomas Tel: 02920 877854 or email dani@walesandco.com .

Received.

15) Welsh Government

Re: Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Annual Report February 2014 – Link to draft Annual Report which would have effect for the financial year 2014/15, any representations must be received no later than 26.11.13 via post (address supplied) or email IRPMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk . Link: http://wales.gov.uk/irpwsub/home/publication/2014/draft-annual-report

Received – available for Members

16) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Request for a letter of support from Council to be included as part of their Lottery Bid World War I project Blaenau Gwent.

Received – It was agreed to send a letter of support and our best wishes.

17) Cllr H Woolf Correspondence regarding current role.

Received – It was agreed to accept his resignation and to write to him expressing the thanks and best wishes of the Town Council. Vacancy to be notified.

151) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi press cuttings July/August 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 27.9.13; BGCBC Road works report week ending 4.10.13; Communicorp Local Councils Update October 2013 Issue 167; Ville D'Orvault le Cens pratique #148 October 2013 and Orvault ma ville #58 October-December 2013; Gavo Re: Local Policing Update – Links to the local policing unit newsletter http://www.gavowales.org.uk/file/CDBG_Local_Policing_Update.pdf and http://www.gavowales.org.uk/community-development-in-blaenau-gwent; Plus Publishing Town Guide publishing services; Gwent Police Victims' Charter Event Summary; Shelter Cymru, The Housing Research Conference for Wales on 8th November 2013 at Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University; Welsh Government Re: The Public Service Workforce: Consultation on draft guidance and directions which include a Code of Practice on Workforce Matters – document available at http://www.wales.gov.uk/consultations/improving/public-service-workforce/?lang=cy , responses by 20.12.13.

Available for all Members.

152) AGENDA

Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 26.9.13 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 25.9.13 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive 25.9.13 at 12pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Monday 30.9.13 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 25.9.13 at 12pm, Reports for Agenda item no. 12 & 13; Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st October 2013 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw

Vale; Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee advance notice of meeting Friday 1st November 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for all Members.

153) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
Members raised the following matters:
a) The closure of the Orchid House to Members of the public when large weddings were taking place. It was noted that the Orchid House had been closed on a number of occasions and that it was felt that this was a core service which should not be affected by any other event being held at Bedwellty House.
b) Leaking pond. There were ongoing concerns regarding water leaking from the ponds over the paths and the dangers it presented for winter.
c) War Memorial – continued questions relating to surfacing and lighting around the War Memorial

154) To receive questions to be put to Insp. Russell Thomas and/or Sgt. Steve O'Brien of Gwent Police, who will be attending the Meeting of Council on Wednesday 16th October 2013.
a) 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.
b) 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.
c) 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?
d) 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?
Members further discussed a number of recurring problems with off road vehicles and past queries relating to policing of a rave event at the quarry.
There was a suggestion that the new Assistant Chief Constable may be in a position to review policing levels in the area with a review of manning of the custodial service possibly pending.

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

i. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – A good meeting had been held with a number of topics discussed including a very informative presentation relating to grant funding.
ii. School Governing Bodies – Tredegar Comprehensive – Members had attended the Annual Prize Giving and the Mayor had presented the Aneurin Bevan Award and the new Michael Foot Memorial Award. It was reported that the speaker on the evening was Mark Colbourne MBE and that he was inspirational. It was agreed to contact him regarding the Lights Switch-On.
iii. Tredegar Youth Café –It was noted that there had been excellent attendance at the project throughout the summer for events which were free to youngsters in the area.
iv. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – It was noted that the Forum were to erect more plaques across the Borough recognising people of local interest.
v. One Voice Wales. - AGM

156) Matters of Local Interest and concern

a) It was remarked by Members that the “Discover the Valleys” Exhibition was amongst one of the best featured in the House.

b) Sirhowy Green – member noted that this area had been neglected for some time and it was agreed that as a prominent site on a gateway to the town it should be better managed. It was agreed to suggest that the local Community groups take responsibility.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15PM

_____Chair