TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 15th May 2013 at 6pm

Present:	**Councillor**	**T. Smith**
		A. Tippings
		B. Willis
		H. Trollope
		S. Trollope
		D. Rowberry
		R. W. Thomas
		D. Howells
		P. Prosser
		O. Price
		J. Morgan
		M. Cross
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**

024) Apologies: **Cllrs. G. Bowen-Knight, M. O'Sullivan, H. Woolf, R. Watkins, T. Gregory A. Cotton**

025) To receive Mr. Paul Shackson of Good Relations with an update on the planned Circuit of Wales Development.

The Mayor welcomed Mr Shackson who also introduced his colleague Mr Jonathan Jones, formerly of Ebbw Vale, who now had responsibility for Recruitment and Training.

Tredegar Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council made themselves known and listened without comment.

Mr. Shackson gave a brief update on the project and pointed out a number of changes which had been made to the original plan following public consultation. He outlined the number of prospective jobs that the site would create during construction and afterwards. Questions were asked by a number of Members regarding the employment of local people. Mr Jones said that he was well aware that there had been problems with other major construction projects but since they were a private sector development they were in a stronger position to ensure that strict rules on local employment were followed.

He outlined the number of jobs that would be available both during construction and afterwards stating that they would cater for all people with all talents – not necessarily just with qualifications, but that there would be a need for basic numeracy and literacy. There would be a strong emphasis on skills. He went on to outline links with local schools and colleges and the fact that a large number of the followers of the sport spoke Italian and Spanish meant that there were opportunities across the board. He also stated that there were currently 17,000 people in Wales working in the automotive industry.

Questions regarding concerns about noise and increased traffic were raised. It was pointed out that the redesign of the site had addressed many problems and that the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road would help ease traffic problems. However they did point out that there would be strict marshalling of traffic and a traffic plan approved by local authority and Police.

Questions were raised about the hotels that were planned and the location of them which seemed to have changed. It was re-iterated that there would be a 4 and 5 star hotel on the site, together with a camp site catering for 10,000 people, but that there would be huge development potential to cater for the number of visitors expected – 750,000 annually.
They confirmed that funding was in place, farmers and commoners had been consulted and that the part of the old Tram road which appeared on the planning application would solely be used as an emergency exit.
The entire site would be covered by security 24/7.
Everything was in place to move on to the next stage following a satisfactory outcome to the planning application. Full information was available on their website which was updated regularly.
The Mayor thanked both men for a very interesting presentation and they withdrew.

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

027) Grants: To receive a verbal report on the meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee held in the Miners' Room previously.
No meeting was held.

Completed Financial Assistance Project Forms from Sardis Chapel, Horeb Chapel, Time Banking Wales and Tredegar Quilting Circle.

To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved.
Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group – A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved. It was agreed to approach them to take part in the Armed Forces Day events.
Tredegar Gardeners Club – A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved. It was agreed to approach them to take part in the Armed Forces Day events.
Tredegar Quilting Circle – A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved.
The Oak Football Club – A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved.
Christians Together – A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved. However it was to be pointed out that this was their annual grant.
Gwent Police – It was agreed to meet the Police to discuss this project and to invite Mr Tony Walters of Communities First who had previously requested a meeting with Council. It was agreed that they meet the Community, Youth and International Committee.

Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
Tredegar Methodist Church - A grant for £200.00 was recommended and approved.

028) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2013.
Deferred.

029) To consider the closure of the office on Tuesday 28th May in the morning (RFO on hols and Clerk in Orvault with Twinning) or to seek a volunteer to (wo)man the office.
It was agreed that the office remain closed.

030) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Performance Review Meeting of 17th April 2013.
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th April 2013.
c) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 1st May 2013.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.

031) Matters arising from the Minutes:
a) Performance Review
No Matters arising.
b) Ordinary Meeting held 17th April 2013
1) Minute No 338 – a Member requested that the cheque to Tredegar Youth RFC be confirmed – it was agreed that the RFO would check on her return.
2) Minute No 343 (1) b) – Drainage – Two Members who had walked around the Park had noted that there seemed to be a leak from the lower pond which was running down to the Long Shelter and that the drains were blocked. It was agreed to highlight this to the House Manager.
3) Minute No 343(3) a – Tony Walters Communities First – it had already been agreed that the Community Youth and International Committee should meet Mr Walters and Gwent Police.
4) Minute No 347 (iii) – It was noted by Members that they had been promised sight of a "vision statement" and it was agreed to seek a meeting with the management when this had been received to discuss this and other issues.
5) Minute No 347 (viii) – It was agreed to write to Tredegar Heritage and ask them to report on their progress.
6) Minute No 348 (b) – It was noted by Members that the safety concerns surrounding the dualling of the Heads of the Valley and the Nantybwch roundabout were still causing grave concern. It was noted that, as a Town Council, we have raised concerns in the past and the present arrangements were creating even greater hazards to all those people living in the North of Tredegar who walked to the garage or school. It was noted that some children had to cross 8 roads to get to school. It was agreed to write in the strongest possible terms to the Borough and Carillion and to copy to our AM and MP.
7) Minute No 348 (d) It was agreed that ideas for a celebration of Michael Foot's 100th anniversary be put on the agenda for the next Meeting.
c) Annual Meeting
Members commented on the support that the members of the Life After Stroke Group had given the Mayor on his inauguration and on how delightful it was to have the youngsters from the Comprehensive performing. Slight amendments to committees noted.

032) Chair to sign Minutes.

033) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC a) Reminder that the Consultation Meeting due to be held tomorrow has been cancelled.

NOTED

b) Hedley McCarthy Leader poster detailing the Minor Injuries Unit at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan which is threatened with closure due to low usage.

Members were appalled at this. It was agreed to write to the Health Authority to get the facts of the situation and at the same time to raise the question of the lack of a dialysis unit at the hospital.

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

c) License applications 19/4 to 10/5

Received and noted

d) Wildlife in the Frame! Photographic Competition 2013 – Details & application form for the competition which closes 31st January 2014.

Received – poster in noticeboard - to check if circulated to schools

2) One Voice Wales

i) Re: Consultation on Welsh Government's draft Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat – 12 week online consultation, closes 5th July 2013.
http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/?lang=en
link to consultation document and response form.

Received – it was agreed to forward to Cllrs Woolf and Price and for them to bring back observations to Council.

ii) Request for more people to attend the Module 4 training, Understanding the Law, being held in Cwmbran on 20th May.

Received – it was agreed that any interested Members should contact the Clerk.

iii) Allotments/Community Growing Sessions House Usk Monday 20th May 6.30-9pm

Received – it was agreed that any interested Members should contact the Clerk.

iv) Training programme January to July 2013.

Received – it was agreed that any interested Members should contact the Clerk.

3) GAVO

i) Tracy Colcombe Re: - Tredegar Deep Study Consultation Event being held in association with CREW regeneration Wales on 29th May 10.30am – 12.30pm in Bedwellty House (Cllrs Cotton Tippings Watkins and Prosser to attend)

Noted any other interested parties to notify.

ii) CASH 4 U GRANT. Formerly Gwirvol Youth Led Grant application form closes 3rd June

Received – to be forwarded to youth organisations.

iii) BBC Children in Need Funding Surgery Thursday 27th June 2013 a day of pre-booked appointments for local groups. Details to Mandy Moore at Gavo by 19th June

Received – it was agreed to pass this information on.

iv) Single Payments – link to information regarding the single payments process, http://www.gavowales.org.uk/file/cdbg_Simple_payments. Main change will be how claimants collect their benefit, can use Paypoint outlets which display the Simple Payment sign.

Received. It was noted that GAVO produced an excellent information leaflet.

4) BBNPA

Chief exec Mr John Cook and Dir. of Planning Mr Christopher Morgan would welcome a chance to visit Council.

Received. It was noted that we were a signatory on the Charter agreement with the BBNPA and it was agreed to invite them to meet Council.

5) Trevor Allan

Complaint about the illegal parking taking place by users of the shop in Vale Terrace and Kidz'R'Us. Asking whether Police can start to Enforce action against the offenders.

Received. It was noted that these problems were outside Town Council remit and to pass them to the Borough and Police. To write to Mr Allan and inform him.

6) Cor-y-cymoedd Two complimentary tickets to their performance of Gounod's Messe Solennelle at the Libanus Chapel Ebbw Vale on 25th May. Concert dedicated to the late John Watkins.

Received. It was noted that the Mayor would be in France and to ask the Deputy Mayor to attend.

7) Citizen's Advice Bureau

Re: - Out Reach opening hours(copy to all Members) and details of the merger of Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly CAB.

Received – it was agreed to put details on the web-site.

8) Parc Bryn Bach At last meeting Tredegar Town Council agreed to sponsor a golf tournament at Bryn Bach Park. Request for £100 to purchase trophies and £50 to provide a small buffet for participants.

Received. However it was pointed out that this was not quite the case and that the suggestion had been that a youth tournament would help to boost the takings on the golf side of the Parc which had been affected by the weather. However it was agreed that if we were to support Town Council details should appear on the trophy and that invitations should go to Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Clubs and West Mon. Further that the Mayor of Tredegar should present the prizes.

9) G2 Energy Re: Wind Turbine Proposal at Gelliwen Farms, Elliots Town – Proposing to construct single wind turbine with ancillary infrastructure and following the completion of technical/environmental assessments they will be submitting a planning application to Caerphilly County Borough Council early this summer. Enclosed leaflet on the proposal.

Received

10) Thanks from Andy Donaldson

Received with thanks – it was agreed to put this and future thanks on the web-site

11) PUBLICATIONS

The Voice Issue 22 Spring 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 17/5/13; Ville D'Orvault Le cens pratique March and April 2013 #144, Orvault ma ville #56 April-June 2013; NB Details of forthcoming visit; GAVO Your finance your future; Clerks & Councils Direct; Local Councils Update; Lite catalogue;

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

12) AGENDA

Executive – replacement Minutes for 3rd April 2013; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 24th April 2013 at 10am Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 24th April 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 24th April 2013 at 11am Bedwellty House, Tredegar; Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 25th April 2013 at 4pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee Friday 19th April 2013 at 3pm – Cancelled; Advance notice of Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 24th April 2013 at 10am Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 30th April 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 24th April 2013 – substitute report for Item No. 4; Executive Wednesday 24th April 2013 – Salt bins list for Item No. 5.01; Planning Committee Thursday 2nd May 2013 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Audit Committee Thursday 2nd May 2013 at 10am

Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Wednesday 8th May 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Annual Meeting of Council Thursday 9th May 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale: Special Meeting of Council 12th June 2pm in Council Chamber Ebbw vale.
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

034) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report **– None Received**
b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0132	Mr L Lewis Tredegar Ironsides RFC The Bush, Park Row	Retention of two roller shutters and proposed housing and retention of smoking shelter, Tredegar Ironsides RFC.
No Objections		
2013/0135	Mr Stuart Price Saron Congregational Church Park Row	To remove failed render and frost damaged bricks and mouldings and replace
No Objections		
2013/0139	Mr Darren Davies 96 Church Street	Conversion of one residential property to a pair of semi-detached properties includes raising the roof, two storey extensions to rear and alterations to windows and doors on front.
No Objections		
2013/0140	Mr Andrew Herbert 2 Punch House Flats Morgan Street	Two storey detached house and garage at Plot 2 Maes Morgan, Nantybwch
No Objections		
2013/0144	Ms Helen Antell 14 Glanhowy Street	Construction of a detached domestic garage.
No Objections		

c) To consider other planning matters **– There were none**

035) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)
NB the delegates reports will now be taken at the Civic Committee Meeting.
1) Food Bank – It was noted at a previous meeting that further Banks were being set up in Tredegar and it was confirmed that Saron Chapel held one on Tuesdays and Fridays. Details of the scheme given to Members.
2) Anti-social behavior at Inn Place. It was noted that action had been taken and the lady informed but that she had not responded. Further concerns were raised about the damage being caused to the corners of buildings by lorries – Borough Members advised that they were trying to address this problem.

3) Dialysis – It was noted that arrangements currently in place for people to receive dialysis were poor and often caused increased pressure on those needing the treatment. Members recalled a meeting with Ms Bolt of the ABHB and that she had referred to a docking system which could be used for scanners and dialysis. It was agreed to write to Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan to enquire whether this had come to fruition. It was also agreed to contact Kidney Wales to enquire if they knew how many people from the area were receiving dialysis. Further conversations with Ms Bolt had resulted comments that there would not be enough people in the area to make it worthwhile. Members questioned this fact. It was agreed to refer this to JCLC. Also to refer queries about the Ambulance Service to JCLC.
4) It was noted that the Grove had been sold by auction. It was agreed to write to the Borough stating that it was a building of historical interest with links to Medical Aid and that it was an important building on a gateway to the town.
5) It was agreed to chase up those involved with the Trefil barrier.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8pm.

_____ Chair