TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 20th November 2013 at 6.40pm.

Present: **Councillor** **T. Smith**
R. L. Watkins
A. Tippings
M. Cross
H. Trollope
R. Thomas

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

206) Apologies Cllrs T. Gregory, A. Cotton, S. Trollope, D. Rowberry and O. Price

207) Declarations of Interest
The Mayor reminded Members to make declarations at the appropriate point on the agenda.

208) To Co-opt a Member to serve on the Georgetown Ward until the next elections due in May 2015.
Mr G. Meredith was proposed by Cllr J Morgan and seconded by Cllr H. Trollope and was commended as a fine addition to the Council. Mr. Meredith was co-opted to the Council unanimously. It was agreed that he would sit on the Events Appeals and Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee.

It was agreed to take the presentation by Police next to enable the four officers present to return to duty.

209) To welcome Sgt Steve O'Brien of Gwent Police with responses to questions previously put by Members
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.
The Officers noted that letters had been sent to residents and that there had been suggestions for permit parking. This idea was not welcomed, the continued danger caused by illegal and thoughtless parking was highlighted again. It was pointed out that Charles St was no longer the main thoroughfare through town. The Officer stated that speeding vehicles could be controlled by traffic calming – Members pointed out that this was not a major problem.

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.
Officers were unable to provide this information because of technical problems. Specific issues had been addressed successfully.

c) CCTV in the Town Centre – The officers further reported that it was difficult to categorise prosecutions and that CCTV was used for shoplifting etc too, plus providing additional security for lone police officers.

d) Tredegar Police Station – There were no reports that the Station was to re-open, but that it was to be used for more consultations and meetings.

e) Off road biking – Following complaints by Members the police had carried out a three week operation which had proved quite successful, with a number of 4 x 4 vehicles being turned away – local police were commended. Some of these vehicles had travelled long distances to ride on the mountain. It was noted that the police force had disbanded their off road motorcycles reducing their ability to track vehicles across the mountainside. Members recognised that there was an increasing rapport and co-operation between Town Council and the police.

f) It was noted further that there had been a more pro-active attitude to drug enforcement and that the difference was being noticed.

g) Ongoing problems at schools across the Town were raised again, with the closure of the main gates at Glanhowy still being a problem. Mention was made of the work being carried out by Carillion with Bryn Bach Primary School with some unfortunate consequences being the formation of a traffic "rat run" past the school. A Member pointed out that attempts were still being made to get a temporary weight restriction at the school to cover the busy half hour picking-up and dropping off times. Members asked for the police to support this move. Members discussed former proposals for a one way system.

Members thanked the officers for attending and they left.

At this stage the Mayor welcomed back Cllr. David Howells after a long illness.

210) To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations and Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
Completed End of Project Grant form received from Sirhowy Senior Citizens.

<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137</u>
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales – A grant of £100 was approved unanimously.
Royal British Legion – A grant of £200 was approved unanimously.

Cllr. Tippings expressed an interest in the following item and took no part in the voting or discussions thereon
Tredegar Christians Together – A grant of £200 was approved unanimously.

Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) – A grant of £200 was approved unanimously.
Urdd Gobaith Cymru – A letter was sent to say Town Council is supporting the local fundraising committee this year.
Urdd Eisteddford Fundraising Committee – A £100 start-up grant was approved unanimously.

<u>Grants to Churches and Chapels</u>
Trinity Spiritualist Church - A £200 grant was approved unanimously.

211) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2013.
The RFO advised that Bank Reconciliations were available for all Members. She noted that the new Internal Auditor had made his first visit and had once again re-iterated possible changes for the Audit process in 2015. Various items were discussed and clarified by the RFO.

The RFO was thanked for the information and she withdrew

212) To receive a verbal report on the Events Sub-Committee of Council held prior to this meeting and to receive any recommendations.
a) Switch-On - The Clerk ran through a list of confirmations for the event. It was agreed that stewards needed to be on hand to decorate the lorry on its arrival. A briefing for stewards to take place on Wednesday 27th November. The Mayor noted that there would be raffle tickets to be sold and a bucket collection.
b) Xmas Visits - It was agreed to contact the homes etc asap.
c) Annual Concerts – it was agreed to check that the Bandstand had been booked
d) Armed Forces Day – normally the last weekend in June to check with the date of Commonwealth Baton relay to see if they could be amalgamated.
e) Xmas window competition – volunteers requested to take out information leaflets, details to be passed to Business Forum.

213) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting of Council held on 16th October 2013.
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th October 2013
c) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting of Council held on 6th November 2013.
d) Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held on 6th November 2013.
The above were all received and noted as a true record.

214) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Performance Review 16th October
i) Minute No 159 – Members called again for the seating in the Council Chamber to be secured.
b) Ordinary Meeting 16th October
i) Minute No. 173 – Climate Change Adaptation Programme Phase II – Members who had attended reported that this had been a very good first meeting, it was good to know that Town Council would have representation and that the Project was looking for ideas.
ii) Minute No. 174 (1) a) It was agreed that a meeting should be requested between The Oak football club, Leisure Services and Town Council.
iii) Minute No. 174 (3) Shon Sheffrey Reservoir – members noted that the Angling Club had recently had a very positive result in their dealings with Welsh Water and that the Club itself was growing and recruiting new younger members. They were congratulated by all and a member of the Club nominated for a Civic Award.
iv) Minute No. 174 (4) Agreed to chase meeting re bridleway.
v) Minute No. 174 (13) Both websites were commended.
c) Civic Sub-Committee held on 6th November
It was agreed that Members of Council who were also members of any of the groups who had not appeared should make enquiries as to their non-appearance.
d) Civic Committee held on 6th November
No matters arising.

215) Chair to sign Minutes.
The Minutes were duly signed

216) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) Advance notice of Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 12th December 2013 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre. Items for inclusion on the agenda to be submitted no later than noon on Friday 29th November 2013.

Received. It was agreed to re-submit previous items.

(b) Corporate Improvement Plan 2013/14 Summary.

Received.

(c) I. Cole Re: Glanhowy school crossing – Response to the issues raised regarding the parking around the school.

Received. This led to a discussion relating to parking at all schools in Tredegar and it was agreed to agenda an item for the next meeting of the JCLC to put forward for the Consultation. This further led to discussion of the Charter agreement and the fact that this needs to be highlighted to all officers and the information regarding the Charter and obligations fed down to all Officers. This too to be put on the JCLC agenda.

(d) A. Tippings Re: Valleys Brochure 2014 – final reminder for events info for 2014 to be sent to enable their inclusion in the 2014 brochure.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Introduction letter from new South Wales Development Officer Shannon Robinson.

Received. It was noted that Ms Robinson was once Clerk to Tredegar Council and that she should be sent a letter of congratulation and invited to attend a Meeting of Town Council.

(b) Re: Community Activities – Wales Remembers 1914-1918.

Received. A Member recalled the works of a poet with connections from Tredegar and was to provide the Clerk with further details.
It was also noted that at the recent Remembrance Service Fr. John Davis had put forward an idea to involve local schools in the Commemoration of World War I and suggested a mural on the wall in the Shopping Centre where the Service on the 11th of the 11th was usually held. It was noted by Members that local schools had already expressed an interest in taking part in Commemorations.
It was agreed to hold a meeting early in the new year to discuss Commemorations.

(c) Re: Building Communities – recruiting for Chair & Trustee Directors, closing date 20.1.14.

Received.

(d) Wales against illegal money lending – Newsletter.

Received. It was agreed to post this item on the web site and inform local residents associations.

(e) Website development grant criteria.

Received. It was agreed to apply.

(f) Training:-
(i) Cllr Watkins - Copy of email sent to One Voice Wales to say he is unable to attend this evening's training at Cwmbran.
(ii) Regarding Cllr Watkins cancellation above, the course will still have to be paid for as its too short notice to cancel – Emailed Members to ask if anyone else would like to attend.

Received.

3) Night Out Scheme:-

(a) Bryn Bach Primary – would like to participate but due to events they have already planned for the run up until the end of this term they would not be able to participate until the Spring Term.
(b) Deighton Primary - yes interested but depends on their diary of activities.
(c) Glanhowy Primary – 2 emails both asking for various information on the scheme.

Received. It was agreed to contact them early in the New Year.

4) Christmas Lights:-

(a) Gala Lights
(i) Re: Lights issues – chasing up Centregreat and BGCBC on a daily basis and will give feedback as soon as possible. Motif not fitted on lamp-post by Tredegar Arms due to it being susceptible to movements in any inclement weather.
(ii) Copy of Centregreat service agreement.
(b) Centregreat - on site today (13.11.13) & will be giving feedback to Gala Lights.

Received. It was agreed that a small number of Councillors who were in town on a regular basis over the holidays would be given the contact numbers for calls relating to the lights and that this would be agreed with Gala Lights and the information passed to Centregreat.

5) G. Dann Confirms current PA system we own does not meet our requirements, a more suitable system would cost between £1000 – £1200.

Received. It was agreed that two Members would liaise directly with Mr. Dann to purchase new equipment which, it was noted, should also be able to be transported in a car.

6) SLCC (a) 2014 Membership renewal notice.

Received. It was agreed unanimously to renew membership.

(b) Clerks' manual 2013 member's price £32.50p.

Received. It was agreed unanimously to purchase.

(c) S. Bartlett - Resignation as Chairman of the Greater Gwent Branch SLCC from 29.11.13.

Received. It was noted that the Clerk had already written to Mr. Bartlett.

7) K. Dyer Re: JK International Festival of Orienteering 2014, meeting 26.11.13 – yes will meet at Bedwellty House 12.30pm to discuss the event. (Email giving timings of the visit 26.11.13 attached).

Received. It was noted by Members that this was a massive international event and it was agreed to meet.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)

(a) Re: Archaeological Heritage of BBNPA
(i) Invitation to take part in the scrutiny study on how well the BBNPA is conserving and enhancing the archaeological heritage of the park.
(ii) Requesting Community Council Members for this study, study running from now until March 2014.

Received.

9) GAVO Lynn Clubb

(a) Gavo Awards 2014 - Asking Council to sponsor the annual volunteer awards evening, £250 to sponsor one award which will mean the award will be named after the Town Council for that year, promotion of the sponsorship and 4 complimentary tickets for the evening will be available to Council.

Received. It was agreed to sponsor the Inspirational Award and to make nominations.

(b) Details of Winter Wise Campaign launched by Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

Received. It was agreed to put this on the web site.

10) Community Health Council Aneurin Bevan

(a) Meeting of Full Council of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council on Tuesday 26th November 2013 at 5.30pm Greenmeadow Golf Club, Cwmbran – displayed in noticeboard.

Received.

(b) Meeting of Executive Committee of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council on Thursday 28th November 2013 at 10.30am Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council's Office, Raglan House, Llantarnam Business Park, Cwmbran – displayed in noticeboard.

Received.

11) P.Morgan Jones Re: Photographic project – happy to meet with Council at any convenient time.

Received. It was agreed to hold a Meeting of the Heritage Committee and to invite Mr Morgan Jones to attend.

217) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 15.11.13; War Memorials Trust Bulletin No. 59 November 2013; Ashwood leaflet on bestsellers and new lines; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings October 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 23.11.13.

Available for Members.

218) AGENDA

Advance notice of Special Executive Wednesday 13th November 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Friday 15th November 2013 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 13th November 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Wednesday 13th

November 2013 at 11am – information for item no. 6; Ordinary meeting Thursday 21st November 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council, advance notice, on Thursday 19th December 2013 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 26th November 2013 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 25th November 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee, advance notice, Tuesday 17th December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee, advance notice, Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for Members.

219) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report - None Received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0264	Mr SW Ferrari 1 Harford Gardens Tredegar	Revised proposed outline planning application for detached dwelling at plot north of 1 Harford Gardens.

No objections.

2013/0330	Mr & Mrs G Hughes New House, St James Close, Tredegar.	New detached two storey house, garden of New House, St James Close.

No objections.

2013/0331	Mr J Chadwick New Look Group Plc Mercery Road, Weymouth.	One illuminated fascia sign and one illuminated projecting sign, New Look, 106 Commercial Street.

No objections.

c) To consider other planning matters – None Received.

220) Matters of Local Interest or Concern
a) Members complained about the recent press coverage of the visit to the Cairn which had not mentioned the fact that it was an event organised by Town Council. A Member agreed to discuss the matter with his press officer.
b) Mention was made that the Crime Prevention Panel was looking for an alternative venue.
c) The Mayor reminded Members that tickets for his Christmas Dinner and Dance were still available.

221) To receive details of the visit of Council to the Lodge.

Below is the report made by the Clerk to Council:
Clerks Report to Council

<u>The Lodge, Bedwellty Park</u>

We were recently made aware that the Lodge was subject to a Community Asset Transfer request by a local charitable organisation.
Currently we are still awaiting response from the Borough Council regarding the Covenant which covers the Park and how this may affect any future use/transfer of the building.
Being keen to secure the future of the fabric of the building and to ensure that it continues to be used for the benefit of the community, Council requested an inspection of the building. This took place on the 14th November and the Clerk, RFO and Mayor were shown around the building by Mr Mark Howland of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Photographs were taken to give all Members an indication of the size, shape and condition of the rooms in the building.
The ground floor has disabled access and a disabled toilet facility – however the width of the door to the kitchen raises questions about chair access. There is also another toilet and a small kitchen. All of these rooms are part of a single storey extension to the building and show signs of damp. The roof of this building is easily accessible from the Park and has access to the windows of the upper floor. From this window you can see that the gutters are poorly maintained and full of leaves and debris. The main office is currently open plan.
There is a steep stairs to the first floor which has two rooms. One currently has one desk and would struggle to have any more. The second is a long narrow room reaching from side to side. This room also shows sign of damp.
The interior of the Lodge is quite dark and currently very cramped.
We have since received the current upkeep costs for the building from the Borough a copy of which accompanies this report.
It is the opinion of the RFO and myself that since the building would have to be run as a not for profit venture it would be unlikely to generate enough income to cover costs. With ongoing repair and high security costs this would eventually be a drain on Council finances.

Ms. Christine Keane
Town Clerk
20th November 2013

The visit was made by the Clerk, RFO and Mayor and Mr Mark Howland of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
Details of current costs were also circulated to all Members.
Following discussion it was agreed that a small Task and Finish group of four Members take an in depth look at the Lodge and complete a feasibility study on behalf of the Council.
However all this would still be dependent on information still to be received relating to the covenant on the Park.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.45pm

_____ Chair