TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 6.30pm or to follow the Performance Review meeting

Present:	**Councillor**	**T. Smith**
		R. Watkins
		A. Cotton
		A. Tippings
		R. Thomas
		M. Cross
		G. Meredith
		H. Trollope
		D. Howells
		D. Rowberry
		B. Willis
		S. Trollope
		G. Bowen-Knight
		M. O'Sullivan
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**
Also present:		**Mrs. A. Jones - RFO**

245) Apologies: Cllrs. Cllrs. T. Gregory, J Morgan, P. Prosser and O. Price.

246) To consider the exclusion of the Press and Public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.
This was agreed

247) To receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee of Council held prior to this on 15th January 2014.
It was agreed to accept the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee of Council held prior to this and amend the Mayors Allowance to include the £250 agreed as Town Councils contribution towards catering costs for the Inauguration and also to include additions to training.

It was noted that the final setting of the precept would be agreed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 22nd January 2014.

248) To receive applications for:
Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137
Completed End of Grant form received from Tredegar Ironsides RFC

Ordinary meeting on 18th December 2013 was not quorate, Members were requested to approve the Grants below which were recommended at the Civic Meeting on 4th December 2013:-
Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Neighbourhood Watch Association – A grant of £200 was recommended.
Sirhowy Senior Citizens – A grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir - A grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club – A grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar & Rhymney Veterans Golf Club – A grant of £200 was recommended.

Grants submitted for recommendation this evening:-
Tredegar Ironsides RFC – A grant of £200 was recommended.

Grants to Churches and Chapels
Ebenezer Welsh Congregational Church – A grant of £200 was recommended.

RFO then withdrew.

249) To receive a verbal report of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 8th January 2014 and any update.
Members were thanked for attending the Meeting at such short notice and Mr Mike Stephens and his team at Centre Great were thanked for their diligent response to emergency calls over the Festive period.
There was much discussion regarding the poor performance of the contractors Gala Lights and it was agreed that their invoice would not be paid in full and that details of the contract – together with a possible three year opt out – should be passed to One Voice Wales for their advice.
It was agreed to recommend that a single company be responsible for an independent survey of infrastructure and also the supply and maintenance of the whole scheme.

Cllrs Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
250) Planning
a) To consider an Officer's Report
List of Delegated Items determined between 18th November 2013 and 6th December 2013:-
C/2013/0271 Ground floor rear extension, 147 Vale Terrace – Approved.
C/2013/0258 Erection of one two storey four bedroom property – Outline (formerly known as Plot 8), 20 Maes Morgan, Nantybwch – Approved.
C/2013/0257 Provision of single storey buildings to accommodate day-care and community facilities, with associated access road, parking, landscaping and refuse store, land at former Sirhowy Infants School – Approved.
Planning Report:-
C/2013/0234 Construction of new Scouts Hall with associated car park and new boundary fencing, land adjacent to Bridge Street Industrial Estate - Recommending planning permission is GRANTED.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0348	Miss Palfrey BGCBC Technical Services	Sign board mounted on two steel posts advertising land availability at

	Baldwin House Victoria Business Park, Ebbw Vale.	Tredegar Business Park, land south of Innova 1 Tredegar Business Park.

Meeting 18.12.13 - Returned with No Comments.

2013/0351	Miss Palfrey BGCBC Technical Services Baldwin House Victoria Business Park Ebbw Vale.	Sign board mounted on two steel posts advertising land availability at Tredegar Business Park, land at entrance junction to Tredegar Business Park.

Meeting 18.12.13 - Returned with No Comments.

2014/0002	Mr G Thomas 14 Avenue Road Abergavenny.	Alterations to shop front to incorporate new new roller shutter, 25 Commercial Street, Tredegar.

No Objections

2014/0005	Mr D English 22 Vale Terrace Tredegar.	Outline planning permission for residential development & demolition of church building, Calvery Pentecostal Church Sycamore Avenue.

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters. - There were none.

251) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) Re: Precept 2014/15 request for submission of precept requirement by 31.1.14 at the latest.

Received.

(b) Consultation exercise on Council Tax Reduction Scheme, requesting views on the three local areas of discretion to the scheme. Consultation ends 19.1.14.

Interest was declared by all Borough Members of Town Council on the above. It was agreed that Town Council should support any measures which would support members of the community.

(c) Mayor's Parlour planning application:-
(i) L. Taylor – needs the application to be revised removing the ceiling moulding and resubmitted by 6.1.14. Clerk has responded.
(ii) L. Taylor – accepts the decision not to revise the proposal and will proceed with her recommendation based on the details submitted. This recommendation will have to be referred to CADW and notification of the decision will be received in due course.

Both Received. It was agreed that the initial plans should not be amended and that the panel would simply be a means of obscuring the wiring. Members were at a loss to understand why – having agreed the introduction of 21st Century strip lights to most of the rooms in the House – there was an objection to Town Council removing these to install something more in keeping. It was agreed that Borough Members of the Town Council take the opportunity to speak for the plans as submitted.

(d) Bedwellty Park Lodge:-

(i) M. Howland – legal advice has now been received. Deadline of the first full working week in January 2014 for the submission of a formal expression of interest.

(ii) M. Howland – Extension until end of January 2014 to submit bid.

Received. It was agreed not to move forward with an option for the lease. Members again raised the question of the covenant to the Park and how they could separate the Lodge from the rest of the Park. (see Minute no. 255)

Cllr. Cross declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

(e) M. Howland Re: Area review of property – Attached report and appendices were presented to Council's Overview Scrutiny Committee on 6.1.14. Their views have been noted and prior to presenting the report to the Executive Committee he is seeking the views of Town Councils. Request from our Members views to be submitted by 14th February 2014. Strategic Asset Management team are willing to meet with up to 2 of our Members to discuss the report on either 28.1.14 or 3.2.14, contact Mark asap to make these arrangements.

It was noted that Tredegar Members of the Borough Council had reminded the Borough of the need for consultation as prescribed in the Charter Agreement. This had been recognised by the Borough hence this letter. It was essential that Town Council be represented at this meeting and that important buildings on the gateway to town should be safeguarded and not materially changed. It was agreed to contact the Borough and arrange for the Mayor and 1 Member to meet on 28th Jan.

(f) Grant of £1000 from Tredegar Members for the Christmas Lights – letter of thanks sent.

Received, with thanks. Compliments had been given to Tredegar for their lights.

(g) D. Ware Re: Invitation to attend an initial Meeting to discuss the establishment of a Local Action Group in Blaenau Gwent for the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020. Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 9am Parc Bryn Bach.

Received – the Deputy Mayor to attend.

(h) Queens Baton Relay:-

(i) D. Griffiths – requesting that all future press releases are approved by Rebecca Perry first as the one currently on South Wales Argus website is incorrect – replied with copy of press release we issued to confirm we did send correct information.

(ii) R. Perry – thanks for letting them know what the proper press release was and she confirmed that sometimes the Argus do change it. All future press releases go through her in the future so that they have a record of everything going out in relation to the Relay.

Received. It was noted that Town Council had an excellent track record for putting on events in the Park and that we would work in collaboration with the House and Borough to make sure that this event was to the same standard.

(i) Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 16th January 2014 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Received.

Cllr. Cross declared an interest and took no part in the following.

(j) List of Licensing applications week ending 3.1.14.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) S. Robinson Re: Power for Royal Welsh donation – Yes s.137 LGA 1972 can be used and also confirming Power of Well-Being can be used provided Council considers that an investment in the Show would serve to enhance the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the town of Tredegar.

Received. It was agreed to forward this application to the Civic Sub-Committee now that the question of funding had been resolved.

(b) Re: Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review – The Welsh Government is reviewing the options for the future of council tax support in Wales. Consultation open and further information is available at http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/council-tax-reduction-scheme-review/?lang=en .

Received.

(c) Buckingham Palace Gardens Parties nomination form.

Received. It was agreed to nominate the outgoing Mayor.

(d) Memorandum of Understanding between Welsh Local Government Association and One Voice Wales.

Received.

(e) Re: Post Office Advisory Council – looking for volunteers for the Council, further information available at www.corporate.postoffice.co.uk/advisory .

Received – interested Members to contact.

(f) 2014 Training Programme – there are two courses that both Clerk & RFO would like to attend.

Received. It was agreed for staff to attend.

3) Gala Lights Copy of original invoice which is now overdue and requesting prompt payment. Their justification for the costs – copied for all.

This had already been dealt with. Agreed not to pay full amount and implement 3 year opt out.

Cllr Tippings declared an interest in the following.

4) Cllr Tippings Information regarding the dates available for the tour of Parliament.

Received – it was noted that the meeting of Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales would need to be changed. Agreed.

5) Deighton Primary Wish to take part in the commemorations for the Battle of Tredegar Hill and 100th anniversary of WW1.

Received, with thanks. It was further noted that a number of local people may be able to help with information.

6) Caerphilly County Citizens Advice Bureau

Re: Children with Disabilities Project in Blaenau Gwent – they are funded to provide advice to families who have a child under 18 with additional needs in order to maximise their household income. Request to pass on

their contact details to anyone who could benefit from their service.

Received – info to be put on web-site.

7) Cllr Smith — Nomination for Civic Awards – Joan Richards, cleaner at Tredegar Police Station for 40 Years.

Received.

8) Welsh Government — St David Awards 2014:–
(i) Confirming receipt of nomination of Lesley Watkins.
(ii) Confirming receipt of nomination of Michael Morgan.

Received, it was agreed to send information to the AM and MP with background details.

9) Natural Resources Wales
Re: Regulators start generic design assessment (GDA) on new nuclear reactor. There is a proposal to use the new reactor design at Wylfa and Oldbury but there are other possible site around the UK too. Comments about the new design can be submitted at
www.hitachi-hgne-uk-abwr.co.uk
and a GDA public & stakeholder engagement plan setting out draft proposals for engagement will be published during Winter 2013/14 inviting feedback.

Received.

10) A. Davies AM — Autumn/Winter 2013 newsletter.

Received.

11) Gavo — Sainsburys small community fund – forwarded to all Members

Received.

12) Cllr Tippings — Re: Sainsburys fund – asking whether it is worth seeking funding to do a study pack Re: Tredegar Hill.

Noted.

13) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
BBNPA Social Inclusion & Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan consultation Town & Community Councils.

Received.

14) S. Collins — The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets. Looking for volunteers in the Abertysswg area to walk dogs. Requesting if we could possibly advertise their search for volunteers.

Received. Info posted to web-site.

15) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Agenda for meeting Thursday 16th January 2014 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

Received.

16) Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir
Celebrity Concert starring Aled Jones with Kristian Morse on Saturday 26th April 2014 at 7pm Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, £15 per ticket available

from Email@ ajames9@sky.com or tel: 01495 722342.

Received.

17) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

The Patients Voice News Bulletin Issue 20, December 2013.

Received.

252) PUBLICATIONS

From Meeting 18.12.13 Available in Office - Ville D'Orvault Press Cuttings November 2013 & Le cens pratique #150 December 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 20.12.13; Comunicorp Local Councils Update December 2013 Issue 169.

Current Meeting – BGCBC Road works report week ending 3.1.14 & 10.1.14; Ville D'Orvault, Orvault ma ville #59 Jan-March 2014; BGCBC Connect magazine Winter 2013; Brecon Beacons National Park Action for Tourism Issue 20 Winter 2013 and Fforest Fawr Geopark News Issue 14 Winter 2013; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Newsletter Winter 2013; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct January 2014 Issue 91; J Parkers Wholesale catalogue Spring 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 17.1.14.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

253) AGENDA

From Meeting 18.12.13 Available in Office - Special Meeting of Council Thursday 19th December 2013 at 9.30am – additional items for consideration; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 11th December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Thursday 30th January 2014 at 10am; Special Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 17th December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Thursday 19th December 2013 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 19th December 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Joint Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting Of Council Thursday 19th December 2013 at 9.30am Item No. 4 for consideration; Special Joint Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 9am Item No. 4 for consideration; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 2nd January 2014 – CANCELLED; Executive Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 11am Item No. 6 for consideration; Licensing Committee Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 10am – CANCELLED.

Current Meeting - Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 6th January 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 8th January 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 2pm Engagement Training Room, Training Centre, Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate, Tredegar; Advance notice of Special Meeting Wednesday 5th March 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Friday 17th January 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 2pm Engagement Training Room, Training Centre, Tafarnaubach, report for agenda item no. 7.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

254) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

The following items were noted:
a) framing of pictures for the Gallery
b) Tredegar Hill – memorabilia to be returned to the Hallway.

It was agreed to agenda the following items for the next Management Board Meeting:
a) Pathways
b) War Memorial lighting and tarmac
c) Leak in lower pond
d) Driveway lighting
e) To ask what would happen to the Board if the Park became part of the wider Leisure Trust.
f) The legal obligations under the Covenant.
It was further suggested that the National Trust might be interested in taking over the running of the House and Park although this was not widely welcomed.

255) The Lodge – Report of the task and finish group. To put forward recommendations to Council.
The recommendation of the task and finish group was not to take up an Asset management Transfer interest on the Lodge

256) To put forward questions for Inspector Thomas who will be attending Council on 22nd January 2014.
It was agreed to seek updates on the following:
a) CCTV – How many prosecutions via CCTV – window smashing incident through town. The fact that the Police don't contribute to costs, is it earning its keep?
b) Update on the pre Xmas campaign regarding parking on double yellow lines through town and other locations.
c) Update on the off road vehicle problem in light of detailed information supplied by Council members at their last meeting with police.

257) 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 – Tredegar had been well represented at the last meeting when Shannon Robinson – former Clerk to TTC was introduced as Paul Egan's replacement. A number of items were discussed and it was noted that this was the 10th Anniversary – GVOVW being one of the first to take part in OVW.
ii. Tredegar Twinning – It was noted that the Chamber would be available for the meeting between the Committees, but Council would need to seek an alternative for the Civic Reception – this as agreed. It was noted that hosts were urgently required.
iii. School Governing Bodies:
Deighton – excellent results and reports – congratulations extended.
Tredegar Comprehensive – a number of questions regarding policy were asked and responses given by Governors.
Bryn Bach – attendance high, have adopted new scheme to phone parents of absent children which is working well. Members queried whether parents were allowed to take their dogs into the yard to collect children. A governor to make enquiries. Still problems trying to get weight restrictions and certain times.

iv. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – noted again that the canteen was closing early, there was a suggestion that customer comment cards should be in place as in Bedwellty House.
v. Tredegar Youth Café – letter of thanks for Carol singing. Noted that further funding had been secured.
vi. Communities First Advisory Panel – It was noted that some events were being moved from Tenants & Residents Associations and it was agreed that was detrimental.

Standing orders were revoked at 9pm for 5 minutes to allow completion of agenda.

258) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice)
a) Toilets – it was commented that this matter needed to be looked at again – questions re ownership and future of the shopping centre had been raised with the present owners, still awaiting response.
b) Young Firefighters – Dan Andrews have a project in March for 14-17 year olds to help the community – it was suggested that they help paint the Clock.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.05pm

_____Chair.