TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at 6.30pm.

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

131) Apologies Cllrs. Watkins, Gregory, Howells, Price, Thomas, H. Woolf and P. Prosser.
The continued absence of Cllr. Howells and Gregory due to illness was accepted by Members.

132) Declarations of Interest
The Chair reminded Members to make declarations as and when necessary.

133) To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Hafan Cymru – Council requested that they be asked to attend a Meeting of the Civic Sub Committee.
Shelter Cymru – A grant of £50 was approved.
Tredegar Thespian Players – A grant of £200 was approved.

Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
Saron Congregational Church – A grant of £200 was approved.

134) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2013.
The accounts having previously been reconciled and the cheques and invoices inspected by Members, were approved. It was also noted that Bank reconciliations were available for Members. Urgent cheques were pointed out by the RFO as were the winners of the Aneurin Bevan Prize and the Michael Foot Award.

135) To approve the accounts for year ending 31st March 2013 following the report of the External Auditor.

The report was received and approved by all Members. The report was duly signed. It was noted that the RFO was still awaiting information from Barclays Bank and that this would be pursued.

The RFO then left the Meeting.

The M.P. for Tredegar, Mr. Nick Smith had been present at an event earlier in the day and was present at the Council Meeting. He was welcomed by Members and invited to give a Parliamentary Report.

He thanked all those present, with special thanks to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Smith went on to present a comprehensive report on the events taking place both at home and around the world answering a number of questions from all parties present.

It was agreed that a visit to Parliament be arranged for all Members. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Smith who had spent a very happy week – thanks to the Party Conference season - visiting local schools.

136) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

a) Minutes of the Performance Review meeting held on 17th July 2013

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th July 2013

c) Minutes of the Finance/Staffing meeting held on 14th August 2013.

d) Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held on 4th September 2013.

The above minutes were all approved as true records.

137) Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Performance Review 17th July – no matters arising.

b) Ordinary Meeting 17th July -

Cllrs Morgan Rowberry and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

(i) Minute No 094 (c) It was agreed that this should be amended to show that the cheque was for a Sunday Concert performance in the sum of £300.

(ii) Minute No. 098 (c) (ii) Golf Tournament Bryn Bach Park –

Members agreed to seek further information regarding the breakdown of costs for this event – sponsored by Town Council.

(iii) Minute No. 098 (4) It was noted that Insp. Thomas had been in touch with the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Council. This was agreed and it was agreed to include a request for questions to the Inspector for the next Meeting of Council.

(iv) Minute No. 098 (7) Clock Opening – it was noted that this had been a very successful event and it was agreed that thanks be sent to Mr Ken Price and Stephen and Jamie Cross for helping out.

c) Finance Staffing Meeting 14th August

(i) Minute No.105 – it was agreed that the appraisals should go ahead asap with two of either: the Mayor/Deputy Mayor; Leader/Deputy Leader and Cllr. Trollope Head of Staffing.

(ii) Minute No. 108 – Former Mayor of Tredegar, Cllr. Andrew Cotton announced that he would be making a presentation to John Hartson on Tuesday 24th September 2013 at approx. 10am in Bedwellty House. Congratulations were given to Cllr. Cotton on the final amount raised of £5435.57p. The Clerk was to confirm that the payment to Blaze Fire-fighters in Tredegar had been made and Cllr. Morgan confirmed that he was still in talks with a number of organisations regarding the balance of his Appeal.

d) Civic Meeting 4th September
(i) Minute No 112 – The question of the Vibrant and Viable Place Scheme which had been discussed by Mr Alun Davies AM, was raised by a number of Members and it was noted with great disappointment that some funding had been withdrawn. It was also disappointing that this information had not been fully distributed to all Ward Members in Tredegar or indeed to the Town Council. It was pointed out that a similar situation had arisen in Abertillery and that following prolonged protests by the Town Council, including protests at the Senydd – the funding had been allocated to them. Members agreed to take a similar stance. They expressed grave concern that Town Council – the elected representatives of the people – had not been as fully informed as third sector groups. It was agreed to write to Regeneration at the Borough Council and to our AM for support. At this point the Clerk pointed out details of correspondence from a local group formed by Town Council which had raised concerns.
e) Minute No. 117 (1) (a) It was agreed that staff should apply for the £500 website grant available via the County Borough.
f) Minute No 124 (e) It was noted that Luke had represented Wales Under 18's (not 12's) in rugby (minute to be amended).

138) Chair to sign Minutes.

1**39) One Voice Wales –** Climate Change Adaptation Project Phase II (letter copied to all Members with Agenda)
RECEIVED. It was agreed to pass this information to Cllr Price to report back to Council.

140) To discuss the Town Council's Renewable Energy Policy adopted in 2012.(Copied to all Members. NB This policy was focussed on wind energy and has little relevance to other sources of alternative generation methods i.e. solar, hydro etc.)
NOTED. It was agreed that the Town Council Policy "welcomes proposals of all renewable energy sources within its boundaries and shall consider each proposal. "
Therefore no amendments or updates are required. This was agreed. It was further agreed to ascertain if there is a "safe" distance for people living close to wind turbines.

141) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) K. Stowers, Bedwellty House & Park
(i) Re: Discover the Valleys - Invitation to all Members for a private viewing – Copied to All Members
Received. Some Members already invited, 2 Cllrs expressed interest in attending (Mgr Advised)
(ii) Re: Bedwellty House & Park Show – copy of coverage in Gwent Gazette.
Received.

(b) P. Gray Re: Highways Programme of works 2013 – thanks for the congratulations for him & team.
Received.

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

(c) List of Licensing Applications week ending 6.9.13.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) (i) South Wales Development Officer vacancy with One Voice Wales, closing date for applications 27.9.13.
(ii) P. Egan Re: South Wales Development Officer vacancy – this vacancy has arisen as Mr Egan has been promoted to Deputy Chief Executive & Resources Manager.

Both Received. It was agreed to write to Mr. Egan with our congratulations.

(b) (i) Dates for 2014 Larger Councils Meetings.
(ii) Next Larger Council meeting 16.10.13 at Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells at 10am.

Received and Noted. Delegates to attend.

(c) Expert Group on Local Government Diversity – Call for Evidence; Request for evidence to be submitted in relation to both the Local Government Election Survey and the issue of diversity of elected representatives in local government. Responses by 13.9.13 to Dr Del Morgan, del.morgan@onevoicewales.org.uk

Received. Information available to all Members.

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

(d) Police & Crime Commissioner's Partnership Fund now available to local groups which support & contribute towards the priorities that are set out in the Commissioner's Police & Crime Plan.

Received. It was agreed that the funding available should be directed towards the groups already established such as Gwent Victims Support and it was agreed to write expressing this view.

(e) Electoral Review Programme 2014 Assessment & Timetable September 2014.

Received. Available for interested Members.

3) Tredegar Comprehensive

Thank you for the congratulations in regards to the examination results achieved this summer. In regards to the Clerk's questions relating to the school uniform policy, the new policy was approved by the School Governing Body and communicated to pupils and parents on several occasions during the last academic year. Requests that's any parental concerns are redirected to the school so they can be dealt with in accordance with school policies.

Received.

4) G. Plenty Re: Mayor's Parlour – floor test patch being done Fri 20.9.13 at 2pm.

Received. Cllr H. Trollope agreed to attend.

5) P. Watkins-Hughes Request to use the Town Clock for filming on Sunday 27.10.13, would also like to daub graffiti on to the Clock in specialist soluble wash off" paint and will ensure the Clock is returned to previous state. Filming

would last approx. 2 hrs.

Received. It was unanimously agreed that it would be wholly inappropriate for the Town Clock and even the image of the Town Clock to be used in such a way.

6) Mrs N. Evans — Re: Urdd Eisteddford – In May 2015 it will be held at Llancaiach Fawr, Nelson and each town in the locality have been asked to raise funds towards its running costs. Tredegar is the only town in Blaenau Gwent to be asked, amount to raise £4000. A fundraising committee has been formed to organise events and are requesting any help the Town Council can offer.

Received. It was agreed to invite the group to a meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee.

7) South Wales Argus — Photographer will attend 24.9.13 for the Mayor's Appeal cheque presentation to John Hartson at Bedwellty House (10am).

Received.

8) B. Waktins — The Oak FC may cease to exist after this current season the reason being that it looks like they will win their respective league and gain promotion to Gwent County League. To participate in that League they need to play on a pitch that has a barrier around it and there is only one available in Tredegar which is already used by Tredegar Athletic & Tredegar Town. Requesting help to get a barrier put around one of the top pitches at Tredegar Leisure Centre or the old Rec ground.

Received. It was agreed to forward to the Borough Council and to approach them to see if they could help in this matter or if there were any funding options that might apply. Agreed to copy correspondence to Executive Member for Leisure.

9) Hospice of the Valleys AGM Thursday 3rd October 2013 at 7pm.

Received.

10) Webmaster, Tredegar.co.uk — Re: St Johns Ambulance – advertised on website.

Received.

11) Carillion Email — Open Doors event on 27/28.9.13 – Take a look into the exciting world of construction with Carillion. LALC meeting members invited to 27.9.13.

Received. Relevant Members to attend if available and to contact Carillion directly.

12) Smith of Derby — (i) Offering 15% discount for renewing the annual service contract but for a 3+ year period with payment in advance for that period – emailed asking for current annual service charge.
(ii) Information on current annual service charge and possible savings.

Received. Both items. Following a recommendation of the RFO it was agreed not to enter into a long term contract with the company.

13) Communicorp — (i) Local Councils Update subscription renewal form £75.
(ii) Local Councils Update September 2013 Issue 166 – copied for Members.

Both Received. It was unanimously agreed to renew the subscription.

14) Welsh Government NHS Wales National Delivery Group – Appointment of Independent Member, closing date for applications 20.9.13.

Received. Interested Members to contact directly.

15) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council
Meeting on Wednesday 2/10/13 at 5.30pm Greenmeadow Golf Club, Cwmbran – displayed in noticeboard.

Received.

16) GAVO (a) 2013Volunteer Awards – Details of nomination categories and a nomination form.

Received. It was agreed to circulate and to put forward nominations.

(b) "We are Young" Safe guarding Conference 26th November 2013 at Llanhilleth Institute.

Received.

17) University of Wales Eternal Wales: exploring and reporting on aspects of Welsh history, culture & heritage for communities – Course running for 16 weeks starting 19.9.13 at Ty Ebbw Fach, Six Bells.

Received. It was noted that a similar course was being held at Bedwellty House – full details available from reception.

18) Hafan Cymru Hafan Cymru & You Newsletter Issue 5 September 2013.

Received.

19) Torfaen CBC (i) Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund – LGPS communications bulletin September 2013.
(ii) LGPS 2014 Employer workshop in Newport on 18th December 2013 – £210 (exVat) per delegate.

Both Received. It was agreed to liaise with Blaenau Gwent CBC and check if they would be sending a representative.

20) Consumer Council for Water
Welcome from the Chair, Annual Review 2012-13 for Wales.

Received.

142) PUBLICATIONS

Help For Heroes September 2013; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique #147 September 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 6.9.13; Glasdon UK Ltd Bins leaflet; BGCBC Road works report week ending 20.9.13; EVI Forthcoming events at Ebbw Vale Cultural Centre; Clerks & Councils Direct September 2013 Issue 89.

Available to Members.

143) AGENDA

Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Thursday 12th September 2013 at 10am – CANCELLED; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 10th September 2013 at 2pm RESCHEDULED to Monday 30th September 2013 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 10am Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 25th September 2013 Council Chamber,

Civic Centre immediately following the Executive Committee starting at 11am; Special Meeting of Council Thursday 19th September 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre – additional item for considersation; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 19th September 2013 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Friday 20th September 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Thursday 19th September 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 24th September 2013 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available to Members.

144) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – None Rceived

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2013/0264	Mrs S Ferrari 1 Harford Gardens, Tredegar	Detached 4 bedroom dwelling with garage and parking spaces, land north of 1 Harford Gardens.
No Objections		
2013/0271	Mr V Rees 147 Vale Terrace, Tredegar.	Ground floor rear extension.
No Objections		
2013/0276	Mr P Flanagan 9 Coed-y-Garn Waunlwyd Ebbw Vale	Extend the existing single storey shop building & reopen as a hairdressers, create rear parking areas & erection of garage for employees & customers - vacant shop, Charles Street (adjacent to Degfan).
No Objections		

c) To consider other planning matters – None Received.

145) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)
a) St David Awards - Details of the new Welsh awards to be presented on st David's Day were given. A number of people were put forward for this award.
b) Tredfest -The former Mayor, Cllr. Andrew Cotton, reminded Members that his annual Tredfest event, supporting the present Mayor's Appeal for Valleys Life After Stroke, would be held at the Rhyd Hall on Saturday 12th October and that tickets were available.
c) The Closure of Public Toilets - Following publicity in the local press concerning the imminent closure of public toilets across the Borough a Member had been approached by a member of the public for more details. The Clerk was able to report details of a meeting called at very short notice by the Borough at the Barleyfield Office, which she attended with a Member of Council.
During that meeting details of the costs of "backlog" repairs were given for each facility. This prompted questions regarding the maintenance of the facilities in past years which brought the response that they had not been properly maintained.

Much discussion followed with the position of Tredegar Town Council being outlined by the Clerk. We are in a different position to other Town and Community Councils because our conveniences are

in private ownership. Presently the Borough leases the building off the owners, however the Centre is currently in the hands of the receivers and the future is not certain.

Interested parties present, which included Ebbw Vale Business Forum and the Town Centre Manager as well as Town and Community Council representatives asked for more detailed financial information from the Borough relating to costs such as water rates, lighting, commercial rates, insurances etc. They pressed the Officers present to take the date of the closure (4th November) back to the Borough Council to ask if it could be deferred until the new financial year, to enable organisations to have time to put investigate the possibilities of taking over the facilities across the Borough.
There was much discussion amongst Members with an agreement that no decision could be made until further financial information was received from the Borough.

d) A Member put forward the names of two people who had attempted to revive a gentleman in her Ward, who had, sadly, later died. Their efforts were praised by Paramedics and those present and it was agreed that they be recommended for a Civic Award.
e) It was noted that presentations had been made to winners of the Blaenau Gwent in Bloom Awards for 2013 – the 25th Anniversary of the competition – and that the following awards had been made to Tredegar:
Community – Individual House (sponsored by Penn Pharmaceuticals)
Joint 1st Place Mr A Thomas of Maes Aneurin Bevan

Hotels, Guest Houses & Public Houses (sponsored by Penn Pharmaceuticals)
1st Place – Nags Head Tafarnaubach
3rd Place – Belle Vue Scwrfa Road

Special Features (sponsored by Yuasa Batteries)
Joint 3rd Place – Plymouth Arms
It was agreed to write to those concerned with our congratulations.

Members of Town Council had noted that this was the last Meeting that Mr. Mal Banner would attend as Caretaker for Bedwellty House. He was presented with a card and small tribute from all those present and invited to attend a Presentation Evening. The Deputy Leader, who had worked with Mr. Banner for nearly all his 18 years of service, recalled a number of amusing incidents over the years and thanked him for his help and co-operation over the years.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM.

_____ Chair.