TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 4th September 2013.

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

111) Apologies: **Cllrs: R. Watkins, G. Bowen-Knight, H. Woolf, M. O'Sullivan, T. Gregory and D. Howells.**

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Howells had been in touch over the weekend with an update on his condition. On-going treatment would mean that he would be absent from Council for some time and offered his apologies. These were accepted by all Members and it was unanimously agreed that apologies due to illness would be entered for Cllr. Howells at future Meetings until his return to health. It was further reported that Cllr. Gregory had received another setback in his treatment which meant that his absence would continue for a while longer. This was agreed unanimously by Members who sent their best wishes to all Members who were or had been ill.

112) To welcome Mr. Alun Davies A.M.

Mr. Davies was welcomed by the Mayor and invited to address the Meeting. He began by saying how many local people were suffering as a result of new policies at the same time as there had been news of record breaking investments into the Borough. He praised the dualling of the A465 and the proposed Circuit of Wales development. Members praised the contractors, Carillion, for their community co-operation and prompt response to community queries.

The introduction of "superfast broadband" was something that would improve the "connectivity" of the whole Borough. This was something that was essential for modern trade and investment and he hoped that by enabling more people to use the Internet, more businesses would begin trading on-line.

He was informed that there was an item in Correspondence from the St. John Ambulance (Tredegar) Division informing Members that it was the intention of the main HQ to close Tredegar Station altogether. Members voiced their opposition and received his support.

Much was discussed about the planned regeneration of the Town Centre and it was noted that the new Vibrant and Viable places scheme being introduced, placed a greater emphasis on people and jobs rather than "street furniture". He further went on to state that following the investment in Bedwellty House and Park it had been transformed, now there was a need to spread that to other key part of the Town Centre. He stressed the need to protect key buildings and the need for long term investment so that they could properly be used by the community for the benefit of the community.

The delay in the decision to use the Tredegar General Hospital as a Primary Health Care Centre, by the ABHB was highlighted as was the need to push to have this finalised.
Mr. Davies was eager to point out the first class facilities that were being provided on the Works site – and also the need for people to "buy into" the idea of Blaenau Gwent as a whole.
Members were keen to point out that these cuts to services and closures had been agreed under the previous Borough Council.
Mr. Davies answered a number of questions put by members and was then thanked for attending and invited to stay for the remainder of the Meeting, but gave his apologies and withdrew.

113) To agree the nomination of Cllr. T. Smith to sit on the Tredegar Townscape Heritage Initiative proposed Advisory Board.
This was agreed unanimously.

114) To receive correspondence from St John Cymru regarding the possible closure of the local unit in Tredegar. (copied to all Members with Agenda)
This matter had already been raised with the Assembly Member for Tredegar and it was agreed that Town Council support all efforts to maintain the Unit in Tredegar. The fact that the Unit was the base for the First Responder Service and had been in receipt of a new ambulance from the Masons was highlighted to all Members. They were commended by all for the work that they did in the Community. It was agreed to write to the AM, MP and Tredegar Members of the Borough to enlist their support and to advertise on the web-site.

115) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants.
Thanks received from Tredegar Christians Together and St James Mothers' Union. (Added to website)
Completed Financial Assistance Project forms from Tredegar Christians Together and St James Mothers' Union.
RECEIVED.

<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137</u>

Hafan Cymru – Received - it was agreed to invite them to meet the Civic Sub-Committee of Council.
Shelter Cymru – a grant of £50.00 was recommended.
Tredegar Thespians Players – a grant of £200 was recommended.

To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).
Saron Church – a grant of £200 was recommended.

Cllrs. Rowberry and Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
116) Planning

a) To consider an Officer's Report
List of Delegated Items determined between 24th June and 16th August 2013:-

C/2013/0058 Installation of 2 no. stainless steel figures representing historical people of Tredegar as part of the Homfray Trail (figs 13 & 14), outside Old Sirhowy Ironworks off Grahams Yard – Approved.
C/2013/0054 Installation of 3 no. stainless steel figures representing historical people of Tredegar as part of the Homfray Trail (figs 18,19 & 20), verge next to access road to Cefn Golau cemetery, Park Hill – Approved.
C/2013/0156 Two storey rear extension and timber decking area, 5 North Avenue – Approved.
C/2013/0173 Erect rear 2 storey extension, 20 Harford Gardens – Approved.
C/2013/0186 To install EWI to front and top half at the rear of main house, 24 Bedwellty Pits – Approved.
C/2013/0152 Erect detached domestic garage at rear of property, 2 Ashvale – Approved.
C/2013/0144 Detached domestic garage, 14 Glanhowy Street – Approved.
It was unanimously agreed that the above items should be received and approved en-bloc.

b) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal

Applications received during Summer Recess, sent to appropriate Ward Members and any responses are shown with the relevant application:-

CON/2013/0001	Mr P Hill g2 Energy Renewable Developments Ltd, 25 Osier way Olney Office Park, Olney, Buckinghamshire	Erection of a single turbine, with maximum blade to height of 77 metres along with accompanying access track, crane hard standing, substation, associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound, Gelli-wen Farm, Bedwellty, Markham, Blackwood.

No objections. Queried whether there will be an associated Community Benefit Fund with the development.

CON/2012/002	Mr S Zappulo REG Windpower, Suite 2 Kelston Park, Bath	Wind farm – 3 turbines and construction associated infrastructure on land used for grazing; maximum height to blade tip of each turbine will be 110m above existing ground level, Pen Bryn Oer, Merthyr Road, Rhymney.

No objections, requested that all efforts to mitigate the visual impact of the development on Parc Bryn Bach and Tafarnaubach are made.

CON/2013/0003	Mr M Lennon Llanover Estates 23A Gold Tops, Newport	Convert redundant barn to provide new residential property and associated works - Pontgwaith Yr Haearn Farm, Hollybush.

No objections.

2013/0217	Mr R Cocca 3 Frondeg, Tredegar	Single storey extension to side & rear elevations.

No objections.

2013/0218	Mr A Allcock Rhyd Cottage, The Rhyd Tredegar	Single storey extension to main building proposed extension to existing detached garage to provide an annexe of one bed living accommodation.

No objections.

2013/0222	Mr A Smith Davies Homes Ltd 1st Floor, 7 Gelliwastard Road Pontypridd	Full application for the plot substitution of Plots 90 & 91 to a Radleigh house type with garage and Plot 114 being repositioned with associated works, Larch Lane, Tredegar.

No objections.

2013/0226	Mr C Denner 63 Ashvale, Tredegar	Replacement detached garage and decking area.

No objections.

2013/0227 Grid Ref: 312287 213928 2013/0228 Grid Ref: 312347 214321 2013/0229 Grid Ref: 311915 214548 2013/0230 Grid Ref: 311917 214183	Gryphonn Quaries Ltd C/o. Mr A Muir, Harmers Ltd, 39 Lambourne Crescent, Cardiff Business Park, Llanishen	Drilling of a borehole to allow monitoring of background groundwater land to the north of Trefil Quarry.

Four points were raised and are listed on the planning application – Available with Clerk.

2013/0233	Diocese of Monmouth Parsonage Board 64 Caerau Road Newport	Single storey extension to side and rear elevations, provision of garage, St George's Vicarage, Church access to existing Street.

No objections.

2013/0234	Mr A Richards Tredegar Scouts Commission 30 Bethel Avenue, Tredegar	Construction of detached Scouts Hall with associated car park and new boundary fencing, land adjacent to Bridge Street Industrial Estate, Tredegar.

No objections.

2013/0236	Mr B Price Flat 3 Roderick Hill Court Tredegar	Detached dwelling at land opposite No. 4 & 5 Picton Road (renewal of outline application No. C/2009/0392).

No objections.

The following applications are being presented to Council this evening:-

2013/0242	Mr T Hopkins 5 Bryn Meadow Close, Tredegar	Single storey rear extension

No objections.

2013/0245	Mr D Lester 70 Peacehaven	Erection of conservatory at rear of the dwelling and a porch at the front.

No objections.

2013/0246	Maria Marsh Openreach, 192 South Street Romford South ATE Romford	NGA Project, install a new PCP cabinet - side of Tredegar Telephone Exchange Iron Street, Tredegar.

No objections.

2013/0248	Mr T MacKenzie 2 Clos Pen-Y-Cae Ebbw Vale	Change of use from B2 to storage & 2nd hand retail goods sales outlet with ancillary refreshment area – Unit H/2 Crown Business Park, Tredegar.

No objections.

2013/0249	Mr D Williams Meigoed, Golwg-Y-Mynydd	Extension for disabled bathroom, a bedroom and utility room – Meigoed, Golwg-y-mynydd.

No objections.

2013/0257	BGCBC Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale	Provision of single storey buildings to accommodate daycare & community facilities, with associated access road, parking, landscaping & refuse store – land at former Sirhowy Infants School site.

No objections. This application was warmly welcomed by Members.

2013/0258	Mr M Bevan 23 Maes Morgan, Tredegar	Erection of one two-storey four bed house – 20 Maes Morgan, Nantybwch.

No objections.

2013/0260	Bank Of Ireland Baskerville House Broad Street, Birmingham	New Bank of Ireland ATM to be installed through the shop front glazing to the far right of the main entrance door when viewed from the outside, Post Office 54-55 Commercial Street, Tredegar.

No objections.

2013/0261	Mr G Dann Halefield, Tredegar	Proposal to provide off road parking for community hall use and associated works, Kidz'R'Us Community Hall, Golwg-y-Mynydd, Tredegar.

No objections. It was noted that the provision of services at the Hall by Kidz R'Us had been an astounding success – which had unfortunately brought with it local concerns regarding parking.

c) Other Planning Matters

i. Installation of 3 wind turbines and associated infrastructure at Pen Bryn Oer, Merthyr Road Rhymney; developer is REG windpower – Caerphilly County Borough Council requests that any observations are submitted in writing to them within 21 days.

Members noted that this had been submitted by Caerphilly County Borough Council. Concerns were expressed regarding the visual intrusion of turbines on countryside which had recovered from years of heavy industry. A Member reminded the Meeting that he had warned of saturation and that the possibilities regarding hydro power had not been fully explored. It was agreed to agenda this item for Council and to supply each Member with the current Renewable Energy Policy for Tredegar Town Council.

ii. Cllr Tippings - Notes of the Pen Bryn Oer Community Benefit Fund meeting 10.7.13

Received. It was noted that the amount of Community Benefit had increased to £30,000 p.a. which was index linked and managed by GAVO at no cost to Councils involved. Cllr. Smith had been present at the initial negotiations and together with Cllr. Tippings was congratulated by all Members present.

iii. Changes to Householder Permitted Development Rights in Wales – Planning: a guide for householders.

Received. Copy available – the Clerk noted that the information contained in the Planning guide was very useful and it was agreed to provide a link via the Town Council web site.

117) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) D. John Re: Town/Community Council websites – information regarding the availability of £500 towards establishing/enhancing websites depending on a case being made as to what the actual provisions will be regarding website activity.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the upgrade of the web-site undertaken by the RFO and Attic Design may well qualify for additional funding. The question of whether Officers time could be included in the bid could not be clarified by the Borough and it was agreed to submit a case on behalf of Council.

(b) Y. Tovey Re: Meeting with Town Councils 16.7.13 – response from Highways section in relation to the request for the programme of works 2013.

RECEIVED. It was noted that all the work had been completed and that a letter of thanks be sent.

(c) Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 12th September 2013 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Rescheduled to Thursday 31st October 2013 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale.

RECEIVED. This was noted with disappointment and it was agreed that approaches be made to ensure that the Consultation meetings which generally followed meetings of the Joint Committee of Local Councils be adhered to. It was further noted that items which had been submitted by Town/Community Councils were sometimes not included under the instruction of the Borough Council without any chance of compromise. It was agreed to contact One Voice Wales for their view.

(d) Mr D John retired from Council service 31st August 2013, from 1st September 2013 the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance will be Andrea Jones who will be the Monitoring Officer for Code of Conduct

matters etc.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to write to Mr. John with our best wishes and to thank him for the help and co-operation which he had showed to Town Council over a number of years.

(e) Bedwellty House & Park:-

(i) H. Probert Re: Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales booking April 2014 – unable to offer community rate therefore it will be £2 per head for tea/coffee and welsh cakes.

RECEIVED. This was agreed.

(ii) K. Stowers Re: Ice cream van – Due to the difficulties experienced with the moving of the café's ice cream machine it has been decided to permit an ice cream van in at big events as it is highly impractical to be serving ice creams through the main tearoom.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that Council would source their own for future events.
It was also noted, with regret, that the Help for Heroes Appeal would probably have made a substantial amount on such a nice day and the public would have been better pleased.

(iii) Sarah - Forwarded email they received commending the series of band concerts this year and it also asks whether any consideration as been given to extending the concerts to hold a "Proms in the Park" event similar to Swansea's.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to pass this information to the House Manager. To schedule a meeting of the Events Committee to broaden the base of Concerts for 2014.

(iv) Invitation to a private viewing of "Bert Westacott Retrospective" on Monday 9th September 2013 at 3.30pm Bedwellty House. RSPV to Reception at Bedwellty House (Copied for all Members).

RECEIVED. To attend if possible. It was agreed to seek recognition at a higher level for Mr. Westacott.

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

(f) (i) List of licensing applications week ending 19.7.13.
(ii) List of licensing applications week ending 26.7.13.
(iii) List of licensing applications week ending 9.8.13.

RECEIVED.

Cllr A. Tippings declared an interest in the following.

(g) A. Tippings Re: Open Doors – press release for the forthcoming event.

RECEIVED.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Free training – Welsh Government, Essential skills in the workplace.

RECEIVED.

(b) Training Programme September to December 2013.

RECEIVED.

(c) Bovine TB Eradication Programme Update: Badger Vaccination grant.

RECEIVED.

(d) Information on Scams & Swindles campaign by Age Cymru.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to place this information on the Council web-site.

(e) Older People's Commissioner for Wales – links to website where Councillors can access details of services available from the Commissioner's Office

http://www.oderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/13-05-23/Framework_for_Action.aspx and http://www.oderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/13-06-30/Standing_Up_Speaking_Out_Impact_and_Reach_Report.aspx

RECEIVED. It was agreed to place this information on the Council web-site.

(f) Invitation to attend Gwent Office of Police & Crime Commissioner's Victim-Focused Delivery Event Friday 6th September 2013 at Greenmeadow Golf Club Cwmbran – forwarded to AC/AT/TS/HT (Confirmed a place for Cllr Tippings as a delegate)

RECEIVED. Another Member expressed an interest in attending.

3) Welsh Government

(a) Local Voices Needed For Health Watchdogs – looking to recruit new members to the organisations that represents patients' rights throughout Wales to strengthen the voice of local people in influencing patient care in each of the local health boards across Wales. Closing date for applications is 12.9.13.

RECEIVED. Copied to interested Member.

(b) Wales Tourism Advisory Board – Appointment of Members, closing date for applications is 6.9.13.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact.

(c) Designated Persons Order (Number 1) Consultation Document. Responses by 21.11.13.

RECEIVED.

(d) Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery – "Have your Say" White Rose Information Centre, New Tredegar 24th September 2013 between 12 noon and 6pm.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact.

4) Gala Lights

(i) Details of actions undertaken as a result of last meeting – Local contractors tidying hanging cables; their contractors instructed with regards to actual display of motifs & the Switch On event; currently in talk with Mr K. Weekes BGCBC Re: Switch On event; will replace faulty snowflakes; still looking at a temporary decoration/illumination of the actual clock face.

(ii) (15.8.13) Apologising for work not being completed, he had confirmed to the contractor on 5.8.13 that maximum time was 10 days, currently chasing this matter up with contractor. Clock Tower – looking at the possibility of putting curtains of lights around the top part, he is waiting for costings of infrastructure work before submitting a quotation.

(iii) (17.8.13) Confirming contractor as completed all the work as instructed; P. Hussey as inspected the work and confirms it is satisfactorily completed.

RECEIVED. These items were taken together. It was noted that the contractor still needed to be "nudged" into response. A meeting to be arranged prior to installation.

5) Carillion (i) Notes of meeting held 23.7.13 and dates of future meetings – emailed to offer advertising news/ebulletin via TTC website.
(ii) Confirms start time for the meeting dates given is 10am.
(iii) A465 S3 Partnering Relationship Survey. Please complete.

RECEIVED. These items taken together. Clerk to complete survey.

6) Gwent Police (i) Lorraine Bottomley, Assistant Chief Constable – will be arranging workshops for September to meet with Local Authority & Community Councillors to hear their views/ideas of gaining positive engagement which can be introduced across the Neighbourhood Teams. Hopes that as many Councillors as possible will be able to attend the workshops – dates & venues to be confirmed shortly.
(ii) Community Engagement Workshop in Blaenau Gwent, Thursday 26th September 2013 at 5pm Committee Rooms 3, 4 & 5 Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Only one space is available for each Community Council, attendance to be confirmed by 16.9.13.

RECEIVED. Both items taken together. Clerk to inform of Representative.

7) Gryphonn Re: Barrier at Trefil – feels it has had a successful impact and its removal would be detrimental. However if following our contact with other interested parties there is a consensus for the barrier to be removed they might further consider the matter.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to chase up a meeting between interested parties, especially in view of the proposed Circuit of Wales. It was further noted that there had been a rave in the quarry and that a great deal of Police resources had been allocated to the event with little effect and that there had been a great deal of disruption throughout the village and that a number of residents had felt intimidated.

8) Letters of Thanks:-

(a) Help for Heroes – Thanks for fundraising.

RECEIVED.

(b) Mr & Mrs C Wilcox - Thanks for the flowers and visit made for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, a delightful and appreciated surprise.

RECEIVED.

(c) D. Woods - Thank you for letting Ebbw Valley Brass Band perform as part of the Concerts season, it was a fantastic event and they hope we will consider them again next year.

RECEIVED.

9) SLCC Working with your Council course now held as a 2 day event – next being at Neath on 6 Nov & 4 Dec – at a cost of £230 + Vat which includes the course materials. Course is currently being updated and will be released as an E-learning version in the Autumn with availability from the new year but price as not been ecided yet.

A Member voiced his interest in attending – this was agreed.

10) The Disability Can Do Organisation
Information booklets on their service.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to ask the group to meet with Council.

11) Tredegar Christians Together

Songs of Praise DVD now available to purchase £5/DVD (5 DVDS available in office for purchase).

RECEIVED.

12) B. Biggs Update from Tredegar Angling Club Re: reservoir works.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to support the Angling Club as much as possible, especially since the Council had supported them through grant funding over a number of years which had allowed them to purchase fresh stock. It was agreed to write to Welsh Water with our concerns.

13) Natural Resources Wales

Re: Review process on the new draft map of open country and registered common land. Provisional map available from 7.8.13 at www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for viewing.

RECEIVED. Available for Members

14) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Invitation to AGM on Wednesday 18th September 2016 at 5pm Headquarters in St Cadoc's, Caerleon.

RECEIVED.

15) Mr K Harmer Offering services for the production of a scroll.

RECEIVED.

16) GAVO

(a) Press release from NHS Wales regarding the changes to cervical screening programme in Wales – added to "News" on website.

(b) Spare room subsidy: Funding update.

(c) Trustees and Membership of Gavo – An opportunity has arisen for GAVO Members to join its Executive and local committee, further details are available from Mandy Moore.

(d) Tri County Play Association - Free play session From September to December; Monday & Thursday, Brangywn Road Park, Cefn Golau 3.45-5.45pm.

RECEIVED. All above noted – relevant items to be put onto Council web-site.

17) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) Inviting comments/views on the Park Authority's Local Guidance for Validation Requirements on Major Developments consultation to be submitted by 6wks from date of date (letter 19.7.13). Draft guidance is available at http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/planning-services-update/validation-requirements-2013/view

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact.

(b) Audit & Scrutiny meeting 2.8.13 – forwarded to Cllr Price.

RECEIVED.

18) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

News Bulletin August 2013 The Patient's Voice Issue 19.

RECEIVED.

19) A. Copland Poster advertising Beat Cymru, new support group for people affected by eating disorders starting in Abergavenny next Wednesday (14.8.13)

RECEIVED.

118) PUBLICATIONS

Play Wales Issue 40 Summer 2013; BGCBC Connect Summer 2013; Ville D'Orvault Orvault ma ville #57 July to Sept 2013; BGCBC Road works report week ending 6.9.13; Communicorp Local Councils Update August 2013 Issue 165; One Voice Wales The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 13; Welsh Government New edition of the Community & Town Councils Welsh Government News; Brecon Beacons Trust Ltd September 2013 Newsletter; Public catalogue Foundation Oil Paintings in Public Ownership South Wales (book) – **Includes 2 TTC paintings.**

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

119) AGENDA

Agendas received July/August for meetings taking place during those months have been removed but are available for viewing in the office.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting Thursday 20.9.13 at 9.30am Tredegar Library, NB August meeting has been cancelled; Executive meeting Wednesday 4th September 2013 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 3rd September 2013 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice Special Meeting Tuesday 29th October 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 2nd September 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting Thursday 19th September 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Thursday 12th September 2013 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Thursday 19th September 2013 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

120) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

a) Concerns raised over Sunday lunch bookings. Members had been turned down because they were "full" when there were empty seats in the dining room.

b) The closure of the Orchid House to members of the public because of weddings taking part in other rooms of the House was a major concern to Members. The lost revenue and lack of consistency was highlighted. A Member reported that he had written a letter of complaint and had received no response.

c) Once again the leak from the ponds caused concern – especially with winter approaching.

d) Members noted that the Fire Brigade had been called to the Long Shelter and Block of Coal and an update on vandalism was requested.

e) Car park opposite southern gate – Members noted that this had been left locked on a number of occasions. Members questioned further why the car-park needed to be locked at all – it was-they said- another example of law abiding people being penalised for the actions of a few anti-social elements in society. There was also a call for the double yellow lines in the bus bay to be removed because school buses now picked up pupils from inside the school.

It was suggested that the impending AGM of the Management Board might be an ideal opportunity to put forward a Member of Town Council as Chair.

121) To confirm Stewards for the opening of the Town Clock on Saturday 7th September 2013 from 10am until 1pm

It was noted that this event clashed with the Mayor's Golf Day. Available Members volunteered and other suggestions were received.

122) To receive the report of the Clerk relating to the refurbishment of the Mayor's Parlour

The report of the Clerk was received and the recommendations accepted unanimously. It was agreed to push on with the project.

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

i. **Bedwellty Park Management Board**
   a) It was noted that the chandeliers were to be put back into the hallway asap.
   b) The pond leak was under investigation and some progress had been made.
   c) It was noted regretfully that the surface of the paths was now out of guarantee period and that Management and Borough were looking at ways of improving the surface – this included the area around the War Memorial.
   d) Recycling – the House Manager was looking at ways to provide recycling bins in line with Borough Councils policy on recycling and the need to increase the amount recycled across the Borough.
   e) Bin storage – a number of Members commented that the present arrangements were not ideal – with rubbish being stored just off the main entrance to the Park – in full view of most people visiting the House and Park.

ii. **Tredegar Twinning –** upcoming events were highlighted.

iii. **School Governing Bodies**
   a) **Tredegar Comprehensive -** The Chair of Governors reported excellent results and pass rates had risen dramatically. The news that not a single pupil had left the school without passing an exam was warmly welcomed. Much praise was given to Mrs Morgans and her staff. It was agreed to write to the School.

iv. **Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled –** this had now disbanded due to lack of funding. It was agreed to write to Hilda Barwell with thanks.

v. **Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee**
   There was much discussion relating to a number of items largely relating the day to day management of the Park. Board Members felt that their role was being undermined. It was noted that their Vision Statement had been published – a Member agreed to report to Council.

vi. **Communities First Board –** Clerk to check.

vii. **Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel –** it was noted that Cllr. Gregory had resigned (through ill health) attempts were being made to rebuild interest in the group and that Cllr Thomas had attended the meeting. It was noted that PACT meetings had been rescheduled allowing more Members to attend.

viii. **Tredegar Business Forum –** the Town Council representative complained to Members that a meeting had been held but he had not been notified.

ix. **Tredegar Heritage –** a number of meetings had been cancelled. Once again Members queried the lack of representation at meetings organised by the group and that there were still concern that the original remit of the group set up by Town Council – heritage – had been changed to regeneration. It was agreed to query this.

124) Matters of Local Interest and concern

a) Members noted that the long serving caretaker of Bedwellty House, Mr. Mal Banner was to retire later in the month. It was agreed that he be invited to a Presentation Evening.

b) A statue of the Clock supplied by the Green Shoots project was on display. It was agreed to check whether Orvault had already received one of these as a gift from Town Council.

c) Tredegar Fire Station – concerns were raised over the future of the Station. It was agreed to write to our AM

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the final items to be taken.

d) It was noted with sadness that 103 year old Mrs Russell had passed away, it was agreed to send a letter of condolence.

e) A Member noted that Luke Garrett had represented Wales at rugby in the Under 18's.

f) The inaugural Michael Foot football tournament had been held over the Bank holiday. There had been excellent feedback from teams and it was agreed to organise the annual event in June. Concerns were raised that the facilities had not been opened in advance and thanks expressed to Mr Dave Watkins for his co-operation.

g) Members notes that Mark Colbourne MBE had retired. It was agreed to write.

h) The filming of the anti-drug film was due to start in September.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

_____ Chair.