TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 19th March 2014 following the Events Sub-Committee meeting.

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

344) Apologies Cllrs. T. Gregory, J Morgan, R. Thomas H & S. Trollope and O. Price.

345) Declarations of Interest.
The Mayor reminded Members to make Declarations of interest as and when necessary.

346) To receive a verbal report from the Events Sub Committee following a meeting with the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to clarify their previous grant application.
A verbal report was received and it was noted that this group were able to apply for many different funding streams, including the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was agreed that the Council should be partners in the events and to support them however possible. It was agreed that the Heritage Forum would keep the Town Council advised of events.

347) To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Thanks received from Hafan Cymru. Completed end of grant forms from Sirhowy Senior Citizens and Tredegar Angling Club.

Talking Books Wales – Recommendation to meet with the Civic Sub-Committee.
NSPCC – A grant of £50 was approved.
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Recommendation resulting from Events Committee meeting.
Tredegar Camera Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Tredegar Junior Netball Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Cllrs Tippings and Prosser declared an interest in the following:
Trefil Rugby Welfare Club – A grant of £200 was approved.

Grants to Churches and Chapels – none received.

348) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in March 2014.
The RFO advised Members that Bank reconciliations for all accounts were available for inspection.

She then went on to explain that this would be the last schedule of accounts for this year and that whilst the figures showed that we were within budget some of the provision made was mandatory (elections etc).
The RFO was commended by all Members and she then left.

349) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – None received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal

Cllrs. Smith,Watkins and Willis declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon. Cllr. Tippings took the Chair for this item.

2014/0044	Mr K Jenkins Moose International Tredegar Lower Coronation Street	Retention of use of private members club to public house & proposed additional parking with changes to access.

No Objections

Cllr. Smith re-took the Chair.

2014/0045	BGCBC Civic Centre Municipal Offices, Ebbw Vale.	Replacement of sign advertising land available at Tredegar Business Park, land Tredegar Business Park adjacent to Sirhowy River Bank.

No Objections

2014/0049	Mrs J Cook 16 Alexandra Terrace Tredegar.	Erection of a two storey rear extension.

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters – none received

350) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th February 2014.
b) Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held on 5th March 2014.
The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

351) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Ordinary Meeting 19th February 2014
1) Minute No 316 – Allotment Policy – concern was expressed at the number of plots and their use at the Milefield site – it was agreed to examine this situation in more detail.
2) Minute No 319 (1) Memorabilia – concerns expressed that the collection had still not been re-instated.
b) Civic Meeting of Council held 5th March 2014
1) Minute No 336 – Agenda – a Member asked the Clerk to seek clarification regarding the withdrawal of bus services from Troedyrhiw and Trefil and their replacement with a "Dial a Ride " Scheme and how this would affect those with free bus passes.

352) Chair to sign Minutes – the Minutes were duly signed.

353) To receive a verbal update on the "Convenience Committee" meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2014.
Several options had been considered by the committee – however it was difficult to move forward with any options until the Town Centre sale had been completed.
It was noted that the locks on the building had been changed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council without any notification, meaning that any further inspection by Council was now impossible.

354) To receive a verbal report of the Events Committee Meeting
The verbal report was received. The meeting with the Heritage Group had already been reported. The meeting with Commercial Christmas had confirmed many of the Members doubts relating to previous service delivery and it was agreed to seek further quotes/ideas as soon as possible.

355) To consider any motions to be put forward for the 2014 Annual Conference/AGM of One Voice Wales.
It was agreed to submit a request for One Voice Wales to lobby Government for Town and Community Councils to receive a percentage of the Business Rates to help them to operate and take on functions that Borough Councils – with a number of funding streams – could no longer operate.

356) To consider the request of Featherstone Town Council to be Twinned with Tredegar Town Council.
It was agreed to write to Featherstone Town Council and seek further information and more in depth detail. This matter to be put to a sub-committee of Council for review.

357) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) Forwarded email from Chris Jenkins regarding the QBR relay Timings and media.

Received. It was noted that the event would now encompass the road relay section originally proposed by Tredegar Town Council and that there would be TV coverage of the event. It was agreed to confirm details with the Town Band. The Clerk expressed her thanks to a Member for her determination in securing Tredegar as a main player in the event.

(b) Cllr H. McCarthy Re: Consultation Meeting Thursday 20.3.14 – Rescheduled to Thursday 10.4.14 due to clash.

(c) Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 20th March 2014 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale **RESCHEDULED** to **Thursday 10th April 2014 at 2.30pm.** Items for inclusion to be submitted by **12 noon on Monday 28th March 2014.**

Both Received and agreed.

(d) D. Ware Re: Rural Development Plan – Draft Response to the RDP Consultation 2014-2020. Notes from meeting at Parc Bryn Bach and draft response.

Received

Cllrs Cross, Rowberry and Willis declared an interest in the following item:

(e) List of licensing applications week ending 7.3.14.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Repeal of s.150(5) of Local Government Act 1972 – Implementation. Ceasing of the two signature rule. "Every Council that wishes to take advantage of the changes must formally put in place effective systems and arrangements compliant with these in accordance with Chapter 11 before its seeks to abandon the two signature rule. This effectively means adopting new Financial Regulations and internal procedures compliant with the guidance."

Received – it was unanimously agreed to maintain the two signature rule as currently practiced.

(b) Re: Public Conveniences – yes hot water is required.

Received.

(c) Training – Devolution of Services. They are able to offer a training course for Councils. Any Council interested in hosting this training course at its own chosen venue then the cost would be £400 and can be held for up to 20 people at a time.

Received.

(d) Re: Homes for Wales Update March 2014.

Received.

(e) Appointment of Members to Sector Development Wales Partnership, closing date 20.3.14 and Appoint of Members for Life Sciences Sector Panel, closing date 31.3.14.

Received. Interested Members to contact.

3) Public Correspondence:-

(a) **Tredegar.co.uk:-**

(i) Request under Freedom of Information Act for full breakdown of audited accounts & reserves from 31.3.07 to 31.3.12 – Christine replied with link to TTC website.

(ii) Request is for full breakdown & will not accept annual return Information.

(iii) Copy of letter sent in 2009 for the same request.

(iv) **BGCBC,** A. Holland Re: Freedom of Information Request – proper accounts are in the public domain.

Received. It was agreed to supply the information as requested.

(b) **L. Prothero** - Still awaiting a reply from his previous enquiries regarding parking in Gwent Way.

Received. A Member noted that he had spoken to the gentleman concerned. However it was agreed to inform him that this information had been forwarded to the appropriate departments.

(c) **M. Evans** - Request for a copy of the Nantybwch Cottages photo in the Assembly Rooms.

Received. It was agreed to ask the Manager to facilitate.

(d) **D. Coles** - Seeking information on how his grandmother can go about placing a grave stone at the grave of her father in Tredegar cemetery. She has already been told she cannot do this as the ground as not been

purchased and has been redirected to contact the manager of Central Dept, Barleyfield.

Received. To forward to the Manager of the Central Depot.

(e) **Mr MacQuade -** Commending the steel figures situated around Tredegar and asking whether BGCBC would have any money left over from the EU Art Fund which can be utilised by Tredegar Council/people to have an Aneurin Bevan statue placed on the green opposite the Post Office and whether it would also be possible to have the bust returned to Park Row Surgery from Ebbw Vale hospital.

Received. It was agreed to forward the enquiry to the Regeneration Department at the Borough Council. However it served as a timely reminder that the Town Council had previously lobbied ABHB regarding the bust of Aneurin Bevan and that this might be an ideal opportunity to re-open discussions with them.

(f) **T. Greenland -** Asking for financial support for the opportunity she has to go to Finland to do her Explorer Belt, explains she is an Explorer Scout Leader in Blaenau Gwent.

Received. It was agreed to seek further information, but regrettable financial support could not be offered. It was agreed to supply memorabilia for her trip if suitable.

(g) **B. Westacott** Re: Battle of Tredegar Hill – will attend the 70th Anniversary but raises concerns about the Council's decision to invite representatives of Burma.

Received. Following some discussion it was agreed that the purpose of the visit and Commemoration was to mark the sacrifice of local soldiers.

4) G. Plenty Proforma invoice for Ocean Lighting £403.00, will contact office Monday regarding the ceiling plaster.

To Defer.

5) Kidney Wales Asking for details of this year's Walk for Life if we are participating.

Received. It was agreed to ask for publicity materials.

6) Carillion Re: Pathway in front of the garage at Tredegar Roundabout – work is programmed to start week commencing 31.3.14.

Received. It was agreed to copy this to both Bryn Bach Primary and St. Joseph's and to write and thank Chris Meredith for his continued co-operation.

7) Tredegar Angling Club **- Special Invitation to Council**
Invitation to Council Members to participate a fly fishing event at their reservoir on Saturday 14th June 2014 from 2pm to 4pm.

Received. Members noted with delight the invitation and at least 5 Members put their names forward. They recognised the support that the Club had given to Town Council and the fact that Town Council's continued support had been recognised and appreciated.

8) Hafan Cymru They now have a Blaenau Gwent support team based in Bethcar Street, Ebbw Vale.

Received.

9) Spinal Injuries Association
Great British Fish & Chip Supper 2014 Friday 16th May.

Received.

10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) Re: BBNP Local Development Plan (Adopted Dec'13) – Consultation on the Cwrt-Y-Gollen Draft Development Brief is running from 13.3.14 to 24.4.14 with 2 public meetings being held in the Cwrt-Y-Gollen gymnasium 2pm-7pm on 26th & 27th March 2014. Report is available at http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/planning/strategy-and-policy/cwrt-y-gollen-development-brief

Received.

(b) Agenda for meeting 21.3.14 – forwarded to Cllr Price.

Received.

11) Welsh Government

(a) Re: Open Doors 2014 – registration now open for the September 2014 being organised by Cadw.

Received. It was noted that this matter had previously been discussed as a joint venture with the Business Forum and their event in late August.

(b) Leaflets on "What is child abuse?"

Received – to be displayed.

12) J. Karn (a) Agenda for meeting of Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 20th March 2014 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

(b) Minutes of the last World War 1 meeting, next meeting 10.4.14.

Both Received.

13) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

A meeting of Full Council/AGM will take place at 9.30am at the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 – added to website & in noticeboard

Received.

14) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 14.3.14; Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #153 Mars 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 21.3.14; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct March 2014 Issue 92.

15) AGENDA

Executive Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 13th March 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Thursday 14th March 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

358) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)

a) It was agreed to ask local Police Officers to meet with Council on a quarterly basis.

b) A Member noted that a Red Kite had been spotted in the Valley and reminded Members that it was a highly protected species.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

_____ Chair