

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ordinary Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 6.30pm

Present: **Councillor** **G. Meredith**
 T. Smith
 A. Tippings
 B. Willis
 M. Cross
 P. Prosser
 O. Price
 M. O'Sullivan
 G. Bowen-Knight
 D. Rowberry
 R. W. Thomas

In attendance: **Ms. C.M. Keane – Clerk**
 Mrs A. Jones – RFO

024) Apologies: **Cllrs, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, J. Thomas,**
 J. Morgan and R. Watkins

025) Declarations of Interest.

The Mayor reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

026) To welcome Vicki Townsend – Blaenau Gwent Inspector of Police

Members welcomed Ms Townsend who then ran through all the changes to Policing in the area. Members in turn put a number of questions relating to resources relating to burglary and criminal damage amongst many. She stated that some crimes were subject to a Telephone Investigation System and that the use of the internet helped in many ways. However there had recently been a reduction in the number of cars available for officers who were actively encourage to patrol on foot or by bicycle. She also stated that they have regular action days where certain crimes are targeted. This was proving very effective.

Members raised on going concern relating to parking outside schools and acts of anti-social behaviour near certain residential areas with large elderly/disabled populations. She agreed that neither was acceptable and that fines for illegal parking would be issued more regularly.

Members thanked her for attending and felt that once again, Town Council could have a good working relationship with local police.

She then withdrew.

027) 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

028) To note and approve the nationally agreed pay increase of 2.2% to staff payable across the period from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2016 also a non-consolidated (one off) payment to staff (December 2014 and April 2015).

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at a meeting of the Staffing and Finance Sub Committee to be arranged as a matter of urgency.

029) Grants: A list of approved grants (as previously requested) will be supplied by the RFO at the Meeting – this was distributed.

Completed end of grant forms from Tredegar History & Archive Society, Vale View Allotments and Reliance Bus Preservation Group.

a) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137

Spinal Injuries Association – A grant of £50 was approved.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – A grant of £200 was approved.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **SPECIAL GRANT request.**

Members considered both requests for grants from this organisation. It was noted that a Special grant had already been made toward the Commemoration events for WWI and that the group had received substantial funding for their Commemorative event from other sources.

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

Parc Bryn Bach – A grant of £1000 was approved by a majority vote.

Tredegar Appeal Committee Urdd National Eistedfodd 2015 – This was a retrospective application and it was therefore declined.

Tredegar Camera Club – A grant of £200 was approved.

The Oak Football Club – Following discussion a grant of £300 was approved by a majority vote.

b) Grants to Churches and Chapels

St James' Church – A grant of £225.00 was approved.

Tredegar Methodist Church – A grant of £225.00 was approved.

It was agreed to agenda the date for a Presentation Night in July at the next meeting.

030) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2015.

Bank reconciliations were available for all Members to inspect

The accounts having been inspected by Members and the cheques and invoices reconciled were approved.

031) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2015/16:

Under Determination 42 Town Councils are authorised to make a payment to each of their Members of a maximum amount of £100 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.

A formal declaration by Council is required annually whether or not to accept this payment. (nb Payment will be made from the Council budget not from WAG) See Report of the Clerk attached.

Once again, it was unanimously agreed not to accept this payment.

032) To re-open the meeting to the public.

This was agreed.

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

a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting of Council on 15th April

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 15th April 2015.

c) Minutes of the Publicity Task & Finish Group – 21st April 2015.

d) Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 29th April 2015

e) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 6th May 2015

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

034) Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Performance Review

- i) Minute No. 373 Clock – request to clear weeds around the base of the clock and to “bank up” the beds – this requested in writing of the gardeners.
- ii) to check if funding available for work to clock wall
- iii) Minute no 374 – it was noted that a quote had been received but there had been no correspondence from anyone else.

b) Ordinary 15th April

- i) Minute No 385 – It was noted that much of the new Heritage Bill featured items from the Tredegar Heritage Summit.
- ii) Minute No 387 4 (b) It was noted that boulders were now being used to prevent fly tipping.
- c) Publicity – agreed to reconvene asap.
- d) Special Meeting 29th April
- i) Minute No. 399 a) It was agreed to agenda this item for a meeting of the Finance Committee.
- ii) Minute no. 399 e) It was suggested that a small group look at Staff contracts in a bid to move on.

035) Chair signed Minutes.

036) Correspondence

1) Register of Members' Interests:

- a) BGCBCA. Jones Re: Registers of Members' Interests – changes effective from 1.5.15.

- b) OVW
 - i) Electronic publication of information
 - ii) Welsh Govt: Statutory Guidance on Access to Information on Community and Town Councils. (Copied to all Members)

FOR INFORMATION: All Members' Interests will now have to be published on our website, together with agenda and all notices of public meetings. We already publish information relating to Councillors, minutes and audited statements of the council's accounts.

It was agreed to re-issue the form to all Members.

- 2) Planning Aid Wales Planning Training workshop Monday 29th June 2015 Bedwellty House & Park from 6.30pm, cost is £30 per head. NB Town Council has 2 free places.

Received It was agreed that Members of the Planning Committee have first refusal.

- 3) C. Jenkins Complaint copied to Nick Smith MP regarding fly tipping in and around Tredegar and other issues, together with some helpful suggestions.(copied to all Members)

Received – It was agreed to respond reminding the complainant that Members of Town Council are not paid for their services and to commend her and her daughter on her work for the community.

- 4) Ombudsman Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct for community council members. (copied to all Members)

Received – to agenda for further discussion.

Cllr. D. Rowberry declared an interest in the following item:

- 5) Gavo Asking whether Council would consider supporting the Blaenau Gwent Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards on Friday 6th November 2015.

Received. It was agreed to ask which categories were available.

6) BGCBC

Cllrs D. Rowberry and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item:

- i) Licences List of Applications W/E 15.05.2015

Received.

- ii) Phil Diamond/Cllr. A. Tippings: Dementia Friends Awareness Training.

Received. It was agreed to invite Mr. Diamond to Town Council to present his Awareness Training.

- iii) N Harvey: Response to letter re Fly Tipping. Castle Street and Morgan Street will now be monitored on a fortnightly basis.

Received.

- iv) P. Amos: Information on prosecutions and simple cautions secured for Waste Regulation Offences across the Borough.
- | | | | |
|---------|----|---------|----|
| 2011/12 | 10 | 2012/13 | 10 |
| 2013/14 | 16 | 2015/15 | 9 |

Received.

- v) Alun Watkins: A list of pitches in Tredegar and Sporting Clubs using facilities managed by Neighbourhood Service (not including clubs that use the Leisure Centre.) 11 Clubs using 4 rugby pitches, 3 football pitches, 1 floodlit training area and 1 cricket square and outfield.

Received – it was suggested that the question of grant aiding clubs to cover rental costs be put on a future agenda.

- vi) C. Marsden: Land ownership - Confirmation that Sirhowy Green is owned by the Borough.

Received. Members recorded their thanks to Cllr. Malcolm Cross and his team for cutting the grass on the Village Green.

- 7) Tai Calon
Mr Andrew Myatt Dir.
Of Communities & Housing
- Response to letter regarding Ysgoborwen Estate. A community clean up took place on 22nd April, a trailers to be placed on site to give advice and promote recycling & waste removal, tenancy enforcement to be used in conjunction with support if perpetrators identified, contractors told to remove rubbish, any confirmed reports of theft/vandalism have been reported to police and a request has been made to BGCBC to extend street lighting hours.

Received.

- 8) R Morgan
- British Gas in Tredegar are looking for a volunteering activity within the community, asking if Council could give them some direction.

Received – Members to respond.

- 9) War Memorial
- a) Welsh Government News: Lest We Forget – communities urged to apply for war memorial grant.
b) Various emails from Councillors regarding “Protect War Memorials” article.
c) A. Davies AM Details of the Grants for War Memorials scheme.

Received. It was suggested that funding could be sought for the lighting on the War Memorial and to enhance the Crash Site at Trefil.

- 10) Valuation Office Agency

Breakdown of the valuation of the public toilets.

Received – to the RFO.

- 11) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Cllr C. Cuss Requesting Financial Support towards a memorial in Princetown recognising the fallen from World Wars I & II who resided in the Princetown/Tafarnaubach area.

Received. Questions were raised over the ownership of the land and future maintenance. To await further information.

- 12) OVW

a) Diary Marker: Monday 15th June 2015 – Invitation to a workshop organised by the Climate Change Commission for Wales to develop an Adaptation Plan for the Communities Sector. To take place on Cardiff University between 10am and 3.30pm (advise if attending)

Received. Cllr OP to report back to Council.

- b) Finance Training Council Office Newport Rd Bedwas on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 6.30-9pm
- c) List of Training in June

Item B & C Received.

- 13) Barnardos Invitation to attend Community Connections Conference Thursday 28th May 2015 10.30am-2.30pm Bedwellty House, Tredegar booking required Free event

Received, available Members to attend.

- 14) Cllr T. Smith Game on Wales April Newsletter highlighting the fact that the scheme is back in Tredegar.

Received.

- 15) Torfaen County Borough Council

Be part of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund – establishing a Local Pension Board and are seeking to appoint 5 Employer Representatives and 5 member representatives to sit on the board. Expression of interest to be submitted by 12 noon 29th May 2015.NB the RFO has declined to take part

Received.

- 16) Space Saviours Offering information on the Space Saviours programme a Big Lottery funded programme to help communities plan open space projects and assist in finding funding – willing to visit and explain.

Received. It was agreed to copy to Cllr. Carl Cuss.

- 17) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Scrutiny topic vote – list of topics available for scrutiny, invitation to submit a vote for a topic, the results of which will be tabled to the Members at their next meeting on 22.5.15 where they will then select the next topic for scrutiny.(Copied to Cllr. OP)

Received.

18) PUBLICATIONS

One Voice Wales Natural Resources Management Bulletin April 2015 Issue 21; Road works report week ending 15.5.15 & Update on night time closure A465; Brecon Beacons Tourism in Action Spring 2015 Issue 23; Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #165 Mai 2015; Clerks & Councils Direct May 2015: Local Councils update May 2015 Issue 184; BGCBC Roadworks report 15/5-22/5/15

Available for Members

19) AGENDA

All out of date agendas have been removed and are available for viewing in the office.

Special Audit Committee (draft Statement of Accounts) 23rd June 2015 changed to Tuesday 30th June 9.30am in the Council Chamber EV; BG Heritage Forum meeting to be held Thursday 21st May 2015 at 9.30 am in Tredegar Library.

Available for Members

037) To agree future use of the Cwtch.

It had previously been agreed to clear the Cwtch to enable the room to be used as storage and working space for Council Members. However a proposal for the room to be used by the Tredegar Officer for Severn Wye had proved impractical due to lack of space. It was agreed that the Cwtch be refurbished as previously planned and used by Town Council as previously agreed.

The Clerk suspended Standing Orders at 9pm for the rest of the items to be heard.

Cllrs D. Rowberry and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item:

038 Planning:

- a) To consider an Officer's Report - None
- b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee received from Cllr. D. Howells.
- c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0131	Mrs L Edwards 47 Vale Terrace, Tredegar.	Construction of sun room.
No Objections		
2015/0153	Mr L Davies 7 Highfield Close, Tredegar.	Retention of replacement garage.
No Objections.		
2015/0154	Mr A Spooner 41 Tynewydd, Tredegar.	Retention of boundary fence.
The verbal report had no concerns provided the fence was in keeping with those around it. This was the observation made.		
2015/0156	Mr S Williams 28 Cripps Avenue, Tredegar.	Retention of garage & dog kennels & steps.
No Objection to garage, but some query regarding the usage of the dog kennel.		
2015/0159	Mr D Davies 9 Clos Bryn Brith Merthyr Road, Tredegar.	Detached house & garage (revised scheme), Former Scouts Hall, Scwrfa Road.
No Objection		
2015/0160	Mr A Tuck 1 Pentre Heulog, Tredegar.	Demolish existing kitchen/bathroom extension and rebuild with timber frame and block work, demolish existing outbuilding, 65 Vale Terrace.
No Objection		
2015/0161	Ms J Newcombe Pen Ay Byd, Trefil.	Front & rear dormer extensions, replacement Window with French doors and Juliet balcony, extend existing balcony and insertion of additional French doors at first floor level and conversion of garages to form kitchen, Pen Ay Byd Trefil.
There were some concerns over the scale of the development in a rural setting.		
2015/0163	Mr G Bevan 8 Gwent Way, Tredegar.	Proposed erection of a two bedroom bungalow (Resubmission), Plot No. 27 Maes Morgan, Tredegar.
No Objection.		

d) Other Planning Matters

- BGCBC, S. Williams Re: 2015/0016 Bedwellty Park – discharge of condition 3 of planning permission C/2013/0324.
- BGCBC, C. Ashby Re: Erection of single wind turbine, Former Tech Board Site, Rassau Industrial Estate – Appeal will be redetermined by the Inspector on the basis of written representations which must be received no later than Tuesday 5th May 2015.

039) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

- 1) Closure of ward at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan.

Concern was expressed regarding press reports of the closure of a specialised stroke ward at the hospital. Members queried why such information wasn't passed to Town Councils in advance. It was agreed to write to the Health Board with our concern.

2) Thanks were expressed to Cllr Willis for opening the toilets for 3 weeks.

3) Crime Prevention Panel – the Council representative voiced concerns regarding the future of the Panel and the attitude of some members of the panel towards Town Council.

040) Severn Wye Org.(Jayne Hunt): Re: Film in conjunction with Communities First, Tai Calon & South Wales Fire Service about grass fires – asking whether Council would consider supporting it. The film would be made by the Made in Tredegar responsible for the “Cow”.
It was agreed to ask for full details.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm

_____Chair