

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 15th July 2015 to follow the Performance Review.

Present: **Councillor** **G. Meredith**
 T. Smith
 J. Thomas
 R. Watkins
 B. Willis
 A. Tippings
 M. Cross
 B. Willis
 D. Howells
 P. Prosser
 S. Trollope
 M. O'Sullivan
 G. Bowen-Knight

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

103) Apologies: **Cllr. H. Trollope J Morgan D Rowberry R W Thomas and O. Price**

Prior to the start of the Meeting a Minute's Silence was held as a mark of respect to mark the passing of former Councillor Margaret Retallick.

Afterwards her former colleagues spoke movingly of her commitment to the Tenants and Residents Association and the sterling work she had undertaken as a member of the Tai Calon Board and also as a Governor at Bryn Bach Primary School. She was a loyal and committed member of the Labour Party who was always ready to help and did what she was able to.

It was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to her family and Members recalled her appreciation when her son and grandson were presented with an award by Council after representing Wales. Her dedication and enthusiastic support of Tredegar Town Council would be greatly missed.

The Mayor apologised for his late arrival.

104) Declarations of Interest.

The Mayor reminded Members to make their declaration as and when required.

105) 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

106) To receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee held prior to this meeting.

It was agreed to accept the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee and to report back if necessary to Council if not to meet in the next Quarter. This was agreed and accepted unanimously.

107) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.

This was agreed.

108) To receive a verbal report from the Events Committee held prior to this meeting and to make a decision for this year's display as a matter of urgency due to timescale.

Following a meeting with Commercial Christmas the recommendations of the Events Sub Committee were as follows:

The total cost for the 2016 display to be £28750 + Vat as in 2015. Full display to be agreed late July.

Payments to be made as follows- 25% in July 50% in November after successful installation and testing following the Switch-On the balance of 25% in January after the Lights are taken down.

Commercial Christmas agreed to start an infrastructure check week commencing 7th September 2015 that installation would be over a two week period starting on 19th October and the Switch-On would take place on the 27th November 2015. This would be year one of a three year contract and there would be an opt out after this year.

It was the recommendation of the Events Sub Committee that subject to the above conditions and those agreed at the Events Committee Meeting that Commercial Christmas be contracted to supply the Christmas Lighting for Tredegar Town Council.

THIS WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was agreed that they be informed immediately and invited to attend a Meeting of the Events Committee as soon as possible with their complete plans for the 2015 installation for agreement by Council.

It was further agreed to check that their accreditation was acceptable to the Borough Council and to clarify who was responsible for the lamp-post infrastructure and any works required.

The other discussions relating to Armed Forces Day and Band Concerts were noted and agreed for action.

109) Grants:

Thanks were noted.

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

Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls Club – A grant of £200 was approved.

Tredegar Athletic Football Club – A grant of £200 was approved.

Tredegar History & Archive Society - A grant of £200 was approved..

b) Churches and Chapels – no applications.

110) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in July 2015.

Bank reconciliations were available for Members to view.

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

It was noted that the amount actually raised on Armed Forces Day was disappointing. It was agreed to invite the Charity to the Presentation Evening to accept their cheque.

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

a) Minutes of the Staffing & Finance Committee 16th June 2015.

b) Minutes of the Performance Review Committee 17th June 2015.

c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 17th June 2015.

d) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee 24th June 2015.

e) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee 1st July 2015.

f) Minutes of the Civic Committee 1st July 2015.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

112) Matters arising from the Minutes:-

c) Ordinary Meeting 17th June

i) Minute No 065 (iv) Bandstand – it was noted that alterations had been made to the access for the power supply which seemed to be acceptable.

ii) Minute No 073 1 a) It was suggested that an item be put forward regarding funding from the Town Centre

Commercial Booking Policy. At this time there was discussion regarding the JCLC. It was agreed to contact the Secretary and move forward.

iii) Minute No 073 1 c) Tredegar Recreation Ground – Members expressed concern relating to a possible Capital Asset transfer request, and wondered whether the Ground was subject to any sort of covenant. There were concerns relating to this space which was a valuable asset to the town.

iv) Minute No 073 1 e) Members were encouraged to support the Highest Point Walk apologies were given by some Members.

v) Minute No 073 4a) Notice Board – There was much discussion relating to the Notice Board location and the general state of the courtyard.

vi) Minute No 073 9) Clerk to pass on information to Mayor. At this point the Michael Foot Shield football event was highlighted to be agreed.

vii) Minute No 75 d) Mr Skeates BEM – it was agreed that Town Council would support a celebration for Mr. Skeates when he is presented with his medal, this to be held in Tredegar. Cllr Willis to check details of the presentation.

e) Events Sub Committee 1st July 2015

Cllr. Cross confirmed that he would be available to support the road closures for the Classic Car event.

f) Civic Committee 1st July 2015

i) Ref Planning Application 2015/0233 – it was brought to Council's attention that trees had been cut down at the rear of the Bryn Bach Primary School during School hours causing danger to the children and had left the rear of the school insecure. Clerk to make Planning Dept. aware.

113) Chair to sign Minutes

The Minutes were signed.

114) Correspondence

1) BGCBC a) Let's Talk Public Engagement Programme – proposing a three phase programme, over the next two years, regarding the Council budget setting process with phase one public engagement events running between 17.7.15 and 30.7.15 through the borough. Aim to run phase 2 public engagement events during October/November 2015 followed by phase 3 information giving public events.

Received.

b) M. Perry Re: Public toilets scheme – Part of £2160 grant for 2015/16 (April – March) has been used to pay the Non Domestic Rates for that period & we have to request the remaining balance of £304.30 from them.

Received – It was noted that there was no record of such a request by Town Council – Clerk to seek clarification.

c) Cllr Trollope Re: Tredegar Business Forum – Copy of emails sent to BGCBC by Cllr Trollope & Tredegar Business Forum regarding the condition of the town streets (weeds).

Received.

d) A. Tippings Re: Funding Opportunity – Covenant fund is coming.

Received. It was noted that this funding could be used to fund an renovation of the Cairn Site, Planting around the Clock and possible funding for Armed Forces Day.

At this point it was noted that 211 Battery (TA Royal Artillery) could provide a bigger display for AFD in 2016 and it was agreed to contact after Xmas.

e) List of licensing applications week ending 10.7.15.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Conference Saturday 3rd October 2015 Bont Pavillion, Pontrhydfendigaid at 9.30am. £85 per delegate.

Received. It was thought that the cost was excessive and it was agreed not to send a representative.

- b) Chairing Skills Training at Bridgend Tuesday 21st July 2015.

Received. Unable to attend

3) SLCC 2015 Conference for Wales, Swansea Thursday 17th September.

Received. It was agreed that the Clerk and Leader attend.

4) Kidney Wales Foundation

Thanks for fundraising as part of the Walk For Life event.

Received.

5) Cllr Watkins

Re: Kevin Phillips – requesting if Council would consider giving a donation towards a film that Mr Phillips & Mr Knapik are currently creating.

Received.

Cllr T. Smith declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

6) Ashwood Quotation for 300 mugs for Glanhwy Primary School.

There was much debate regarding this matter with some regarding it as a money not well spent. Others supported the idea of giving the children a mug as a commemorative gift presented by Town Council and remarked on previous gifts such as that given to celebrate the Earl St Centenary in 1976.

A vote was called for and by a majority of 10 to 2 (with Cllr Smith not taking part) it was agreed to purchase the mugs on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

7) Gavo

- a) Access for All Forum Thursday 16th July 2015 between 10.30am & 1pm at the General Offices Ebbw Vale. Free event, open to general public. Come along to this local Equalities Forum and have your say. Guest speakers include Dementia Friends, Valleys Life After Stroke Group and South Wales Fire & Rescue – displayed in noticeboard, added to website

Received. Cllr Smith to attend.

- b) Formation of a Blaenau Gwent Citizen Panel and looking for groups to become part of it.

Received. (forward to Leader)

8) Friends of Valleys Karate Club

Raising their concerns/disappointment about community groups like them no longer being able to use Nantybwch Senior Citizens Hall as the lease holder will be running a business from that property.

Received. The Clerk read the e-mail to Members. It was agreed to investigate further and seek clarification.

9) Hospice of the Valleys

Re: Disposal of furniture – Have been given conflicting information regarding the disposal of furniture. Asking whether Council can confirm if they can dispose of the furniture free of charge at Silent Valley or do they have to pay even though they are a charity.

Received. To refer to the Borough Council.

10) K. Perridge

Re: Tiddly prom – children's show.

Received. It was agreed to contact the Deighton Primary School to see if they would like to take part in the Night Out scheme this year and to contact Sherman Theatre to see what was available.

11) Communicorp

Local Councils Update July 2015 Issue 186. – relevant part copies for Members

Received.

12) PUBLICATIONS - Available in the Office for viewing

BGCBC road works report week ending 10.7.15 & 17.7.15; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council The Patient's Voice News Bulletin Issue 23 April, May, June 2015; Cwmbran Community Council Annual Report 2015; University of the Third Age Information on services they offer; BGCBC Corporate Improvement Plan 2015/16 Stage 1.

Available for all Members

13) AGENDA - Available in the Office for viewing

General Licensing Committee Tuesday 7th July 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 15th July 2015 at 12.30pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 9th July 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive 15th July 2015 at 12.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre – Amended item No. 3; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 13th July 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Education, Active Living & learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive 15th July 2015 – Report for agenda item No. 6; Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 14th July 2015 – report for agenda item no. 8; Joint Scrutiny Committee advance notice of meeting being held Friday 31st July 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 15th July 2015 at 12.30pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting 16.7.15.

Available for all Members

Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

115) Planning:

- a) **To consider Officer's Report** - none received.
- b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee** – No objections noted.
- c) **To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations.**

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0236	Real Estate Investors PLC Cathedral Place – 3 rd Floor 42-44 Waterloo Street Colmore Business District Birmingham.	Residential development at land adjacent to Park Hill, removal/change of conditions on previous application 2009/0328.
No Objections		
2015/0237	Real Estate Investors PLC Cathedral Place – 3 rd Floor 42-44 Waterloo Street Colmore Business District Birmingham.	New development for 143 dwellings at land adjacent to Park Hill, removal/change of conditions on previous application 2009/0329.
No Objections		
2015/0244	Mrs L Mills 139 Gainsborough Road,	Erection of a disabled single storey shower room extension.
No Objections		

d) To consider other planning matters

Ref the erection of Memorial Benches – it was noted by a Member that there may not be a need for planning permission – Clerk to check.

116) Matters of local interest or concern.

- a) It was noted that the recent event held in Bedwellty house relating to the Comprehensive School Prom had been a great success and very well managed.
- b) It was agreed to purchase flower for the funeral of Cllr. Retallick.

c) It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Events Sub Committee to discuss events for the WWI and WWII Commemorations.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.40pm

_____Chair.