

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 6.35pm

**Present:**        **Councillor**    **G. Meredith (Chair)**  
                                 **J. Thomas**  
                                 **T. Smith (arrived 6.45pm)**  
                                 **A. Tippings**  
                                 **P. Prosser**  
                                 **B. Willis**  
                                 **S. Trollope**  
                                 **H. Trollope (arrived 7.30pm)**  
                                 **D. Howells**  
                                 **M. Cross**  
                                 **R. Watkins**

**In Attendance:**        **Ms A Jones – RFO**

**156) Apologies.**                        **Cllrs. R. W. Thomas, M. O’Sullivan, G. Bowen-Knight, D. Rowberry and J. Morgan**

### **157) Declarations of Interest.**

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

### **158) 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.**

Moved.

### **159) To receive the report outlining the changes to bank charges and the impact on Council.**

The written report distributed by the RFO, prior to the meeting, was discussed and the RFO reminded Council of the restrictions regarding payments plus potential security issues.

It was agreed that the RFO should look at available Post Office accounts and that Council should accept the RFO’s recommendation of following the Mixed Payments option offered by Council’s current bank, regularly reviewing the impact of any additional charges.

*Cllr Smith arrived at the meeting, 6.45pm.*

### **160) To receive the updated report on the Clock wall quotations.**

The written report distributed by the RFO, prior to the meeting, was discussed and reservations were raised with regards to the 10 year guarantee being offered by one company and also about undertaking these works at this time of year.

Members agreed to accept Company A’s quotation on the basis that this quote price could be held until Spring 2016 with works taking place towards the end of March 2016.

### **161) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.**

Moved.

## **162) Grants:**

Completed End of Grant form received from Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Neighbourhood Watch Association, St James Church and Tredegar Junior & Senior Netball clubs. - Noted

Thanks received from Shelter Cymru. - Noted

### **a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.**

Tredegar Town AFC Seniors – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Tredegar FC Seniors – Recommended that Civic Sub-Committee meets with this club.

Tredegar Junior Netball Club - A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Tredegar Senior Netball Club - A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

### **b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137).**

Bethania Congregational Church – A grant of £225.00 was recommended.

## **163) Planning:**

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

### **a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received).**

#### **Planning Appeal Update:**

C/2014/0342 Land adjacent to Brynheulog, Pochin, Tredegar – Appeal Dismissed by Planning Inspector, planning permission Refused.

#### **Planning Report:**

C/2015/0284 Two storey building containing three flats, land adjacent to No. 3 Aneurin Rise, Tredegar – Recommendation to **grant** application with conditions.

#### **List of Delegated Items determined between 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

2015/0267 Retrospective Planning Application for re-rendering project already carried out at property nos. 1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 9 Islwyn Terrace, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0161 Front & rear dormer extensions, replacement window with French doors and Juliet balcony, extend existing balcony & insertion of additional French doors at first floor level & conversion of garages to form kitchen, Pen ay Byd Trefil – Approved.

2015/0310 Discharge of condition: 3 – Details of first export date of planning permission C/2012/0327, Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate – Condition Discharged.

2015/0244 Erection of a disabled single story shower room extension and raise roof of existing side annexe by approximately 300mm, 139 Gainsborough Road, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0220 Retention of change of use to office on ground floor, 2 bed flat to first floor & 2 bed flat to second floor & three storey extension to rear, 20 Castle Street, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0232 Shed/workshop, 18 Penybont, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0264 Erection of conservatory, 15 Larch Lane, Tredegar – Lawful Development Certificate Granted.

2015/0316 Application for a no material amendment to amend conditions 18, 20 & 21, Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate – Approved.

2015/0266 Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of planning permission C/2014/0202 to include details of the construction of a block stone retaining wall to the southern boundary, land east of Whitworth Terrace – Approved.

2015/0265 Discharge of condition: 8 – site stability report of planning permission C/20150163 Plot 27 Maes Morgan, Tredegar – Condition Discharged.

#### **Received and noted on bloc.**

### **b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.**

The RFO apologised for not informing the Planning Committee of the availability of the applications prior to this evening's meeting and in the circumstances of working in reduced staffing conditions this apology was accepted by Council.

### **c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations.**

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0335	Mr S Nelson 4 Morgan Street, Tredegar.	Replacement shop front and conversion of existing first floor residential flats into two residential flats, Nelson Pharmacy 4 Morgan St.
No Objections.		
2015/0350	Mr K Lewis Welsh Assembly Government.	Two detached dwellings and garages, 12-13 Arches Close.
No Objections.		
2015/0351	Mr J Evans Lakelands, Merthyr Road, Tredegar.	One 3 bedroom and one 4 bedroom detached dwellings with elevated patio areas over garaging (Resubmission), Lakelands Merthyr Rd.
No Objections.		
2015/0365	Mr S James Sunkissed C/o. 21 Harford Gardens, Tredegar.	Retention of change of use to tanning shop, hair dressers and beauty salon at 30a & 31 Church Street and self- contained flat at 30b Church Street.
No Objections.		
2015/0367	Miss S Williams Dros-y-Bryn, Whitworth Fields, Tredegar.	Construction of raised platform/patio and glass balustrade to front and side of platform, Dros-y-Bryn Whitworth Fields.
No Objections.		

**d) To consider other planning matters.**

None received.- Noted

**164) Correspondence.**

- 1) BGCBC a) Formal Consultation on ASD provision in Schools 2015 – forwarded to all Members by email/post.

Received. Cllr Smith agreed to enquire at consultation meeting on Thursday 8.10.15 at Glanhowy school whether the consultation was being extended to all parents or just those in Glanhowy catchment. Council's agreed response: Pleased consideration is being given to providing ASD provision in Tredegar but noted it is only for primary, what plans are there for secondary school provision in Tredegar.

- b) Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – **items for inclusion on the agenda to be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.**

Received. Council were minded to raise the question regarding ASD secondary school provision in Tredegar.

- c) Burrows: Blaenau Gwent A-Z of Council services 2016 – asking whether Council would like to purchase an advert in this publication.

Received – Declined this offer.

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

- d) List of Licencing Applications week ending 18.9.15.

Received.

**2) Aneurin Bevan Leisure Trust**

- a) i) C. Hares – copy of email sent to Cllr Smith Re: Council Chamber.  
ii) Cllr Smith - Response to email sent by C. Hares regarding the Council Chamber.

Received. Members accepted use of the Council Chamber was necessary now and again but as the Council Chamber is an important historical room they did not want it to become the “norm” to use it as a storeroom. It was agreed that any future concerns are raised in person, with the Duty Manager or member of staff, at the time or as soon as possible after they had become apparent.

- b) Invitation to community chest support evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, 6.30pm to 8pm.

Received.

- c) V. Nash Re: Lantern making workshops – proposed costs for holding 6 workshops for Tredegar primary schools and the Cefn Golau Flying Start group during the week of 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November to coincide with the Christmas Lights switch on.

Received. It was agreed to reduce the workshops to cover just the five primary schools and that all lanterns are to be collected from Bedwellty House on the evening of the procession/Christmas Lights Switch on.

### 3) One Voice Wales

- a) Larger Local Councils Committee meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 10am  
Room 1, Hafod a Hendre Building, Royal Welsh Ground.

Received – Apologies to be sent.

- b) Community & Town Councils’ Manifesto.

Received and available for All Members. It was noted that this Manifesto was presented by One Voice Wales to Leighton Andrews at a conference on Saturday 3.10.15.

- 4) Gavo a) New Gavo membership forms, completed forms to be returned by 15.10.15 and any nominations for the Board of Trustees is to be received by 8.10.15.

Received – available for Members.

- b) Blaenau Gwent Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards – Thanks for supporting the event, presentation evening will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at EVI.

Received – It was noted that this event is being held on the same evening as a Council meeting but it was requested that a representative from Council should attend. Cllr Meredith would check his work shifts, Cllr J Thomas would not be available.

- 5) J. Hunt a) Tredegar Town Partnership Forum – next meeting is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 12noon-2pm at the Moose Hall, Lower Coronation Street, Tredegar. Booking is essential so please notify Jayne if you wish to attend. Also attached is a “Deals going Down” list from the previous meeting.

Received.

- b) Renew Wales Conference in Cardiff City Hall Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 if anyone interested in attended.

Received.

*Cllr H Trollope arrived at the meeting, 7.30pm and gave his apologies for his lateness.*

### 6) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

- a) Forest Holidays, Garwnant – proposal for development of 40 timber holiday cabins.

Received – Available for the Members.

- b) Proposal for future liaison with Town & Community Council Liaison.

Received.

### 7) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Re: Wind turbines at Pen Bryn Oer, Rhymney – Tim Stephens is currently on leave and recommends in his absence to contact REG Windpower direct to ask

about a community benefit scheme.

Received. Agreed to contact REG Windpower.

- 8) Wales Audit Office      Notification of change of external auditors from Mazaar to BDO LLP for the Annual Returns covering the period from 2015-19 (3 years) and reminder thematic areas for 2015-16 will be budget setting/monitoring and engagement of internal auditor. – copied to RFO & internal auditor.

Received – the RFO outlined the possible changes to the fees.

- 9) Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent CAB

Response to letter regarding the Outreach venues.

Received. A Member informed Council of the recent Asset Transfer of Aneurin Bevan House to Coalfields Regeneration and the Credit Union will be making use of this building. It was agreed to notify CAB of this building as a potential outreach venue.

- 10) Cllr J Thomas              Concerns raised by a member of the public and details of an offer of a painting from the dementia poetry event at Venue 1.

Received. Cllr Thomas spoke of the following issues:-

- Children starting fires in Bedwellty Park - A member of the public was informed by the Police to contact the fire brigade for them to respond instead of the Police. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas would obtain the log number for the fire incident and Cllr H Trollope would raise the matter with PC Jamie Witcombe at their next meeting.
- Bottom Gates of Bedwellty Park – Concerns had been raised about them being locked by 5pm, not at dusk, on a recent Tuesday evening which had resulted in children climbing over them/the wall but also meant that a family with a disabled person, who had parked by that entrance, were forced to walk back up to the Memorial Gates to be able to leave. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas would personally raise these issues with the House Manager and suggest signs displayed with specific times for Summer/Winter opening.

The offer of the painting from the recent Dementia event was noted but as Council were limited to where it could be displayed in Bedwellty House it was suggested that the Library may be considered.

- 11) Cllr Smith                  South Wales Argus article – Credit Union scheme backed by Tredegar Businesses.

Received. It was noted this item had been submitted as information for the website only. The RFO asked Members, in the future, to please indicate in what context they are forwarding the correspondence to the office.

- 12) J. Roles                      JCLC Minutes of last meeting and next meeting date of 14.10.15 – forwarded to Cllrs Smith & Meredith

Received – Cllr Watkins requested a copy of this information. A Member informed Council that all future meetings will be held in Bedwellty House and that BGCBC were seeking changes to the Charter which JCLC do not wish to occur without prior consultation with the relevant Councils not just their delegated Members.

- 13) P. Morgan Jones        Re: WW1 benches – asking for confirmation that there is an objection to the benches being sited at the War Memorial, would support the Council with this matter if this is the case.

Received – Requested a reply to be sent explaining reason why the benches had been refused, that they will now be sited in the community and to thank them for their offer of support.

- 14) M Higgs                    Dates and venues for the forthcoming Quiz Wizards – added to web.

Received – Members were reminded to support this event which successfully raises significant funds for the Mayor's Appeal each year. Cllrs Trollope & Meredith requested the information be emailed to them.

- 15) Hospice of the Valleys

Invitation to attend AGM on Thursday 22.10.15 at 7pm large Conference Room, General Offices, Ebbw Vale.

Received – Cllr Trollope confirmed his attendance and possible attendance of Cllr Rowberry as a Trustees

16) N. Coles

Re: Armed Forces Day 2016 – asking if a date has been decided yet and if you want the re-enactment group to attend.

Received. It was agreed to liaise with Fr Davis to confirm Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 as Armed Forces Day.

17) G. Thomas

FC Tredegar – would like to meet with Council to discuss forthcoming projects.

Received – Agreed for Club to meet with Civic Sub-Committee.

18) Commercial Christmas

Re: Breakdown of street lighting infrastructure issues and costs.

Received. Members were informed that 19.10.15 was the scheduled Festive lighting installation date with testing on 9.11.15. The breakdown highlighted two courses of action required – all red items needed resolving prior to this year's display, all amber were ok for this year but would need remedying prior to next year. It was agreed that the street lighting columns infrastructure was BGCBC responsibility therefore the information was to be forwarded to Mr C Rogers, copied to Cllr H Trollope, requesting the matters are addressed with urgency.

It was also agreed to delegate powers to the Events Committee to make decisions relating to approving works, by Commercial Christmas not BGCBC, on the red items to prevent delays in the erection of this year's festive display.

The RFO was instructed to email Commercial Christmas to request a free loan, as agreed with them at the 3.10.15. conference, of two Christmas trees from their showroom for the Switch On event.

## **19) PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 25.9.15, 2.10.15 and 9.10.15; J Parkers Wholesale catalogue Autumn Extra 2015; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council News Bulletin "The Patient's Voice", July – September 2015; Communicorp Local Councils Update October 2015 Issue 189 – Relevant item copied for Members.

**Available for All Members.**

## **20) AGENDA**

Executive Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Audit Committee Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Audit Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – reports for items 6 & 7; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Statutory Licensing Committee Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Reports for agenda item nos. 4 & 5; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for All Members.**

## **165) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park.**

Market Street entrance – Furniture has been dumped in that entrance. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would speak directly to the House Manager to request the area is cleared. The RFO is to send a letter to the Police regarding the anti-social behaviour around the pharmacy steps and the rubbish dumping issue.

It was agreed that in future all concerns are to be personally addressed with the House Manager/member of staff as and when identified enabling them to be dealt with immediately.

Council agreed to send Ms C Hares a letter confirming that her correspondence had been discussed at length and that in future if any Member has concerns they will raise them immediately in person with her or a member of her staff. The letter is also to commend her work on making Bedwellty House the flagship of the Trust.

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

a) **Joint Committee of Local Councils** – meeting being held 14.10.15 with Paul Amos to discuss any proposals BGCBC wishes to make to the Charter. The JCLC do not wish changes to occur without prior consultation with the relevant Councils not just their delegated Members.

b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – no meeting.

c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – meeting 14.10.15 but no one is available to attend.

d) **Tredegear Twinning** – no meeting. Council agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss the next AFD.

**e) School Governing Bodies**

- Deighton Primary – No Report.
- Brynbach Primary – Congratulations were given to Alyson Tippings who has been re-elected as Chair of Governors.
- Glanhwy Primary – Tommy Smith has now been elected as Vice Chair of Governors. The mugs commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school have now been presented by our Mayor Cllr Meredith. Cllr Meredith said he had received a fantastic welcome and it was a lovely morning with the children delighted to receive the mugs. The Head Boy and Girl presented a mug to Cllr Meredith at the end of the assembly.
- Tredegear Comprehensive – It was reported that the comprehensive was the top in Blaenau Gwent for GCSE results, surpassing other schools, with 92% of pupils gaining 5A\*-C grades; nearly 10% higher than the Welsh average and nearly 20% higher than the Local Authority average. It was agreed to add this information to the town council website and that the Leader or Mayor would send a letter of congratulations to the school for publishing in the Gwent Gazette.

f) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** – no report.

g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – It was reported that the siting of a plaque on a stone plinth commemorating World War I anywhere in Bedwellty Park had been refused; a DVD for the August World War I commemoration day has been released; Christmas dinner this year will be held in Bedwellty House.

Agreed to contact Mr F Olding to arrange a meeting, for as soon as possible, with the Heritage Committee including Cllrs H Trollope and Prosser to discuss the Listed Buildings restrictions on Bedwellty House & Park.

It was also agreed to write to Aneurin Leisure Trust to express Council's disappointment at the departure of Ms Janet Karn, Local Studies Librarian, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and to enquire where the local studies collection, currently at Tredegear Library, will now go and how will it be managed in the future.

h) **Tredegear Crime Prevention Panel** – It was reported that this Panel has now merged with Ebbw Vale. Our representative was unable to attend the meet scheduled for 2 weeks ago.

i) **Tredegear Business Forum** – Cllr J Thomas reported that the Forum expressed their thanks to Council for organizing the road closures and requested that next year they would like the closures from an earlier time with some help with the removal of the cars parked within the closed areas. It was agreed that the relationship between Town Council and the Forum was working well. Cllr Thomas requested that Cllr Smith relays back to the Forum at their next meeting that she will hopefully have a team of stewards with walkie talkies available to help at next year's event. The RFO is to check whether the necessary road signs have been ordered.

j) **VVP/ Tredegear Heritage Initiative**- meeting 8.10.15.

**167) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice).**

- Public Toilets – The article in the South Wales Argus Saturday 3.10.15 was not factual in regards to the Tredegear toilets. It was agreed to send a letter pointing out that Tredegear Town Council were instrumental in acquiring and reopening the Tredegear toilets well over a year ago.
- Bedwellty Park Bowls – Have recently been promoted.
- One Voice Wales Conference Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 – Cllr Tippings was commended for attending this conference alone being it such a distance away. Key points reported back:

- i. Leighton Andrews AM spoke of the good response to the White Paper Power to Local People consultation and how good governance will be essential to receive other responsibilities; merger announcements will be announced in a White Paper at the end of November but the Local Authorities are no longer in charge of changes to community councils as this will be decided by the Local Boundary Commission; Elections will go ahead in 2017 with a three year lifespan then the new Boundaries will take over.
- ii. Raising Precepts - Dr Jonathan Owen, NALC noted that in light of changing/devolved services offered by community councils then members must now see the budget setting meeting as being no longer how low can we go but how much do we have to rise to continue to offer the services.
- iii. One Voice Wales wants Councils to encourage their members to take up more of the courses available; launching a “Making the difference” award ceremony in March: all Motions put forward at today’s AGM for consultation were received with unanimous support including Tredegar Town Council’s request which Cllr Tippings presented at the AGM.

**168) 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.**

Moved.

**169) To receive the verbal report of the Staffing and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

The Chair gave a verbal report of the fact finding meeting held and confirmed Ms Keane was now currently absent due to illness with a medical certificate received from her doctor.

Council agreed to accept the recommendations of the Staffing and Finance Committee and approved plenary powers for the Committee to address obtaining additional support in the office to assist the RFO on a temporary basis with no plans to replace the Clerk at present. It was also agreed to offer the RFO the same payscale as the current Clerk whilst undertaking these duties.

**170) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.**

Moved.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Town Mayor.