TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Committee of Council to be held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House, Tredegar on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs: **G. Meredith**
T. Smith
A. Tippings (taking Minutes)
M. Cross
D. Howells
J. Morgan
R.W. Thomas
J. Thomas
P. Prosser

The Clerk would like to thank Cllr. Tippings for kindly agreeing to take the Minutes on this occasion. The meeting unanimously agreed to accept Cllr Tippings offer to Clerk the Meeting,

337) Apologies. – **Ms C M Keane -Clerk: Cllrs S and H Trollope, G. Bowen-Knight, M. O' Sullivan, R. Watkins, B. Willis, D. Rowberry, O. Price.**

338) Mr. Nick Smith – Apologies – It was noted that Parliament was still sitting on Wednesday and the MP would not be able to attend.

339) To receive and consider applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants
– <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>
Bedwellty House & Park – Confirming that an ornate photo frame as already been purchased to be put on permanent display in the Orchid House thanking all those that have contributed to the refurbishment of the tea room. Members requested that the donation for the notice board be acknowledged too.

Cllr. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
Tredegar Christians Together – A grant of £200 was recommended.

Pen-y-Cwm School – Following a long discussion the proposal to give funds was not seconded as this was a UK trip and could set a precedent for all school trips.
Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Association – A grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Netball Club Senior Ladies – A grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Thespian Players – A grant of £200 was recommended.

Cllr. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).
Sardis Chapel – A grant of £225.00 was approved.
Siloh Baptist Church - A grant of £225.00 was approved.
Horeb - A grant of £225.00 was approved.

340) Planning
a) To consider an Officer's Report
List of Delegated Items determined between 19th January 2015 and 13th February 2015:-

C/2014/0385 Single storey rear extension, 24 Southend – Approved.
C/2014/0364 Single storey side extension, 132 Beaufort Road – Approved.
C/2015/0005 Application for a non-material amendment to change the turbine model from the approved Powerwind 500 model to a EWT54 model turbine of planning permission C/2012/0327 – Approved.
C/2014/0376 Retention of boundary enclosure, 40 Tynewydd – Approved.
C/2015/0012 Application for non-material amendment to remove conditions 11 & 13 of planning permission C/2014/0018 – Proposed new dwelling (code for sustainable homes) – Approved.
C/2015/0010 Application for non-material amendment to remove condition 6 of planning permission C/2014/0310 (Visibility splays) – Approved.
C/2015/0037 Application for non-material amendment to remove condition 3 of planning permission C/2013/0340 (Landscaping submission timescale) – Approved.

b) To receive a verbal report from the Planning Committee – Received – no objections from the Committee.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0055	Mr S Smith 5 Pencoed, Tredegar.	Single storey outbuilding for storage of garden Equipment.
No Objections		
2015/0062	Mr B Hynes 2 Cayo Cottage, Usk Road, Raglan.	Change of use to D1 for a veterinary clinic, 1 & 2 Commercial Street, Tredegar
No Objections		
2015/0077	Firehouse Consort Ltd, C/o. Smith & Tuckwood Partnership, 65 Whiterock Avenue, Pontypridd.	Construction of 6 detached houses, garages and associated roads and drainage, land adjacent to Merthyr Road.
No Objections		

d) To consider other planning matters.
Mayors Parlour – the materials to be used have been sent to the Planning Dept – the Clerk is awaiting their response. – Received.

341) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) Consultation with Town/Community Councils – advance notice of meeting Thursday 16th April 2015 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale**.** **Request for agenda items to be submitted by 12 noon Tuesday 7th April 2015** –distributed to relevant Members (hard copies received too).
Received. The following items were put forward for discussion:

1) It has been brought to the attention of Town Council that BGCBC has a fund of money which has accrued from the payments procured from street vendors. We understand that in some areas local Business Forums have had access to this funding, which we believe has been used to fund local facilities. Tredegar Town Council would like to know if this is the case and if this information is correct why all Town and Community Councils were not informed of its existence and how it may be accessed.
2) Update on straying animals, especially as the former animal pound has been disposed of. If the Council are not collecting strays then fencing must be maintained (it was noted that a gate was missing at St. James). Members noted that a local farmer had been held in custody by the police and his animals were in the process of being rounded up by Trading Standards. He was also banned from keeping livestock

3) Street Lighting – Could we have an update? Also is the lack of lighting, for example in Castle Street, affecting CCTV coverage.
4) Disposal of Buildings – could we have an update.
5) Direct bus route to Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan from Tredegar.
6) Continued concerns regarding road safety outside schools – traffic, railings, crossing patrols.
7) A suggestion that all items should be kept "live" on the agenda until resolved to the satisfaction of the Meeting/Council.

(b) M. Perry Re: retraction – a statement was issued to the Gwent Gazette correcting the error made regarding who were responsible for the reopening of Tredegar public conveniences. **Clerk has responded asking him to insert into the next issue of the Connect Magazine. It appears that no statement has been published by the Gwent Gazette.**

(c) Hayley Wilson: Tredegar outdoor Market: wishing to meet with Council to discuss the possibility of relocating from Gwent Shopping Centre into town.

Received. Council has no objection to the relocation as long as sufficient consultation with Town Centre traders in undertaken. Any relocation should be undertaken on a trial basis. Members put forward the area in front of the Shopping Centre on Commercial Street or in the Circle/Castle Street.

2) Aneurin Leisure Trust a) Invitation to **four** Members of Council to attend the private viewing of Steven Knapik's exhibition "Home and Away" launch at Bedwellty House on Monday 9th March 2015 at 7pm.

Received. It was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader attend.

b) Invitation for the Mayor and three Members to attend the launch of the new look Orchid Tea Room on Friday 13th March 2015 at 6pm –**RSVP by 6th March 2015.**

Received. It was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader attend.

3) One Voice Wales

(a) Draft revised National Training Strategy 2015-19.

Received. Members commented that the location of Training Sessions should be accessible by public transport (locations in Usk and Cwmbran being very difficult to get to)

(b) White Paper, Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People – written statement by the Welsh Government.

Received.

(c) Notification that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report – dated Feb 2015 to be implemented in the Financial Year 2015/16 has been published. Hard copy available in office link to site follows:
http://wales.gov.uk/irpwsub/home/publication/2015-16/annual-report-2015-16/?lang=en
Also covering letter from the Chair of the Panel.

Received

(d) Notification of Women in Public Life Lecture taking place on 19th March at the Pierhead in Cardiff Bay.

Received

(e) Welsh Government Consultation Document – Tax Devolution in Wales – Landfill Disposals Tax. Consultation closes 19.5.15

Received. Members noted that it should continue to support environmental progress.

(f) Consultancy Services available to Member Councils.

Received

4) Members Correspondence:-

(a) Cllr Bowen-Knight together with Cllr. Julian Meek Re: Tredegar Synagogue – asking if Council will support a commemorative plaque to be placed on the former synagogue in Morgan Street.

Received. A Member noted that there had been two synagogues in Tredegar. It was agreed that the Clerk should make investigations on the feasibility of the project.

(b) Cllr Trollope - Thanks to all Councillors & staff for the kind wishes, cards & gifts sent to Sharon.

Received and Noted.

(c) Cllr Smith & Cllr Meredith Re: CCTV – arrangements to view specifications of the CCTV quotes to give a decision to Council.

The decision to appoint Duoguard to supply and fit the CCTV cameras on behalf of Tredegar Town Council was confirmed unanimously.

(d) Duoguard - Will be installing CCTV on Wednesday 11th March at 11am.wanted to know if we had a specific location in mind.

Details of required location were provided.

5) Planning Aid Wales Free Planning Aid training workshop for Community & Town Councillors on Monday 23rd March 2015 at 5pm Bedwellty House.

Received. It was agreed to seek clarification of numbers of Councillors who could attend and to offer to all Members.

6) Ville D'Orvault Letter of thanks for support and solidarity shown.

Received.

7) Tredegar Twinning. It was noted that the Mayor and Leader were travelling to Orvault.

RFO to confirm Council's obligations re Financial Regulations.

8) K. Davidge Offering his solo musical services for this year's Christmas lights switch on event, free of charge.

Received. It was agreed to accept with thanks.

9) <u>Cynefin Coordinator</u>:-

(i) A. Tippings BGCBC - Introducing Jayne Hunt the new Cynefin Coordinator – will speak to Council regarding the allotments

(ii) J. Hunt - Offering to meet with all mentioned in A. Tippings email and asking for possible dates.

It was noted that Ms Hunt had met with some Members of Town Council and was very interested in linking many of our ideas together with those of her Project. Some of which were the setting up of social enterprises with Service Veterans to deliver training etc in woodland management and micro-energy generation. When settled in she will offer Members a "drop-in" session.

10) Wales In Bloom Details of planned Launch Events 2015.

Received – not attending.

11) Burrows Mr. A.Nice – producers of the Borough Street Atlas. Contact details re Town Council Newsletter – to call us.

Received.

12) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2015-2020 consultation. Responses/comments to be submitted by 24.4.15 – forwarded to Cllr Price.

Received

13) Sherman Theatre Under 7's Christmas show "The Princess and the Pea".
Received. It was agreed to offer this performance in the first instance to Deighton Primary and if they did not want to take up the offer to Georgetown Primary

14) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC road works report & also additional road works items both week ending 27.2.15; BGCBC Road works report week ending 6.3.15; Communicorp Local Councils Update March 2015 Issue 182.
Available for all Members

15) AGENDA
Special General Licensing Committee Thursday 26th February 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Friday 27th February 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committees notice of forthcoming meetings on Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 10am and Monday 30th March 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services and Active Living Scrutiny Committee Thursday 5th March 2015 at 10.30am – CANCELLED; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 7th April 2015 RECONVENED to Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 8th April 2015 POSTPONED to Monday 20th April 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for all Members.

342) Commercial Christmas – to discuss outstanding matters and lack of response (Clerks update report follows)
Clerks Report to Council.

Commercial Christmas – an update.

Following repeated meetings and discussions with Commercial Christmas they were invited to attend Council on 4th February 2015 to discuss issues with the 2014 Christmas lighting display – which they did.

Mr Allan Lewis and his son Tim attended and answered the questions raised by Members.
They offered Council a reduction of £2000 against the cost of the 2015 lighting. However it was pointed out to them that no decision had been made whether to continue to use their company to install the Christmas lights on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

At the end of the Meeting they were asked to rethink their offer and to present a revised discount for consideration by Council. This they agreed to do.

On Monday 16th of February 2015 I e-mailed Mr Tim Lewis regarding the damage caused to Threads in Commercial Street, having spoken to Ms. Mantle the owner who had been unable to get a response from the company herself.
As of today – 26th February 2015 – there has been no response.

Similarly there has been no contact from them regarding our Meeting on 4th February 2015.

However I should point out that although Council has already made two payments of £14375 and £7187.50 there is still an outstanding balance of £7187.50 owing to Commercial Christmas. (NB these amounts do not include VAT which is reclaimed)

I shall e-mail Commercial Christmas again today seeking a response. However should this not be forthcoming it has been suggested that since the Company was highly recommended by One Voice Wales we should approach them.

This matter has been put on the Agenda for consideration by Members on Wednesday 4th March 2015 and will I await your instruction.

Christine Keane
Town Clerk
26th February 2015
Clerks further update – it appears that Mr. Lewis has been in China but had now returned I have e-mailed him asking for his further proposals.

Received- It was agreed to hold an urgent meeting of the Events Sub-Committee on Monday 9th of March and to make recommendations to Full Council on 18th March 2015.

343) Matters of Local Interest and concern.
a) It was noted that it was the Centenary of Glanhowy Primary School this year.
b) Also the 75th Anniversary of the crash of Flight T2520, which together with events to commemorate World War I needed to make progress.
c) Congratulations expressed to the organisers of the NHS event held in Tredegar on 1st March.
d) A Member commented on the missing and damaged seats in the gents toilets in town and it was agreed for him to replace them (2).
e) A number of books of local interest had been published recently and it was agreed to purchase them for the Council archives. They were "Never so Innocent Again" by Richard Llewellyn Davies (£12), Park Place and the new Bevan biography "Nye – the Political Life of Aneurin Bevan" by Nicklaus Thomas-Symonds
f) Members were saddened to learn of the deaths of Cliff Bethel founder of Tredegar Town FC and 'Boyo Morris' an excellent footballer from the Town.
g) Former Tredegar Iron and Coal Building (the Company Shop) – Members requested an update.
h) Staffing Committee – Clerk to arrange an urgent meeting of the members of Staffing and the new Chair asap.

344) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
The Cwtch – to discuss the loaning of items to the Museum and distribution of remaining items to storage.
The Clerk was instructed to produce a list of items to be displayed in the Assembly Room, throughout Bedwellty House, the Mayor's Parlour, Tredegar Museum and for storage.

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

1. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales unable to attend due to lack of public transport.
2. Tredegar Twinning Association - all officers re-elected. It was noted that there were still vacancies for the trip to Orvault.
3. School Governing Bodies
   a)Georgetown – Clerk to follow up the appointment of replacement Governor with EAS.
   b) Bryn Bach – Inspection taken place – still concerns re safety of pupils on the completion of the HOV roadworks.
   c) Blaenau Gwent Governors Association – received a presentation on the 3-18 School reorganisation in Abertillery. Aiming to lift attainment standards through closer involvement of Primary and Secondary Schools. Schools not part of the 3-16 proposals could federate in.
4. Tredegar Youth Café. – all saddened by the closure of this facility.
5. Tredegar Business Forum – information received that they intend to "rebrand"

6.One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme – It was noted that Ms Jayne Hunt of the Cynefin Project would be moving in next week.

There being no other business the Meeting closed.

_____Chair