TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 6.30pm

Present: **Councillor** **R. Watkins**
G. Meredith
T. Smith
A. Tippings
J. Morgan
B. Willis
M. Cross
P. Prosser
J. Thomas

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

363) Apologies: **Cllrs O. Price, M. O' Sullivan, G. Bowen-Knight, H. Trollope, D. Rowberry, R W Thomas, S. Trollope**

364) To form a Committee to review Policies, Regulations, Constitution and Standing Orders of Council.
It was agreed that the all Members of Council participate under the title of a Working Party to allow for progress should there be fluctuating Member attendance.

365) To receive and consider applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants and Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).
Completed end of grant form from Tredegar Business Forum, Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls Club, Siloh Baptist Church, Sardis Chapel & Horeb Chapel.

Hospice of the Valleys – A grant of £250.00 was recommended. However it was noted that there was little time to allow for advertisement of Council involvement in the event. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Hospice asking for more notice of future Council sponsored events and to ask how Town Council involvement could be recognised at this event.
Tredegar Angling Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.
Tredegar Business Forum – A grant of £250.00 was recommended. Clerk to contact the Forum to meet and discuss their upcoming events.

Cllrs. P. Prosser and A. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
Trefil RFC – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Grants to Churches and Chapels None received.

366) Planning

a) OFFICERS REPORT

Planning Report:
C/2015/0052 Application for variation of Condition 10 of planning permission C/2007/0730 (to extend date of submission of reserved matters), Former BKF Plastics, Ashvale Works, Fair View – Recommendation to approve the application subject to a suite of updated planning conditions.
C/2014/0238 Outline planning for construction of dwellings, Pochin Works, Newport Road – Recommendation that planning permission should be granted subject to completion of a S.106 leag agreement.
C/2014/0342 Retention of change of use of open land for use as a builders yard including the creation of a new access and erection of a 2.4m high boundary fence and gates, land adjacent to Brynheulog, Pochin – Recommendation that planning permission is refused.
List of Delegated Items determined between 16th February 2015 and 16th March 2015:-
C/2015/0024 Change of use and alterations to convert existing office building into 2 no. 1 bedroom flats & 1 no. 2 bedroom flat, Former Council Offices Unit 1 Cronin Court, Red Lion Square – Approved.
C/2015/0029 The addition of a section of raised roof above an existing building(Unit 23) to accommodate new equipment within the existing facility, Unit 23/24 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – Approved.
C/2015/0015 Discharge of conditions: 2 – landscaping plan, 3 – drainage plan, 4 – management of faecal material, land to east of Whitworth Terrace – Condition Discharged.
C/2015/0016 Installation of Photovoltaic Panels to an existing industrial unit, Eurocaps Ltd Crown Business Park – Approved.
C/2015/0028 Single storey rear extension, 17 Gwent Way – Lawful Development Certificate Granted.
C/2015/0046 Discharge of condition: 3 – landscaping scheme of planning permission C/2013/0340 (The construction of 7 no. detached houses, with 4 bedrooms and 2 storeys, with off street parking), land at lower Charles Street – Condition Discharged.
C/2015/0060 Discharge of condition: 8 – detailed location of turbine of planning permission C/2012/0327 (Erection of a single wind turbine and associated transformer enclosure), Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – Condition Discharged.
C/2015/0072 Discharge of conditions: 11 – Obscure glazed screen, 12 – samples of external facing and roofing materials of planning permission C/2014/0070, Plot of land at Heathfield – Condition Discharged.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee – No Objections raised.

c) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0099	Mr A Smith Davies Homes Ltd 7 Gelliwastad Road Pontypridd	Proposed replan at Plots 9-13 including reduction in dwellings (from 5 to 4) creating new plot numbering 9-12 on land to the rear of Peacehaven (previously approved under planning permission C/2007/0400), Plots 9-13 Walnut Close, Peacehaven.
No Objections.		
2015/0102	Mr J Richards 38 Waundeg, Tredegar.	Creation of new pedestrian/wheelchair access to front of property to include construction of blockwork retaining walling & installation of external lift enclosure & platform lift.
No Objections		
2015/0113	BGCBC Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.	Proposed external refurbishment, re: roofing/fascia/soffits and rain water goods, and retention of external insulation, 24-27 Upper Salisbury Street.
No Objections.		
2015/0117	Mr J Evans Lakelands, Merthyr Road,	One 3 bed & one 4 bed detached dwellings (2 in total) with elevated patio areas over garaging,

	Tafarnaubach.	Lakelands, Merthyr Road.

No Objections.

2015/0118	BGCBC Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.	Proposed external refurbishment, re: roofing/fascia/soffits and rain water goods, and retention of external insulation, 14-18 Upper Salisbury Street.

No Objections.

d) Other Planning Matters
None received.

367) Correspondence
1**) BGCBC** (a) C. Ashby Re: Fountain Inn – Works have taken place in the grounds to create an animal pen but no works undertaken on buildings. Will liaise with F. Olding on his return from annual leave to discuss the current state of disrepair of the building.

Received. Members gave an update on the history of the Inn.
Cllr. M. Cross arrived at this point.
It was agreed to write to Ms Ashby thanking her for her diligence. Thanks were also given to those Members who had visited the site.

(b) M. Howland Re: Review of Acquisition & Disposals Policy – the Thomas Richards Centre update - reports are currently being prepared to declare the property surplus and to dispose of.

Received. It was once again agreed that conditions should be placed on the sale of this building to prevent it from being demolished. Please see item c which follows. Members noted that Mr. Alun Davies AM for Blaenau Gwent was currently supporting legislation to enable a list of buildings of local interest to be initiated. It was agreed to write to the Borough Council questioning whether this building could be put on such a list and that conditions preventing its demolition be attached to the sale.

(c) D. Ware Re: Update on Rural Development Programme. Copies of the Local Development plan up to 2021 available in the Office. NB P66/67 Built environment – I have copied these pages which refer to the compilation of a local list of buildings that although not listed are considered of significant local importance by virtue of their historic, cultural or architectural merit.

Received. See item b above too.

(d) F. Williams Service Manager Regeneration Services Re: Town Centre Commercial bookings policy. An application pack for funding will be received shortly.

Received. It was agreed that as soon as the application pack was received it should be completed with a request for funding towards the Town Toilets.

(e) Licensing Applications week ending 27.3.15.

Received.

(f) £1000 grant from Tredegar Members of BGCBC.

Received with thanks. It was noted that this was a contribution towards the Christmas lighting costs and that it should be put on to the web-site and duly acknowledged.

2) Carillion a) Copy of email sent to Clive Rogers (BGCBC) regarding organising a walk prior to opening, from Dukestown cemetery to Llangynidr Road.

b) Cllr. A. Tippings had previously requested this as a sponsored walk. Requesting to meet with TTC & BGCBC Mayor to discuss & co-ordinate event.

c) C. Meredith (Carillion) Happy to meet, asking if Alyson wishes to take this on.

d) C. Rogers (BGCBC Engineering) Agrees for Corporate Communications BGCBC to take this on and jointly liaise.

Items a-d received. All Members welcomed the idea and the enthusiastic response of all parties.

3) One Voice Wales a) Motions for 2015 Annual Conference/AGM – invitation to propose 2 motions for debate at the AGM on 3.10.15. Submission no later than noon Thursday 30th April 2015.

Received. To be put on the Agenda for discussion.

b) Response regarding Commercial Christmas.

Received.

c) Assets of Community Value. Written statement from the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty link available on:
http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatement/2015/assetscommunityvalue/?skip=1&lang=en
Received.

d) Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 7pm Town Council Offices, Bedwellty House – copied to Cllrs TS/RW/MO'S. Clerk to query refreshments

Received. It was agreed that refreshments be provided by Town Council via the House Catering Dept.

e) Review of designated Landscapes in Wales – Welsh Government is seeking evidence from stakeholders regarding designated landscape governance. Evidence to be submitted by 29.5.15.

Received.

4) Gwent Police Vicki Townsend BG Inspector – requesting meeting date with Council.

Received. It was agreed to meet with Insp. Townsend at the Ordinary Meeting in May on the 20th. In the meantime Members highlighted problems on the Ysgoborwen Estate and it was agreed to write to Insp. Townsend seeking urgent action and also to write to the Director of Communities and Housing at Tai Calon, Mr Andrew Myatt to bring this to his attention.

5) Welsh Govt. Re Honours nomination – requesting update.

Received – information to be given to the Leader.

6) Aneurin Leisure Trust Cath Hares and Team Bedwellty – Thanks for the financial support for the refurbishment of the Orchid House Tea Room which has been a huge success.

Received. The Clerk had already sent and e-mail congratulating the Manager and Staff on the success of an event on 1st April. It was agreed that an official letter be sent congratulating the Bedwellty House team on the success being enjoyed by the House. It was agreed also to check whether this continued success might impact on the use of the Carriage House during the Concert Season and whether the Assembly Room might be used as a wet weather option for the Concerts.

7) Gwent Archives Deposit of Records – Terms of Deposit.

Received and welcomed.

8) Fr. J Davis St Georges Church has received a grant of £76000 from the Government's "Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund". Now well on their way (£200,000 to date) to achieving their £375,000 target.

Received.

9) Community Housing Cymru Group

Seminar with Julian Dobson, author of the book "How to save our town centres"

at Cardiff University Tuesday 28th April 2015.
Received – copy to Leader and Mayor.

10) GAVO Funding bulletin 11.3.15.
Received.

11) Cllr T Smith Approving office closure over Easter
Received.

12) Eisteddfod Yr Urdd Details of Council sponsorship
Received. Write with thanks for the acknowledgement.

13) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC Road works report week ending 27.3.15 & 3.4.15. Local Councils Update issue 183 (Crackdown on illegal fly tipping copied for Members. Also contains the updated info re Audit Regs 2015)
Available for Members

14) AGENDA
Special Meeting of the Council Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 23rd March 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 23rd March 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, Report for Item No. 5; Audit Committee Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – report for Item No. 8(a); Audit Committee Tuesday 24th March 2015 – report for agenda item No. 8; Special General Licensing Committee Monday 30th March 2015 at 10am – CANCELLED; Executive Committee Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee 1.4.15 – agenda item No. 11 WITHDRAWN; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for Members.

368) Matters of Local Interest and concern.
a) Blaenau Gwent Training Centre Tafarnaubach.
Members had been informed of rumours regarding the future of the Training Centre which was believed to be in danger of closing. It was noted that at a time when training was so important to the young people of Tredegar and with the promise of the Circuit of Wales, the Training Centre was more important for the future of the Town than ever. It was agreed to write to the Regeneration Division of Blaenau Gwent seeking clarification.

b) Works to the Town Centre
It was noted that there had been a successful meeting with a local group relating to work in the Archway and further information would be forthcoming.

c) Town Centre Toilets.
It was agreed that the Toilets would, like many of the shops, be closed for Bank Holidays. The Leader to inform those concerned.

d) Flying Start at Rhoslan School – Members welcomed the opening of this facility, but noted once again that the Mayor of Tredegar Town Council had not been invited to attend.

369) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
a) Concerts 2015
A number of items were discussed, suggestions for choirs and Bands put forward.
b) Members were concerned that the smoke alarms were not working in the Chamber (Clerk to enquire)

Cllr. A. Tippings left at this point.

b) Artefacts – it was noted that the keys to the lock-up had still not been returned and it was agreed to contact Commercial Christmas once again.

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

i) Joint Committee of Local Councils. – Questions regarding the budget had been put forward by the JCLC and the Secretary was told to attend a "let's Talk" presentation by the Borough. Members concerned that the Borough is not taking questions from the JCLC seriously and not adhering to the Charter Agreement, which is a legal document. Since the retirement of Mr. Alwyn Holland , no new point of contact had been established.

ii) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – problems with the location noted. Also that the next meeting was scheduled for Tredegar.

iii) Tredegar Twinning Association. – a proposal was made and agreed to send the Commemorative Bench to Orvault if at all possible. The Chair of Twinning to be contacted and a plaque to be made.

iv) School Governing Bodies.

a) Bryn Bach – excellent report from IESTYN, reports that the Head Teacher is well supported by the whole Board of Governors of which Cllr Tipping is the Chair.

b) Georgetown – the new representative is due to attend a Governor raining session, reports of bullying had been swiftly dealt with.

c) Glanhowy – It was noted that this year is their 100th Anniversary. As far as the banding queries were concerned it was agreed that this was a new system and that a period of time should be allowed for it to settle in.

v) Tredegar Business Forum – it was noted that this organisation is being reformed.

vi) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Members noted that the Service for the event in August was being held at Saron Chapel, with a possible procession past the Clock.

vii) Brighter Tredegar it was noted that Cllrs. Cross, Morgan and H. Trollope had been appointed – further information in due course.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

_____Chair