TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 17th December 2014 at 6.30pm

Present Cllrs: R. Watkins
T. Smith
A. Tippings
M. Cross
B. Willis
H. Trollope
R.W. Thomas
P. Prosser
D. Howells
G. Bowen-Knight
J. Thomas

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

New Councillor, Cllr. Jacqueline Thomas of Central and West was warmly welcomed as she took her seat at her first Meeting of Council.

246) Apologies. Cllr. J. Morgan**:** G. Meredith: S. Trollope: O. Price: D. Rowberry and M. Cross.

247) Declarations of Interest.
The Mayor reminded Members to make declarations at the appropriate point.

248) To receive Chief Inspector Matthew Williams who will answer questions and provide Members with updates of recent operations.
The Inspector unfortunately had to cancel his visit.

249) a) To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.
Completed end of grant form from the Heads of the Valleys Gateway Club and Sirhowy Senior Citizens.

Tredegar Ironsides RFC – A grant of £200 was approved.
Tredegar Moose No. 1 Ladies Circle – A grant of £200 was approved.
Tredegar Twinning Association – A grant of £200 was approved.

b) Churches & Chapels (s.137) - None Received.

250) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in December 2014.
The RFO reminded Members that Bank reconciliations were available for all Members to inspect.
Quiz Wizards – it was noted that the winners of the competition had very kindly donated their winnings back to the Mayor's Appeal. The Mayor was to return the cheques and monies raised to the office.
The RFO reported to Members that the Leader had had the unfortunate experience of losing his wallet. This had duly reported to the Police and he had received a crime number. Unfortunately the wallet contained all the receipts for the gifts and expenditure for the Christmas lights Switch-On. The Leader had supplied a list of that expenditure and Council are to confirm whether they accept this as a true record of the expenditure in

the absence of the receipts. This was proposed by Cllr. H. Trollope and seconded by Cllr. Willis and agreed unanimously by a show of hands.
There was a query regarding the cost of the Night Out Scheme and the RFO was asked to query prior to payment.

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

a) Minutes of the Staffing Committee of 17th November 2014.
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19th November 2014.
c) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting of 26th November 2014.
d) Minutes of a meeting of the Publicity Committee held on 3rd December 2014
e) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 3rd December 2014.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

252) Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Staffing – Minute No 216 – to add Cllr Tippings apologies.
Minute No 218 – to add that the Code of Conduct should apply to staff and that this was another matter to be referred to the Staffing Committee.
b) Ordinary – i) Minute No 225 1 – Parlour - to arrange an urgent meeting of the Construction Committee.
ii) Minute No 227 (3) Duoguard – It was agreed that the Construction Co. meet to review quotes for CCTV.
c) Events – A meeting to be called to de-brief the Switch-On Event, with stallholders being asked for their comments in writing with the comperes and sound system manager being invited to attend.
This to also discuss Quiz Wizards (trophies) Lights (over Xmas) and the Xmas Eve visits.
d) Publicity – another meeting of the publicity committee to be called to make progress on the Newsletter and Guide. The Clerk confirmed that the Camera Club had been approached to take photos of the Christmas Lights in readiness.
e) Civic – Minute No 236 – it was agreed to invite the AM and MP to speak to Council at least once a year.
Minute No 239 – the Risk Assessment for the toilets was received.
Minute No 243 (5a) – Grant funding for toilets to chase up. It was noted that it may be necessary to set up an "arms length" organisation to run the toilets on behalf of Council.
Minute No 243 (8) – Members raised the human rights issue in Myanmar.
The Clerk informed Members that a Poppy which had been part of the installation at the Tower of London had been offered to Council by Paul and Anita Latham. It was agreed to accept their kind offer and invite them to the next Presentation Evening to be held by Council where their gift could be received.

253) Chair to sign Minutes – this he agreed to do at a later date to make progress with the Meeting.

254) Ogilvies's WW1 Commemorative Bench – To agree the purchase at £535 + VAT

There were some concerns regarding the cut-out design on the back of the bench, the Clerk was to check if any permissions were required to site two benches near the War Memorial.

255) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) P. Miles Re: Proposed sale of the Thomas Richards Centre – Plans to be disposed of in early 2015 as now declared surplus to requirements. Any comments/objections to be received by Friday 9th January 2015.

Received. It was agreed that Council should seek restrictions on the sale of the building to ensure that it was not demolished. It was noted that this was an appropriate time to seek restrictions rather than wait for any application for planning. (to write to CADW, Planning and Heritage Officer)

(b) Education: Mrs Lynette Jones to visit Bryn Bach and discuss with the Headteacher.

Received. Concerns noted again regarding the continuing dangers at the School. It was noted that appropriate fencing was in place outside Glanhowy School and that this was what was required on

this site. It was agreed to write to Cllr. K. Hayden, Executive Member and request a site meeting – preferably during the busiest times of day.

(c) D. Morris - Confirmation that me Anthony Hughes will meet Council on Wednesday 21st January 2015.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales Buckingham Palace invite for Tuesday 12th May, Wednesday 20th May and Thursday 28th May 2015 – MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL THREE DATES.

Received – outgoing Mayor to attend.

3) Cllr. Bowen-Knight Copy of e-mail to House Manager regarding the lift. Update from House Manager – a new part is being manufactured and the lift should be in working order for re-opening after Xmas.

Received – the Cllr noted that he had not received a response.

Cllr. H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and took no part.

4) 2167 (Tredegar) ATC Squadron

They will need to vacate their building, from the beginning of January 2015, for an unspecified period of time whilst renovation work is carried. They are asking whether Council would be able to assist them with the storage of their equipment.

Received. It was agreed that Cllrs H. Trollope and G. Meredith meet the Squadron to discuss.

5) Gwent High Sheriffs' Community Fund

Details of grant funding available to community groups, voluntary organisations and local charities up to £3500 in association with Local Neighbourhood Policing Team – **closing date 31st January 2015(copied to Cefn Golau TARA, STAR, Youth Café)**

Received. Copied to all Members.

6) Older People's Commissioner For Wales

Inviting individuals and organisations to join Ageing Well in Wales. This is a national incentive bringing together individuals and communities with public and voluntary sectors to develop and promote innovative and practical ways to make Wales a good place to grow older.

Received.

7) Ebenezer Independent Chapel

Thanks for the beautiful Christmas Lights this year.

Received. With thanks.

8) Public Conveniences:-

Cllr Smith (i) Signage being fitted Saturday 13.12.14.

(ii) Toilet roll dispenser has been damaged in the gents making the cubical unusable.

Received. Thanks expressed to Cllr Willis and son for their help with repairs. The need for CCTV was highlighted.

9) Cllr Tippings Email Re Cynefrin Project previously brought to Council's attention: Advert for 2 posts with SevernWye Energy Agency for the Tredegar and Llandrindod Wells areas (details available for anyone who may be interested)

Received. Members noted that the work they had put in to the Climate Change programme had benefited the community and possible helped with the creation of a job in Tredegar.

10) AB Public Health Team

Sheena Jones – Launch of the "Living Well, Living Longer" programme in Blaenau Gwent. The First Minister will be attending a launch here in Bedwellty

House at 10am on Monday 12th January 2015. Invite for Mayor and Leader to attend – wants to know if there are other people we feel they should contact.

Received. It was agreed that Council approach a gentleman who was a resident in a local nursing home who knew Aneurin Bevan and recounted many tales about him. This would be done during the Mayors Xmas visits.

11) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadwork Report week ending 12/12/14; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens pratique #160 December 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 19.12.14. Panorama de Presse Dec 2014

Available for all Members

12) **AGENDA**

BGCBC: Advance notice Special General Licensing Committee Thursday 15th January 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Service & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Thursday 11th December 2014 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Monday 15th December 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 17th December 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 18th December 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 18th December 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 17th December 2014 – Item No. 9 Withdrawn & Item No. 17 Report; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting Thursday 18.12.14 Tredegar Library at 9.30am

Available for all Members

Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest and took no part in the Planning section.

256) Planning:

a) Officers Report - None received.

b) Applications: -

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0364	Ms J Leddington 132 Beaufort Road Tredegar.	Single storey side extension
No Objections		
2014/0376	Mr G Ford 40 Tynewydd, Tredegar.	Retention of new vehicle access, hard-standing and boundary enclosure.

No Objections as such – so long as the neighbours have no concerns about the height of the fence.

Resubmitted at the request of Members for further discussion:-

2014/0342	Mr D Hughes Overlook House Georgetown Hill	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 & gates, land adjacent to Brynheulog, Pochin.

Additional information from Clerk re planning application and contacts with Planning Dept. It was agreed to object on the grounds of visual intrusion, not in keeping with the rural location, danger to traffic on the highway and contamination.

c) Other Planning Matters – A member of the public has queried the cladding being put on the retaining walls on the Tredegar roundabout section of the A465 and whether it is a "work in progress" or if that is the final product.

It was noted by Members that there would be no further work on the cladding.

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

a) Office - Xmas Closing – It was agreed that the Office would be closed from Noon on Xmas Eve and re-open on 5th January 2015.

b) Items for inclusion next Consultation Meeting with Town and Community Councils (15.01.15) - to be received by Noon Tuesday 6th January 2015.

c) Mayors Board to be updated.

d) World War I commemoration – a Member had seen plaques commemorating Jewish families who had been killed during the Holocaust on pavements outside their houses. She suggested that this might be possible with the people listed on the War Memorial. It was agreed that a special Meeting should be called to schedule events to commemorate WWI.

e) Mayors visits were clarified.

f) Xmas Lights – a report had been received from the contractors via the Leader. It was agreed that a site visit with the contractors be called (after 4pm) as a matter of urgency.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

_____Chair