TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ordinary Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs A. Tippings (who took the Chair in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
T. Smith
D. Howells
D. Rowberry
G. Bowen-Knight
R W Thomas
B. Willis
S. Trollope
H. Trollope (arrived later)
M. Cross

Also Present: Ms. C Keane – Clerk
Mrs. A. Jones – RFO

219) Apologies: Cllr. R. Watkins, G. Meredith, J. Morgan, P. Prosser, O. Price and M. O'Sullivan

220) Declarations of Interest.
The Chair reminded Member to note their declarations of interest at the appropriate point.

221) <u>GRANTS</u> - Approval required for payment as part of this month's Schedule of Payments.

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

Completed End of Grant forms received from Tredegar Twinning Association and Tredegar Moose No. 1 Ladies Circle.

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre – A grant of £100 agreed and approved
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – A grant of £50 agreed and approved.
Bryn Bach Model Boat Club –A grant of £200 agreed and approved.
Sirhowy Senior Citizens Association – A grant of £200 agreed and approved.

Deferred for a Civic Sub-Committee Committee:-
Southend Allotment Association.
Vale View Allotment Association.
Oak FC.
Tredegar History Archive.
In total, we have six associations to meet with the Civic Sub-Committee – It was agreed to agenda a meeting of the Civic Sub Committee at 4pm on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

b) <u>Grants to Churches and Chapels</u>
Tredegar Methodist Church – a grant of £225 agreed and approved.
Tredegar Trinity Spiritualist Church – A grant of £225 agreed and approved.

222) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2014.
It was noted by the RFO that Bank reconciliations were available for all Members.
The invoices and cheques having previously been inspected and reconciled by Members were agreed.
A Member mentioned that the Town Council motif on the wreaths laid at the War Memorial were larger than before and the poppies hid part of the Town Council logo, this was to be relayed to the RBL.
The RFO had prepared a breakdown of costs associated with each allotment over the past five years, as had been previously requested, and this was received by Council.
Mrs. Jones was thanked for her attendance and best wishes expressed for her forthcoming exams. She then left.

223) To receive Mr Anthony Hughes MD of Life, Leisure Trust who will answer questions posed by Members.
Mr Hughes did not attend Council, neither did he offer any apologies beforehand. The Meeting continued.

224) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting of 15th October 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 15th October 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
c) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting of 22nd October 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
d) Minutes of the Staffing Committee of 27th October 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
e) Minutes of a meeting of the Convenience Working Party held on 3rd November 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
f) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 5th November 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
g) Notes of a Meeting with Mr Tim Lewis of Commercial Christmas held on 12th November 2014.

225) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Performance Review – No matters arising
b) Ordinary Meeting of 15th October 2014
1) The Mayors Parlour – Construction committee to move forward.
2) Min No 188 1a)Street Lighting – concerns expressed at the length of time lights have been out in Morgan Street. A number of Members expressed concern about other areas which were also affected. Discussion then moved to the proposed reduction in street lighting due to budget cuts. Members noted that a number of key personnel employed by the local Borough Council had taken voluntary redundancy which seemed to have had repercussions with the loss of local knowledge.
3) Min No 188 5b) Following a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent it was agreed to invite the local Inspector (or Sergeant)to a Meeting each month – not necessarily to put questions but to give them the opportunity to keep Members updated, it was agreed to invite the Ch. Inspector on 17th December 2014.
4) Min No 188 7) The Clerk informed Members that payment to Members as prescribed under the Independent Remuneration Panel guidelines would come from the Precept payment.
c) Events Co Meeting 22nd October 2014
1) Min No 195) It was noted that Mr Karl Hale was ill and it was agreed to contact a volunteer at Bedwellty House to ask if he could step in.
2) The Leader asked the fact that the installation of the Christmas Lights had not commenced on 20th October as promised, to be noted.
3) It was agreed to print A5 version of the posters for Schools, to place banners in prominent positions and to retrieve the old banners from storage.

4) Min No 197 Cairn Visit – thanks were given to all those who attended in truly appalling weather, with thanks to Rev Les Jones and Horeb Chapel at Trefil and Members for refreshments.
5) Min No 197 Remembrance Sunday- All Members noted that there had been a huge turn-out for the Service – with St. Georges being full to capacity with people standing at the rear of the Church. The Parade was one of the biggest for some time and the crowds that were waiting at the Memorial Gates to the Park and around the War Memorial were bigger that seen for many years. The number of young people and school who had come to take part in the Service of Commemoration and the Wreath Laying was exceptional.
Special thanks were given to the Ladies Section of Moose International Tredegar Lodge No 1 who provided refreshment for everyone at the Moose Hall afterwards.

d) Staffing Co Meeting 27th October 2014

a) It was agreed to agenda for the next Meeting the role of Leader and Mayor.
b) It was noted that the Acting Clerk had not been paid for opening the Clock in August.

e) Convenience Working Party 3rd November

The Chair informed Members that the signs ordered had been received and delivered by her, together with the clip frames, ready to be erected.
Thanks were given to all Members who had made it possible to open the toilets with special thanks expressed to Cllrs Smith and Willis.
The re-opening of the facilities had been welcomed by all, especially the local taxi drivers. It was agreed that a photo shoot take place with the Mayor when the signs are erected.

f) Civic Committee 5th November

1) Min No 208 – Allotments – the Clerk advised Members that no notes or Minutes of meetings held with the Allotment Associations during her absence, could be found. The Chair of the Meeting informed her that they had offered help to set up Constitutions and that the Associations were then to be invited back to Council.
2) a) Min No 211 (1) Quiz Wizards – Members were reminded that this was the 3rd week of competition and encouraged to support
b) Min No 211 (5) Pathway – Member again expressed concern that the pathway near the garage had no barriers. They noted that Carillion were more than happy to put up the barriers but faced opposition from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. A letter from the Head Teacher to the Head of Technical Services was read to all Members which powerfully highlighted the dangers and the plea to ensure a designated safe route. It was agreed to support and write again to all those involved.
3) a) Min No 213 1 (d) – Cartef Aneurin Bevan and Thomas Richard – a Member reminded all present that the power of Council rests with the elected Members and not the officers. It was agreed to press Tredegar Members of the Borough further for their support.
b) Min No 213 1 (e) X4 Bus route – Members were not happy with the comments from the bus company. It was noted that Tredegar did not have a direct route to Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan and it was agreed to write to Mr Coombs at BGCBC and also to copy the letter to the AM and MP.
4) Min No 214 (1) Mayors Parlour – it was noted that the Convenience Committee would now progress works. It was further noted that the original design had been amended – removing the ceiling panel and lights from the requirements.
A Member suggested that a list of approved contractors be put together but this was not finalised. It was noted that the work carried out to the roof of the Bandstand was not sufficient and it was agreed to write to CADW.
5) Min No 215 (ii) Bryn Bach Primary – it was noted that there had been a 100% attendance record.

g) Notes of a Meeting with Mr Tim Lewis of Commercial Christmas held on 12th November 2014.

A copy of the notes prepared by the Clerk were available for all Members to inspect and follow:

Notes of a Meeting with Mr Tim Lewis of Commercial Christmas held on Wednesday 12th November 2014

Present: Cllrs Watkins, Smith and H. Trollope
Also present: Ms. C. M. Keane – Town Clerk

A meeting had been hurriedly arranged to discuss progress on the installation of the Festive Lighting – rather lack of it.
Conversations between the Clerk and Mr. Lewis had been relayed to Members over the past two weeks with varying start dates being given and then not met.

Cllr.Trollope asked Mr Lewis what problems they had with regard to the installation.
It appeared that the main problem had been the insistence by Mr. Weeks of BGCBC Lighting Dept that they have the Western Power HERS qualification in addition to the widely accepted G39 certificates.

Cllr. Smith did make the point that this requirement had been discussed during the earliest meeting with the Company.

Mr Lewis stated the following:
It would take 3 – 4 hours to connect all the lamp-posts
They would get the HERS qualification and that if this wasn't possible they would use a contractor from Carmarthenshire who did have the qualification.
He confirmed that the installation would begin on Sunday 16th and be complete by 21st November 2014 – this he guaranteed. Cllr Smith gave Mr. Lewis his mobile number so that he could be kept up to date with any developments over the weekend, which he could relay to fellow Members who may raise queries during visits to town.
He stated that the installation would take 3 days max. and that they would install the bespoke motif and supply two motifs either side of the bespoke.

Mr Lewis was advised that the Switch-on would take place on Friday 28th November at 6pm and that the lights would be required between the hours of 4pm and 1am.

He was also requested if it would be possible to make a connection between a lamp-post on the corner near the Cambrian so that the power could be used for the Switch-On event – he agreed to take a look at this. NB Clerk had approached the Cambrian to supply power.

He also agreed to check the connection between the lamp-post outside the Park Gate and the two real trees.

The following actions were agreed by Mr Lewis and his signature was attached to a document to be kept in the Lighting file:

1) Installation to be completed by 21st November 2014
2) Will erect bespoke sign and supply motifs either side.
3) To check the lamp-post outside the Park that supplies the real trees.
4) Switch on would be on Friday 28th November at 6pm.
5) Lights would be on from 4pm until 1am. each day.
6) Will attend within 24Hrs for emergencies.
7) Will guarantee to be on site on 28th November and that the full installation would be working on the night.

Mr. Lewis was supplied with the keys to the Town Clock which he had copied and returned to the Clerk

Christine Keane
Town Clerk 13th November 2014

The Leader related the details of the Meeting which will now be included in the Minutes. He also noted that Mr Lewis had signed the agreement stated above.

He then went on to explain that the work had not been carried not on time. Further Xmas trees erected on In Trim were the wrong size. This had been explained by Mr Lewis as a mistake by his contractors which would be corrected.
Further contacts had been made and assurances made by Mr Lewis broken again and again.
Members expressed great disappointment at the performance so far. Those present at the meeting with Mr Lewis had made their feelings very clear at the time. It was further agreed to meet Mr Lewis.

226) To specify the requirements of a Newsletter and Town Guide to enable the RFO to seek appropriate quotations. To agree the formation of a Task and Finish Group to compile content.
It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the Publicity Committee of Council, to meet as soon as possible.
(Clerks Note – this had been incorporated into the Events sub-Committee)

227) <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>

Cllrs Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in this first item and took no part.
1) BGCBC List of Licencing Applications week ending 7.11.14.
Received.

2) Gavo Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards 27.11.14 at 7pm Ebbw Vale Institute – 4 tickets.
Received – it was agreed that the Mayor and Deputy and their partners/wives attend if possible.

3) Duoguard Quotation for CCTV system to be sited external to the public conveniences and details of callout charges or maintenance contract option.
Received. It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the Construction Committee.

4) Gwent Police Re: James Street parking issues – have spoken to the community centre caretaker and she has raised the matter with the centre users.
Received.

5) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Re: Never So Innocent Book launch – Friday 6.2.15 between 11am & 3pm at Vitec Building, light buffet lunch provided. Event is being financed by the Heritage Forum as part of the area's 1914-18 Remembrance activities – Invitation to Mayor and 3 other Town Council Members to attend.
Received, Members nominated to attend.

6) National Joint Council for Local Government Services
2014-16 Payscales & Allowances applicable for 1st January 2015.
It was agreed to agenda this item for Council.

7) Welsh Water Invoice for Southend Allotment site. – Instruction required from Members of the Allotments Working Party for the procedure relating to payment.
Received. It was agreed that the address be amended with Welsh Water and that the Allotment Association pay directly.

8) Welsh Government Trunk Road Speed Limit Review – Request for attached questionnaire to be completed with regards to the A465 Trunk road and return by 27.11.14.
Received, it was agreed to forward to Sirhowy Ward Members for their comments.

9) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
(a) BBNP Local Development Plan (Adopted December 2013) Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes available for public consultation from

6.11.14 to 8.1.15 at http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/? (hard copy received)

Received

(b) Re: BBNPA Town & Community Council Liaison – Asking Councils in the south boundary of the Park, as attendance from these areas have been poor at previous meetings, whether they would be interested in a meeting with BBNPA this Autumn/Winter.

Received – It was agreed not to meet.

(c) John Cook (Chief Executive) & Chris Morgan (Director of Planning) are visiting Community Council meetings to discuss any issues or concerns. If Council wishes them to attend a meeting please make arrangements with Jean Packer Tel: 01874 620469.

Received – it was noted that Council had previously met with them.

10) Go Green Information leaflet on Green Initiatives including Cynnal Cymru Sustain Wales.

Received.

11) Natural Resources Wales

Trees in Wales' Towns & Cities – summary of the urban trees studies.

Received (given to Cllr Thomas).

12) **PUBLICATIONS**

War Memorial Trust Bulletin Number 63 November 2014; Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #159 November 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 14.11.14; BGCBC Road works report week ending 21.11.14; Communicorp Local Councils Update November 2014 Issue 179; One Voice Wales Gwent Area Committee Meeting – response from John Harrison of Natural Resources Wales.

Available for all Members

13) **AGENDA**

Education & Skills, Tuesday 11th November 2014 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Item No. 6 replacement report; Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Thursday 13th November 2014 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Thursday 13th November 2014 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Item No. 5 Item withdrawn; Special Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Friday 21st November 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Minutes of the Meeting held 16.10.14 and agenda for meeting on Thursday 20th November 2014 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 24th November 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 26th November 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for all Members

228) Planning: There were no Planning Matters to be considered

229) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) Members were asked to note that Siloh Uniting Church are holding a Messy Church Nativity Sheep Trail involving local shops in Tredegar.

2) One of the quarries in Trefil previously used for filming was to be sold by auction in the New Year.

3) Concerns were expressed about the services some pharmacies were offering and it was agreed to write to the Local Health Board with our concerns.

4) A Member expressed concerns relating to the safety of the Truck Shop where it appeared that the roof was leaning towards the road despite the scaffolding holding it up – it was agreed to contact Building Control and the Heritage Officer as a matter of urgency.

5) The Leader responded to an e-mail sent by the Clerk to advise of a SAG meeting regarding the Lights Switch-On which was scheduled for outside her normal working hours the next day. In it she had requested permission to attend and that the person who would be running the event on the night accompany her. Following discussion and with the situation relating to staff hours still unresolved pending discussions between staff, Union and Council, the Clerk declined to work the night of the Switch-on, but agreed to change her hours the following day to attend the meeting. It was agreed that this matter be discussed further at a further Staffing Committee Meeting.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm

_____Chair.