TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ordinary Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 6.30pm

Present Cllrs: **R. Watkins**
G. Meredith
T. Smith
A. Tippings
P. Prosser
D. Howells
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
G. Bowen-Knight
J. Morgan
M. O'Sullivan

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

350) Apologies: **H. Trollope; S. Trollope; R W Thomas and O Price**
The Deputy Mayor Chaired the meeting at the request of the Mayor.

351) Declarations of Interest.
The chair reminded Members to make declarations at the appropriate point on the agenda

352) Grants:
Thanks received from Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity.

Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137
Cllr. A. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the declarations or voting thereon.
Tredegar Christians Together – A grant of £200.00 was approved.

Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Association – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Tredegar Netball Club Senior Ladies – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Tredegar Thespian Players – A grant of £200.00 was approved.

Grants to Churches and Chapels
Cllr. Tippings declared an interest in the following two items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon
Horeb Chapel – A grant of £225.00 was approved.
Sardis Chapel – A grant of £225.00 was approved.

Siloh Baptist Church – Recommendation of £225.00.

353) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in March 2015.
The RFO noted that bank reconciliations were available for Members to inspect.

The RFO pointed out that there were some adjustments to be made regarding a small additional cost to the CCTV bill (for shelving) and that there were still queries relating to payments relating to Xmas lighting (plenary powers were granted to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Leader and Deputy Leader to finalise. Council Tax payments relating to the public conveniences were still to be clarified.
It was agreed to review web site provision.
The accounts having previously been reconciled and inspected by Members were then approved.

354) To receive Ms. Bobby Bolt Deputy Chief Operating Officer of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to make a presentation on the "Living Well, Living Longer" programme.
Members welcomed Ms. Bolt and received an interesting presentation on the new campaign launched by the Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething AM. The purpose of the campaign was to encourage patients less well known to local G.P's to a special assessment during which many varied checks would be made making it possible for early intervention which could result in a more positive outcome for them. There had been a positive uptake so far. She estimated that of 12000 patients in the local area 3000 were already known to doctors and that the balance of 9000 people would be invited to attend this monitoring programme. It was noted that Communities First had completed a similar exercise and Ms. Bolt stated that they would be working closely with Communities First so that a healthy lifestyle could become the normal lifestyle.
Cllr. J. Morgan arrived at this point.
Ms. Bolt continued that it was the seldom seen, seldom heard section of the Community that they hoped to involve in the programme which had received funding for 3 years. She noted that the assessments would be undertaken by trained care workers and that at the moment the programme was being rolled out gradually so that they could meet demand.
Members welcomed the new programme and wished Ms. Bolt every success.

355) Commemorative Benches: To receive recommendations from each Ward regarding a suitable location for the siting of a bench to commemorate World War I (similar to that in the Hallway).
Members suggested the following locations:
Sirhowy Green on Beaufort Road
Church Street (to contact Tai Calon re ownership)
Peacehaven (Cllr JM to contact Peacehaven TARA)
It was agreed that it would be a better option to replace existing benches with the memorial benches to ease any planning concerns.

356) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Publicity Task and Finish Group held on 18th February 2015
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18th February 2015
c) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 4th March 2015
d) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting held on 9th March 2015
The Minutes were received and noted as a true record.

357) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Publicity – no matters arising
b) Ordinary 18th February
i) Minute No 331 – Public Conveniences – it was noted that problems had been experienced with the flushes in the ladies and Cllr. B W was to deal with this problem.
It was noted that alternative arrangements would need to be made regarding opening times and it was agreed that Cllr. TS approach the Business Forum to seek their assistance.
ii) Minute No. 333 (5) it was noted that a Planning Aid event was to be held in Tredegar and Members of the Planning Committee together with the Leader and Mayor attend with Cllrs AT and JT attending if possible.
iii) Minute No 333 (6a) The Leader asked for his apologies to be sent.
iv) Minute No. 333 (9) The Deputy Leader announced that he would host the Walk for Life on Sunday 3rd May at Parc Bryn Bach commencing at 3pm. It was noted that a Member knew someone who had had a

transplant and was willing to volunteer their story and that this would be a good opportunity to highlight the new "presumed consent" for organ donations due to start in Wales in December 2015.
v) Minute No 333 (11) It was noted that a local film maker was to take children from Pen-y-Cwm School to Poland to take part in a film.
c) Civic – 4th March 2015
i) Minute No 341 (1a) – It was confirmed that the JCLC pre meeting would be hosted by Tredegar Town Council.
ii) Minute No 341 (8) – Mr. Davidge's offer to perform at the Christmas Lights Switch On had been accepted and he had been notified.
iii) Minute No 342 – Commercial Christmas
There had been no response from Commercial Christmas and it was agreed that the Clerk make further enquiries relating to the references supplied by the Company. All Members agreed that no further payment be made to the Company until the signs which had been damaged in Commercial Street and Castle Street had been repaired. It was noted that the Directors had returned from a visit abroad and that the Clerk should approach them seeking further proposals and that an urgent Meeting of the Events Committee be held on 9th March 2015 and recommendations be made to this Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th March.
Following this it was resolved that no further payment be made until satisfactory repairs had been made and that alternative enquiries be made.
iv) Minute No 344 – Memorabilia – the Museum had welcomed the offer of the Central Surgery window, the Gown and cap and a wooden model of the Clock but a full list of items and locations was to be assembled.

358) Chair to sign Minutes

359) To consider the Members response to the Welsh Government White Paper Devolution, Democracy and Delivery, Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People(due by 28th April 2015. Copies of Chapters 4 & 5 previously sent to all Members)
The Clerk began by withdrawing her report to council made at the Ordinary Meeting on 18th February 2015. Members of Council had scrutinised the report and formulated a response to be passed on to One Voice Wales.
Their findings were:
That although welcome the report was in parts badly worded and only the sections that were felt relevant to Town Councils were examined. It was felt that the Paper related not only to Council members at all levels but also to staff to ensure that training across the board reflected the need to ensure that the delivery of services was delivered in the best, most cost effective way.
Members raised the question of the cost of training and felt that if Welsh Government were asking for Members to be trained then they should bear the costs.
The question of amalgamating community Councils was discussed and Members felt that this would be reverting back to an Urban District Council style of government with more responsibility being placed on the Community Councils.
The current "make-up" of Community Councils was acknowledged as being imbalanced and it suggested ways of removing barriers faced by younger people and those in employment. It was noted that although many employers gave time off to Councillors at all levels there might be an impact on smaller businesses and a level of compensation from Welsh Government was suggested.
Cllr. J. Morgan left at this point.
In relation to time limits for Councillors, it was felt that performance related reviews taking into account achievements was preferred.
Members noted that no portion of business rates was given to Town Councils who supported businesses in their community. Although the Paper states that precept rose by 88% between 2002-2012 it did not clarify why.
With regard to the Competency tests Members felt that this might mean that Clerks with many years of experience were discarded and that in order to become a "Competent Council" where amalgamation was not possible then the easy way to qualify with a £200,000 Precept would be simply to raise it to that level.
The Paper did not mention areas that were not covered by Community Councils. It was felt that Councillors could sit on both Community and Borough Councils in the same way the MP's and MEP's did.

It was felt that the Paper addressed the questions in the wrong way and should have started at the top level of Government working downwards. It was felt to have been ill conceived and that prior to writing the report they should have been better informed as to the work carried out by Members of Town and Community Councils.

Cllr. Rowberry left at this point.

360) Correspondence

1) One Voice Wales

(a) Welsh Government Natural Resource Management Bulletin Issue 19, February 2015.

Received.

(b) Natural Resources Wales "Come on Board" events explaining how new Board Members are appointed.

Received.

(c) Resource Efficient Wales – Advice & information on energy, waste and water.

Received.

(d) Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales – Board Member opportunity and Spring Newsletter.

Received.

(e) Consultations on Council Tax Exemptions for long-term empty Homes and second homes in Wales. Both consultations are open from 13th March 2015 to 13th June 2015.

http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/council-tax-premium-second-homes-consultation/?lang=en
http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/council-tax-on-long-term-empty-homes-consultation/?lang=en

Received.

(f) 2015 Training Programme & Training courses in area April 2015

Received.

(g) P. Egan: Draft Revised National Training Strategy 2015-19. Bespoke training courses are available to individual Councils at approx. £400 per module. These courses can be advertised to neighbouring Boroughs which if taken up would reduce the overall cost to the holding Council.

Received.

2) SLCC Draft Revised National Training Strategy 2015-19: Response to comments regarding training survey and noting Members comments about the locations which are not accessible by public transport.

Received.

3) Kidney Wales Foundation

Form to be completed and returned for them to produce personalised posters/flyers.

Received. The date of Sunday 3rd May 2015 agreed – location Parc Bryn Bach time 3-5pm Clerk to notify. It was agreed that sponsor forms would be sent to all previous participants and all Members.

4) <u>Residents correspondence</u>:-

(a) Megan Fox - Civic Nomination form for Mrs & Mrs Latham.

Received. I was noted that Mr & Mrs Latham were to attend a Civic Presentation night to present a ceramic poppy to Town Council and that this would be an appropriate time to acknowledge their involvement in the community.

(b) Adam - Raising the lack of information regarding the Orpheus on Town Council website.

Received – it was agreed to contact the Choir for information.

(c) Tracey Woodhouse - Requesting help from Council regarding the rubbish/fly tipping issues they are experiencing next to their property in Mount Street. She has contacted BGCBC four times but no response. – Email forwarded to Cllrs Willis & Trollope.

Received. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of BGCBC regarding the general issue of fly tipping across Tredegar. A Member pointed out that a van permit was available which allowed six visits per year to the skip site – Clerk to seek further information from BGCBC.

5) National Assembly For Wales

Consultation on the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Bill, submissions by 4pm Friday 24th April 2015.

Received.

6) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

(a) 2015 Commemoration – next meeting is at Bedwellty House Thursday 26th March 2015 at 10am.

Received.

(b) Agenda for meeting 19th March 2015 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

Received.

7) BT Payphones Planning Office

Adopt a kiosk programme, for as little as a £1.

Received. To check if any were available in Tredegar.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Consulting on draft Management Plan (2015-2020) until 24th April 2015 visit website for details

www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/who-we-are/npmp/management-plan-review

Received – information noted.

9) GAVO Diary Marker: Blaenau Gwent Network Forum 15th April 2015 at 10am Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale - agenda to follow.

Received.

10) Wales in Bloom Seeking involvement in the 2015 campaign.

Received it was agreed to pass information to Bedwellty Park, the Business Forum, schools and to query whether Blaenau Gwent in Bloom was involved.

11) Cardiff University Cardiff students' project: Appraising participation and engagement in the short and medium term, Brecon Beacons – questionnaires for completion.

Received – forwarded to Cllr OP

12) Community Housing Cymru Group

Reminder: Rural Regeneration Conference, Creating Sustainable Rural Communities Thursday 19th March 2015 Newtown, Powys.

Received.

13) **PUBLICATIONS**
BGCBC Road works report week ending 13.3.15; Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #163 March 2015; BGCBC Road works report week ending 20.3.15; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct March 2015 Issue 98; Plantscape Brochure disk.
Available for Members

14) **AGENDA**
Executive 11th March 2015 – report for agenda item 14a; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Thursday 12th March 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Planning Committee Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 11.30am or immediately following the Executive Committee; Special Executive Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 11am Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for Members

361) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – None received
b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee - none
c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0082	Lindsy Pugh 88 St James Way, Tredegar.	Single storey extension to the front and first floor extension to the rear,.
No Objections		
2015/0084	Mr A Smith Davies Homes Ltd 7 Gelliwastad Road Pontypridd.	Proposed replan at Plots 75-77 including reduction of dwellings (from three no. to two no.) creating new plot numbering 75-76 on land to the rear of Peacehaven (previously approved under planning permission C/2007/0400), Copper Beech Drive, Peacehaven.
No Objections		
2015/0094	Mr T Watkins 1 Meadow Crescent	Retention of a single storey detached garage.
No Objections		

Cllr. J. Thomas left the Meeting at this point.

d) To consider other planning matters
A Member brought to Council's attention a planning notice at Sirhowy Woodlands for a 4 x 4 track. It was noted that no application had been received from the Borough and the Clerk was instructed to check with the Planning Dept.

362) Matters of Local Interest or Concern.
1) STAR Centre – Members were concerned that there had been no official notice or invitation to the Mayor or Members of Council to the opening of the STAR Centre. Whilst the new facility was welcomed by all it was agreed to write expressing our disappointment that the Charter Agreement to liaise and inform with Town and Community Councils had not been adhered to.
2) The Fountain Inn – A Member queried whether the Inn, a listed building had been sold as he had seen activity on the site. It was agreed to contact the Planning Department and Heritage Officer as a matter of urgency.
3) Apologies – Members were reminded to offer their apologies officially to organisers of events across the Town if they had been invited and were not able to attend.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

_____ Chair