TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 6.30pm

Present Cllrs: R. Watkins
G. Meredith
T. Smith
A. Tippings
M. Cross
B. Willis
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
P. Prosser
O. Price
D. Howells
D. Rowberry

In attendance – Ms. C.M. Keane – Clerk

235) Apologies. Cllr. R.W. Thomas; G. Bowen-Knight, J. Morgan

236) Alun Davies AM – to welcome Mr. Davies and any communication he may wish to make to Council.

Mr. Alun Davies AM was warmly welcomed by Members. He spoke at great length about planned investments into the area and was thanked for his contribution to the recent announcement of the electrification of rail services in the Valleys.

Members questioned him about the future of two key buildings in Tredegar – the General Hospital and the NCB. The future of the General Hospital was in the hands of the NHS who didn't want it. He stated quite clearly that another use needed to be found for the building in order to ensure its future. There was much debate over the cost of maintaining the General Hospital which was being borne by the NHS and the many better uses for that money within the Service.

Regarding the NCB - it was largely recognised that the chance to take back the NCB building into public ownership had been missed and that pressure needed to be applied to CADW to implement existing legislation.

There was a great deal of debate about the future regeneration of the Town and the need for the area around the Town Centre to be used for the development of smaller housing units helping to cope with, amongst others, an increasing elderly population.

Questions relating to Policing were raised and rumours of cuts in Policing in the town were mentioned, this was not something that the AM was aware of. It was agreed that Council pursue this further. Mr. Davies spoke about the need to re-think the "front desk" policies of the blue light services – to look at ways of joining together Police, Fire and ambulance Services under one central location, whilst still garaging units separately.

He spoke too of the need to have a debate about Local Government, direct democracy and to find ways of involving people more locally. With the proposed merger of Councils he was wary that future funding and possibilities might find its way to the M4 corridor and bypass this area.

He was thanked for an informative presentation and for answering many and varied questions and then he withdrew.

237) To receive and consider applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants and Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).

Completed end of grant form received from Tredegar Appeal Urdd Eisteddfod 2015 Committee.
Thanks were received from Bobath Cymru,

Tredegar Ironsides RFC – A grant for **£200.00 was recommended.**
Tredegar Moose No.1 Ladies Circle - A grant for **£200.00 was recommended.**
Tredegar Twinning Association - A grant for **£200.00 was recommended.**

Request for support received from:
The Stroke Association Christmas Appeal and St David's Children Society (adoption service)
For consideration by individual Members.

Churches & Chapels – None Received.

238) To specify the role of Mayor and that of Leader of Council and to incorporate this specification into the constitution of the Town Council.
Clarification was received and agreed.

239) To receive and agree the amended Risk Management Policy of Council.
The amendments as made at the Civic Committee Meeting of 5th November 2014 ref Minute No 210 had been made however it was decided to defer this item to the next Staffing Committee Meeting which would be considering all Policies.

240) Verbal update/report on the Christmas Lights Switch-On.
A verbal report was received from the Deputy Leader who expressed thanks to a number of people for their help on the night. It was agreed that a number of gifts (5) be bought by Town Council and given to them for their help. There were comments that although the installation of the lights had been a vexing time the end result had been very well received by the people of the Town.

241) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice).
a) The Clerk had been advised that Mrs Edith Jones of Lindsay Gardens was to celebrate her 100th Birthday on Sunday 7th December. It was agreed that the Mayor liaise with the Orpheus Choir to attend and that he would present her with a bouquet on behalf of Council.

b) Cllr. G. Meredith – brought to Councils attention the response received by a member of the public from the Borough Council regarding grass collections. This gentleman had spent a great deal of time and his own money clearing an area around his garage which was visible from the roadside and had asked for the cuttings to be removed. It was agreed that he be congratulated for his efforts and that this be pursued through the Borough Council and all Tredegar Borough Members.

c) Rumours that the Policing levels in Tredegar were to be reduced and that the vehicle response unit was to be moved out of the Town had caused Members great concern. The Clerk was instructed to make further enquiries.

d) A recent meeting with the Police Commissioner was noted that his policy was to open offices without cutting back policing.

e) It was noted that a small group of youngsters had been identified as causing problems throughout town and following the recent attack on Mr Sanders it was agreed to pass on this information to local police.

Cllr. Tippings left at this point.

Cllrs. Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in planning matters and took no part in them.

242) Planning

a) to consider an Officer's Report –
List of Delegated Items determined between 20th October 2014 and 18th November 2014:-
C/2014/0251 2 Storey House Corner of Salem Cottages and Charles Street – Approved.
C/2014/0287 Land East of Georgetown proposed NRW forestry Road St James – Coed y Rhyd -- Approved.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee – no comments.

c) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0193	Premier Holdings	Revised plans for development on land at Sycamore Avenue (attached to original – no previous objections)

No Objections

2014/0344	Mr D Spears David Spear (Commercials) Ltd. Crown Business Park	Erection of 3 semi-detached B2 factory units factory units with associated service yard and car park, Former Geith Factory, Crown Business Park.

No Objections

2014/0342	Mr D Hughes Overlook House, Georgetown Hill, Tredegar.	Retention of change of use of open land for use as a builders yard including the creation of anew access and erection of a 2.4m high boundary fence & gates, land adjacent to Brynheulog, Pochin.

Concerns were raised over the phrase "retention of change of use" and clarification was to be sought from Planning.

2014/0348	Mr I Morris 2 Cross Brook Cottages, Trefil.	Demolition of the existing semi-detached cottage & associated out buildings and construction of a new detached two storey house.

No Objections

2014/0358	Mrs A Hughes Mountain Ash Inn Abertysswg Rd Tredegar	Erection 4 x two bed holiday cottages with parking

No Objections

d) Other Planning Matters – None Received

243) Correspondence

1) Removed

2) One Voice Wales — a) Gwent Valleys Area Committee Meeting Dates. Please check if any are a Problem:
6th January 2015 7th April 2015 7th July(AGM) 2015

Received – Members to advise.

b) OVW looking for case studies of work that members are taking on ie anything of excellence which is going on in Town and Community Councils e.g Asset Transfer; delegated services, social enterprises, collaborations.

Received – Members to advise.

3) Welsh Govt. — Higher Education Funding Council for Wales – seeking to appoint two part time Members

Received – interested Members to contact.

4) Twinning Association — Notifying Members of their Christmas Social being held on Saturday 13th December in Georgetoen Community Centre Tickets£10 including Xmas buffet.

Received – interested Members to contact.

5) BGCBC

a) Matthew Perry
Service Manager Community Services checking with — Re Grant Funding for Public Toilets – is accounts dept to ensure funding can be equally divided to groups concerned. Currently Tredegar TC and Brynmawr Business Forum.

Received.

b) Dave Rees UNISON — HR Policies as requested- forwarded to members copied to others.

Received

6) Cllr T. Smith — CCTV – Gwent Shopping Centre – reporting incident with Mr Sanders and requesting a letter be sent to the Centre owners.

Received. It was noted that Mr. Sanders was opening the toilets in the morning and it was agreed to buy him a small gift as a token of thanks.

7) Duoguard — Further to quote of £965 + Vat for CCTV outside public toilets – call out charge of £50 + VAT for each event or maintenance contract(excludes parts ie memory stcks etc) would cost £230 + VAT per annum.

Quote for installation of the system priced by Cllr Watkins at £202.13 has been requested from Able Touch.

Received. It was agreed to await quotation.

8) Embassy of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar A Christmas card from his Excellency Mr Kyaw Zwar Minn the Ambassador.

Received.

9) SLCC Renewal Notice for Membership (approx. £260)
Received and agreed unanimously.

10) Planning Aid Wales Community engagement in planning. Following recent correspondence they are now asking if we would like to host a training session FOC. We would receive 2 free places (cost usually £30)
Received – it was agreed to accept their offer.

11) Bryn Bach Primary Thanking us for organising the show by Sherman Theatre and asking if they can take part again.
Received – it was agreed to write to the School explaining the way in which the Council operated the Night Out Scheme and that they would take their turn with other schools. It was noted that the evening was a great6 success and very well supported.

12) Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life 2015 – date tentatively set for Sunday 27th April 2015.
Received – the incoming Mayor advised that he was not available for that date – it was agreed to defer to Events for discussion. Clerk to write to Parc Bryn Bach to clarify question of charges being levied for the event and to the Hospice to ensure that it did not clash with any of theirs.

13) PUBLICATIONS Local Councils Update Issue 180- Dec 2014; BGCBC road works report week ending 28.11.14. & 5/12/14:
Available for Members

14) AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting of the Council Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 11.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 11.30am additional agenda item No. 25 report; Special General Licensing Committee Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee meeting Monday 8th December 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale:Planning Committee – meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Thursday 4th December at 2pm: Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee to be held in the Council Chamber Civic Centre Ebbw Vale on Monday 8th December
2014 at 2pm: Consultation with Town & Community Councils to be held on Thursday 15th January at 2.30 pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale To follow will be a consideration of Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets MTFS Update.
Available for Members

244) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
a) to agree a new date to meet with Mr Anthony Hughes early in 2015.

b) the Lift. – It was noted that the lack of a lift meant that there were problems complying with legislation and the Manager was to be contacted regarding alternative accommodation as a matter of urgency. It was also agree to write to Officers of the Borough to expedite the repairs.

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

I. Blaenau Gwent CAB. – Clerk asked to write for details of Tredegar venues.
II. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum– a plaque to be sited at Parc Bryn Bach recording details of a crashed warplane.
III. Tredegar Heritage. – It was noted that this group had been wound up. It was agreed to write seeking the return of grant funds given by Town Council.

Cllr. Rowberry kindly made a £25 donation to the Mayor's Appeal.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.20pm
The Mayor then signed the Certificates for the finalists of the Quiz Wizards and Members left to attend the final at the Rhyd Hall.

_____Chair