TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

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

The start of the Meeting was delayed until 6.45pm when it became quorate.

Present: **Councillor** **R. Watkins**
T. Smith
A. Tippings
B. Willis
D. Howells
O. Price
M. O'Sullivan

Present: **Ms C Keane – Town Clerk**
Ms A Jones - RFO

323) Apologies **Cllrs. G. Meredith, G. Bowen-Knight, J. Thomas, R.W. Thomas, H & S Trollope, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, M. Cross and J. Morgan**

324) Declarations of Interest.
The Chair reminded Members to make declaration at the appropriate point during the Meeting.

325) Grants:
a) To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.
Thanks received from Relate Cymru and Kidz'R'Us.
Completed End of Grant form received from Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum, Tredegar Gardeners Club, Tredegar Methodist Church and Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Association.

a) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137
Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity – A grant of £50 was approved.
Bedwellty House & Park – A grant of £1000 was approved.(Manager to specify clearly that the funding was received from Town Council also for the Notice Board)
Tredegar Junior Netball Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls – A grant of £200 was approved.
Gwalia Housing Trust, Ty Parc Tredegar (temporary homeless accommodation) – Council agreed to meet.
Pen-y-Cwm School – Council instructed RFO to clarify whether grant expenditure permitted.

Cllr. Tippings declared an interest in the following matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
Tredegar Christians Together – Letter received outlining project. – the RFO read the letter from the group which indicated that a sub-committee had been set up to move the project forward. Following consideration it was agreed that the application was quite early in the year and that an annual grant request would be best suited at this time. RFO to advise.

b) Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels – None received.

326) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2015.

Following some discussion regarding various items and the cheques and invoices having been reconciled and inspected by Members – the Accounts were approved.

327) Staffing Sub-Committee – to consider the Chairmanship of this Committee in view of current circumstances and outstanding staffing issues. – Deferred from 4th February 2015.

The resignation of Cllr. H. Trollope as Chair of the Staffing Committee had been received by the Leader and Cllr. R. Thomas was elected as his replacement. It was agreed that Cllr Cotton be moved to the Appeals Committee.

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

a) Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting of 21st January 2015
b) Minutes of the Performance Review Committee Meeting of 21st January 2015.
c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21st January 2015
d) Minutes of the Civic Sub Committee Meeting of 4th February 2015
e) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of 4th February 2015

The above items were all moved as a true record.

329) Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Minutes of Events Co 21st Jan 2015
i) Minute No 280 – It was noted that there were other local companies that had the necessary qualifications such as Centregreat. It was agreed that any installation company would have to be highly reputable.

b) Minutes of Performance Review Co 21st Jan 2015.
i) The Cynefin Project – it was noted that Members of Town Council had met with the new Tredegar Co-ordinator Ms Jayne Hunt and she expressed great excitement at the prospect of working with Town Council, There had been some discussion about the rental of equipment to her, although she would supply her own furniture to be placed in the Cwtch. Her interest in allotments may well prove useful to Council.

c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 21st Jan 2015.
i) Members noted that the Trust had now changed its name to the Aneurin Leisure Trust – there being another called Life Leisure Trust in existence.
ii) Minute No 298 – Brighter Tredegar – Clerk to contact to seek further details and correct contact information.
iii) Minute No 300(1f) Members noted that a site meeting had taken place with the MP, Councillors, Carillion and Officers of BGCBC. There were no objections from Carillion however the Officers of the Borough left to consider the installation of barriers similar to those at Sirhowy Hill. Awaiting their response.
iv) Minute No 300 (2b) Clerk was reminded to write with the replacement Governor's details.
v) Minute No 302 (ci) remove the words "a barrier on the"

d) Civic Sub Committee of 4th February – no matters arising

e) Civic Committee of 4th February
1) Minute No 310 a) A Member agreed to look at the specifications available and the RFO given plenary powers to choose a system. It was further agreed to seek information regarding rate relief.
2) Minute No 310 b) Samples had been received and shown to the House Manager who had no objections. They were then to be sent to the Planning Dept at BGCBC.
3) Minute No 316 4) It was agreed to contact BGCBC to ensure that a retraction was put in the Connect Magazine
4) Minute No 316 7) Cllr Tippings volunteered to take the minutes for the meeting on 4th March and she was duly thanked by the Clerk.

330) Chair to sign Minutes

331) Public Conveniences: to receive the Minutes of a meeting of the Public Convenience Working Part and the results of an inspection of the facilities held on Monday 9th February 2015, the Minutes follow:

Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Conveniences Sub-Committee of Council held on site at 5pm on Monday 9th February 2015

Present: Councillors Smith, Watkins, Prosser, Morgan and Cotton.
Also Present: Ms. C. Keane Town Clerk

Members met Tim who was the cleaner at the toilets who showed Members around the facilities.
He gave the Clerk a list of supplies required and reported that there were some problems with flushes in the ladies toilets which would need some attention.
There was also a slight problem with the flush in the gents urinal.

Members were delighted to note that there had been no further serious incidents of vandalism and that there were no signs of any graffiti.

It was agreed to check the possibility of rate relief and small business claims relief.
It was agreed that there would be a quarterly inspection at the facilities.With regard to CCTV the specifications had been sent to Cllr Meredith and we are awaiting feedback.

Christine Keane
Town Clerk 12th February 2015

333) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) C. Ashby Re: PA/2015/0003 Bench – will not agree to a meeting as feel sufficient advice has been given and this advice will not alter as a result of a meeting.

Received. It was agreed that Council buy three benches – one to be sited in each Ward.
Members agreed to bring forward ideas for the location of each bench in their Ward.

(b) A. O'Leary Re: Letter and invoice for election.

Received.

(c) M. Howland Re: Review of Acquisition & Disposals Policy – asking for Town Councils to submit their views by Monday 16.2.15. –**Emailed to all online members & posted to others, asking for views by 11am 12.2.15; also emailed M. Howlands asking if time extension possible. –** Response by 19.2.15 will be ok.

Members discussed the Policy and agreed that there should be more consideration of benefits to the community from land sale and that the building of 1/2 bedroomed dwellings should be increased.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Gwent Valleys Area Committee – Copy of presentation made by Iwan Williams from the Older Persons Commissioners office.

Received.

(b) Welsh Government Consultation Document – Tax Devolution in Wales. Consultation Paper on proposals for a Land Transaction Tax to replace Stamp Duty Land Tax in wales in 2018.

Received.

(c) Appointment of Independent Member to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, closing date 27.2.15.

Received.

(d) Local Voices needed for Health Watchdog, closing 23.2.15.

Received.

(e) Press release from the First Minister.

Received.

3) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Re: Pharmacy Services in Tredegar – Response to second letter sent 21.1.15.

Received. It was noted that there were general problems across Tredegar.

4) Christians Together P & A Latham – cheque for £700 for money collected at Morrisons on Friday 13th February for the Mayors Appeal.

Received.

5) Planning Aid Wales Planning Training Wednesday 22.4.15 at 6.30pm The Guildhall, High Street, Brecon. £30 per person.

Received

6) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

(a) Commemoration Day Sunday 16th August 2015 at Bedwellty House & Park, will commemorate 1915's Second Battle of Ypres. Service at the War Memorial, bands & choirs, exhibitions and displays. Further information or to express an interest in participating please contact Peter Morgan Jones,
email: Pmarcherlord@talktalk.net or Tel: 01495 722789.

Received and noted

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

Received.

7) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Local Development Plan (First Revision) up to 2031: Preferred Strategy Consultation. Comments to be submitted by 24.3.15.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park

Community Update Winter 2014/15. – article on Dementia friendly Park

Received.

9) Kidney Wales Foundation

2014-15 report and How to get involved details (Sunday 26th April 2015)

Received. It was agreed to contact the incoming Mayor for the location and date of the Council's event. A Member noted that she could put forward a story relating to a transplant as a way of increasing publicity.

10) CREW Regeneration & Community Housing Cymru

Holding a Rural Regeneration Conference on Thursday 19th March in Cefn Lea Conference Centre Newtown (Powys)

Received.

11) Cllr O. Price Details of projects that Kevin Phillips of Made in Tredegar/Green Valley Films are currently involved with. The first being an animation in conjunction with Pierre Cornlouer, also involved with the Wales Homes for Veterans. This film is to help children understand the full duties undertaken by the Armed Forces as featured in the children's book series "The Adventures of Mrs RFA Orangeleaf" The second a movie called 'The Bench' in conjunction with Steve Knapik, being made in Poland, which features disadvantaged children in Poland technically orphaned due to learning difficulties and how they are empowered through the filming process. The third on the influence of Tredegar Ironworks in America. Seeking letters of support.

Received. It was agreed to fully support these projects and to write accordingly

12) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC Road works report week ending 13.2.15 & 20.2.15; Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #162 February 2015.
Available for all Members

13) AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting of the Council Thursday 12th February 2015 at 2pm Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 12th February 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wenesday 11th February 2015 at 9.30a.m. – Report for agenda item no. 6; Special General Licensing Committee Tuesday 17th February 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 18th February 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 16th February 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for all Members

334) Welsh Government Devolution, Democracy and Delivery. Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People. To receive a report from the Clerk
The Report of the Clerk was read by those Members present and following much, sometimes heated, discussion, it was agreed that all Members of Council should receive the relevant part of this 100 page document for them to study and that it should be put on the Agenda for discussion by full Council.

335) 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
2015/0038	Mr N Reeves Gwent MOT Station	Retention of a single storey valeting bay, Gwent MOT Station, Gelli Rd.

No Objections

2015/0052	Mr Green Asbri Planning Ltd Unit 9 Oak Tree Court Cardiff Gate Business Pk Cardiff.	Ref C/2007/0730 Extension of previous planning permission for demolition & creation of residential site (outline) – former BKF Plastics Ltd, Ashvale Works, Fair View, Tredegar.

No Objections However it was noted that as part of our Climate Change policy we should consider water run off in new developments with the emphasis on more porous driveways etc.

2015/0054	Mr Kevin Morris 12 Laburnum Avenue Ashvale	Retention of change of use of land to garden and retention of garden shed.

No Objections

d) To consider other planning matters
Recent drilling work at Trefil Quarry had left test drilling holes open and they were hazardous at night. Write to ask that they be highlighted to eliminate the risks at night.

336) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) It was noted that Luke Garrett had been selected for the Under 20's Welsh team – it was agreed to write with congratulations.

2) Presentation Evening – it was noted that there had not been a Presentation Evening for some time. It was agreed to invite Messrs Meredith and Cummings from Carillion to receive a Civic Award from Council on that Presentation Night. It was noted that they had co-operated fully with the Town Council and had even offered to allow Town Council to hold a sponsored walk over an unopened section of the road.

It was also agreed to invite Mr Kevin Phillips of Made In Tredegar to show our appreciation.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

_____Chair