TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber in Bedwellty House on Wednesday 7th January 2015 at 6.30pm

Present: **Cllr.** R. Watkins
G. Meredith
A. Tippings
D. Rowberry
M. Cross
R. W. Thomas
B. Willis
D. Howells
J. C. Morgan
J. Thomas
O. Price

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

264) Apologies. Cllrs: Meredith; Smith; Thomas; Bowen-Knight; O'Sullivan and H. & S. Trollope

265) Matters of Local Interest and Concern:
Inspector Andy O'Keefe was welcomed by the Mayor. He had attended the meeting at very short notice in response to a request from Council for information regarding the spate of attacks which had taken place in the Town over the Christmas and New Year holidays.
Having introduced himself he outlined management changes which were being made which had caused some degree of local confusion, assuring Members that manpower levels would not be affected.
He relayed information to Members relating to a number of incidents which had taken place – some investigations were still ongoing. CCTV footage had been used to identify offenders and assist in their prosecution.
Members were dismayed at the lack of information relayed via the OWL system which appeared to have been the result of staff holidays.
A further concern raised was the way that police officers dealt with the victims of assault – apparently trying to deter them from pressing charges. This was something had happened in the past which Members thought had been resolved. The Inspector agreed to look into both items.
Members noted that alcohol had played a part in many of the assaults and incidences – some involving under-age youths and the Inspector noted that although there was close collaboration with the Licensing Authorities in respect of proxy purchasing etc they were in a difficult position when the alcohol was apparently supplied by parents.
The Inspector answered a number of questions from Members on various issues. He was thanked for attending at such short notice and for the information that he had been able to supply and then left.

266) To consider the exclusion of the press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12a and Data Protection Act 1998
This was agreed.

267) To receive the recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee of Council prior to this Meeting
The following recommendations were made:
Tredegar History and Archive Society – a decision was deferred pending further information on the Societies other fund raising attempts.

Oak Football Club – decision deferred pending guarantees from the Borough.
Vale View Allotments – a grant of £200 was recommended
Southend Allotments – a grant of £200 was recommended on receipt of their constitution.
And accepted.

268) To discuss the initial Budget proposals put forward by the RFO.
Having sent copies of the draft Budget proposal to all Members, the RFO explained that there was an urgent need to review and discuss the Budget because of the timescale involved.
She then went on to discuss each item on the draft proposal and make amendments as suggested and agreed.
It was agreed to call a meeting of the Working Party for the Mayors Parlour as a matter of urgency in an attempt to close the project in this Financial Year.
She informed Members that there had been a reduced take up in grants offered by Town Council and they agreed to remind organisation that they were aware of that the grants were available.
The cost of the recent election had been higher than expected due to exceptional circumstances and Members noted that the next local elections would take place in 2017.
It was also agreed to include an amount for the Climate Change programme which the Council had initiated.
Members thanked the RFO for her diligence and the production of the draft proposal and the notes which were concise and easily understood.

269) The Meeting was re-opened to the public.

270) To receive and consider applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants and Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).
Completed End of Grant form received from Trinity Spiritualist Church.

Relate Cymru – It was agreed to write asking how many people from Tredegar had been helped by this service.
Friends of Bedwellty Park Society – **a grant of £200 was recommended.**
Kidz R Us – This was deferred whilst the RFO was to sought clarification.

Report on the associations that attended the Civic Sub-Committee today:-
Tredegar History & Archive. – deferred.
The Oak FC.- deferred
Vale View Allotments. – a grant of £200 was recommended.
Southend Allotment Association.- a grant of £200 was recommended following receipt of their constitution.

Churches and Chapels – no applications received.

Cllrs. Willis, Morgan and Rowberry declared an interest in the Planning matters and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
271) Planning
a) OFFICERS REPORT
List of Delegated Items determined between 19th November 2014 and 12th December 2014:-
C/2014/0306 Porch to front of property, 62 Rhoslan – Approved.
C/2014/0322 Erection of single storey disabled shower room extension, 136 Ystrad Deri – Approved.
C/2014/0302 Proposed erection of a two bedroom bungalow, Plot 27 Maes Morgan – Refused.
C/2014/0313 Non material amendment for C/2012/0111 – Amend extension to single storey, 132 Beaufort Road – Refused.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee - none

c) APPLICATIONS – None received.

d) Other Planning Matters
C. Ashby Re: 2014/0342 Retention of change of use of open land to a builders yard, land adjacent to Brynheulog, Pochin – Application will not go to the January meeting but she hopes to get it on the February agenda.

272) Correspondence
1) BGCBC (a) Precept request to be received by BGCBC no later than 31.1.15. –
Received. It was agreed to seek information on the cost of an insert by Town Council similar to that of the Police Force and to agenda this for the Consultation meeting on the 15th January.

(b) P. Diamond Re: Correspondence 2.12.14 – Would like to discuss with TTC the issued raised in the letter and feels it will be partly addressed by the opportunity he is keen to explore with TTC.
Received. This was received in response to a letter from the Clerk relating to bus services to Ysbyty Tri Chwm. It was agreed to invite Mr. Diamond to meet with Council.

(c) A. Evans Response to letter 24/11 re Bryn Bach Primary – site meeting in January with elected Members to discuss footpath in front of garage; "introduction of a time-restrictive weight limit on Merthyr Road is not feasible"
Received. Once again Members voiced their concerns over safety. The feasibility of using the Rhymney Bridge route to the Industrial Estate was raised. It was agreed that the site meeting was of great urgency and that the meeting should be held on a Friday to allow the AM and MP to attend.

2) Commercial Christmas
Tredegar Lights Report – Submitted to Council 17.12.14 but represented for discussion.
Received – deferred to a Meeting of the Events Committee. Members were thanked for their efforts over the holiday period.

3) One Voice Wales Advance notice of new 2015 trainings in your region for February 2015.
Received – a training course on 25th February re Council as an Employer to be copied to all Members of the Staffing Committee.

4) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Re: Pharmacy Services in Tredegar – Nelson's pharmacy are happy to discuss any concerns TTC have regarding their services.
Received. It was agreed to write again expressing concern at the lack of supply of medicines at the site. There had also been some cases of mistaken identity.

5) Able Touch Joinery Quotation for the installation of CCTV at the toilets.(see report from RFO)
Received. It was agreed to check if a licence was required and whether parabolic CCTV cameras (which record sound) might be an option. It was agreed to seek new quotations on a supply, install and maintain basis.

6) David Ogilvie Engineering
Re: WWI Commemoration seat – guarantee product for life and if anything were to happen to it they would uplift/replace free of charge.
Received. It was agreed in principal to purchase 2 seats, but that this be forwarded to the Events Committee as part of the WWI Commemorations.

7) A. Latham Dates and locations for the week of prayer for Christian Unity starting on Monday 19th January 2015 – added to website.
Received.

8) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
"Never so innocent again" Book launch Friday 6th February 2015 at 11am

Tredegar VITCC building.

Received.

9) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

BBNPA Local Development Plan, Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes – available for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks running from Wednesday 24.12.14 until Thursday 19.2.15, available at http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/?p=29129

Received. Members were asked to check the guidance with reference to mineral extraction and Trefil quarries.

10) Kidz R Us — Clarification that they are a Not for Profit Ltd Company and not a registered charity.

Received.

The Clerk apologised for omitting correspondence relating to Vibrant and Viable places and the Deputy Leader agreed to represent Council and bring back information to the next meeting of Council.

11) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings 23.12.14 & 24.12.14; Burrows Communications Blaenau Gwent Official Guide & Street Atlas showing TTC advert; Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #161 January 2015 and Orvault ma ville #63 Jan-March 2015; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings 26.12.14, 29.12.14, 30.12.14, 31.12.14, 2.1.15, 3.1.15 and 6.1.15. Orvault Panorama de Presse 7 Jan 2015: Clerks & Councils Direct Issue 97 Jan 2015: Viking Stationery Catalogue
Available for Members

12) AGENDA

General Licensing Committee Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Statutory Licensing Committee Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 12.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 7th January 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 7th January 2014 – report for agenda item no. 12; Democratic Services Committee advance notice of meeting being held Wednesday 8th April 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting being held at 9.30am Thursday 15th January 2015 at Tredegar Library.
Available for Members

273) Matters of Local Interest and concern.

A Member expressed concern at Ambulance response times citing the case of a neighbour with a heart condition who had fallen in the street and waited over 3 hours for an ambulance, which had been sent from Caerphilly.
There were excellent reports of a recent match by Tredegar Ironsides at Trefil which had huge support.

274) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park - to put forward questions for Mr Anthony Hughes MD of the Trust.

It was agreed to proceed with the questions already submitted.

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

i. Joint Committee of Local Councils.
ii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales.
iii. Tredegar Twinning Association.
iv. School Governing Bodies. – Excellent report regarding Bryn Bach Primary School.
v. Tredegar Youth Café.
vi. Blaenau Gwent CAB.

vii. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel.
viii. Tredegar Business Forum.
ix. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum.
x. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme – meeting on Friday 9th Jan to be reported back to Council.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

_____Chair