TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 6.30pm

Present:	**Councillor**	**R. Watkins**
		T. Smith
		A. Tippings
		H. Trollope
		B. Willis
		M. Cross
		P. Prosser
		D. Rowberry
		R W Thomas
		S. Trollope
		J. Thomas
Present:		**Mrs A. Jones – RFO**
		Ms C Keane – Town Clerk
Also Present:		**Mr. Anthony Hughes MD of Life Leisure Trust.**

286) Apologies **Cllrs O. Price, M. O' Sullivan, G. Bowen-Knight, J. Morgan.**

287)) Declarations of Interest.
Members were reminded by the Chair to make any declaration as and when necessary.

288) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a
This was agreed.

289) Performance Review: - To receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Sub Committee of council held earlier on 21ST January 2015.
It was agreed unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Performance Review Sub Committee held earlier, to accept and approve the budget for 2014/15 as set out and to agree, unanimously, that a standstill precept be adopted for the fourth year in a row.
The RFO was once again commended for her prudence and the clarity with which the information had been presented.

290) Grants:
a) To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.
<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137</u>
Thanks received from Tredegar Ironsides RFC.

Relate Cymru – Following further information supplied by the RFO, a grant of £50 was approved.
Friends of Bedwellty Park Society – A grant of £200 was approved.
Kidz R Us – following further clarification by the RFO, a grant of £200 was approved.
Cllrs P. Prosser and B. Willis declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting on the next item

Tredegar History & Archive – a grant of £500 was approved.
The Oak FC – Deferred
Vale View Allotments – Recommendation of £200 pending sight of their constitution.
Southend Allotment Association – a grant of £200 was approved.

5b) Grants to Churches and Chapels
None received.

291) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in December 2014.
The accounts having been viewed by Members earlier and the Cheques and invoices reconciled were approved. It was agreed that the new consorts Chain would need to be valued for insurance purposes and that Able Touch were to be contacted regarding their contribution to the plaque for the public toilets.
Bank Reconciliation were available for all Members to inspect

292) To re-open the meeting to the public.

293) To receive Mr. Anthony Hughes MD of Life, Leisure Trust to respond to questions previously raised by Members.
It had previously been ascertained that Mr. Hughes had arranged for operational responses regarding the questions previously put to him to be sent via e-mail and that he would give Members an overview of the current situation regarding the Trust.
Mr. Hughes was welcomed and began by apologising for not attending earlier in the year.
He stated that Cllr M. Cross was now a Member of the Board of Trustees. He went on to explain the strategic vision for the Trust which was to become truly independent in five years. Key to this success was the need to cut costs and increase growth in all areas.
The Trust was developing a Community Engagement Plan which would create a formal link with all interested parties.
He explained that each area of the Trust were now very much more "target" focused . He explained that it was now much more of a separate organisation less dependent on the Council which would in the next few years be totally independent of them. It was pointed out that in the past ideas had been put forward via the various management boards for the Park which had been ignored and it was suggested to him that he might look again at some of these ideas.
He informed Members that a new roof would be going on the Visitor Centre at Parc Bryn Bach and that they were looking to work with other key companies (regarding Circuit of Wales and the dualling of the HOV) to maximise inward investment.
Members wished him well with the task ahead and informed him of the annual grant available for Park Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House and Park before he withdrew.

294) To confirm Cllr. H. Trollope, Chair of the Staffing Sub Committee as Pensions Adjudicator for Tredegar Town Council. (NB Cllr. Trollope has agreed to this)
This was agreed and confirmed by Council.

295) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17th December 2014.
b) Minutes of the Civic Sub Committee Meeting held on 7th January 2015.
c) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 7th January 2015
The Minutes were approved as a true record .

296) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Ordinary Meeting 17th December
1) Minute No 252(e) It was noted that the MP should be invited prior to the forthcoming election.

2) Minute No 257 – It was noted that the nameplate for Cllr. Richard Jenkins had become detached. A question was raised about whether the Boards might be returned to their original positions in the Hallway.
b) Civic Sub Committee of 7th January 2015
1) Apologies from Cllr Smith were added.

297) Chair to sign Minutes

298) Brighter Tredegar – to receive a verbal report from Cllr. Tippings regarding the meeting held on Friday 9th January 2015.
Cllr. Tippings delivered a full and informative report. It was agreed that a delegate from Town Council would be required and Cllr. T. Smith was elected. It was noted that many of the ideas being suggested at this meeting had arisen from the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' bid which had not been successful. It was agreed that Town Council work closely with this group.

299) Town Council Climate Change programme – to receive a verbal update.
Cllr. Tippings spoke to the programme which still required some "tweaking", but was an ongoing project. There had been contact with the Cynefin Project who were about to appoint a co-ordinator for Tredegar. A question was raised whether that worker could be offered office space by Tredegar Town Council – this was to be checked.
This led to a short discussion regarding storing in Y Cwtch when it was noted that some of the information contained in the office would need to be disposed of securely to comply with the appropriate legislation.
It was noted that the Borough Council may have spare cabinets.

300) Correspondence
1) BGCBC (a) C. Ashby Re: Preliminary Enquiry, proposed benches sited at War Memorial – suggested design "would represent an incongruous and intrusive element in the overall appearance of the registered park and garden", matching benches to those in situ within park would be a more appropriate addition.
Members were dismayed at this response and pointed to other items which had been erected recently including the interpretation panel at the War Memorial and the "sculpture" to mark the Baton Relay. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the manufacturer to see if others had been sited near other War Memorials and to seek a site meeting with planning, CADW, the House Manager and Mr. Olding.

(b) P. Diamond Re: Meeting with TTC – Proposal & outline of Dementia Friendly Communities.
Received. It was agreed to invite Mr. Diamond to meet with Council.

(c) L. Squire: Approximate costings for council tax inserts and insert would need to be supplied by the last week in February.
Received. It was agreed not to proceed with this due to the cost.

(d) Removed – seeking clarification.

(e) C. Hares Re: Bedwellty ponds contamination – update on current investigations. An illegal connection has been identified.
Received with thanks for the update.

(f) Cllr Keith Hayden Re: New footpath adjacent to Texaco garage at Nantybwch –
(i) Copy of response received from Mr Gray BGCBC.
(ii) Confirming a site meeting has been arranged for 28.1.15 at 4.30pm.
Above received.

2) Members correspondence:-

(a) Cllr Smith Re: Mayor's Parlour Working Party – requesting action taken on points raised at meeting on 15.1.15.

It was noted that in order to follow Council's own Financial Regulations a further round of quotes would be required. This was agreed.

(b) Cllr Watkins:

(i) Submitting his resignation as Georgetown Primary School Governor and recommending Cllr Meredith as his replacement.

Received. Cllr. Meredith was duly elected by all Members as the new representative.

(ii) Requesting an update on the Consort chain & stock of memorabilia.

It was noted that the Consort Chain had been received this day and displayed to all Members before being given to the Mayor. All memorabilia in the Cwtch had been noted, but keys were not available for the lock-up.

3) One Voice Wales Joint One Voice Wales & SLCC event 14.5.15 at Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells, £69 + Vat per delegate.

Received. The Leader and Clerk to attend.

4) J. Roles Email Minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 15.1.15 – forwarded to relevant Members & Clerk

Received.

5) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Article on Tredegar community nurse winning top award.

Received. It was agreed to nominate for a Civic Award.

6) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

A meeting is being held Tuesday 10.2.15 at 10am Bedwellty House to discuss commemorating the 1915's Second Battle of Ypres on Sunday 16.8.15 – all interested organisations are invited to attend.

Received. It was agreed that the Leader and Mayor attend.

7) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Local Development Plan (First Revision) up to 2031: Preferred Strategy Consultation – Undertaking Consultation February/March 2015. Copy of the Consultation and relating documents will be sent by readable DVD/CD shortly but if Council does not wish to receive these please let them know by 26th January 2015.

Received.

8) Powys County Council

Local Development Plan 2011-2026: Update at January 2015 – representations received from the Consultation run between July and September 2014 now available online.

Received.

9) Gavo Advance notice of next Blaenau Gwent Forum meeting, 24.2.15 at 10am in Ebbw Vale LAC, agenda to follow.

Received. It was noted that there had been funding for Communities First in Tredegar – to seek further information.

10) Arts Council of Wales Night Out Scheme show ideas.

Received. Forward to Events.

11) J. Horton CREW & Community Housing Cymru Rural Regeneration Conference Thursday 19th March 2015 at Cefn Lea Park Conference Centre, Newtown.

Received.

12) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings 8.1.15; Glasdon Council products leaflet; J Parkers Wholesale catalogue 2015; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings 9.1.15 & 12.1.15; BGCBC Road works report week ending 16.1.15; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings 13-15.1.15; BGCBC Road works report week ending 23.1.15; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings 16-20.1.15; GAVO Network News January 2015 & Details of forthcoming Superfast Business Wales Business Support Pathfinder workshops that will explain the move towards digital technology and the benefits to a business.

Available for all Members.

13) AGENDA

Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Thursday 15th January 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 11th February 2015 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale rescheduled from 2pm to **9.30am**; Special Planning Committee on site at Hafodarthen Farm, Brynithel at 2pm Tuesday 20th January 2015; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; List of dates for forthcoming Special General Licensing Committees which will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 10am – additional item no. 6; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Thursday 22nd January 2015 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 29th January 2015 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee scheduled for Monday 30th March 2015 at 2pm has been RECONVENED Monday 23rd March 2015 at 2pm. Executive Co Wednesday 28th Jan 11am Council Chamber EV Audit Co Tuesday 287th Jan 9.30am Council Chamber EV Special Meeting Executive Wednesday 21st Jan 11am Executive Room Civic Centre EV

Available for all Members.

Cllrs. Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

301) Planning:

a) Officers Report - None received.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee – No Objections

c) Applications: -

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0016	Mr R Karer Flogas Renewables Unit V2 Ecohub Winchester Avenue, Blaby.	Installation of photovoltaic panels to an existing industrial unit, Eurocaps Ltd. Crown Business Park, Tredegar.

No Ojections

d) Other Planning Matters – none received.

302) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice).

a) It was agreed that a suitable letter of support be sent to our Twin Town of Orvault in the light of recent events.

b) A Councillor had received a request regarding advertising in the forthcoming Town Guide.
c) HOV liaison meeting.
i) It had been agreed to put a barrier on the footpath leading to Dukestown Cemetery.
ii) A site meeting had been arranged regarding the garage footpath.
iii) Members were advised that emergency telephones would be put in every layby.
iv) Sponsored walk: a walk had been agreed for June 2015. It was agreed that there should be a liaison between both incoming Mayor's and that sponsorship be sought for what could be a major fund-raising opportunity.
vi) The tenuation ponds by Rassau have life buoys installed, however this could still be a safety issue and Members were urged to monitor the situation.
vi) It was noted that Mr. Matthew Yates was leaving the Bedwellty Park Management Team to join the Fire Service and it was agreed to write a letter of thanks to him.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.59pm.

_____Chair.