TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 1st June, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: **Councillors J. Thomas (CHAIR)**
O. Price
T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
P. Prosser
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
M. Turner
B. Willis

In Attendance: **Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price**

Also Present: **PS Partnership 'Circuit of Wales', Mr. Paul Shackson**

040) Apologies: **Councillors S. Baker, G. Bowen-Knight, J.C. Morgan, D. Rowberry, R.W. Thomas and R. Watkins**

041) Declarations of Interest.
The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

042) To receive a presentation from Paul Shackson, PS Partnership, to update Members of the Council with information regarding the Circuit of Wales.
The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr. Paul Shackson, PS Partnership representative, who thanked Members for the opportunity to attend and provide an update on the following:

Progress had been made since the last presentation to the Town Council, although some negative coverage had been published in the media, PS Partnership wished to keep the Town Council updated on what was going on in moving forward.

A new Chief Executive, Mr. Martin Whitaker, was now leading the Circuit of Wales (COW) development, extending further credibility to the development, as he was extremely well-connected graphically world-wide. Martin had recently updated interested parties at a presentation at the Cardiff Breakfast Club; the Western Mail had published a positive story; but unfortunately, there had been the negative feedback from the Welsh Assembly. However, Ken Skate, now the Cabinet Minister for Economy and Infrastructure, had provided some positive feedback in regard to signing off the development.

All proceeding to schedule, the development would be signed off 19th June, 2016, and developers on site and starting construction autumn 2018; the first phase would be over the next eighteen months, and the level of commitment was there. Arriva were on board, as investors, and a lot of work was ongoing throughout Wales, particularly Cardiff Bay.

The visage for Circuit of Wales was for the role to govern decisions on events in respect of motor sport aspects. The Resort would also include mountain biking, rock climbing, etc. and this imagery presented the commitment to providing Welsh local jobs. The Developers had been disappointed with the recent announcement; therefore, the financial package had been revisited, with favourable feedback received, which from the Developer's point of view was positive in driving forward the development.

The COW representative thereupon responded to comments / questions raised in relation to the following:

A Member referred to the negative press, which impacted upon public perception, e.g. Wales Online, and all parties had a role in changing that perception. The COW representative agreed with this comment and assured the Town Council the aim was to correct that perception – for example, the BBC and Western Mail had recently provided fantastic coverage in respect of the development. A detailed programme had been developed of the site e.g. transformation, engagement with schools, (negative) media coverage, etc.

Councillor M. Cross joined the meeting at this juncture.

Another Member referred to procurement and queried whether jobs and materials would be locally sourced. The COW representative said that no materials were moved off site, the buildings and track materials would be locally produced, e.g. commercial barriers would be produced by a local supplier on the Rassau Industrial Estate, and workshops / seminars would be convened for local companies to meet the Team, who would be heavily involved in the development. The Procurement Team had also made a commitment to meet Tata Steel (Port Talbot) and construction partners FCC Construction. The development would not commence with a ready supply chain, as PS Partnership was committed to using Welsh-based companies.

A Member asked if matters relating to Social Clauses covered issues such as the number of apprentices, etc.; the COW representative said that the S.106 agreement within the planning permission ensured there was a strong educational programme in place for this Project; also, strong social clauses ensured that FCC Construction Ltd. locally sourced 90% of their provision.

In response to a question raised, he assured Members that he would keep the Town Council updated in respect of any press releases.

In respect of community engagement, further Public Exhibitions would be undertaken throughout Blaenau Gwent and, as soon as the funding was signed off, leafleting would be circulated announcing throughout the South Wales Valleys region.

The COW representative said that the Developers were looking to sponsor events in the community. The extreme sports the development hoped to create would include climbing walls, mountain biking, sledding, etc. with a host of events to be brought onto the Circuit, e.g. the Jenson Button Triathlon. In terms of finance, the COW representative said that he was not best placed to provide detailed financial information but would come back with a report to circulate to Members. Investment would be in place after the first year, however investors moved on to other projects; Arriva was on board, with funding being made available in going forward, and a commitment by Welsh Government.

A Member highlighted that, from a Blaenau Gwent point of view, this was a welcome investment, particularly as to the magnitude of the development of this size, and wished the Developers every success; youngsters needed such activities and would be able to identify with the Resort. He was heartened to see such development in Blaenau Gwent to encourage

people to visit and inward investment into the area.

A Visitor Centre would be located on site and work would be ongoing with the local community to promote the sheer opportunities in place when the Resort was up and running, for example, setting up our own catering company with Coleg Gwent.

The COW representative said construction had to start in order to get Motor GP on site, as these were the biggest meeting/sporting events in Wales, to promote Blaenau Gwent / Ebbw Vale globally and create massive opportunities. Visits would be made to schools throughout Blaenau Gwent asking the pupils to design a car to be made and raced on our circuit. This would give confidence to the community and impart the key message that the development would mean local jobs and opportunities; there was a commitment from the Developer and partners to make that a reality. Also key, was to promote South Wales as the heart of the Welsh motoring sector. There was a huge commitment there, regarding jobs for local people throughout the Blaenau Gwent / South Wales Valleys region, particularly as the infrastructure was now in place with the dual carriageway.

In response to a question raised, the COW representative said that the Resort had not yet been named. Finally, the representative added that it was envisaged that musicians and live band concerts would be invited to perform at the Resort.

The Leader extended a thank you to the COW representative for attending and presenting such a full explanation. The Town Council welcomed the COW representative's offer to keep the Town Council informed, particularly following the ITV interview of Martin Whitaker meeting with Carol Green, in order that the Town Council could issue a press release to ensure constituents could be informed.

The COW representative thereupon left the meeting at this juncture.

043) 2016 - 2018 National Salary Award:
To approve the new pay scales for 2016-2017, to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1st April, 2016; and, to approve the new pay scales for 2017-2018 to be implemented from 1st April, 2017.
The Leader asked that clarity be sought in respect of the duration of payment for the National Salary Award, particularly for 2017/18. A Member pointed out this equated to 1% per year for the next three years; this was common practice to enable organisations to budget for that period.

It was agreed that the new pay scales for 2016-2017 be implemented immediately and backdated to 1st April, 2016; and, clarification be sought on the new pay scales for 2017-2018.

044) Motions for 2016 Annual General Meeting:
To propose a maximum of two motions for debate at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 1st October, 2016 (to be submitted *no later than 12.00 noon on Friday, 1st July, 2016).*
Members were asked if the following Item needed to be deferred, whereupon the following Motion was proposed and agreed accordingly: *"When Local Authorities hand over facilities to Town Councils, this should be acknowledged by Central Government, together with the revenue needed to deliver such services."*

A Member suggested this should also be reflected in statute to address remuneration.

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

a) Minutes of the Performance Review Sub-Committee Meeting 20th April, 2016;

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 20th April, 2016;

- **"Tony Gregory Award"** – in respect of eligibility, it was agreed to remove the minimum age for nominees.
- **Commemorative Benches** – it was agreed that the tender process be undertaken to appoint a contractor to provide bases for the siting of the benches at Beaufort Road and Peacehaven. The specifications for the base had to be undertaken as stipulated within the planning application submitted to the Planning Department (BGCBC);
- A Member referred to damage to the inscription on the commemorative bench in the Park and agreed to ask that the 'House' (Aneurin Leisure Trust) review the CCTV footage;
- Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum, Town Councillors and the Heritage and Planning Officers (BG) had met on site in respect of the commemorative stone and plaque and confirmed no planning permission was needed.
- **Tredegar Live Project** – information in respect of funding available had been circulated to the Climate Change Adaptation Programme representatives; as no objections had been received, the Deputy Leader would respond to accept.

c) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting 25th April, 2016;

- **2016 Concerts in the Park** – Aneurin Leisure Trust to provide advertising materials, i.e. handouts, posters and flyers, which would be made available to Members for distribution. Stewards were required at all events; Town Clerk to email Members in order to compile a rota accordingly.
- **Armed Forces Day** – it was agreed that all Members be invited to attend Events Sub-Committee meetings leading up to the Armed Forces Day event.

d) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting 9th May, 2016.

Subject to the afore-mentioned matters arising, it was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved, en bloc, as a true record.

046) Grants:

St. James Church Mothers Union – thanks and a brief outline of the grant presentation.

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.

Georgetown Community Association – approved a Grant of £200.00;
Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group – approved a Grant of £200.00;
Shelter Cymru – approved a Grant of £50.00;
Tredegar Business Forum – approval of the grant recommended at £250.00 to be ***deferred*** in order for the Town Council to meet with the Business Forum; and
Tredegar Camera Club – approved a Grant of £200.00.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137).

None received.

047) Correspondence.

1) E. Morgan — Re: Opening Doors to Blaenau Gwent's Local Studies Collection – Aneurin Leisure Trust had decided not to proceed with a new Heritage Lottery funding bid for this project at this time.

A Member expressed concern at the decision of

the Aneurin Leisure Trust not to continue funding the Project. It was therefore agreed that the Town Council offer Mr. Emyr Morgan financial support of £200.00 to be used for match-funding with a new Heritage Lottery Funding bid.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Statutory requirement for all Councils to publish and report annually to the Panel on allowances and expenses payable to community and town councils by 30th September each year, this includes the publishing of NIL returns to the Panel, on noticeboards and websites.

A Member expressed concern that publishing allowances and expenses would highlight greater expense of those Members attending Conferences and Seminars and suggested this could deter participation. He proposed, therefore, that a letter could be sent to One Voice Wales highlighting this concern.

Following a brief discussion, Members considered that, in the interest of openness and transparency, it would be appropriate for that level of detail to be publicised, highlighting that all claims were legitimately presented for expenses incurred. The Town Clerk added that information could be attached to the expenditure, explaining the duties undertaken by that particular Member.

b) Larger Councils Conference 6th July, 2016 Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, booking form.

– received, defer for future consideration.

c) Upcoming training sessions.

– received.

d) Invitation to the Consumer Council for Water's Consumer Issues Workshop and Meeting in Public in Wales – 29th September, 2016, 10.30 a.m. Cardiff (venue to be confirmed).

– received.

3) R. Trimm

Reminder for Tredegar Forum meeting 12.00 noon on Friday, 3rd June, 2016 at the Moose Hall – *forwarded to Cllrs O. Price & J. Thomas.*

– received.

4) S. Aherne		Request for a reference for the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association. It was agreed that a character reference for Mr. S. Aherne be forwarded to the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association accordingly.
5) Cllr Baker Email		Thank you for the wedding anniversary flowers for his parents, they were surprised and impressed. – received.
6) Defibrillators in Tredegar Town	i)	S. Rees, Barclays – asking whether Council could give a donation towards the purchase of new batteries, which are £180.00 each. Currently fundraising via a raffle and have received numerous prize donations from local businesses.
	ii)	M. Morgan – update on batteries and raffle. The Town Clerk advised of the following update: Mr. M. Morgan had raised £150.00 liaising with Tredegar town centre businesses; Mrs. S. Woodward had promised a donation of £50.00; Mr. A. Tuck would guarantee to meet the cost of one battery; Barclays Bank plc had undertaken a raffle and set up a fund. Members agreed that a donation of £300.00 be approved to ensure future availability of the defibrillators and suggested that the Trust, to be established, could work in conjunction with the Schools.
7) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	a)	i) Weekly list of Planning Applications, date 13.05.16 – *forwarded to Cllr Price.* ii) Weekly list of Planning Applications, date 20.05.16 – *forwarded to Cllr Price.* – received.
	b)	Minutes of the Planning, Access and Rights of Way meeting 24.05.16 – *forwarded to Cllr Price.* – received.

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

	c)	Launch of the first ever Brecon Beacons Tourism Awards, 12 awards in total, entries to be submitted by 1st July, 2016.

– received.

8) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council	Patients Voice News Bulletin Issue 26 Dec-Mar 2016 - *added to TTC website* – received.
9) **PUBLICATIONS**	BGCBC Road works report week ending 27.05.16 and 03.06.16; Planning Aid Wales, Planning for Communities newsletter Issue 01 May 2016.
10) **AGENDA**	Executive Wednesday 1st June, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee Tuesday, 7th June, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. – Cancelled; Executive – Wednesday, 1st June, 2016 – reports for agenda items 12 and 13.

Councillors D. Rowberry and B Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

048) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received).
None received.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any.

c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations.

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2016/0142	Mr. R. Singh Singh Superstores Ltd. Flat above Nis 21 Park Place Tredegar	Proposed change of use A3 takeaway, 21 Park Place, Tredegar - Members noted there had been opposition on highway grounds but this had not been deemed a reason for refusal in accordance with planning considerations.
No objections.		
C/2016/0143	Mr. M. Koperski 4-5 The Circle Tredegar	Proposed change of use and conversion of 1st / 2nd floors from three flats to four self-contained flats and replacement shopfront to ground floor, 4-5 The Circle, Tredegar - Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the planning application and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
No objections.		

C/2016/0145	Mr. A. Williams 53 Larch Lane Bedwellty Gardens Tredegar	Proposed change of use from A1 class to a D2 class, 28a Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar - Members fully supported this proposal, which would greatly benefit this area, due to the amount of vacant properties and possibly deter the anti-social behaviour experienced.

No objections.

C/2016/0153	Mr. M. Edwards Prestbury Charles Street Tredegar	Outline planning for two houses, 12 Queen Victoria Street - Members emphasised the importance of the appointed Planning representatives meeting prior to Council to identify issues and agreed that each Ward should be represented by two Members.

No objections.

d) To consider other planning matters.
None received.

049) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally.
The following issues to be referred to Aneurin Leisure Trust staff:

The damage to the inscription on the commemorative bench in the Park and the request that the 'House' (Aneurin Leisure Trust) review the CCTV footage; request for updated report on fountain; report issues in securing of back gate; hanging of pictures in the House.

050) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees / Working Parties.
a) Joint Committee of Local Councils – no meeting held.
b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – no meeting held.
c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – no Annual General Meeting.
d) Tredegar Twinning
e) School Governing Bodies

- Bryn Bach Primary School – a Member was pleased to report that some refurbishment had been undertaken to classrooms, due to the presence of asbestos, in a professional manner; it was hoped this would be completed by next June. Congratulations were extended to the School on their recent local swimming gala, which was commended.
- Deighton Primary School – the School was running smoothly and attendees had been very pleased at the last Governors' Meeting.
- Glanhowy Primary School – the School was being refurbished and was making preparations for the new Unit to be opened in September; the School was making excellent progress and hopefully an update could be provided at the next meeting.

f) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – no meeting held.
g) Blaenau Gwent CAB – no meeting held.
h) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – no meeting held.

i) Tredegar Business Forum – no meeting held.
j) VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative – concern was expressed of the development opposite the Post Office, which was on stop waiting for the trees; good work was ongoing in the area of The New County; Members had met with a Christmas light provider, in order to provide a quote for the replacement lights on those trees.
k) Allotment Association – no meeting held.

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

- Members had met with Richard Davies (GAVO) with reference to Deighton playing fields/Tredegar Public Facilities and had proposed that a Licence be pursued; BGCBC had agreed to give the Town Council a licence. In terms of being set up and run under the Town Council initially, the Town Council had applied for an extension to that Licence in order to set up a bank account and Articles accordingly.

- A Member said it had been pleasing to see the Mayor at the Tredegar Horse Show, as the 'face' of the Town Council in supporting local organisations. The compère had emphasised the support of both Tredegar Town Council and Blaenau Gwent CBC; the sashes had the Tredegar TC logo; visitors were welcomed and it was good environment throughout the event; he thereupon thanked the Mayor for attending. The Mayor said that it had been a great day with a warm welcome extended.

- Members asked for a meeting with the Health Authority, Police and 'House' to discuss problems at Park Row; there was a hole in the Hospital roof and someone could be injured. Tredegar Town Council had a responsibility to ask why that area was becoming an attraction and proving a hazard to the public, i.e. litter, hole in roof attracting youngsters. A Member considered that the Police was not seen to be enforcing by-laws, e.g. drinking of alcohol. Also, the Park was responsible to secure the park area, and there were three holes in the fence, and drug users were gathering in the Park.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

_____ Chair