TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 18th May, 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors

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

026) Apologies: **Councillors S. Baker, G. Bowen-Knight, R. Watkins; and Town Clerk Mrs. C. Price**

It was agreed that a letter/card be sent to Councillor G B Knight. Individual Members would contact Councillor Knight to see if he needed assistance.

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

028) Item of Urgent Business – Deighton Playing Fields
Recommendation – Company Limited Guarantee

A Member explained the recommendation to Members and made the following remark "We have considered all advice given by Stuart Bees and Richard Davies". Another Member pointed out that asset transfers were not available with Blaenau Gwent CBC to either Town or Community Councils. It was confirmed this was the case and the Town Council would have to have it on licence, not a full transfer, and this would not secure the facility for the future. The Board to consist of five Councillors to make up the Directors, plus four service users.

Councillor A.E. Tippings arrived at this juncture.

Recommendations:

- Request licence to occupy
- Set up a company limited by guarantee
- Instruct Clerk and RFO to move forward with project
- Volunteers needed to do a site inspection.

In response to a query of how much it would cost for the upkeep, Members were informed it was between £3-5,000 for the upkeep; this was through Blaenau Gwent CBC. A Member suggested the Town Council work with Blaenau Gwent CBC until next April and explained the first cut, and the fields, would be handed over in good condition.

Members agreed unanimously to proceed with project.

029) To receive the Financial Regulations to:

i. Approve amendments, which were not approved at the Annual Meeting

ii. Name contractors and authorised elected Members

The RFO gave a full explanation of the amendments:
Change of expenditure of Clerk from £200 to £500 with approval of the Leader and Deputy Leader; Transfer arrangements of money (Banking); RFO and two witnesses - Mayor/Deputy, Leader/Deputy, Chair of Staffing; Payment of salaries; and, Addition of public conveniences
- this was moved accordingly.

Robin Jones (Plumbing) and Tony Cowbell (Electrical)
Authorised Elected Members Councillors T. Smith and B. Willis, RFO, Town Clerk.
- this was moved accordingly.

RFO explained Financial Regulations have increased and needed an annual review, plus they must be adhered to.
A Member questioned whether the Council needed to re tender for appointed electrician and plumber next year or could this continue, RFO would look into this.

030) Grants:

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

CHAD - Request for further written information; to be invite in.
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – approved £200
Tredegar Gardeners Club – approved £200
Vale View Allotments – a Member queried current arrangements and noted that it was nice to see them engaging with Council - approved £200.

b) Churches & Chapels (s.137): to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.

None received.

031) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2016.

- Views on Town Clock: a Member queried the colour, Members said it looked better; the Member considered it looked old already. Another Member said it was a matt finish, and only time would tell if it was better. Members recognised this was the fault of the Town Council, if done to our specifications. A Member would like to revisit this matter at a later date because, in her opinion, it did not look good.

A Member queried the original quote and the extra that was added; the RFO explained it was an extra £320 plus VAT added. Members welcomed it was local people/contractors undertaking the job. Clock planting would begin asap. Cllr Tippings to prepare stencils and RFO to order two tonnes of top soil at request of the gardeners.

The transfer of funds was approved.

032) The following Minutes of Council to be deferred to next meeting of Council on 1st June, 2016:

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

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

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

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

e) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 11th May, 2016.

*** Minutes not available at meeting.**

A Member queried why the Minutes were not available: it was explained that letters needed to be done for 12th June, 2016 event Queens Birthday Celebrations in the Park.

The Leader explained that he prioritised the Clerk's work in this instance in conjunction with the Clerk and the Chair of Staffing.

It was agreed that the Minutes moved to next meeting en bloc.

033) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC

a) M Howland Re: Assets – Response to request for details on potential/current CATS.

As decision made prior to the meeting, it was moved all agreed as previous

b) D. Assinder Re: Xmas Lights – will give details to their contractor.

An agreement was needed on replacement lights to equal value to the lights taken down. A Member gave an update but was unsure on what trees they would be and reminded Members if wanting to make any observations to do it now because once the trees were in nothing could be done. Another Member explained the people building the walls were in another area of the town centre doing other jobs. It was queried why BGCBC was building walls; all members agreed it was not a waste of money and would enhance the town centre. Seven replacement trees to place the cherry trees. Two London plain but no details of other trees.

(No other request for info or instructions to Clerk)

c) <u>Re: Tredegar Bypass:-</u>
i) C. Engel – response to concerns raised over the planting of the verges. Environmental services are responsible for this as email.

A Member raised concerns that volunteers were doing the litter picking and this area was attracting litter by planting the hedges it made it more difficult to maintain the verges and the Council or Councillors were criticised by the public.

ii) N. Davies – passed concerns regarding litter to the Cleansing section.

Passed concerns regarding litter to cleansing section. (As above.)

d) J. Brooks Re: Trefil quarry – response to concerns raised with images from his site visit– *forwarded to Cllr Tippings*. NB. Office has an answerphone message from J. Brooks confirming there has been no breach of planning therefore case has been closed.

Cllr Tippings had not got back to the Clerk on this due to work commitments; there was a need to go back to J. Brooks and readdress the problem. Member to forward questions to Clerk.

The Chair added that case was closed subject to answer machine message. Councillor Tippings disagreed and would take this up with the Officer direct and report back to office.

2) One Voice Wales

a) South Wales Development Officer – introduction from new appointment Shân Bowden.

Letter to be sent to "Shan Bowd" to welcome her to her new role.

b) Communication to all Larger Council members – pay policy proforma.

Move to next Staffing Committee.

c) The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 24.

- received.

d) Smarter Energy Future for Wales report.

Pass to climate change group - received.

e) Invitation from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales - Your views of the Wellbeing of Future Generations, dates confirmed - South West Wales 30th June and South East Wales 4th July - but venues. Places allocated on first served basis, confirm interest to contactus@futuregnerations.wales .

Councillor O. Price to attend on behalf of Council and any Members of Climate Change Group.

f) Opportunity at Consumer Council for Water – Local Consumer Advocate post in Wales, closing date 31st May, 2016 (remunerated position).

- received.

g) Training:
i) Chairing Skills, Bedwas, Wednesday 25th May 2016 – 6.30pm to 9pm.
ii) Understanding the Law, Barry, Wednesday 1st June 2016 - 6.30pm to 9pm.

Councillor T. Smith would like to attend "understanding the law"; other Members to liaise with Clerk if they wish to attend training (interests to Clerk)

3) J. Hayman

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was commencing a programme of listening and engagement across Gwent in respect of developing and improving Older Persons Mental Health Service. Programme commences 20th June for 3 weeks with this borough's event being held Thursday 30th June 2016 at Metropole Conference Centre, Abertillery between 2.00 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. Contact OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk if you wish to attend.

Councillors M. Cross, T. Smith and H. Trollope.

Cllr John Morgan arrived at this stage of the meeting 7.22 p.m.

4) Duoguard

Quotation for addition to CCTV at the public conveniences to give cover of the upstairs area.

A Member moved we rescind financial regs **due to need for extra security following the recent break-in and agreed appropriate to use original contractor due to their knowledge of the installation/equipment fitted**, this was seconded.

It was proposed that a public conveniences site committee be held.

A Member queried how good the system is - it was felt that the equipment on site should be sufficient. A Member added the reasons for the CCTV system was public safety and that the two existing cameras covered the entrance to the toilets only and were very clear however this did not include the blind spots i.e. The disabled facility and entrance to service area. It was considered that, with a 360 degree camera, any blind spots could be covered.

It was queried if the Council needed to put a cage over the light. On advice of the electrician, it was agreed to go for the same light as smashed.

A Member queried if the CCTV was working in town; a Member gave the answer and explained there were problems with the CCTV in Tredegar. The owners of the shopping centre would not currently pay for CCTV in the shopping centre.

It was moved to proceed but not until location agreed by Members.

5) Tredegar History & Archive Society

Copy of letter sent to Mr. S. Gillingham requesting an update on the status of the Truck Shop. Copy of letter sent to Mr. S. Gillingham requesting an update on the status of the Truck shop.

A Member added that THAS "they" have received a letter and that they are going to request the building is de categorised by CADW. There was concern raised about the money owed to the local authority (Public Money). How the money will be reclaimed. It was noted that BGCBC could take a compulsory purchase order on the land this was welcomed by Members.
The Member said there were problems with people trying to access the doctors and they had to walk half a mile to get 20 yards because of access.

A Member considered a common sense approach was needed to this and the owner owns £250.000 but the Authority need to make the area safe but it was not viable and was unsafe. It was not the last truck shop, as believed by some, there was another truck shop in Sirhowy. Another Member raised concerns about other buildings in the town CADW were not doing their job. Another Member said there were no powers to knock the building down until declassification.

A Member added there were other buildings that were in bad condition was in private ownership.

6) Hospice of the Valleys

Thanks for grant. The Lap the Lake will always be the last Sunday of April, no other events planned to date.

A Member said the issue was the clash with the Walk for Life; this date could not be changed because it was an annual event.

- write a letter and thank the Hospice for information and explain that ours is a national walk day. Could they rearrange or think their day to avoid this clash?

7) Fields In Trust

Inviting Town Councils to nominate a recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme this July.

PROPOSAL land adjacent to Beaufort road, same land that bench will go on - agreed

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

a) Agenda for Planning, Access & Rights of Way Tuesday 24.5.16 at 2pm Conference Room, Plas Y Ffynnon, Brecon – *forwarded to Cllr Price.*

A Member noted that Councillor B. Willis was now the BGCBC Representative for BBNPA - Members wished him all the best.

- received

b) Weekly list of planning applications 6.5.16 – *forwarded to Cllr Price*.

- received

9) R. Trimm

a) Deals going down from Tredegar Forum meeting 22.4.16.

- received

b) Energy Advice Service from Groundworks Wales.

- received

10) Jobcentre Plus

Invitation to attend "Find your Future" employment and careers event being held 29.6.16 Abertillery Jobcentre, 6.7.16 Ebbw Vale Jobcentre, 13.7.16 Tredegar Jobcentre. Need to confirm attendance/reserve a stand.

- received

11) GAVO

Go Wild poster, event 4.6.16 at Parc Bryn Bach – *added to TTC website.*

- received

12) **Publications**

Communicorp Local Councils Update May 2016 issue 195; Ville D'Orvault Orvault & Co May/June 2016 Issue 5; LITE Festive lighting 2015-16 catalogue; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2016 Issue 105; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 20.5.16 & Amendment to roadworks report, temporary traffic lights A4048 till 20.5.16; Older People's Commissioner for Wales newsletter May 2016 - *added to TTC website*; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - Clinical Futures Minor Injury Unit and Critical Care Services information – *added to TTC website***.**

Move received

13) **Agenda**

Special Meeting of Council Thursday 19th May 2016 postponed to **Monday 23rd May 2016** at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Monday 23rd May 2016 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

A Member added an update from a BGCBC point of view@

Subject to full BGCBC Council approval.-

- Reinstate rat/pest control;

- Remove £10.00 bulky items charge; and
- reintroduce spraying of weeds.

- received

034) Planning:

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

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.
Application re: 4 and 5 The Circle refused but new application resubmitted, this was welcomed by Members.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2016/0136	Mr D Steed Garnlydan Farm, Garnlydan, Ebbw Vale.	Two storey dwelling with attached garage, land adjacent to Nook House, rear of Harford Street.
No objections		

d) To consider other planning matters.
None received.

035) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice).
· Kidney Wales Walk for Life—Reminder to bring sponsor money to the office.
A Member said it was really disappointing the numbers that had turned up to the walk.

Sirhowy Woodlands - the Group was active and want to get on with things, they would be at GO Wild on the 4th June, 2016, so Members are encouraged to go along to visit them.

Fly Tipping. Natural resources Wales were not dealing with fly tipping - it was noted for example St. James' Reservoir.

Send letter to Natural Resources Wales, A.M., M.P., Gwent Police, BGCBC.

A Member added this was happening in and around the town centre also.

Another Member added the area behind the library: BGCBC had collected rubbish, clothes, etc. but this was back again. The youngsters were using this area as a toilet.

Councillor H. Trollope would revisit this tomorrow in preparation for an event in the library on Friday.

The Chair thanked Members for their co-operation.

Councillor M. Turner – meeting requested to discuss anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Tredegar General Hospital with the following parties: Aneurin Bevan Trust, Gwent Police and Tredegar Town Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

_____ Chair