TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 5th October, 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: **Councillors S. Trollope (CHAIR)**
D.W.A. Howells
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
R.W. Thomas
B. Willis

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

Also Present: **Heddlu Gwent Police Sergeant Matthew Briggs, PC Wes Morgan**

140) Apologies. **Councillors J. Thomas, O. Price, T. Smith, A.E. Tippings, S. Baker, G. Bowen-Knight, M. Cross, G. Meredith, J.C. Morgan, H. Trollope, M. Turner and R. Watkins**

In the absence of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor S. Trollope was nominated as Chair to undertake proceedings for the meeting.

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

142) Policing matters: ten minute session to raise issues of concern with Police Officer in attendance, if any
The Chair welcomed the Police Officers in attendance to Council; at the invitation of the Chair, Sergeant Matthew Briggs addressed Council, firstly introducing PC Wes Morgan, the newly appointed Tredegar Ward Manager replacing PC Jamie Witcombe. PC Wes Morgan briefly outlined his background and experience of issues within Blaenau Gwent, having gained good knowledge of this area over the previous seven years.

Members thereupon raised the following concerns and Officers responded accordingly:

- **Bryn Bach Primary School** – Sergeant Briggs referred to work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Team in respect of illegal parking in the vicinity of schools, particularly Bryn Bach Park and Georgetown. A Member thanked Officers for the work undertaken in addressing this long outstanding issue; the situation had improved and she commended Officers for doing a good job. The Member said that she appreciated this problem arose from the actions of irresponsible parents, proving a risk to the safety of their own children, and 'green cones' were to be provided to be placed in the bus bays to act as a deterrent to illegal parking. Members were informed that the Police were distributing leaflets on road safety to the parents, outlining the dangers of crossing the road when vehicles were illegally parked.

- **Illegal Parking and Loading/Unloading – Town Centre** – one major issue was being experienced with illegal parking in disabled parking bays and the loading/unloading of goods, whereby lorries parked in the main high street, causing congestion. Members highlighted that shops such as Family Finance and Bargain Booze had rear vehicular access that should be used for such deliveries.

  A Member complained that this had been an ongoing issue for a number of years and he was concerned that it appeared that nothing had been done to resolve the problem. Sergeant Briggs acknowledged there was an issue with illegal parking across Blaenau Gwent and the Officer would expect his Team to police, and enforce, within resources available. However, he would pursue the issue of loading/unloading with Traffic Management to ascertain what powers the Police had in place to alleviate this issue, in the first instance, asking PC Morgan to liaise with the traders responsible in the hope of an amicable resolution. The Officer also recognised congestion was exacerbated with motorists parking diagonally to accommodate as many vehicles as possible.

- **Town Centre walkway** – a Member said that serious damage had occurred to the walkway that led to the car parking area – vandalism of fluorescent lighting, littering, destruction of commemorative plates, etc. by youths congregating in this area. This problem needed to be addressed. The Member considered this problem had arisen due to the fact that Blaenau Gwent CBC was no longer committed to the locking/unlocking of the gates to the walkway. Keys had been left with traders in this vicinity, who had agreed to open the gates in the morning, however the gates remained unlocked at night.

  Sergeant Briggs said that the Police was receiving an increased volume of calls in respect of youths causing problems in the town and one arrest had been made. There was currently discussion in respect of potentially implementing Dispersal Orders, that enabled Police to clear an area for forty-eight hours, which had proven effective in other areas. Members considered that it would be appropriate for these gates to be locked from

approximately 5.00 p.m. to accommodate shoppers, which was agreed accordingly. Sergeant Briggs confirmed that he would be happy to liaise with traders in order to offer any Police support available in ensuring these gates were locked each evening.

- **Charles Street** – illegal parking near the traffic lights at the bottom of Charles Street was an issue; a Member said that three accidents had occurred in this area in the past two months. There was illegal parking on the cycle path by the traffic lights, and on the right-hand side of the lights, therefore motorists travelling down Charles Street would not have enough room to pass oncoming vehicles. A warning should be issued to the vehicle owners.

- **Illegal Fireworks** – a Member asked for an update on the issue of the increasing amount of illegal homemade fireworks. PC Morgan confirmed that a number of complaints had been received recently and informed Members that Officers would be operating a patrol over the next two weeks in the evening to identify the culprits. Although the CSOs had limited capabilities, PC Morgan would be accompanying these Officers, focussing upon the town centre and certain areas. Sergeant Briggs added that the Police had powers to undertake a search for fireworks and there were offences in place relating to various categories of fireworks.

- **Off-road Vehicles** – a Member raised a serious issue of concern in respect of the volume of motorbikes in the vicinity of Waterworks Lane on Sundays; use of off-road vehicles was a regular occurrence between approximately 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. and an update was required of the Police on how this problem would be addressed.

143) Grants:

Completed end of grant forms from Blaenau Gwent Otters Swimming Club, Ladies Circle Tredegar No. 1 Moose International and Tredegar Methodist Church.

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

Blaenau Gwent Otters Swimming Club for the Disabled - Request for financial assistance to be used for the weekly running costs of the club i.e. pool hire/transportation. **Previous – 2015/16 Jan'16 CQ No. 317 £200.00**: Approved.

Ladies Circle, Tredegar No. 1 Moose International - Request for financial assistance to be used for the purchase of kitchen items i.e. new bin/cake stands/melamine plates/tea pots/hand mixer. **Previous – 2015/16 Feb'16 CQ No. 327 £200.00**: Approved.

Tredegar Town AFC Seniors - Request for financial assistance to be used for the weekly running costs of the club i.e. pitch hire/referee fees/kits. **Previous – 2015/16 Jan'16 CQ No. 317 £200.00**: Approved.

b) to receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137)
Castle Street Church – Request for financial assistance to update the sound system. **Checked back to 2002, no record of previous grants**: Council happy for RFO to liaise to ensure necessary financial conditions in place and approved accordingly.

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Request for financial assistance to be used for works within the building. **Previous – 2015/16 Sept'15 CQ No. 255 £225.00**: Approved.

144) Change of Order of Agenda
It was agreed that the Planning Items be considered as the last Item, as more Members had indicated attendance, thus ensuring the meeting was quorate following a declaration of interest by Councillors D. Rowberry and B. Willis in respect of planning matters; this was agreed accordingly.

145) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) A. Watkins Re: Deighton Fields – invoice for grass cutting and explanation of the charges.

- Noted; the Clerk provided an explanation of the costs detailed in the invoice. Members agreed that the SLA had proven good value for the Town Council.

b) K. Rees Re: British Telecom Consultation – Intended public payphone removals. Opportunity for local communities to adopt a traditional red heritage phone box for a £1 and make them an asset that local people can enjoy. There are six payphones proposed for removal in Tredegar. Consultation ends 24.12.2016.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website and forwarded to The House staff, as Aneurin Leisure may wish to locate a traditional red heritage phone box in Bedwellty Park.

c) <u>Schools</u>:
i) Georgetown Primary – apologies for missing

presentation evening 21.09.2016, illness. Requesting details of training session – *emailed back letter about training.* - Noted.

ii) E. Jones Re: Town Council representative at Glanhowy Primary – Cllr Watkins has only attended one meeting since elected last year. They have been informed that he no longer resides in Tredegar and are requesting update on future Town Council representation.

- Noted; Clerk to write to Members in respect of attendance at meetings.

d) i) List of licensing applications week ending 23.09.2016.
ii) List of Applications week ending 30.09.2016.

- Noted.

e) M. Howland Re: CAT of Beaufort Theatre/Ballroom – asking for Members views by 30.09.2016 – *forwarded to all Members online to respond by 10 00 a.m. Thursday 29.09.2016: Responses received from two Members and these were duly forwarded to M. Howland 29.09.2016*

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee: What should it focus on? This is the first time an Assembly Committee has given the public the ability to directly decide what it should focus on,
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CWLCAskWales

- Noted.

b) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report, February 2017 – Asking for this to be brought to Council's attention and for any comments to be sent to One Voice Wales by 21.11.2016 for them to compile a composite response on behalf of the local councils sector in Wales –
Remuneration Panel Report attached.

- To be agendaed for consideration at next meeting of Council.

3) National Assembly for Wales

C. Hughes Re: Land Transaction Tax & Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill – Finance Committee is seeking ideas and views on the consultation through an online platform: https://senedd.dialogue-app.com/maer-dreth-stamp-yng-nghymru-ar-fin-newid-stamp-duty-in-wales-is-about-to-change .
Closing date 21.11.2016.

- Noted.

4) Christmas Lights:

a) LITE Limited, M. Avill
i) Outlining plans to test tree lights at some point during next two weeks with an onsite meeting to agree lights/repairs etc. and trail test switch on scheduled for 16th or 17th Nov - *replied to ask if tree lighting test can be done after 11.10.2016 as Cllr Smith would like to attend that meeting.*
ii) Will check with installation team about moving tree test till after 11.10.2016 and come back to us shortly.

- Noted.

b) Dinky Donuts - Copy of hygiene certificates for attendance at switch on event.

- Noted.

5) Tredegar Twinning

a) Orvault Visit 2017 – Leaving Tredegar at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12.04.2017 and arriving back in Portsmouth at 6.30 p.m. Monday 16.04.2017. Request to spread the word to fill the coach.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

b) Re: Twinning meetings – copy of email sent to Liam, Life Leisure Trust, confirming members are happy to move their meetings from Mondays to Wednesday evenings.

- Noted.

6) Gwent Police

Off Road Bikes – Westley Morgan, new Ward manager at Tredegar Police Station, outlining the

patrol plan for the Neighbourhood team.

- Noted; Clerk to email to Members on request.

7) Cadw

Requesting feedback on the Open Doors event held 17.09.2016 – *to be completed by 16.10.2016.*

- Noted; Members asked to feedback comments to the Clerk in order to formulate a response accordingly,

8) S. Arnold

Re: Southend Allotments – asking for a meeting to discuss the trees.

- Noted; Sub-Committee meeting to be convened.

9) N. Smith MP

Advice surgery Friday, 14th October, 2016 at Tesco, Abertillery from 4.00-5.00 p.m. – *added to website and in noticeboard.*

- Noted.

10) R. Trimm

Email Tredegar Forum meeting Friday 7th October at noon in the Moose Hall, booking is essential – *forwarded to Cllrs Tippings & Price*

- Noted.

11) GAVO

Age Cymru Gwent, The Carers' Chronicle Newsletter of The Blaenau Gwent Carers Project Issue 31 Summer 2016. – *added to website.*

- Noted.

12) M. Catherine

Requesting that the Mayor considers Huntington's Disease as a recipient of the Mayor's Appeal and explains her reasons for this request.

- Noted; to be retained on file for consideration by the Mayor 2017/2018.

13) R. Taylor-Davies

Potential funding opportunity for projects – Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project. Grant funding available for acquisition of object, training and community projects.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

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

14) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	i) Weekly list of planning applications, date: 16.9.16 – *forwarded to Cllr Price* ii) Weekly list of planning applications, date: 23.9.16 – forwarded to *Cllr Price* - Noted. A Member provided a brief update on powers now delegated to National Parks in respect of planning matters relating to Listed Buildings, where there was no longer a requirement for CADW to be involved. Throughout Wales, seven of the twenty-two authorities now had powers that shortened the planning process considerably. This was an indication that Welsh Government had confidence in these organisations to deal with such matters.
15) Brecon Beacons Tourism	i) Minutes to Members, meeting 20.09.16 available at http://breconbeaconstourism.org/documents/Minutes20thSpetember20162.pdf ii) Business opportunity – franchising of the Visitor Centre. - Noted.

16) **PUBLICATIONS**
BGCBC Road works report week ending 30.9.16 & 7.10.16; J Parkers Wholesale catalogue Autumn Extra 2016; Planning4communities September 2016 newsletter.

17) **AGENDA**
General Licensing Committee (October Cycle) Tuesday 4th October 2016 – CANCELLED; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 3rd October 2016 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 10am Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education, Active Living and Learning Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education, Active Living and Learning Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Planning Committee – October Cycle Thursday 13th October 2016 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Special Planning Committee Monday 10th October 2016 at 12 noon on site at land to the East of Whitworth Terrace, new detached dwelling

– *emailed Georgetown Ward members details of meeting*; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 11th October 2016 at p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

146) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally
No updates were received.

147) 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
b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales**: Clerk attended to represent Tredegar Town Council and was happy to provide feedback
c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM:** no meeting
d) **Tredegar Twinning**: the meeting had been held this week but Town Council had been unable to attend and extended apologies - no feedback
e) **School Governing Bodies**: no updates to date following school holidays
f) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**: no feedback
g) **Tredegar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** : no feedback
h) **Tredegar Business Forum**: no feedback
i) **VVP/Tredegar Heritage Initiative**: a Member enquired of a proposed Heritage Day event to be held at Bedwellty Park. No information had been received by Tredegar Town Council – Clerk to pursue

148) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)

- Members expressed concern that Aneurin Leisure Trust were able to opt out of services that the organisation had been contracted to undertake and sought an explanation. Members also expressed concern that monies did not appear to be reinvested in Bedwellty House and Park; the House Manager was commended in the management of the Park, which appeared very successful, but it appeared that monies were being reinvested elsewhere rather than the Park, e.g. repair of the fountain.

  It was agreed, therefore, that an email be forwarded to the appropriate Executive Member of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council requesting an explanation on the cessation of these services.

  Members also referred to the management of Bryn Bach Park – horses and cattle had strayed into this area, possibly due to damage to fencing; also, no public convenience facilities were available on site on Bank Holidays, which was a negative for visitors.

149) Planning:

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

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

b) verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any
None received.

c) to consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations
The following applications were approved, in principle, as the meeting was inquorate due to declarations of interest made and a decision reached to forward the planning applications to Ward Members providing a further opportunity to comment.

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2016/0277	Mr. P. O'Leary 137 Charles Street Tredegar.	Demolish existing prefabricated garage & replace with concrete block & tiled apex roof as per existing. Wall covering matching existing house finish and painted. Roller shutter doors to front and upvc windows & door to rear, as per submitted plans, 137 Charles Street.
C/2016/0282	Mr. C. Jones RC Archdiocese of Cardiff & Monmouth The Archbishop's House 41-43 Cathedral Road Pontcanna, Cardiff	Classroom extension, St Joseph's RC Primary School, Ashvale, Tredegar.

d) Other Planning Matters
C/2016/0142 Proposed change of use to A3 takeaway, 21 Park Place – Appeal has been made to the Welsh Ministers but as this is a Minor Commercial Appeal there is no opportunity for Town Council to submit comments. However, BGCBC have forwarded all representations made to them during application to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. **Noted as received.**

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.53 p.m.

_____ Chair