TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 11th May, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

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

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

Also Present: Invited guests.

001) Apologies: **Councillors S. Baker, G. Bowen-Knight, J.C. Morgan P. Prosser, R.W. Thomas and R. Watkins**

Councillor Malcolm Cross wished to express his appreciation to Colleagues for their support in delaying this meeting, as a mark of respect to him and his family following the recent loss of his mother, and extended his thanks.

002) Thanks and Appreciation by Councillor G. Meredith, Mayor 2015 - 2016.
The Mayor wished to extend a 'big thank you' to all Members for their support over the previous twelve months. It had been a wonderful twelve months – he had been very busy and unfortunately his employer had not been forthcoming in allowing him the time to attend events. He offered thanks to the Town Council for the support, particularly to the Leader and Deputy Mayor in covering mayoral duties, which was really appreciated. The guidance of the Leader had been really appreciated and Members had all been only too willing to help, should the Mayor have a query.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to his 'long-suffering' wife and he wished the next Mayor all the very best for the year to come.

The Leader thanked the Mayor for the work undertaken during his year in office, and his wife for her dedication as Consort, balancing their work-life with both the year in office and Council duties – well done. He extended thanks to Rhianan for her support.

A Member endorsed the Leader's comments and said that it was a pleasure for the people of Tredegar to see the Mayor and his good wife – and he would miss the cowboy boots!

003) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017.
A Member proposed that Councillor Jacqueline Thomas be nominated, following the work undertaken during her year in the role of Deputy Mayor, in addition to working for the people of Tredegar and her

Union work, always placing her work at the forefront. It therefore gave him pleasure in nominating Jacquie as Mayor to serve until the Annual General Meeting of Council in 2017.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Jacqueline Thomas was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Mayor.

004) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.
The Mayor read the acceptance of Office and duly signed – it was thereupon confirmed by the Clerk.

At this point the Chain of Office was handed over, and the Consort's Chain also exchanged. Gifts of flowers were given to the incoming and outgoing Consorts.

005) To receive any communication the Mayor may wish to lay before Council.
Councillor Jacqueline Thomas was pleased to accept the role of Mayor; she was honoured and felt enormous pride to have this opportunity to become the face of Tredegar for the coming year. The newly appointed Mayor thanked the Town Councillors for their support since coming on to the Town Council and extended a 'big thank you' to Geraint, who it had been a privilege and honour to support throughout his year in office. The Mayor offered thanks to the Town Clerk and the RFO for their and their hard work and also the work done behind the scenes, without which she and her Consort would be unable to fulfil their duties. The Mayor looked forward to the continued support of Members, for both herself, the Deputy Mayor and Consorts.

The Mayor thereupon announced her Mayoral Appeal this year would be supporting charities in relation to Multiple Sclerosis and Dementia.

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017.
A Member proposed that Councillor Oriel Price be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor, as she and her family were committed to Tredegar and a credit to the town. The Deputy Leader looked to Oriel for guidance, considering her the 'leading lady' of the group on environmental matters and never shied from activities, such as participating in litter-picks, and was a true aid to both the Council and town. The Member thanked Oriel in anticipation of her acceptance and wished her the very best for the forthcoming year.

This nomination was duly seconded and the Member extended a welcome to Oriel in her new role, as he was sure she would undertake her role brilliantly.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Oriel Price was elected unanimously; she thereupon completed her declaration of Office, which was ratified by the Clerk, and was duly appointed as Deputy Mayor.

At this point the Chain of Office was given to the incoming Deputy Mayor and a gift of flowers was given to her Consort.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017.
A Member commended the Leader 2015 – 2016, who had done a great job over the last year for Council, taking on additional responsibility on behalf of the town. She offered thanks to the Member for his diligence and effort and had no hesitation in recommending that Councillor Tommy Smith remain as Leader of Tredegar Town Council. She thereupon wished the Leader well for his forthcoming year in office.

The nomination was duly seconded and appointed. A Member highlighted that Tommy had not only shown leadership within this Council Chamber, but also when representing the Town Council at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, ensuring Tredegar was at the forefront of all meetings.

The Leader thereupon accepting the role of Leader and thanked all his Colleagues in allowing him the opportunity to continue in this role and report to Town Council within this Chamber and in the Joint Meetings convened within the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017.
A Member said it gave her great pleasure to propose that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated to the role of Deputy Leader, as she sure that Alyson would do an excellent job. The nomination was duly seconded and Councillor Alyson Tippings appointed as Deputy Leader.

The Deputy Leader thanked her Colleagues for their endorsement.

009) To approve that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio Members of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees with voting rights.
This was agreed unanimously.

010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council:

i. **To amend Standing Orders to appoint Clerk with plenary powers up to £500.00, not £200.00 as previously agreed, to be used in exceptional circumstances and to be cleared by the Leader and Deputy Leader, or in their absence, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.**

This was agreed unanimously.

011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.
This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council's Bankers (existing).
This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.
This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.

1) Defibrillators

All six schools in Tredegar had been contacted, with the deadline of 3rd May, 2016, to confirm whether the School wished to receive a defibrillator from the Town Council. The following had confirmed:

Bryn Bach Primary; Georgetown Primary; St. Joseph's Primary; Deighton Primary. (verbal confirmation only); Glanhowy Primary; and Tredegar Comprehensive School.

The provision of Defibrillators within all six Schools was welcomed by Members, enabling the Council to ensure these buildings were much safer in serving the staff, pupils, parents and grandparents.

- Approved, Council to purchase six defibrillators. It was proposed that St. John's Ambulance could supply the necessary training and this should be renewed on an annual basis.

2) BGCBC

BGCBC Planning Service customer survey – responses by 20th May, 2016 - Noted.

3) One Voice Wales — Consultation: The Well Being of Future Generations and what it means for your audit. Responses by 16th May, 2016 - Noted.

015) To consider any Urgent Planning Applications.

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.

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2016/0121	Mr. I. Templar 28 Bethel Avenue Tredegar	Two storey rear extension – 28 Bethel Avenue
No objections		
C/2016/0128	Mr. M. Edwards 9 Kimberley Terrace Tredegar	Two storey rear extension – 32 Pochin Crescent
No objections		

d) To consider other planning matters.
Confirmation had been received that the Town Council's planning application for the bench at Peacehaven, Tredegar, had been approved and the works undertaken had to be exactly as per the application.

016) To set the Mayor's Allowance (£1,050) and to authorise payment of the allowance.
This was agreed unanimously.

017) To set a Leader's Allowance, as per the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16th March, 2016, not exceeding £500.00.
This was agreed unanimously.

018) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).
This was agreed unanimously.

019) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee to meet quarterly.
This was agreed unanimously.

020) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017

a. Civic Sub-Committee
Councillors D. Rowberry (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, R.W. Thomas, H. Trollope, R. Watkins

b. Events Sub-Committee
Councillors T, Smith (Leader) (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price (Deputy Mayor), A, Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Cross, H. Trollope, M. Turner, R. Watkins, B. Willis.

c. Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00
Councillors P. Prosser (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price (Deputy Mayor) T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader) D. Howells, J. Morgan, D. Rowberry, S. Trollope, B. Willis.

d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee
Councillors. H. Trollope (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, D. Rowberry, B. Willis, R. Watkins.

e. Appeals Committee
Councillors M. Cross (Chair), J. Morgan, P. Prosser, S. Trollope, R.W. Thomas, M. Turner.

f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council
Councillors J. Thomas (Mayor) (Chair), All Members of Council

g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee
Councillors R Watkins (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), J Thomas (Deputy Leader), S. Baker, J. Morgan, D. Rowberry, S. Trollope B. Willis.

h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme
Councillors A. Tippings (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), S. Baker, J. Morgan, O. Price, R. Watkins.

i. Tredegar Public Facilities
(To incorporate the Deighton Playing fields, Tredegar W/C Facilities)
Councillors B. Willis (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Cross, H. Trollope
It was suggested this Committee be moved to representation on 'Outside Bodies' as appropriate

- Planning
Councillor R.W. Thomas (Sirhowy Ward); P. Prosser (Reserve)
Councillor G. Meredith (Georgetown Ward); J. Morgan (Reserve)
Councillor M. Turner (Central & West); D. Howells (Reserve)
Councillor T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve)

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee/Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017.

021) To confirm the appointment of Mr. S. Bees as the Internal Auditor until the Annual Meeting of Council 2017.
Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

022) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:

a. Joint Committee of Local Councils
Councillors T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), D. Howells, O. Price; Mrs. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor G. Meredith (Reserve)

i) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales
Councillors T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price; Mrs. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor G. Meredith (Reserve)

ii) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM
Councillors T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), R. Watkins, B. Willis

b. Tredegar Twinning Association
Councillors T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price; Mrs. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor G. Meredith (Reserve)

c. School Governing Bodies

i) Bryn Bach Primary
Councillor D. Howells

ii) Deighton Primary

Councillor S. Trollope

iii) **Georgetown Primary**
Councillor G. Meredith

iv) **Glanhowy Primary**
Councillor R. Watkins

v) **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary**
Councillor S. Baker

d. Blaenau Gwent CAB
Councillors R. Watkins and H. Trollope; D. Howells (Reserve)

e. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel
Councillor G. Meredith

f. Tredegar Business Forum
Councillors T. Smith (Leader), and J. Thomas (Mayor)

g. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Councillors P. Prosser and B. Willis; T. Smith (Leader), and H. Trollope (Reserve)

h. Allotment Association
Councillors J. Thomas (Mayor), O. Price (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), G. Meredith, J. Morgan

i. VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative
Councillor T. Smith (Leader); to be presented for consideration at a future meeting for additional representation

023) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize and the Michael Foot Award, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.
This was agreed unanimously.

024) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.
This was agreed unanimously.

025) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

i. to amend the Cycle of Meetings to approve the Annual General Meeting of Council to be held the second Wednesday in May.

The Leader said that the proposal to amend the Cycle of Meetings to convene the Annual General Meeting of Council the second Wednesday in May was presented for consideration to avoid future clashes with General / Local / Assembly elections; there was not a need, therefore, to amend Standing Orders.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

_____ Chair