TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 21st September, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: **Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price**
RFO – Ms. A. Jones

128) Apologies. **Councillors O. Price, S. Baker, G. Bowen-Knight, G. Meredith, D. Rowberry and R. Watkins**

129) Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

130) Policing matters: ten minute session to raise issues of concern with Police Officer in attendance, if any.

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. Clerk to liaise.

Another Member highlighted the increasing problem with the amount of homemade fireworks; this issue had been raised with the Police and a request made for the names of culprits to be passed to the Police. To date, no arrests had been made but this issue had been noted by the Town Council accordingly. It was also noted that Members of the Town Council had met with the Police Commissioner to represent residents of Tredegar, outlining local issues and those experienced across the valleys as a whole.

A Member said that, following the previous meeting when the Inspector had attended Council, a Police presence had been noted in respect of illegal parking in bus bays outside schools. A police car had driven past but had not stopped; this had been relayed to the

Inspector, who had asked for the car number and the name of the Officer driving, and the Member expressed disappointment at this update. However, Members commended PCSO Paula Blunt, who had been in attendance at recent public events, engaging with the public.

Councillors R.W. Thomas and J.C. Morgan joined the meeting at this juncture.

131) To receive the report of the External Auditor for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 2016.

The RFO updated Members in respect of feedback received on the Annual Return; no matters had been brought to the attention of Town Council and a clear audit received. However, two minor recommendations had been made – Section 1 'balances brought forward', it was noted these had not added up by £1.00; the RFO said that the explanation for this was as a result of the rounding up of differences. A note on the accounts was submitted specifying this. Petty cash monies of £100.00 had historically been written as expenses and this had accepted by both the internal and external auditors – unfortunately, BDO no longer wanted the RFO to undertake that process and she was now to collate final receipts and bank into the system to show the amount as cash in hand.

The report had been sent to the Town Council's Internal Auditor seeking comments, who had been very pleased with the report and expressed slight disappointment with the feedback, but suggested this indicated the external auditors were happy with the thematic strategies that the RFO had in place.

Members thanked the RFO for the stringent work undertaken and highlighted that the external auditors were newly appointed, which could explain the rigorous feedback, and hoped this would not result in additional work for the Officer.

The RFO said that Members may note in the conclusion of the report that this report should be subject to public access for a period of fourteen days; as this did not stipulate exactly whether this entailed working days/weekends, etc., the RFO would be prudent and display the report in the Tredegar Town Council noticeboard for a period of one calendar month. The report was also available in the office for members of the public to inspect.

Finally, the RFO referred to the decision of Council to retain the internal Auditor's services for the current financial year and confirmed the fees levied, for Members' information.

132) Grants:

a) **To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.**
   Heads of the Valleys Gateway Club – recommendation of £200.00: Approved.

b) **Churches & Chapels (s.137): to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.**
   Tredegar Methodist Church – recommendation of £225.00: Approved.

133) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2016 and to ratify any necessary payments made during August Recess.

The RFO spoke to the report, highlighting that bank reconciliations were available for

Members to view.

- **Town Clock** – in response to a question raised, the RFO gave a brief verbal update, summarising the findings of the electrical assessment undertaken at the request of Council; one issue of concern related to a cable running to the top platform. Should Members determine that any remedial works required undertaking urgently; this could be approved under the remit of the Town Clerk, outside the approval of any larger programme of works.

  The RFO explained that the contractor had been asked to undertake an electrical assessment of all electrical works required and that assessment could be used as a specification within any future tender process.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items were approved for payment.

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

a) Civic Sub-Committee - 13th July, 2016;
b) Civic Meeting of Council - 13th July, 2016;
c) Performance Review - 20th July, 2016;
d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20th July, 2016;
e) Events Sub-Committee - 21st July, 2016;
f) Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee - 25th July, 2016;
g) Joint Finance & Staffing / Events Sub-Committees - 27th July, 2016;
h) Civic Meeting of Council - 7th September, 2016; **
i) Events Sub-Committee - 15th September, 2016 **
**** Minutes available at meeting**

It was agreed that Minutes h) and i) be ***DEFERRED*** for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council, and; the remaining Minutes presented be approved en bloc, as a true record, with any matters arising to follow.

135) Matters arising from the Minutes.

Civic Meeting of Council – 13th July, 2016 –

- SLCC/OVW Conference, Wales Training Seminar 2016 – a Member considered that the Clerk could have further elaborated within the report on the Key Speakers, which was noted accordingly. The Clerk explained that Members had considered the report comprehensive and expressed thanks for the feedback; also, the Clerk had explained that Councillors Tippings and Price had been invited to add their feedback to the report, but unfortunately had not been in the meeting at the time the Item was considered.
- Deighton Fields – a meeting was needed to engage with external groups in order to proceed.
- Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – a Member highlighted the need for flags to be promptly removed following events, as the Armed Forces Day flag had remained in place for some time.

Events Sub-Committee – 21st July, 2016 –

- Classic Car Event – the event had been well-attended; a Member thanked Councillor Mark Turner for managing the road closures on the day.

Councillor M. Cross arrived at this juncture.

Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 25th July, 2016 –

- Christmas Lighting – a meeting had been convened for Members to meet with a representative of LITE Limited to discuss arrangements. It had been agreed that the company test the Christmas lights in-situ; also, Members emphasised that the pre-switch on test not be undertaken on Remembrance Sunday. A Member highlighted that issues had arisen with previous providers but felt confident in the way the representative had responded to any queries raised.

A Member referred to concerns he had in relation to discussion in respect of the condition of the walkway in the Town Centre, recorded in the Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held 7th September, 2016. As this Item had been deferred, discussion was recorded under 'Matters of Local Interest or Concern' accordingly.

136) Chair to sign Minutes.

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council.

137) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC

a) A. Thomas Re: Tender Opportunity – confirming project was split into 2 phases, phase 2 refurbishment is the current tender advertisement on Sell-2-Wales.

- Noted.

b) Consultation with Town / Community Councils Wednesday, 28th September, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. – CANCELLED.

- Noted.

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

c) i) List of licencing applications, week ending 09.09.2016.
ii) List of Licencing applications week ending 16.09.2016.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Gwent Valleys Area Committee meeting and AGM, Tuesday, 4th October, 2016 at 7.00 p.m. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council offices – ***agenda distributed to appropriate Members.***

- Clerk had attended to represent the Town Council and was happy to provide feedback

b) Welsh Government Assets of Community Value questionnaire.

- Noted; refer to RFO for consideration.

c) Response to the proposal on mergers of Local Justice Areas in Wales.

- Noted; agenda for future meeting.

d) Public appointments:
i) Vice President and Trustees, National Library of Wales, closing date 23.09.2016; Trustees, National Museum Wales, closing date 30.09.2016 – *all non-remunerated posts.*
ii) Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales – Commissioners (three posts), closing date 12.10.2016, remuneration of role is you can claim daily rate for attending meetings; Valuation Tribunal for Wales, appointment to Governing Council, closing date 04.10.2016, no remuneration but reasonable expenses are claimable.

- Noted.

3) Boundary Commissions for Wales

2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales: Initial Proposals – Report published 13th September, 2016, available at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk. Representations should be made within twelve weeks of the publication making clear of the area / areas they concern, representation period will end 5th December, 2016.

- The boundary had been extended to Blackwood; bearing in mind the close ties between the two communities, it was proposed that Tredegar Town Council agree to this proposal, which was agreed accordingly.

4) F. Abu-Kaoud

Vale View Allotments – would like to meet with Council regarding insurance for the Allotments.

- Agreed that a Policy Sub-Committee be convened and the RFO be invited to attend; Members considered this a good opportunity to meet with allotment representatives.

5) A. Tippings	Horeb & Sardis the Church at Trefil: Harvest Thanksgiving and Flower Festival between 25th September and 2nd October, 2016 with the flower festival depicting Creation. All proceeds will be in aid of Tredegar Mayor's Appeal Blaenau Gwent Dementia Community and other collections will be for the foodbank. ***Anyone wishing to sponsor a floral display this year it is £30.*** All welcome to the Harvest Festival Services being held Sunday 25.09.2016 at 6.00 p.m., Monday 26.09.2016 at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday 27.09.2016 at 7.00 p.m. and Sunday 02.10.2016 at 6.00 p.m. ***Added to website and in noticeboard.*** - Agreed that Tredegar Town Council sponsor one floral display at £30.00.
6) R. Taylor-Davies	The Valleys that changed the World - Information and notes from the meeting held last week. - Noted.

7) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

Full Council meeting of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council will take place at 5.30 p.m. at the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran on Wednesday, 5th October, 2016. Meeting is open to the public and copies of the agenda are available at the meeting or prior by contacting Tel: 01633 838516, email: Enquiries.AneurinBevanCHC@waleschc.org.uk. ***Added to website and in noticeboard.***

- Noted.

8) GAVO

a) Blaenau Gwent We Want questionnaire – ***added to website.***

- It was noted that Tredegar Town Council had a major part to play and it was proposed that a presentation was needed, which was agreed accordingly.

b) DBS information update – WCVA Criminal Records Unit is closing 30.09.2016, a trusted supplier list has been collated to identify those DBS umbrella registered bodies that can access checks on behalf of third sector organisations, more information available at http://live.wcva.sequence.co.uk/153346.aspx

- Noted; to be added to the TTC website.

9) Carbon Trust

As part of the Resource Efficient Wales Service funded by the Welsh Government, a series of Free webinars are being run during September/October.

- Noted.

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

10) Brecon Beacons National Park

a) Weekly list of Planning Applications, date 09.09.2016. – *forwarded to Cllr Price.*

- Noted.

b) Agenda for National Park Authority Friday 23.09.2016 at 10.00 a.m. Plas y Ffynnon, Brecon - *forwarded to Cllr Price.*

- Noted.

c) Supplement: SIA to the Agenda for National Park Authority Friday 23.09.2016 at 10.00 a.m. -

forwarded to Cllr Price.

- Noted.

11**) PUBLICATIONS**
BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 16.09.2016 and 23.09.2016.
Available for Members – received.

12) **AGENDA**
Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee 10th October, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. – CANCELLED; Special Environment, Economy and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee 18th October, 2016 at 2.00 p.m. – CANCELLED; Executive Committee Wednesday, 21st September, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Wednesday, 21st September, 2016 at 9.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Education, Active Living & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) Thursday, 22nd September, 2016 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Monday, 26th September, 2016 at 11.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday, 27th September, 2016 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for Members – received.

138) 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).**
List of Delegated Items determined between 20th July, 2016 and 19th August, 2016:
C/2016/0227 Non-material amendment to planning permission C/2009/0306 to alter size of bi-fold door opening and change the colours of the windows and doors (C/2009/0306 detached dwelling and associated groundworks, land adjacent to 1 Pochin Crescent, Tredegar – *Approved.*
C/2016/0189 Single storey bathroom/kitchen extension, 99 Glyn Terrace - *Approved.*
C/2016/0154 Application for Discharge of conditions: Condition 2 – Finishes, Condition 3 – Drainage, Condition 4 – Boundary walls *(C/2015/0125 Two storey four bedroom dwelling)*, 19 Maes Morgan, Tredegar – *Condition Discharged.*
C/2016/0177 Renovation and improvements including a new shop front and alterations to windows, 10 The Circle, Tredegar – *Approved.*
Planning Applications Report:
2016/0225 New detached house, land to East of Whitworth Terrace, Tredegar – Recommending *Refused*.
Noted as 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/2016/0272	Mr. R. Hughes 29 Fields Road Tredegar	Two storey dormer style dwelling and detached garage, land rear of Willow Court

No objections, subject to Condition 10 remaining attached to the planning application and, in accordance with the desktop reports undertaken, Tredegar Town Council request that the original suggestion of test drilling be adhered to.

C/2016/0107	Mr. K. Thomas The Sun Shop 99 Commercial Street Tredegar	Change of use of first floor space from A1 retail to sui generis for beauty treatments such as nail painting, eyebrow waxing and pedicures (retention), The Sun Shop, 99 Commercial Street

- No objections

d) To consider other planning matters.
None received.

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

- **Maintenance of Environmental Works at Tredegar Walkway**
  Councillor Morgan referred to concerns he had in respect of discussion in respect of the condition of the walkway in the Town Centre, recorded in the Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held 7th September, 2016. He considered this information inaccurate and, therefore, should not be moved as a true record.

  The Member said that the Town Council had never commissioned Groundworks to undertake works and no formal contract had been made. Blaenau Gwent also had never commissioned this company and would not allow any planting or maintenance. Tredegar Town Council had, however, committed to planting of the walkway and plants were in place. Unfortunately, weeds had become overgrown, choking these plants and causing damage to the membrane.

  The Leader confirmed that Tredegar Town Council had committed financial support for annual maintenance over a five year period, estimated between £200 and £500 per annum. He understood Members concern; however, the Town Council had made this commitment. Members agreed that a meeting could be convened with Groundworks to discuss these issues and, if no contract was in place, this could be addressed also.

  Another Member suggested that no additional planting could be undertaken until the issue with the gates being locked at night had been resolved. Members were informed that a set of keys would be passed to the Mayor, who had offered to lock these gates each night and two traders in the town centre also had keys to open the gates in the morning. A Member highlighted that the Town Council had agreed to support the

maintenance when the planting was to an acceptable standard, which she considered had not been met; however, she agreed that the Town Council needed to liaise with Groundworks to agree the way forward.

A Member suggested that the Town Council Members could undertake the work to make the area suitable; Members said this could be an option however it was noted that a financial commitment had already been made to Groundworks for this company to undertake the maintenance.

It was agreed that the environmental maintenance of the walkway be agendaed as an Item for further discussion.

Councillor M. Turner left the meeting at this juncture to greet guests in attendance at the Presentation Awards evening following Council.

- **Change Step Veteran Mentoring** – apologies were noted from Change Step in respect of the Presentation Awards Evening; it was agreed that the representative attend the next convenient meeting of Council to accept the cheque for monies raised on Armed Forces Day.

- **Hanging Wires (Christmas Lighting)** – a complaint had been received in respect of hanging wires in the town centre; it was agreed that the office pursue to ascertain if the hanging wire was Christmas lighting wire, to ascertain if a risk to public safety and to be addressed accordingly.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 6.47 p.m.

_____ Chair