TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Committee in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 5.45pm

Present:	**Councillor**	**R. Watkins (5.50pm)** **T. Smith** **A. Tippings** **D. Howells** **G. Bowen-Knight** **P. Prosser** **D. Rowberry** **B. Willis**
In attendance:		**R.F.O.**

053) Apologies: **Cllrs. G. Meredith, T. Gregory, M. Cross, J. Morgan, M. O'Sullivan, R. Thomas, O. Price, H. Trollope and S. Trollope.**

In the absence of the Chair and to prevent any delay in the start of the meeting, Cllr Tippings took the Chair and welcomed the two representatives from the Gwent Police

054) To receive a presentation from the Gwent Police on the local impact of the forthcoming NATO Summit.

The NATO Summit will be taking place at the Celtic Manor on 4th and 5th September 2014 with 28 NATO countries represented, over 60 world leaders in attendance. This event is the biggest security operation undertaken by Gwent and South Wales Police and it was stated that there would be no impact on local police resourcing, there would be no change locally. The aim of the operation is the maximising of safety and minimising harm/disruption to visitors and residents. The operation is being funded by Central Government.

The presentation went on to give details of the potential impact, such as increased visitors and traffic and the possibility of protests, would have. They are recommending that people plan travel arrangements in advance taking into consideration the possibility of delays and diversions. The increased traffic could even affect roads as far away from Newport as A465. Therefore they requested that the message to plan/make travel arrangements in advance is relayed to the public. They went on to say that rolling road closures would be in place on the M4 to move delegates through but the M4 would not be completely closed; diversions would be in place when necessary and contingency plans have been made for alternative routes which will be actioned if need be.

Another message the Police want relayed to members of the public is the importance to contact the local Police with any issues or concerns they may have about suspicious behaviour/activities.

Council offered to circulate to all Members any written updates received by the Office from the Police and expressed their hopes that the operation goes well and peaceful. Thanks were extended for the informative presentation and both representatives were invited to attend Tredegar's Armed Forces Day before they left the meeting.

Members hoped that the valleys will feel the impact of the increased visitors and a Member went on to say about how tourism literature on local historical sites has been sent. It was agreed to write to the Secretary of Wales offering greeting by the Tredegar Mayor to those dignitaries and guests that wished to visit Tredegar and Bedwellty House.

Cllr Watkins took his place as Chair and the meeting continued.

055) Declarations of Interest.
As and when appropriate.

056) GRANTS
a) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137
Tredegar Twinning Association, Summer camp exchange (Special Grant) – Grant of £500 approved. Feedback received regarding the selection criteria – The criteria was read out and received by Council.

The RFO raised the two following items for consideration and approval by Council:-

a) Kidney Wales Foundation – A grant of £200 was approved by Council to be paid with the fundraising received from the Walk For Life 2014 event.
It was also agreed that prior to next year's event sponsor forms are to be distributed to all Members and past participants. Members were also requested to show their support on the day too by participating in the walk or being available to man the registration tent etc.
b) Gwent Defibbers – It was felt this association has worked tirelessly to promote the importance of defibbers in the community and have offered excellent training opportunities. It was agreed to award, in principle, a grant of £200 with the proviso that the RFO receives the necessary documentation required for a grant.

b) Grants to Churches and Chapels
Noted as none received.

057) Accounts: To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in June 2014.
The RFO informed Members that bank reconciliations were available at the meeting for Members to view.
A Member brought to the attention of Council that the bespoke sofa is now in situ in the Mayor's Parlour and that is was brought on-site in well over thirty pieces. The manufacturer had pointed out some issues that he was not satisfied with and plans to resolve as soon as possible. He had also informed the cleaner the best way to clean the fabric.
The accounts were received and moved by Council.

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

a) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2014.
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st May 2014.
c) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee held on 4th June 2014.
d) Minutes of the Civic Committee held on 4th June 2014.
e) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee held on 12th June 2014.

All the Minutes above were Moved as a True Record.

059) Matters arising from the Minutes.

- **Minutes Ordinary Meeting 21.5.14:-**
  - **i. Minute No. 027)** – It was agreed to receive the quotes at the Events Meeting which will be full Council on Wednesday 25th June 2014.
  - **ii. Minute No. 030), Item 3a** – The RFO was asked to chase up a response from the A.M.
  - **iii. Minute No. 030), Item 6** – Brochures were now available and a trophy selected to be purchased asap. The football trophy has now been presented to the Oak FC. A Member explained that it would not be possible to book a suitable football pitch until 23.8.14 due to fixtures being in full swing. The Deighton field, a mid-week match or playing on the 3G pitch in Ebbw Vale were suggested as alternatives. It was agreed for Cllr Tippings and Cllr Cotton to liaise with local clubs and discuss at the next suitable meeting.
  - **iv. Minute No. 030), Item 12** – Thanks were expressed to Cllr Smith for resolving this matter.
  - **v. Minute No.030), Item 19 –** It was noted that the event was really successful and had raised over £200 which was donated to the local foodbank. A Nye Bevan plate had been presented, on behalf of Tredegar Town Council, to Mr A Johnson M.P. at the event.
- **Minutes Events Sub-Committee 4.6.14:-**
  - **i. Minute 036)** – It was felt that this event highlighted the need for properly trained stewards at events and that the road closure training is now essential. Therefore it was recommended that road closure training is now sourced outside of the BGCBC facilities.
  - **ii. Minute 039)** – It was agreed to hold the next Presentation Evening on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at 7.30pm, in sync with the Council meeting on this occasion.
- **Minutes Civic Committee 4.6.14:-**
  - **i. Minute 045), Item 2e –** A Member raised how the A.M. and M.P. were invited to the event by BGCBC. The A.M. had in fact attended the event in Six Bells but had to leave to make a speech at Hay as Minister of Natural Resources. The M.P. had intended to attend Tredegar's part of the event but was delayed in traffic on the motorway. Council's decision is that at all future events the Town and Borough Mayoresses will take precedence over invited dignitaries.
  - **ii. Minute 047) –** A Member informed Council that an email has been sent to the House today regarding the pungent smell from the fountain and asking for the fountain to be cleaned prior to Armed Forces Day. Currently waiting for a response but it is understood that Mr D Watkins, BGCBC, is aware of the problem and will be speaking to the Chief Executive.
    A Member raised concerns regarding youths between the ages of 15 & 16 years old playing football in the children's play area. When another member of the public had asked them to move they were verbally abusive towards her. It was felt that the antisocial behaviour within the Park is not being adequately addressed and that the Park should be reporting the issues to the Police regularly.
    Members raised concerns that the reduction in staffing which included the recent departure of the Head Gardener is detrimental to the Park; it was noted that in the short time he has been gone there has been damage done and the volunteers are lacking direction.
  - **iii. Minute 048), Item ix –** Cllr Tippings will forward the information to the office for adding to the Council website.
- **Minutes Events Sub-Committee 12.6.14**
  - **i. Minute 052) –** QBR Window Competition – *Cllr Watkins declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.*

The winners were moved by Council and it was agreed to invite them to the Presentation Evening 2.7.14 at which the certificates and cheques can be presented. Cllr Tippings confirmed she has a copy of the Camera Club photographs from the QBR event.

060) Discuss the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Survey of Remuneration 2013/14.
Members agreed, again, this year not to accept any remuneration which is a total saving of £1800 (18 x £100) and would continue as voluntary Members. Members were reminded that if they were required to attend conferences on behalf of Tredegar Town Council then they can reclaim the expenses incurred if they wish.
It was agreed that remuneration consideration should be included as part of the AGM agenda and that it is a Member's decision whether to accept remuneration or not.

061) Propose items for inclusion on the agenda for the next Consultation with Town/Community Councils meeting scheduled for 17th July 2014.
It was agreed that any items for inclusion are to be forwarded to the office by 26th June 2014.

Cllr Prosser declared an interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussions or decision making.
062) Agree a response to the update request from Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum regarding their grant application.
After a lengthy discussion a grant of £200 was approved for this grant application which is in respect of the World War I commemoration events.

063) Correspondence:

1) BGCBC (a) D. Phillips – Notice of emergency road closure, A4048, between Tredegar and Blackwood.

Received.
Cllr Tippings declared an interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussions or decision making.

(b) A. Tippings Re: 2015 Events – collating details for 2015 for Visit Wales. Asking for any dates asap.

Possible events for inclusion are the Band Concert season, Armed Forces Day and the Christmas Lights Switch On.

(c) D. Ware: Blaenau Gwent Rural Development Plan Update. (attached received responses from those included in the global email sent by Mr Ware)

Received.

(d) A. Tippings – Forwarded on email from Gareth & Alison Carter regarding Bedwellty Park issues.

Received. It was agreed to write back to Mr & Mrs Carter confirming the letter has been forwarded to the Bedwellty House Manager and that the matter of running the Park will be the responsibility of the Trust. Also it was agreed to highlight that all Town Councillors are voluntary.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Tackle Rural Fuel Poverty – request to submit an expression of interest to work with this project.

Received.

(b) Agenda for Larger Councils meeting Wednesday 9th July 2014 at Hafod a Hendre Building, Royal Welsh Showground.

Received. The RFO was asked to confirm with Cllr Price if she wishes to attend.

(c) Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth 9th March 2015 – official guide on participating.

It was agreed to ask the Bedwellty House Manager whether Council could fly a flag and if in agreement the RFO is to purchase the flag at a cost of £58.
It was also agreed to request that the current flags are unwrapped from around the flagpoles by the Armed Forces Day event.

3) Public Conveniences:-

(a) Cllr Smith
(i) Inviting Members to join him for the 2pm meeting on 11.6.14 with the new owners of the shopping centre.
(ii) Copy of email sent to new owners giving information on costs.

Cllr Smith reported back the outcome of the meeting. Costings had been requested by the new owners which have now been supplied. The current status is that Members are currently awaiting a response from them.

(b) Cllr Morgan – clarifying further information relating to costs.

Noted. A Member expressed thanks to all the Members involved for their work in this matter.

4) Sofa Magic Sofa for Mayor's Parlour now fitted and will be revisiting shortly to resolve issues that he feels are unsatisfactory.

Members acknowledged the issues raised by the manufacturer. A discussion followed and it was agreed, taking into consideration factors such as manufacturer location and factors outside of Council's control, to withhold £300 of the final payment until the issues have been rectified. The RFO was instructed to reissue a cheque for the new agreed amount payable now and another cheque for the balance of £300 payable to the manufacturer when he is on-site.

Cllr Smith declared an interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussions or decision making.

5) SLCC (a) Confirmation of successful completion of SLCC Working With Your Council course and certificate for Cllr Smith.

Congratulations were extended to Cllr Smith.

(b) Details of CiLCA course for Cllr Smith to progress on, £250.

Council approved that Cllr Smith should progress on and agreed payment of the fee.

6) S. Baker Nick Smith MP unable to attend Armed Forces Day as he will be out of the country.

Received.

7) A. Arscott Rogerstone Band – thanks for the opportunity to play, all players thoroughly enjoyed the themselves.

Received.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Audit & Scrutiny Agenda 20.6.14 – forwarded to Cllr Price.

Received.

9) Cllr Watkins Copy of email received from M. Phillips raising questions that Mr Smith MP was unable to respond to and had recommended she contacted the local Council.

The questions were noted and it was agreed to refer them to the relevant departments in BGCBC. A letter is to be sent, via The Castle Tredegar, acknowledging that Cllr Watkins has raised their questions with Council and that they will be address by BGCBC.

10) GAVO (a) PCC funding opportunity and relevant form.

Received. Requested the information is forwarded to Bedwellty House Manager who maybe to use it to access funding for youth activities.

(b) GAVO Sunflower Project Volunteering opportunities at Ebbw Vale Hospital, recruiting 10.7.14 between 2pm-7pm.

Received. Cllr Smith agreed to place poster in town noticeboards.

(c) GwirVol funded Grant Scheme.

Received. Agreed to add to website.

(d) Invitation to attend Five Ways to Wellbeing Workshop Tuesday 8th July 2014 1.30pm & 4.30pm Committee Rooms 3,4 & 5 Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Received. Any Members that are available can attend.

11) Crew Regeneration Wales

Town Regeneration: The importance of culture and tourism seminar – 16th July 2014 at Galeri, Caernarfon.

Received.

12) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC road works report week ending 13.6.14 & 20.6.14; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi April & May 2014; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 19th June 2014 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

Available for Members.

13) AGENDA

Special Meeting of Council Thursday 19th June 2014 now commencing at 10am not 2pm; Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Friday 13th June 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting Thursday 19th June 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 12.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 25th June 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee 25.6.14 – Item No. 3 Appendix 4, Item No. 11 report, Item No. 11a report; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 26th June 2014 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Special Audit Tuesday 24th June 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for Members.

064) Planning:
Cllrs Rowberry and Willis declared an interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussions or decision making.
a) Officers Report
Noted as none received.

b) Applications:

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0070	Mr P Thomas	Revised plans, plot of land at Heathfield
No objections.		
2014/0146	Mrs J George Cae Gwyllt Whitworth Terrace, Tredegar.	Construction of retaining wall & platform to form a terraced area within the original residential curtilage, Cae Gwyllt Whitworth Terrace.
No objections.		
2014/0147	Mr A Morris 25 Bethel Avenue, Tredegar.	Single storey rear extension, 25 Bethel Avenue
No objections.		
2014/0148	Mr M Wicks G-Tekt Europe Manufacturing G Tem, Crown Business Park Dukestown, Tredegar.	Recladding of front façade including new entrance canopy and remodelled porch together with replacement boundary fence – G Tem, Crown Business Park.
No objections.		
2014/0157	Mrs M Godfrey 20 Harford Gardens Tredegar.	Retention of retaining wall & fence & associated levelling of garden; proposed increase in height of boundary fence.
No objections.		
2014/0158	Carol Riding 44 Green Meadow, Tredegar.	Single storey rear extension, 44 Green Meadow
No objections.		
2014/0159	Mr M Wicks G-Tekt Europe Manufacturing G Tem, Crown Business Park Dukestown, Tredegar.	Erection of 2 company signs to front elevation of factory façade and erection of 1 company sign on boundary fence – G Tem, Crown Business Park.
No objections.		

c) Other Planning Matters
Noted as none received.

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

- Blue Balloon concert on 27th June 2014 at 7pm Tredegar Orpheus Hall – An invitation from Mr Knapik was extended to the Mayor and all Members to attend this fundraising concert. The Mayor confirmed his attendance to the RFO.
- Liaison meetings between Borough and Town Councillors – It had been raised with Borough Councillors that there is a lack of information, such as proposed community regeneration, being fed to the Town Councillors who could flow that information out into the community. It was confirmed that it has now been agreed to schedule regular meetings between Borough and Town Councillors.
- Issues to be raised with the Police:-
    a) A Member raised concerns over the lack of parking defaults being addressed by the Police. It was noted that recently a 4x4 vehicle had been parked, on ramps, on a public pavement for over a week. It was sited opposite Ashvale Fish shop (as you approach from the Lindsay Gardens roundabout) on a very small pavement with double yellow lines. It was noted that this location is very hazardous hence the prohibition of parking via double yellow lines but also because it placed the public at risk as they had to use the road instead of the footpath. It is believed this vehicle must have been seen by Police at some point during that week and concerns were raised that no action had been taken to address the risk it was posing.
    b) The matter of the BMW parked all day in the loading/disabled parking bays outside the Town Post Office was once again raised. It was highlighted that this parking issue has been ongoing for two years come August, all bar for one week during which they complied with the Police request to park in an appropriate location. There appears to be no continual enforcement being taken by the Police to address this parking issue even though it has been raised with them on many previous occasions.

  It was agreed to writing to the Police raising these concerns.
- Tredegar Youth Café – A Member informed Council that the Café will be closing in June 2015 and have planned various events in the run up to that time - they plan to end with a bang! It was agreed to send a letter expressing Council's sorrow on hearing the news of the proposed closure of such a great organisation.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

_____ Chair