TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at 6.00pm

Present:	**Councillor**	**R. Watkins**
		G. Meredith *(arrived at the meeting at 6.45pm)*
		T. Smith
		A. Tippings
		B. Willis *(left the meeting at 7.00pm to greet guests)*
		P. Prosser
		D. Rowberry
		R.W Thomas
		S. Trollope
		H. Trollope
In Attendance:		**R.F.O - Annette Jones**
		Acting Clerk - Ceri Mortimer

71) Apologies: Cllrs. G. Bowen-Knight, D.W.A Howells, J.C Morgan, O. Price, M. Cross & T Gregory.

72) Declarations of Interest
As and when appropriate.

73) Grants
<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and S.137</u>

73.1) 2167 (Tredegar) Sqdn Training Corps
To assist the club to upgrade their flight simulator it was RESOLVED that £200 be granted to the 2167 (Tredegar) Sqdn Training Corps

73.2) Tredegar St John's Ambulance
To assist the club to upgrade their toilets it was RESOLVED that £500 be granted to the **Tredegar St John's Ambulance**
Mr David Maninngey of St John's Ambulance had approached the Deputy Leader with concerns that recruitment was dipping due to rumours that they were closing. This was not the case for the time being, and therefore all new recruits were very welcome.

Grants to Churches and Chapels

73.3) Church of the Immaculate Conception Tredegar
To assist with the repairs to the front of the church it was RESOLVED that £200 be granted to the **Church of the Immaculate Conception Tredegar.**

Cllr D Rowberry & Cllr B Willis declared an interest in the next item and played no part in ensuing discussions.

74) Planning

- Officers Report was received - 2014/00078 Change of use of land to garden cartilage with reprofiling works, Forest Edge Whitworth Terrace – it was RESOLVED that there were no objections.

74.1) Applications

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0170	Mr G Davies James Street, Tredegar.	Proposed garage to rear of property 29 RESOLVED – no objections
2014/0172	Mr P Williams 16 Brompton Place, Tredegar.	Ground floor and first floor rear extensions RESOLVED – no objections

74.2) Other Planning Matters
A member commented on the internal state of the Methodist Church. At the final service everything was intact, but since then the interior had been completely removed despite it being Listed and the Heritage Officer telling them to stop works.
It was RESOLVED that the clerk follow this up by contacting Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) and Cadw.

Cllr D Rowberry & Cllr B Willis returned to the discussions.

75) Correspondence
BGCBC

(a) E. Hallett - Re: Response to letters sent to S. Smith
(i) Proposed Changes to Planning System – Will ask Mr Smith to contact us on his return from leave to discuss attendance at a meeting.
(ii) Thomas Richards Centre – She has noted the responses sent to by other departments (as below). To demolish a building a Notice of Prior Approval of Demolition would need to be submitted to the Planning Dept. and planning's remit is restricted to looking at the method of demolition and site restoration rather than permitting the demolition. *Awaiting further information*
(iii) Harcourt Terrace Methodist Church – An inspection of the building by a Principal Officer and Frank Olding will take place 12.6.14, she will respond directly accordingly.

(b) Thomas Richards Centre:
(i) F. Olding – No knowledge of proposed demolition or works. Included a current Buildings at Risk Register and **draft** local list for Tredegar. '*Building at Risk'* can be viewed at the office
Clerk to write that it be included on the 'Builders at Risk' document and remind Planning of their obligations to consult in line with the charter.
(ii) M. Howland – The proposed Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has not progressed; Estates will shortly determine whether to dispose of building or consider the CAT route; As far as he is aware there are currently no restriction – conservation area, listing – which would preclude any potential buyer seeking demolition other than normal planning rules.
(iii) L. Healy – Unlikely that work will commence in 2014 on the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Buildings of Local Interest.

(c) Harcourt Terrace Methodist Chapel:
(i) F. Olding – Confirming that this matter has been discussed with C. Ashby, Case Planning Officer, and she will respond in due course.
(ii) C. Ashby – Report on findings from recent site visit. Inspection has satisfied the Council that no unauthorised works/damage to the listed building have taken place as a result of its recent conversion. However, planning permission for the change of use was not sought prior to the works therefore they have been invited to submit a planning application. *It was noted however by members that the pews remain removed and fixture & fittings have not been put back but placed in storage. A 'change of use' planning application is required by planning. The clerk will take this up with BGCBC*

(d) Matthew Yates Re: Update on condition of Fountain/ponds – D. Watkins has compiled a report to take to the executive regarding a new system for the circulation of fresh water within the fountain. In the meantime he will ensure it is cleaned before Armed Forces Day event. *It was noted that it had been cleaned before the event but switched off, and as the water continues to be fed from the ponds, the issue remains. Letters of thanks will be sent to Matthew & David.*

(e) D. Phillips Re: Road closure - A465 Heads of the Valleys between Brynmawr roundabout and Ebbw Vale roundabout on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 from 20.00hrs to 23.00 hrs. *This item was noted.*

(f) (i) D. Ware Re: Rural Development Plan update
(ii) Cllr Price – request to be added to this group as a Town Council representative with Cllr Watkins. *As Cllr Watkins is the lead on this group it was suggested that Cllr Price be a reserve.*

One Voice Wales

(a) AGM Motions 2014 – Tredegar Town Council's Motion. Proposed Motion was considered by the Motions Committee 6.6.14 and amended to "That One Voice Wales supports the call for a percentage of the Non-Domestic Rate currently paid to welsh Government, to be paid directly to Community and Town Councils for the benefit of local economic growth." This motion as been approved to be considered at the AGM at the Royal Welsh Showground on 4.10.14. **Council is to confirm by 30.7.14 that**

they are happy to support the amended Motion with details of a second Member Council supporting this motion.
It was RESOLVED that members supported the amended motion. This will be circulated to Abertillery.

(b) Call for Honours Nominations (Queen's Birthday 2015) from the Welsh Government. Criteria and details of available awards included. *It was RESOLVED that nominations from St David's be forwarded.*

(c) Information Commissioner's Office: Data Protection Good Practice Note – Advice for the elected and prospective members of local Authorities. *This item was noted.*

(d) Green Growth Wales - Alan Davies AM is launching 23.6.14, in London, Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future. Prospectus available at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/green-growth-wales/?lang=en *This item was noted*

(e) Code of Practice on workforce matters. *This item was noted and can be viewed at the office.*

(f) Training: Community Engagement Part II – Tuesday 15.7.14 from 6.30pm to 9pm at Civic Offices, Barry. Closing date for booking is 8.7.14. *Cllr S Tom may attend.*

Queen's Baton Relay:

(a) A. Davies AM – response to letter sent regarding nonattendance to Tredegar's part of the event. *It was noted that another diary commitment had prevented him from attending.*

(b) N. Smith MP - response to letter sent regarding nonattendance to Tredegar's part of the event. *It was noted that N Smith M.P had accepted the invitation but was caught up in traffic which prevented him attending. Thankfully the two Mayoresses stepped in on the day.*

Armed Forces Day:

(a) Mr Coles – Confirming participation of the re-enactment group at the event and the wavering of their fee as it is for such an excellent cause.

(b) Cllr Tippings – Suggesting payment is made but redirected to the H4H Appeal as a donation.
It was RESOLVED that their fee for the day be wavered and a donation be made payable to H44 appeal to make total to £1,000.

Cllr Watkins

Mayor's Appeal Christmas Ball will be held on Saturday 6th December 2014 at Bedwellty House.
It was noted that it would be a black tie and ball gown, 3 courses and an 18 piece band, event. Members made a note in their diaries.

S. Bartlett — Copy of items which the JCLC would like to have placed on the agenda of the meeting being held 17th July 2014.
It was suggested that the joint consultation include waste, stray animals, transport review, grass cutting and the disposal of surplus buildings.

GAVO — Community Asset Transfer Programme – date and venue for presentation now confirmed for Tuesday 15th July 2014 at 6pm Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale. Agenda included and tea/coffee served from 5.30pm.
This item was noted.

Gwent Police — Councillor Update May 2014 – copied for all Members.

Welsh Government — Public Services complaints – E-learning training package to assist in training frontline staff is available at http://wales.gov.uk?topics/improvingservices/publicationsevents/publications/public-services-complaints-policy/?lang=en
This item was noted

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council
Review of Frailty Services and supporting community services provided by Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Executive summary attached.
This item was noted

Local Works — Empowering Parish Councils to sell electricity – Asking if Council would please submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act asking the Government to give all parish and town councils the right to sell electricity that they generate from local schemes.
This item was noted

Publications
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report 2013/14; BGCBC Road works report week ending 27.6.14 & 4.7.14; J Parker Wholesales Catalogue Autumn 2014; Clerks & Councils Direct July 2014 Issue 94.
This item was noted and the publication is available at the office for members to view.

Agenda
Executive 25th June 2014 – reports for agenda items 4, 5 & 9; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st July 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Education & Skills/Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Monday 30th June 2014 at 3.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 10th July 2014 – POSTPONED. *This item was noted.*

76) To discuss the concerns regarding future Town Council organised events
It was a concern that there was a lack of volunteers to properly man some of the town councils events. Training for stewards could be undertaken by Diane Griffiths and to cut costs on erecting road closure signs, which can be expensive, members need to consider statutory training to equip volunteers to undertake this work. The clerk to make enquiries with Paul Gray from BGCBC.

77) Delegates: Comments were received in respect of the following Delegates to Outside Bodies and Sub-Committees/working Parties:-

1. Bedwellty Park Management Board.
2. Joint Committee of Local Councils – *members had attended but felt that the agenda required more structure*
3. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales - *this was coming up*
4. Tredegar Twinning Association – *donated over £300 to Armed Forces Day. It was noted that one member's son travels up from London every year.*
5. School Governing Bodies – *A letter of thanks to be sent to the retiring Head teacher, Ms Julie Protheroe.*
6. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee.
7. Tredegar Youth Café.
8. Blaenau Gwent CAB.
9. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – *met last week, feedback will be provided. Crime Commissioner, Mr Ian Johnston will be available to speak with local people at a barbeque being held on 31st July 2014, 11.00am - 3.00pm*
10. Tredegar Business Forum discussed:
    (1) Classic car event
    (2) Town centre planting has been done
    (3) *Update on the re-opening of the toilets was received and discussed.*
11. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – *a wreath will be laid on the 17th August. A meeting will be held on the 3rd July at 10.00am to discuss.*
12. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
13. Tredegar Heritage - *due to lack of progress, it was felt that this meeting be held every 3 months instead of monthly, with a view to bring this committee to a closure if it did not make any progress.*
14. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme – *the committee are a third of the way through the Action Plan. This could be placed on the next meeting's agenda, to give a small presentation.*
15. Blaenau Gwent Rural Development Plan – *there are no eligible wards in Tredegar*

78) Matters of Local Interest and Concern

- Fishing Event - *had been postponed due to low water levels.*
- Trip to Parliament 9th July – *members of the public had been invited along to accompany town members. It was felt that it would be an interesting visit and educational to see how the top tier of government work and an opportunity to lobby the MP. Awaiting confirmation from OVW in relation to travel costs.*
- BGCBC Guide & Street Atlas – *It was RESOLVED that the town council opt for a quarter page advert mono & one colour at a cost of £295*
- Bedwellty Pit & Roundabout – *the hole in the road was repaired in 4 days. Members wanted it noted that they were very grateful for BGCC expediting the works, which meant disruption was kept to a minimum.*
- *Clarification was required for Mrs Violet Williams in relation to the bus route – it was confirmed by other members that the Tredegar bus (X4) did in fact travel directly to the hospital in Ebbw Vale, several times a day.*

Press and public were excluded from the remaining part of the meeting by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.

- Christmas lighting was discussed. Members RESOLVED on quotation no.2

Meeting Closed at 7:25pm

Signed:_____ Mayor

A Presentation Evening followed the meeting.