TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of the Council that was held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House, Bedwellty Park, Tredegar, on Wednesday 3rd September 2014 at 7.15pm

Councillors Present: R Watkins, G Meredith, T Smith, A Tippings, B Willis (left the meeting early), D W A Howells, J C Morgan, P Prosser, D Rowberry, R W Thomas, S Trollope, O Price, H Trollope & M Cross.

In Attendance: C Mortimer (Acting Clerk) & A Jones (RFO)

113) Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs G Bowen-Knight, T Gregory, M W O'Sullivan and A Cotton.

It was noted that Cllr T Gregory had been taken seriously ill into hospital, but thankfully was making a good recovery.

114) Declarations of Interest
As per register

115) Press and public were excluded by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12a and Data Protection Act 1998

116) To receive the recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee of Council prior to this Meeting:
(i) Silurian Boxing Club – it was recommended that they receive £200
Council Resolved that they be paid £200

(ii) Heads of the Valley Gateway - it was recommended that they receive £200
Council Resolved that they be paid £200

(iii)Tredegar Youth Rugby Section - it was recommended that they receive £200
Council Resolved that they be paid £200

117) Toilet refurbishment quotations
Members wanted to thank those members who were responsible for cleaning the toilets in readiness for Saturday's Classic Car Event and Clock opening. Cllr Bernard Willis had been on his hands and knees scrubbing the floors of the toilets prior to the event taking place. Cllr Tom Smith, Cllr Haydn Trollope and Cllr Malcolm Cross have also been heavily involved in the process by meeting a technical assistant, contractor and various officers of BGCBC not only for the day opening but also for the future refurbishment and maintenance of the toilets.

Cllr Diane Rowberry stated that she would have given assistance had she known that the toilets were being prepared for the event. Cllr Bernard Willis suggested that members should not wait to be asked to help, but should contact the office to offer their help. Cllr Diane Rowberry objected to Cllr Willis' comments, as she felt it questioned her commitment. Cllr Diane Rowberry asked the Acting Clerk to note their comments.

Quotation:
Despite the RFO sending out 8 letters inviting local builders to tender for the toilet refurbishment project, only one quotation was received.
The RFO recommended that the council re-contact the other contractors, allowing them a second opportunity to submit a quotation. However Members were keen to progress this project, due to public demand, and were satisfied that the quote received was within budget in accordance with discussions they had had with the technical officer who drew up the plans.
It was noted that asbestos within the toilets had not been identified, and therefore not included within the quotation. The removal of asbestos, would naturally incur further costs and specialist contractors on board.

It was proposed and seconded that an asbestos check take place in the first instance and if found to be present, the costs for its removal, be met by the council . All thirteen members voted in favour.

It was proposed and seconded that the council agree and accept the one quote. Eleven members voted in favour and two members abstained from voting.

Council RESOLVED to undertake an asbestos check and to accept the one quote received from Able Touch Joinery.

118) Consorts Chain
Members received 2 quotes for a 36 inch 9ct gold chain and jewel. After much discussion it was agreed that due to the economic climate and expense, the money could be better spent elsewhere in the community.
Council RESOLVED that the RFO obtain three further quotations for less expensive chains:
(i) a 36 inch sterling silver chain with jewel
(ii) a 36 inch ribbon with a jewel.

119) Future of Bedwellty House
It was agreed that clarification on handover was required in relation to the future of Bedwellty House

120) Approval of the Annual Return Year Ended 31st March 2014
The Annual Return was approved by the Mayor and duly signed in the presence of the RFO, Acting Clerk and Members present.
The Members and Acting Clerk thanked the RFO for the hard work undertaken in preparing the accounts for internal and external audit and inspection.
The members also congratulated the RFO on her recent exam success.

121) Potential Projects
The Acting Clerk presented her report to the members in relation to:

- **Steward Training**

BGCBC have no standard level of training for stewards and use Raglan Training Centre, which is run by Monmouthshire County Borough Council, for most training purposes

Council RESOLVED that £360 be spent for Road Closure training, using signage and cones, for 12 members. Training session will take place at Bedwellty House at 9.30am on Thursday 9th October 2014. Members and volunteers will be invited to attend.

- **Hanging Baskets**

The Acting Clerk felt that the hanging baskets in the town were looking poor and suggested that the Town Council use the same contractor, for the baskets and watering, as Caerphilly County Borough Council, as their displays are very successful each year.
A Member commented that the town will be receiving £1,000,000 for regeneration next year and therefore the town council may not have to fund the flowering baskets.
It was felt that as the Business Forum are responsible for orchestrating the displays,
Cllr T Smith will present this information at a future meeting for consideration. It was also suggested that the information be fed directly to BGCBC.

- **Newsletter**

The cost of a 6 page newsletter was discussed.
Members felt that information on the council's activities was required, to keep people informed. Distribution costs were queried as it was felt that members would be able to deliver within their own wards. It was also suggested using the services of our youths i.e. scouts etc. and making a small donation.
Cost: £1150 (10,000 newsletters)

Members agreed that a newsletter is required and recommended that this item be referred on to the Publicity/Events Committee for further discussion.

122) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137

Members considered the following applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants.

Completed End of Grant form received from Bedwellty Park Bowls Club, The Oak FC and Tredegar Quilting Circle.

Shelter Cymru – Request for financial assistance to help them to continue to offer housing advice surgeries and support.
Previous – 2013/14 Sept'13 CQ No. 633 £50.00.
RESOLVED that £50.00 be awarded for 2014/15

Cllr Haydn Trollope declared an interest in the next item and played no part in the ensuing discussions and decision.
Cefn Golau Tenants & Residents Association - Request for a grant towards the costs of offering various groups/club activities such as job clubs, parent groups arts & crafts and after school clubs.
Previous – 2012/13 July'12 CQ No. 438 £200.00.
RESOLVED that £200 be awarded for 2014/15

Cllr Haydn Trollope returned to discussions.

Cllr Alyson Tippings declared an interest in the next item and played no part in the ensuing discussions and decision.
The Oak FC – Request for a grant which will be used to fit barriers to the pitch area which will enable them to progress further in the leagues.
Previous – 2013/14 June'13 CQ No. 594 £200.00.
RESOLVED that £200 be awarded for 2014/15

Cllr Alyson Tippings returned to discussions.

Tredegar Appeal Committee Urdd Eisteddfod 2015 – Request for a grant which will be used to enable them to hire halls etc planned fundraising events such as the concerts scheduled for October 2014 and March 2015.
Previous – 2013/14 Nov'13 CQ No. 667 £100.00 (Start-up grant).
RESOLVED that £100 be awarded for 2014/15

Tredegar Quilting Circle – Request for a grant with the running costs of the group such as guest speakers and materials for projects.
Previous – 2013/14 June'13 CQ No. 593 £200.00.
RESOLVED that £200 be awarded for 2014/15

Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) – Request for a grant which will go towards costs such as insurance, pitch hire, referee fees etc.
Previous – 2013/14 Nov'13 CQ No. 665 £200.00.
RESOLVED that £200 be awarded for 2014/15

123) - <u>Grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137)</u>
None were received.

124) Meeting re-opened to the public

125) Minutes of Council
The following minutes were deferred until the next meeting on the 17th September 2014
a) Minutes of the Performance Sub-Committee Meeting held on 16th July 2014
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th July 2014.
c) Minutes of the Public Conveniences Working Party held on 14th August 2014
d) Minutes of the Special Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21st August 2014.

Cllr D Rowberry & Cllr J Morgan declared an interest in the next item and played no part in the ensuing discussions and decisions.
126) Planning:-
a) Officer's Report
Members considered and noted an Officer's Report

b) Planning Applications

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0191	Mr J Jones Lear Investments Ltd Raglan House, C/o. M7 Real Estate Llantarnam Park, Cwmbran.	Demolition of Block F, Crown Industrial Estate, Tredegar.

Posted to relevant Members for comments – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections.

2014/0193	Premier Holdings Ltd Units 8 & 9 Wern Trading Est. Newport.	Construction of 3 detached 2 storey houses with integral garages and parking, land at Sycamore Avenue.

Emailed to Members & reply by 30.7.14 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections

2014/0172	Mr Williams 16 Brompton Place, Tredegar.	Amended application for the ground and first floor rear extension, 16 Brompton Place.

Members email, respond by 4.8.14 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections

2014/0194	Cardtronics UK Ltd trading as Cashzone Cardtronics UK Ltd PO Box 476, Hatfield AL10 1DT.	Retention of 2 illuminated signs, 27 Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar.

Members email, respond by 4.8.14 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections

2014/0195	Cardtronics UK Ltd trading as Cashzone Cardtronics UK Ltd PO Box 476, Hatfield AL10 1DT.	Retention of automated Teller machine, 27 Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar.

Members email, respond by 4.8.14 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections

2014/0197	Ms L O'Connell 5 Markham Terrace, Markham.	Two semi-detached houses, land adjacent to Plymouth Arms, Merthyr Road.

Members email, respond by 4.8.14 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections

2014/0202	Mr J Walters 29 Mafeking Terrace Tredegar.	Retention of refurbished stables & ground re-profiling work; proposed extension to stables for storage, land east of Whitworth Terrace.

Members email, respond by 4.8.14 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections

2014/0222	Mr T Farrup Eurocaps Ltd Unit B-D Crown Business Park Tredegar.	Provision of a 2 storey portakabin building to be used as office accommodation with linking walkway and enclosure. Permission sought for a period of 5 years, Eurocaps Ltd Unit B-D Crown Business Park, Tredegar.

There were no objections

2014/0224	Mr A Herbert 2 Punch House Flats	Two storey detached house with hard standing for 3 cars – Plot 2A Mae Morgan, Nantybwch

There were no objections

c) Other planning matters.

There were no other planning matters received.

Cllr D Rowberry & Cllr J Morgan returned to discussions

127) Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013

Members received the Acting Clerk's Report and noted that the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires Town & Community Councils tp keep a register of interests, which must be available on our websites.

The majority of Members have submitted their registers, the Acting Clerk will chase those that are outstanding.

128) Correspondence

i) BGCBC

(a) Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy Review – asking for views to be submitted by 15.8.14. – Responded with queries raised by Members, no response back to date.

(b) P. Miles Re: Proposed sale of Tredegar District Offices, Red Lion Square, Tredegar – responses required within 10 working days of date of letter (28.7.14) – Asked for response to our office by 11.8.14. Responded confirming no objections from Council.

(c) Proposed Sale of the site of the former Cartref Aneurin Bevan Residential Care Home, Tredegar – comments/objections/representations to be submitted by Friday 5th September 2014.
After much discussion, it was RESOLVED that the Tredegar Town Council respond by recommending it be retained, and developed in the future with a care/nursing home in mind, as our aging population is living longer and demand for such a facility will increase.
In the past, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council pledged to provide a care home in the vicinity, and therefore this site should not be a consideration for selling on the open market.
Members fully appreciate that developing a care home is a project for the future, when the country emerges from the current economic downturn.
Principal Authorities are hastily off-loading surplus land and buildings, and rightly so in some instances, however in relation to the proposed sale of this particular site, Tredegar Town Council strongly urges BGCBC to reconsider.

(d) Electoral Reform:-
(i) A. O'Leary Re: New process for registering on the electoral register. Letter for Members explaining process – copied and posted to all Members
31.7.14. Received and noted
(ii)Review of Polling Districts & Places being held 20.8.14 and 17.9.14. Representations to be received by Electoral Registration Officer by 17.9.14. A copy to be forwarded to Cllr A Tippings.

(e) D. Watkins Re: Bedwellty Park Ponds & Fountains – Update on their current status/conditions was received and noted

(f) A. Vaughan Re: Blaenau Gwent in Bloom – Town Clock as received Highly Commended in Public/Private Building Category. Noted.

(g) A. Watkins Re: Refurbishment of Southend Park play equipment – copy of letter sent to Ms Smith outlining plans to upgrade the facilities. Noted.

(h) D. Ware Re: Rural Development Plan Consultation Survey – link to survey for next RDP programme https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BFY8R79. Noted.

ii) One Voice Wales

(a) Conference & AGM Saturday 4th October 2014 at the Royal Welsh Showground, booking form included. £80 per delegate.
2 Members plus Clerk/Acting Clerk to attend

(b) One Voice Wales - Details of the eight Motions being put forward at the AGM on Saturday 4th October 2014. Noted

(c) Welsh Government Consultation Document on improving the availability of allotments and community gardens – responses by 6th October 2014 – document & response form attached. Acting Clerk to send to allotment associations.

(d) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill Bulletin July 2014. Received.

(e) White Paper – Reorganisation of Local Government. Closing date for consultation is 1st October 2014. One Voice Wales will be publishing their response on their new website once live.Noted.

(f) Exhibition Invitation "A Sense of Energy" 30.9.14-2.10.14, opening times 10am-4.30pm The

Senedd, Cardiff Bay. Details to be forwarded to Cllr O Price.

(g) Presentation from Alan Morris of the Wales Audit Office made at the Larger Councils Conference on 9th July 2014. Noted.

(h) Leader 2014-2020 Title of Local Development Strategy, September 2014.Noted.

(i) Training:-
(i) Devolution of Services Module Tuesday 16th September 2014 from 6.30pm at Monmouth Town Council offices.
(ii) Training courses programme 2014.
Noted - Training is open to all.

(j) Invitation to Cynnal Cymru Event: Informing the Future, Lessons from Supporting Sustainable Living. Wednesday 17th September 2014 12pm-3pm Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay. – RSVP to clare@cynnalcymru.com by 5.9.14.

iii) SLCC Notice of Annual General Meeting Friday 10th October 2014 at 2.35pm Bristol Marriott Hotel City Centre. Clerk or Acting Clerk can attend.

iv) Members Concerns:-

(a) Cllr Smith requested Members make a note in their diaries re: Tredegar Town & Borough Councillors at 11.30am and Communities First on Friday 5th September 2014 at 1pm Executive Meeting Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

(b) Cllr Willis - Requested for a letter to be sent from Council to Parc Bryn Bach raising concerns regarding the charging of charities to hold fundraising events. A copy of their policy is required. A charity raising event took place on the Corus site as opposed to the park due to the charges.

(c) Cllr Meredith raised parking issues on James Street Parking surround the community centre and requested that the Council contact the Police, Sgt O'Brien and cc Clive Rogers and Keith Haydn.

(d) Cllr Trollope Re: Nominations for St David Awards – asked whether we should leave feedback on their website about last year's nominations. It was agreed not to on this occasion but was suggested that we re-submit our nominations.

(e) Cllr Price:-
(i) Cynnal Cymru have requested Cllr Price to be filmed based on the outcomes of the Strong Roots Project.
It was resolved that Cllr O Price represent the Town Council and be filmed.
(ii) World War I – it was confirmed that Council will not be organising any events to commemorate the centenary this year but would consider it for the future. This item will be raised at the Event Committee meeting on the 10th September 2014.

(f) Cllr Tippings – World War I handmade ceramic poppies, representing a life lost, are currently being displayed in the dry moat at the Tower of London, and are available to buy at £25 each plus £5.95 p&p each.
Members resolved to purchase a poppy to display with the Burma Memorial.

(g) Cllr M Cross reported that there was no footpath to Dukestown cemetery making it extremely dangerous for pedestrians. Cllr D Rowberry suggested that a barrier was required alongside this very busy road. It was also reported that there was a Health & Safety concern in relation to jet washing that takes place at the Ambrey filling station on the R/A at Nantybwch. The Acting Clerk will write to BGCBC and will cc Clive Rogers, Cllr Cross & Cllr Rowberry.

v) Carillion Minutes of the LALC meeting held 22.7.14 were noted

vi**) Wales Office**

A letter of thanks was received for the invitation to the Secretary of State for Wales to visit during NATO Summit but will be unable to attend due to busy schedule. Noted.

vii) Letters of Thanks:-

(a) Kidney Wales Foundation - thanks for the supporting the Walk for Life Event was noted.

(b) P. Morgan-Jones Re: Forum Commemoration Day – a thank you was received the Town Council's support for this event and extends his gratitude to all Councillors that attended on the day. Noted - a letter will be sent to Heritage.

viii) Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO)

CISWO is a service providing charity with an emphasis on assisting mining beneficiaries in time of need and promotes social inclusion opportunities for groups throughout the former coalfield. Request for email addresses to send periodic e-newsletters to Councillors so they can communicate directly on current issues and topics affecting mining beneficiaries. Form to be completed with Councillors' details. Cllr Tippings requested a copy.

ix) Mayor of Legnica

Invitation to visit Legnica in September/October as an introduction to their city and to discuss opportunities for further future co-operation together. Noted and to be forwarded on to Cllr Bernard Willis.

x) Communities First Tredegar Cluster

(a) List of Cluster activities 2014/5 in Tredegar – noted and to be emailed to all members

(b) Copy of financial accounts for the last two financial years. Noted.

xi) Powys County Council

Notice of Deposit of Proposals for a Local Development Plan, Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026 available for viewing from 28.7.14 in Powys County Council Offices. Noted.

xii) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) Invitation to vote on Authority's next scrutiny studies at http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/who-we-are/scrutiny/ - Cllr Oriel Price is to deal with this item.

(b) Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes – available for public consultation from 24.7.14 to 18.9.14 at http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/?p=29129 – forwarded to Cllr Price who is dealing with this item.

xiii) J. Horton

CREW Rural Regeneration Conference scheduled for 16.9.14 is being postponed and a new date will be issued shortly. Cllr Oriel Price was made aware.

xiv) GAVO Poverty is expensive seminar, Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 9am Llanhilleth Institute, Abertillery. Noted.

xv) PUBLICATIONS - these were made available for members:

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Community Update Summer 2014; Play for Wales Issue 43 Summer 2014; Welsh Government Natural Resources Management Bulletin July 2014 Issue 13; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings July 2014; Lite Festive Lighting Catalogue 2014-15; Ashwood promotional catalogue; Brecon Beacons National Park Action for Tourism Issue 21 Summer 2014; Natural Resources Wales Funding Update July/August 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 5.9.14; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council News Bulletin The Patient's Voice, May/June/July 2014 Issue 21; Communicorp Local Councils Update June 2014 Issue 174/August 2014 Issue 176/September 2014 Issue 177; Clerks & Councils Direct September 2014 Issue 95.

xvi) AGENDA – these were made available to inspect.
Out of Date Agendas are available for viewing in the Office.
Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale to discuss Life Leisure Trust; Advance notice of Special Meeting of the Council Monday 27th October 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional item Home Care & Community Options; Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional Item Treasury Management Annual Review.

129) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/working Parties:-

1. **Bedwellty Park Management Board** – none received
2. **Joint Committee of Local Councils**

Cllr Tom Smith reported that one of the subjects raised at the joint liaison was the disposal of surplus buildings and land throughout the borough. Items discussed under this were the Cartref Aneurin Bevan site, and that it should be retained for a care home.
Discussions took place, one member proposing that the Aneurin Bevan is a prime site for the building development of bungalows for OAP's due to good access to local amenities i.e. post office, shops etc.
It was also suggested that the old Green Acre site be developed for social housing or independent living.
In relation to land, a member questioned why was it not possible to retain the land until better times come around and then develop a nursing home. There will be greater demand for a home as people were living longer.
Alternatively the land should be sold with planning permission.
It was suggested that it be queried at the next liaison, as to why vacant plots are not sold with planning permission in place, to maximise profits. A letter has already gone into BGCBC from County & Town Councillors re-iterating what had been discussed at the joint liaison.
It was also noted that BGCBC should have a strategy in place for the disposal of surplus land and buildings.
The Thomas Richard Centre building was also raised at the liaison but there was no information available as of yet.
Cemeteries and grass cutting was also discussed and the weed problem throughout the borough. BGCBC were going to address the weed issue as part of the 2015/16 budget due to public demand.

Cllr H Trollope wanted to thank Cllr T Smith for speaking very well as representative of the Town Council on the Joint Liaison Committee, in an earlier meeting with BGCBC.

Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales
There were no meetings during August due to the recess.
Prior to that a presentation on the NATO summit was given.

3. **Tredegar Twinning Association.**

The trip was an excellent success. However Gareth Titley was looking for a successor on the trips due to family commitments. The Twinning had also raised in excess of £1960 through a duck race and sponsorship from Barclays Bank.
Two fund raising events for the diaries were:
November 1st at St James' Church (tickets £5), December 13th at Georgetown Community

Centre (with buffet and artist, tickets £10)

4. **School Governing Bodies –** recess therefore none received.
Cllr Roger Thomas suggested that Council write to Tredegar resident Isabella Collins of Brynmawr Comprehensive as she has just been accepted to study at Oxford. Council agreed.
5. **Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee –** none received
6. **Tredegar Youth Café** – none received
7. **Blaenau Gwent CAB –** none received
8. **Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel**
Cllr Geraint Meredith was away during the last meeting. Andy Green is looking to be re-scheduled for October.
9. **Tredegar Business Forum**
A report will be presented at the next meeting.
Members requested that a letter of congratulations be sent in relation to the Classic Car Event that took place, as it was a huge success.
10. **Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum –** recess
11. **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum –** recess
12. **Tredegar Heritage** – recess
13. **One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme.**
In relation to Cynnal Cymru, Tredegar Town Council are only one of four councils taking part in a pilot scheme. Cllr Oriel Price has been asked to speak on the 12th September in support of the adaptation plan. A presentation will take place at the Senedd on 17th September 2014, 12.00 - 3.00pm

130) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice).
(a) A Member announced that the Police were looking to host a skill games/small sided games, Monday – Wednesday, and a 5 a-side tournament on the Thursday, with a road show too (4 hours) during the October half term. It was going to be an open invitation to all, thus making it a family fun day.

Council RESOLVED to fund the roadshow at a cost of £150

(b) A Member stated that the car park at Georgetown is not locked at night, resulting in anti-social behaviour. The Acting Clerk will report to BGCBC's Leisure & Parks Services.

There were no further matters.
The Mayor thanked all Members for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed:_____ (Mayor/Chair)