TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting that was held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House, Tredegar on Wednesday 16th July 2014

Present:	**Councillor**	**R. Watkins**
		T. Smith
		A. Tippings
		B. Willis
		D.W.A Howells
		J.C Morgan (arrived late)
		M O'Sullivan
		P. Prosser
		D. Rowberry
		R.W Thomas
		S. Trollope
		A. Cotton
		H. Trollope (arrived late)
		M.Cross
In Attendance:		**R.F.O - Annette Jones**
		Acting Clerk - Ceri Mortimer

83) Presentation - Climate Change Adaptation Programme 'Tredegar Live'

Deputy Leader, Cllr A Tippings gave the members a PowerPoint presentation on Climate Change. In summary, a year ago, Tredegar Town Council (TTC) were invited along with 3 other Welsh Town & Community Councils to undertake this project with the support and guidance of experts in this field; Cynnal Cymru, National Resource Wales (NRW) and One Voice Wales (OVW). The aim of the project is to (i) increase resilience to the impact of climate change (ii) to develop an action plan (iii) to encourage local people to work with the council (iv) inspire local champions (v) the town council to act as a liaison between community and other agencies.

Cynnal Cymru is hosting an event in the Welsh Assembly in September, whereby the Climate Change group will present their project/plan. Cllr O Price had requested (via email) that the group meets before September.

Members were requested to adopt the plan. Members did not adopt it at this stage but thanked the Deputy Leader Cllr A Tippings and the group for their commitment and work with this project.

84) Declarations of Interest

As per register.

85) Press & Public

It was RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a

86) Performance Review

It was Resolved that the Performance Review Sub Committee of council and the Christmas lighting quotation, held earlier on 16/07/2014, be accepted.

87) Grants
A completed end of grant form from St. James' Mothers Union was noted as received.

a) Sporting and Cultural organisations undfer the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and s.137

- 2167 (Tredegar) Sqdn Air Training Corps – It was RESOLVED that £200 be granted.
- Tredegar St John's Ambulance – It was RESOLVED that £500 be granted.

b) Churches & Chapels (s.137)

- Church of Immaculate Conception Tredegar – this had been presented at a previous meeting whereby Members had resolved that £200 be granted. However it was presented again for members to agree to an increase of £25, if they so wished, as last year only 4 churches/chapels applied.
  It was RESOLVED that they be granted £225 in total.

88) Accounts
Members received and RESOLVED to accept the Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2013.

89) ***Public Meeting Reopened***

90) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th June 2014 were accepted and RESOLVED and signed as an accurate record.

91) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee held on 25th June 2014 were accepted and RESOLVED and signed as an accurate record.

92) Minutes of the Civic Committee held on 2nd July 2014 were accepted and RESOLVED and signed as an accurate record.

93) Matters arising from the Minutes
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18th June 2014
Minute no.59
Item (iii) It was discussed and RESOLVED that due to the difficulties in booking a fixture in Tredegar this year that we play on the 3G pitch at Ebbw Vale and arrangements with Blaenau Gwent County Council be in place for next year to play at Tredegar.
Minute no.60 Independent Remuneration Panel For Wales
In response to an enquiry from a member, the clerk stated that remuneration came from the Council's budget/precept and no additional monies were received from the Welsh Government to cover remuneration.
Minute No.63 Correspondence
4) Sofa Magic – A Member enquired into the progress of the parlour refurbishment. The Clerk suggested that as the user agreement for the Town Council to use the offices at Bedwellty House could not be found, that members may wish to consider putting the parlour refurbishment on hold

until either the old agreement is located or a new one written up with BGCBC. Members RESOLVED to continue with the parlour refurbishment regardless.

Minutes of Civic Committee held on 2nd July 2014

Minute no.78

Bedwellty Pit & Roundabout - A member requested that the Clerk send a letter of thanks to BGCBC for expediting the repair works.

94) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

(a) H. Phillips Re: Existing user agreement for council offices – requesting a copy of this agreement giving entitlement to the Town Council to remain at Bedwellty House. It was noted that the original agreement is missing. *The clerk is to make enquiries with other community councils to determine the date they vacated their premises, and to look back through past minutes for evidence that an agreement was made. Otherwise a new agreement is to be drawn up with BGCBC as a priority before Bedwellty House moves over to Trust.*

It was also noted that Members were keen to progress with the Parlour refurbishment.

(b) M. Perry Re: Removal of headstones within cemeteries – Response to letter sent and enclosed a copy of the cemetery rules. It was confirmed and noted that as a rule headstones are not normally moved, unless unsafe, and then they are laid flat.

(c) D. Watkins Re: Issues Bedwellty Park, Tredegar – response to the concerns raised by Council. It was confirmed and noted that the concerns raised by the Town Council in relation to (1) water from ponds & algae (2) damage to pond fencing & gate to coal block (3) Security (4) Change to the Queens Baton Relay Plaque were being addressed. However Members stated that security measures remained the same and that the security officers continued to patrol the park by vehicle instead of foot. *The Clerk will send another letter to D. Watkins with our concerns.*

(d)A. Vaughan Re: Blaenau Gwent In Bloom – judging being done at the Town Clock on 15.7.14. was noted

(e) F. Olding Re: Thomas Richards Centre – Cannot add to Buildings at Risk Register because it is not a Listed Building and is unlikely to meet the criteria for listing. *Members requested that the Clerk contact Cadw and Mr F.Olding as it is a building of local importance.*

Cllr D Rowberry declared an interest in the next item and did not pay any part in the ensuing discussions

(f) C. Ashby Re: Harcourt Terrace Chapel – No planning application has been received as of yet and it was noted that it had been suggested *that the Council contacts her week commencing 4.8.14 for an update.*

Cllr D Rowberry returned to the discussions

(g) BG Street Atlas – Have offered a half page (landscape) full colour, instead of the quarter page Council requested, for the same price of £295.00p. *Members suggested that council opening hours and contact details be included in the advert.*

(h) Corporate Improvement Plan 2014/15 – this item outlines BGCBC's objectives and was noted

(i) Y. Tovey Re: Consultation with Town/Community Councils meeting 17th July 2014, Pre-Meeting being held at 2pm in Committee Room **2,** Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – this has been postponed, new date to follow.

(j) A. Tippings Re: Bedwellty Park – Request from Gareth Carter for an update on his previous email raising his concerns about Bedwellty Park. A response to Mr G Carter had been sent from Town Council 8.7.14

2) One Voice Wales
(a) Re: Fly-Tipping Action Wales update – Draft Fly-Tipping Strategy open for consultation until 29.8.14, available at http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/consultation/140604draft-fly-tipping-strategy-en.pdf
This item was noted

(b) Trip to Parliament – all those who had taken part had commented on how informative and successful the trip was.

3) A.Davies AM
Re: St David's Award – response to Council's concerns regarding these awards – it was noted that A. Davies AM stated that 'local heroes' had been included for an award.

4) Mrs A Jones
It was agreed and RESOLVED that the RFO can change her working hours to continue with her professional qualification and that every support should be afforded her in the form of study leave and flexibility.

5) Cllr Smith - Copy of proposed agreement for WC facilities
After much debate it was RESOLVED that prior to any agreement being signed, a full costing be provided to the Council in relation to:

- Refurbishment – a specification & 3 quotes required
- Maintenance
- Running costs (contractual cleaning company to clean daily)
- Utilities (to consider a meter being installed for water & electricity)
- Insurance (to include public liability)

Members agreed to call a special meeting when some of the items raised have been addressed.

6) Cllr Price
(a) Report back on the One Voice Wales Larger Council's Conference held in Built Wells on Wednesday 9.7.14. – this item was noted as members had received an email from Cllr O Price.

(b) Raising concerns regarding protocol for the Band Concerts and also questions regarding Bedwellty Park raised to her by members of the public. This item had been addressed in a previous meeting but members also expressed their concern in relation to the closure of the cafe prior to the band events starting in some instances and before the 2nd half of the performance on other occasions. Closure of the café is surely not good business.
The Bands in the Park events attracts more visitors to the park than at any other time thus generating more income for the café. The Acting Clerk will make enquiries.

7) Letters of thanks
(a) Parliament

- L. Price thanked members from their group for the wonderful experience - noted

(b)Presentation Evening

- M. Retallick -Thanks for the recognition given to her son and grandson, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.
- A. Latham - Thanks for the presentation evening invites, the badges will be worn with pride.

It was suggested that the clerk write a letter of thanks to Nick Smith MP for arranging the trip to Parliament and to the Guide, Andrea Morris.
It was also agreed that a letter be sent to Alun Davies AM to offer our support to him, and a letter to the First Minister, expressing our dismay at Alun Davies' dismissal.

8) Chief Inspector M Williams.
(i) Invitation to PC Christine James can be sent via him. Despite her not being a resident, she does actually work for the Tredegar RPU. Members RESOLVED that she be recognised for her bravery.

(ii) Christmas Eve visits – if he's available he will participate and we are to forward information when it is available. Tredegar Town Band are to be contacted.

9) Local Government Association
Circular No. 283 – June 2014, Absence due to a trade dispute – noted.

10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Planning Services Guide – noted.

11) Welsh Government Reforming Local Government White Paper available at
http://walws.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/white-paper-reforming-local-overnment/?lang=en Clerk to liaise with Leader & Deputy Leader to respond by the 8th August 2014.

12) <u>Residents Correspondence:-</u>
(a) M. Phillips - Nominating two people for a Community Award. – the letter was read and members requested that the clerk write a letter to the two people to thank them for their contribution to the community.

(b) J. Lott, Re: Charles Street – complaint about vehicles driving at excess speed, asking whether we could fit speed bumps – this item will be referred onto BGCBC

(c) M. Kingswell - Asking where it is permissible to use a metal detector in Tredegar. Members suggested he contact B.G and private landowners where applicable

13) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Readings to remember Frank Richards, Blaina's celebrated author of "Old Soldiers Never Die", Tuesday 5th August 2014 at 7.30pm Salem Chapel, Blaina – Mayor will be attending.

14) Tai Calon Tai Fest free tenant fun day on Saturday 19th July 2014 at Solis One, Blaina – this has been circulated & onto noticeboard & on website.

15) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC road works report week ending 11.7.14 & 18.7.14; Ville D'Orvault Orvault ma ville #61 July-Sept 2014; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi press cuttings June 2014; Communicorp Local Councils Update July 2014 Issue 175.
Available for Members to view.

16) AGENDA
Executive Wednesday 16th July 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 14th July 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Friday 11th July 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee scheduled for Tuesday 30th July 2014 will now be held on Tuesday 22nd July 2014 at 10.30am in Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on Friday 11th July 2014 at 10am – POSTPONED; Executive Wednesday 16th July 2014 – Item No. 15 Report for Consideration; Special Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Meeting Thursday 17th July 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Meeting Friday 18th July 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Minutes & Agenda 12.7.14.
Available for Members to view.

95) Planning:
a) There were no Officer's Report to receive
b) There were no Planning Applications to consider
c) There were no other planning matters

96) Matters of Local Interest or Concern.

- It was agreed that the Christmas Switch on event be 28th November 2014
- The Acting Clerk had arranged a meeting for the 3 allotment groups to attend on Tuesday 22nd July 2014 at 12.00 noon.
- Members agreed that a new chain of office for the Mayoress/Consort be progressed. Quotations and designs would need to be sought and agreed at a future meeting.
- It was agreed that the Acting Clerk make enquiries with BGCBC's Highways & Transportations Department to discuss with Stagecoach the feasibility of including Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan as a potential stop for the X4 bus service, to make life easier for our elderly, vulnerable and disabled residents, which use this service. Currently they are dropped off at Penuel Square and then walk for 15 minutes to the hospital.

Meeting Closed at: 9.00pm

Signed: _____ Mayor