TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 6.30pm.

Present:	**Councillor**	**R. Watkins**
		G. Meredith
		T. Smith
		A. Tippings
		D. Rowberry
		B. Willis
		M. Cross
		H. Trollope
		S. Trollope
		G. Bowen-Knight
		P. Prosser
		O. Price (arrived late)
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane - Clerk**

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting thanks were expressed to all those who has attended the funeral of our late colleague, Cllr. Tony Gregory.

156) Apologies: **Cllrs. J. Morgan, R W Thomas and D. Howells, M'O Sullivan**

157) To consider the exclusion of press the public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1072, Schedule 12a and Data Protection Act 1998
This was agreed

158) To receive the recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee of Council prior to this Meeting.
Having met with a representative of the Oak Football Club the recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee was that a letter be sent to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) to check whether all playing fields suitable for football in Tredegar were being fully utilised. Suggestion had been made to the Oak representative that he challenges the results of a site inspection which had partly resulted in their move to the Beaufort Welfare ground. The sub-committee gave their full support to the Club and congratulated them on their successes. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £500 subject to confirmation that such funding was within legal guidelines, with the provisio that if the club should have to move to another site through no fault of their own that it be of a suitable standard to allow them to progress without further expenditure.
This was agreed. (abstention from 1 Cllr. due to late arrival)

159) Meeting re-opened to the public - agreed

160) To receive and consider applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants.
Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – A grant for £200 was recommended.

161) To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).
None received.

162) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
This item was taken at this time to welcome the new Manager of the House and Park, Ms. Cath Hares.
Ms. Hares explained her background and her wish to work together with all key user groups, hopefully meeting on a regular basis to share projects.
Members welcomed her to the role as a "local girl" who knew what the Park needed and deserved. It was suggested that the Manager and her role be advertised more widely. The Manager stated that her main concern was to ensure the future for the House and Park and to work together with all parties to make it a success. She welcomed an early meeting with Town Council to address past issues.
Ms Hares was warmly welcomed by all Members and thanked for attending Council on her first day. She then withdrew.

Cllrs Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the following item (Planning a, b and c) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
163) Planning
a) to consider an Officer's Report
List of Delegated Items determined between 12th August 2014 and 11th September 2014:-
C/2014/0170 Garage to rear of property, 29 James Street – Approved.
C/2014/0191 Application for prior notification of proposed demolition of industrial unit, Blcok F Crown Industrial Estate – Approved.
C/201//0142; C/2014/0143; C/2014/0144; C/2014/0145 Discharge of Condition: 2 – Environmental Construction Management Plan of planning permission relating to C/2013/0227; C/2013/0228; C/2013/0230 and C/2014/0031 – Condition discharged.
C/2014/0172 Ground floor and first floor rear extensions, 16 Brompton Place – Approved.
C/2014/0176 Construction of detached 2 storey house with integral garage and 2 parking spaces in front of garage, Plot 3 Charles Street – Approved.
C/2014/0181 Single storey rear extension, 25 Maes Glas – Approved.
C/2014/0146 Construction of retaining wall & platform to form a terraced area within the original residential curtilage, Cae Gwyllt Whitworth Terrace – Approved.
Moved as received en bloc.

b) to consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0197	Ms L O'Connell 5 Markham Terrace Markham.	Revised plans for proposed semi-detached houses at land adjacent to Plymouth Arms, Merthyr Road.

No Objections

c) to consider other planning matters – the setting up of a Planning Committee.
This was confirmed of consisting of one Member from each Ward, Cllr D. Howells, R. Watkins and R. Thomas**.** It was suggested that the Committee might visit sites to see if there were any problems and that observations could then be made in a proper manner.

164) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) P. Miles Re: Former Cartref Aneurin Bevan Residential Care Home Site – Noted Council's recommendation to retain the site and develop in the future with a Care/Nursing home facility. Currently investigating possible opportunities to develop facilities for assisted living with Melin Homes on the former Greenacres site adjacent to Melin's Roderick Hill Court site.

In these circumstances, due to the near proximity of the Greenacres site, BGCBC will be moving to offer the Cartref site for sale.

Both locations and sites were discussed and once again There was much discussion by Members who noted the lack of consultation between Borough and Town Council despite the Charter Agreement which was in place. It was noted that recent agreements at a Consultation Meeting between JCLC and Borough Council had also not been actioned. It was agreed that strong representation be made to the Borough regarding decisions made about both sites and their continued failure to implement the Charter Agreement.

(b) S. Smith Re: Thomas Richards Centre – has passed the matter over to Mr P Miles to respond as the issues raise are regarding its future and protection from demolition.

Received. This matter too raised concerns, especially concerning the land to the side of Glanhowy Primary School.

(c) J. Kivell Re: Charity Walks – charge for running an event at Parc Bryn Bach is £567.30 but a lesser fee is charged if the event does not cause major disruption.

Received. Following the meeting with the new Manager of Bedwellty House and Park and the transition to Life Leisure Trust, it was agreed to invite Mr. Kivell to attend a Meeting of Council in the very near future and to seek further information from him at that time.

(d) K. Weeks Re: Lighting in Morgan Street – due to column being damaged outside the sorting office.

Received. It was agreed to chase this as a matter of urgency and top request a time scale for repair prior to the Lights Switch-On.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Area Committee meeting dates, revised to 28/10/14, 6/1/15, 7/4/15 and 7/7/15 (all Tuesdays). Also need to discuss the Chair & Vice Chair positions at the next meeting.

Received.

(b) Gwent Area Committee – Guest speaker will be Gareth O'Shea, Natural Resources Wales on 28.10.14. Asking for any issues you wish his presentation to address.

(c) CCWater is recruiting for new Local Consumer Advocates – deadline for applications is 13.10.14, details available at http://www.ccwater.org.uk/blog/careers/local-consumer-advocates/ .

Received, interested Members to contact.

3) Konica Minolta Contract on photocopier due for renewal – new prices for rental and copy charges are cheaper due to government scheme. – Clerk has the new charges and approval is needed by Council to take this renewal offer.

The Clerk gave details of the savings of just over £500 annually. It was unanimously agreed to take up the new contract.

4) Councillor Correspondence:-

(a) Public Conveniences

(i) Cllr Smith - Able Touch have reported that a new electric hand drier is required for the disabled toilets at an additional cost of £170.00p and it is a requirement to complete works. Requesting authorisation from Working Party Members. – 2 Members agreed required so work can proceed.- Council needs to ratify additional expenditure.

This expenditure was agreed unanimously.

(ii) Cllr Smith - confirming that the responsibility of opening the toilets had been offered to the centre caretaker and another person.

Received. It was agreed that a sign should be attached to the building identifying it as a Town Council project and advertising the opening date. Members were told that it was expected to open in 3 weeks but that some matters still needed to be formally agreed, including the cleaning contract. It was also agreed to check that a local company stocked RADAR keys for the disabled toilet. A site meeting was agreed with Members of the Working Party and Officers of Council. A question was raised regarding the use of local person to clean the facility – this was to be further discussed. It was also noted that the top floor could be used as storage by Tredegar Town Council and it was agreed to take a look at this area during the site visit.

(b) Damaged Notice Board:-

(i) Cllr Smith - Requesting K. Lamb is contacted regarding the poor condition of the noticeboards in town.

(ii) BGCBC K. Lamb – Copy of email sent to Cllr Smith – have asked Monwels for a price to repair the noticeboard and will let us know once they have a price.

Received. There was some discussion about the lack of maintenance of the notice boards and it was agreed to write to the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration at BGCBC. A question was also raised regarding the entrance to the Walkway.

(c) Notice Board Keys:-

Cllr T. Smith- Details of the keys for Blaenau Gwent owned Notice Boards in Town and update from Cllr. Smith. (NB e-mail sent to Southco requesting costs etc – CK)

Received. It had been suggested that a key be available to a local group – the Clerk pointed out the need for care to be taken regarding the material placed in the Boards.

5) Welsh Government Crew Wales Regeneration Summit 2014 – Regenerating Wales: Recreating the future of Welsh Towns and Cities, Thursday 23rd October 2014 at Liberty Stadium, Swansea.

Received – it was noted that a member of Town Council would be speaking at this event in another capacity. Available members to attend.

6) A. Davies AM Thanks to Town Council for the kind words and support offered, it is much appreciated after what has been a difficult period of time.

Received. It was agreed to invite Mr Davies to meet with Council.

Cllrs Rowberry and H. Trollope declared an interest in this item and took no part.

7) Hospice of the Valleys Re: Precious Moment Appeal –
Response to enquiry regarding the Appeal.

Received.

8) K. Sullivan Email Freedom of Information Request – wages/expenses for all the Town Council.

Received

9) Communities 1st Council logo now added to the partners section of their site. Asking if Council would like to send over a statement similar to the other partners already displayed. **(Ms Keane has a screen print of the "Partners" page from the Communities 1st website showing our logo and examples of a statement)**

Received. The Clerk was instructed to construct a statement.

10) Help For Heroes Thanks for the fundraising/donations from Armed Forces Day. £1023.68

Received. It had previously been agreed to seek other groups associated with the Armed Forces for the next Events Co Meeting of Council.

11) GAVO a)New Volunteer Award "Nominate the organisation you volunteer with in Blaenau Gwent for an award".

Received – nominations invited.

b) Invite for Council to sponsor Award for Annual Awards Ceremony (individual)

Received. It was agreed to sponsor the Inspirational Volunteer as previously, but also to check if the Young Volunteer might be named in memory of Tony Gregory.

12) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 26.9.14 and 3.10.14.
Available for all Members

13) AGENDA

Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 25th September 2014 at 2pm; Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 25th September 2014 – Agenda item No. 7 Report; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 24th September 2014 Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale – Agenda item No. 9 Report; Special Audit Committee Monday 29th September 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Council Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional agenda item No. 6(a).
Available for all Members

165) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

1) Following the introduction of the new House Manager it was agreed to forward a list of outstanding items.

2) Mayors Parlour – to pursue urgently.

3) Life Leisure Trust – It was agreed to seek in writing the terms of reference of the Trust and any minimum service level type agreements relating to Tredegar Town Council. It was agreed to write to MD of the Trust asking him to meet with Town Council.

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

I. **Bedwellty Park Management Board – disbanded to be removed from list**
II. **Joint Committee of Local Councils – details as previously given regarding grass cutting, weeding etc.**
III. **School Governing Bodies – Deighton Primary – producing very good results: Tredegar Comprehensive –Congratulations on excellent exam results: Glanhowy Primary – New head – Rebecca Fowler – write welcoming.**
IV. **Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – query if also disbanded.**
V. **Tredegar Youth Café – Check if aware of funding from Police Commissioner.**
VI. **Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – Road show in Moose on Monday 6th re home security.**
VII. **Tredegar Business Forum – Council thanked for help with Classic Car event; members pleased with progress on the toilets; 2 members attending the Road Closure Training organised by Town Council.**
VIII. **Tredegar Heritage – plaque to commemorate plane crash**

167) To receive Civic Award Nominations and nominations for St. Davids Awards. Nominations received were approved by Members and it was agreed to put forward names for the St Davids Awards.

168) To adopt the Tredegar Live project as a formal policy for Tredegar Town Council which will be subject to change and development and to consider whether the Allotment Policy should be integrated into this programme. To formally agree that an Allotment Committee be formed.

It was agreed to formally adopt this as a Policy of Tredegar Town Council. However due to the changing and expanding nature of the policy it was to be an ongoing project which would integrate other policies such as Alternative Energy and the Allotments. It was described as one file with lots of chapters that could be added to. It was suggested that a working party to possibly include members of the public be set up to progress. Another Cllr. put her name forward to join the Allotment Committee which was formally adopted by Council. Members were thanked for their involvement.

169) Cllr. Tony Gregory – to formally agree the conditions of the "Tony Gregory Bursary" to be set up in honour of our late colleague.

It was agreed that this award would recognise the work of someone aged 25 and under who has made a contribution to the community. It was further agreed that local groups be asked to nominate candidates and that it be advertised. A sum of £50 and an award was agreed unanimously, with Tony's family being invited to present the award.

170) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice)

a) Members had previously discussed the work being carried out at the Shon Sheffrey reservoir by Welsh Water and asked if a site meeting could be arranged with them and the Angling Club so that they could explain what works were being undertaken.

b) Questions were put forward for the next meeting of the JCLC. Regarding the Charter and the way BGCBC and Trust will share information with Town Council.
c) An update was requested on the World War I event on 11th November 2014.
d) A progress report requested on the Lights Switch-On.
e) WWI Commemoration seat – more details were requested.
f) It was requested that the Mayors Board be updated.
g) Members were reminded that there was an open evening at the Museum on Tuesday 7th October from 5-7pm.
h) A reminder that there was an exhibition relating to the Circuit of Wales in the old Catapult building
i) Members were reminded of the Flower Festival in Trefil from 12-14 October – theme World War contributions going to RBL and H4H.
j) A vacancy was declared in the Central and West Ward following the death of Cllr. Tony Gregory – Clerk to take necessary measures.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

_____Chair