TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Committee in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 6.30pm.

Present:	**Councillor**	**R. Watkins**
		T. Smith
		A. Tippings
		D. Howells
		D. Rowberry
		B. Willis
		M. Cross
		H. Trollope
		S. Trollope.
		R. Thomas
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane - Clerk**

143) Apologies: **Cllrs. G. Meredith, J. Morgan, G. Bowen-Knight And P. Prosser**

Following the death of Councillor Tony Gregory a minutes silence was held to show our respect.
Members spoke about the common sense approach which he brought to Council and the tremendous amount of work that he had put into organisations such as the Cefn Golau Tennants and Residents Association, Crime Prevention the Angling Club and many more. Following the closure of the Vision Foundation in Ebbw Vale he helped to set up the Visually Impaired Club. Members of the community had commented that he had helped to turn a lot of lives around and that the greatest attribute that could be paid to anyone was that his life had made a difference to others.
Another Member expressed the great joy that he had brought to all those around him and how passionately he cared about his area and his Town. He was a great and strong voice for Tredegar Town Council in his Community and all our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

144) Declarations of Interest.
The Mayor reminded Members to make their Declarations as and when necessary.

145) A short presentation was made by Clair Herring regarding the BGCBC Community Connector's Community Resource Team.
The presentation was well received by all Members (Cllr Trollope asked for his position as Executive Member for Social Services to be minuted). It featured on the main aim of the Team which was to connect people who had lost touch with their own community because of bereavement or by being a full time carer and the ways in which the team could re-introduce him to groups and organisations in the area which could help. Members put forward a number of local groups, clubs and dining clubs in the area. It was noted that the recent death of Cllr. Gregory his work with the

Visually Impaired Club would need to be carried on. It was agreed that the Council should offer any support that was possible and that a list of groups and organisations would be passed to the Team. Ms. Herring was thanked for her presentation and then left.

146) Grants:
a) To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations (s.137); to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
Shelter Cymru – A grant of £50 was agreed and approved.
Cefn Golau Tenants & Residents Association - A grant of £200 was agreed and approved.
The Oak FC – Council wishes to meet to discuss the possibility of this being a special one off project grant – to meet before the next Civic Meeting.

Tredegar Appeal Committee Urdd Eisteddfod 2015 – A grant of £200 was agreed and approved.

Tredegar Quilting Circle – A grant of £200 was agreed and approved.

Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) – A grant of £200 was agreed and approved.

No grants for Churches and Chapels received.

147) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in August/September 2014. The Cheques and invoices had previously been received and checked by the Mayor and Leader and were approved unanimously.
The Clerk noted that Bank Reconciliations were available for inspection for all.

148) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting of 16th July 2014.
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 16th July 2014.
c) Minutes of the Public Convenience Committee of 14th August 2014.
d) Minutes of the Special Ordinary Meeting of 21st August 2014
e) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee of 3rd September 2014
f) Minutes of the Civic Committee of 3rd September 2014.
g) Minutes of the Staffing Committee of 4th September 2014. **Deferred**
h) Minutes of the Events Committee of 10th September 2014
The above Minutes were agreed and approved as a true record subject to amendment.

149) Matters arising from the Minutes
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated16th July
i) Minute No 83 Climate Change Adaptation – an update was given by a Member who had stepped in to give the presentation and was congratulated for her hard work. It was noted too that the presence of Alun Davies AM was acknowledged and welcomed by all. It was officially agreed by all Members present that the "Tredegar Live" project be accepted and adopted by Council. This would be an ongoing project and would include such action as promoting Community Champions to help each other in bad weather.

ii) Minute No 93 (ref Minute 63(4) Ordinary Meeting of 18th June) relating to the Parlour. –
The Clerk was asked to confirm how much the designer had been paid which she did from memory (subject to clarification by the RFO). It was agreed to pursue him for progress. The Clerk asked

Council to specify the actions they were asking her to take and she was told to make progress and that full responsibility would be taken by Tredegar Town Council.
iii) Minute No 94 (c) It was noted by a Member that there was no outdoor bin for cigarette ends.
iv) Minute No 94 (e) Thomas Richards Centre - Members were still concerned that the building was potentially still at risk and agreed that the Clerk should contact the Head of Planning to check if any measures could be put in place prior to the sale to ensure the future of the building.
v) Minute No 94 (7)b) It was noted that Mr Geraint Price grandson of former Cllr. Margaret Retallick had won 2 gold medals in the Invictus Games – congratulations to be sent. It was agreed to invite him with his medals to the next Presentation Evening.
vi) Minute No 94 (8) ii) It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Town Band to agree their involvement in the Xmas Eve visits and that the office should liaise the order of visits with the Mayor.
vii) Minute No 96 (bullet point 4) Bus route – it was agreed to further write to stagecoach and further request that a service be routed via Ysbyty tri Chwm and Llys Glyncoed.

c) Minutes of the Public Convenience Working Party 14th August

1 - Minute No 098 – the opening of the conveniences for the Vintage Car Event had gone well and thanks given to certain members of the public who had helped. It was noted that the contractors had started work earlier than planned.
It was further agreed that progress be made with the sourcing of a cleaning contractor and that the Business Forum also be approached.

d) Minutes of the Special Ordinary Meeting held 21st August

Minute No 105 – NHS – It was agreed that the future of the NHS was a concern to all.
d) Minutes of the Civic Sub Committee held 3rd September
Minute No 112. – Tredegar Youth Rugby. It was noted by all Members that the Senior team had not fielded a team the previous week. This raised concerns amongst all Members for the future of rugby in Tredegar and all Members were eager to fully support the future of rugby at all levels and across all ages in Tredegar.

f) Minutes of the Civic committee Meeting of 3rd September.

1) Minute No 118 Consorts Chain – Following discussion it was noted that the Mayor and Leader were to pursue this matter.
2) Minute No 121
a) Steward Training – This was agreed and also to invite members of the Business Forum if there was space.
b) Newsletter – a number of local companies were suggested and it was agreed to seek quotes for design and print separately. A Member was to bring in a sample from another group for Members to view.
3) Minute No 122 – the Leader queried whether the completed end of grant form received from Bedwellty Park Bowls Club was from the ladies or gents – the Clerk to confirm with RFO.
4) Minute No 128
i) a) Community Asset Transfer – there had been much concern due to the wording of the legal notice published by BGCBC which had already been queried by the Tredegar Members of the Borough Council. It was agreed to write to the Borough Council to ask them to put out a press release clarifying the transfers.
d) Electoral Reform – a Member requested that the Electoral Registration Officer be informed that one of the sites queried as not having wheelchair access did in fact have it.
xii) a) BBNPA – Members noted the policy of the Authority to involve the public on matter to be scrutinised. It was agreed that Town Council should note this and that it should welcome the opportunity to borrow good practice from other authorities.
xiv) GAVO – Members further noted that they were closing some offices in the area and it was agreed to write to enquire what effect the closures might have on the people of Tredegar.
5) Minute No 129

JCLC – it was noted that the grass cutting and the weed problems were to be addressed in next year's budget due to public concern. It was agreed to seek information on the planting of wild flowers in the roundabouts across the Borough.
Tredegar Twinning – It was agreed to write with our congratulations.

h) Minutes of the Events Committee on 10th September

1) Minute No. 134 Summer Concerts – It was agreed to make a block booking for the concerts from the last Sunday in May until mid- July (dates to be confirmed).
A meeting was to be convened with the new manager of the House and Park to discuss a number of items relating to events held in the Park by Town Council.
2) Minute No 135 Armed Forces Day – it was agreed to explore other Armed Forces Welfare organisation who may benefit from funds raised.
3) Minute No 136 Clock Opening – it was agreed to re-open the Clock on Saturday 27th September from 10am until noon and that 6-8 stewards would be required.
It was agreed to arrange a site meeting with the Training Centre to look at the painting and refurbishment of the wall around the Clock.
4) Minute No 137. Christmas Lighting
a) It was agreed to invite the winner of two Gold medals at the Invictus Games, Geraint Price to Switch-on the lights.

150) Correspondence.

Prior to the taking of this item Council asked if future correspondence submitted to Council be scrutinised so that items already sent to Members was not included and that only relevant items be included. The Clerk to read items as requested.

1) BGCB (a) C. Herring Re: Community Connectors – poster and details of the Community Connectors project presented to Council this evening.
Received – available for Members.

(b) M. Howland Re: Bedwellty Park Lodge – Transitions Counselling have signed the contract and now have the keys to the property, will be moving in asap.
Received

(c) M. Gough, Head Deighton Primary – nominating Mrs Helen Simmonds for a community award.
Received Forwarded to Civic

(d) <u>Bedwellty Park Management Board</u>
(i) Meeting being held Monday 22nd September 2014 at 5pm Bedwellty House Learning Centre.
(ii) Agenda for meeting Monday 22nd September 2014 and relevant previous meetings Minutes.
Received

(e) F. Olding Re: Thomas Richards Centre – unable to add to Buildings at Risk Register as this is a statutory document for listed buildings only.
Received. It had previously been agreed to contact Planning Dept at BGCBC

2) Map Property Investments
Business Lease for Toilet Block
Received – inspected by the Leader.

3) Wales Audit Office

(a) Are redistributing reserves held at 31.3.14 to local Government Bodies and will be paying £30 back to Council. Requesting attached form is completed and returned asap to enable payment direct to Council's bank account – **Mrs Jones has completed & returned form 9.9.14.**

(b) Confirming payment of £30 refund from redistribution of reserves has been made to Council.- **Mrs Jones confirms receipt of money direct to bank.**

Received and Noted

4) Hospice of the Valleys

New Home for the Blaenau Gwent Hospice – have abandoned the proposed new Hospice on the Works Site, Ebbw Vale and have instead opted to lease premises in Festival Drive, Ebbw Vale. Change of plan is due to the withdrawal of the University of South Wales resulting in the project can no longer be delivered as envisaged.

Received. Members were disappointed with this decision and queried that the new location left a lot to be desired. Clerk was instructed to write to the Hospice to enquire what would happen to funds raised under the Precious Moments Appeal launched in 2008 to raise funds to build a new clinic.

5) Ms Mortimer Details of a Special WW1 Commemoration seat at £535.00 (special offer).

Received – copy to all Members

6) Cllr K Hayden Re: Rats Vale View Allotments – Received complaints from residents of Peacehaven regarding rats going into their gardens via the allotments. It is believed that old surplus materials dumped within the allotment grounds near to the fence at the side of the allotment which backs onto these bungalow maybe contributing to the rat problem. Therefore requesting that this surplus material is removed and contact is made with Mrs Rose to discuss what Council intends to do to resolve the rat problem. – Ceri is awaiting contact back from Mrs Rose.

Received. It was agreed to refer to the Secretary of the Allotment Society.

7) Cllr Smith Press release regarding the re-opening of the public conveniences in the Gwent Shopping Centre.

Received

8) A. Shepherd Asking if Council would like to be added to Tredegar Communities First website as a Partner? If yes, then Council needs to send a logo through to her.

Received – agreed.

9) Arts Council of Wales

List of available shows. Sherman show of The Ugly Duckling is on there but need to contact them directly.

Received – agreed to contact and hold performance at Bryn Bach Primary School.

10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Information on their new committee management system and access to agendas. Offering a short training session to town/community council

representatives if they wish – **forwarded to Cllr Price.**
Received Cllr Cross expressed interest in attending if Cllr Price not available.

11) **PUBLICATIONS**
Ville D'Orvault le cens pratique #157 September 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 12.9.14; BGCBC Road works report week ending 19.9.14.
Available for all Members

12) **AGENDA**
Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 9th September 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 11th September 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Thursday 18th September 2014 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 24th September 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 22nd September 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda and minutes for the next meeting being held on Thursday 18th September 2014 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.
Available for all Members

Cllrs Cross and Rowberry declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.
151) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – None Received

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0238	Mr A Jenkins Rhyd Developments School House, Llanhellan Abergavenny.	Outline planning permission for the construction of dwellings in the area, Pochin Works Newport Road, Pochin, Tredegar.
NO OBJECTIONS		
2014/0249	CTIL & Vodafone Vodafone House The Connection Newbury.	Proposed 14.8m replacement column mast with internal antennas together with three ground cabinets, Telecommunications Base Station Gelli Garage, Gelli Road, Tredegar.
NO OBJECTIONS		
2014/0251	Mr E Lewis EJL Properties LLP 32 Rowan House Nursery Lane, Hopwas Tamworth.	Construction of a two storey house integral garage and external with parking/hardstanding, Plot of land on corner of Charles Street and. Salem Cottage
NO OBJECTIONS		

c) To consider other planning matters – None Received

152) Matters of Local Interest or Concern.
1) Members felt the need for a Planning Committee to be set up, that planning applications printed out should be of a better quality print, planning training should be obtained from One Voice Wales and that the Committee be made up of 1 Member from each Ward and it was duly agreed that Cllr. R. Thomas represent Sirhowy; Cllr. D. Howells represent Central and West and that Cllr R. Watkins represent Georgetown

2) Members congratulated Cllr. G. Meredith on his recent "surprise" wedding and extended best wishes to him, Rhiannon and their children.

3) Clerk was instructed to contact CADW and the Heritage Officer with regard to possible structural damage to the front of the NCB Building in the Circle.

4) Following the death of Cllr. Tony Gregory it was agreed that the tremendous contribution he had made to the community be recognised in the form of a bursary awarded by Town Council for a youngster under the age of 21 who had made a positive impact on the community (exact conditions to be agreed). This award, to be called the Tony Gregory Memorial Bursary. It was agreed to agenda for the next meeting of Council.

5) Aneurin Bevan Memorial – It was agreed by all that this site was in a deplorable condition and that BGCBC be approached in the first instance to remedy the situation. It was further agreed that this site, a memorial to such an iconic figure, was of such importance that an approach should be made to all members of the JCLC for support.
It was agreed to item this for discussion at the next meeting of the JCLC.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

_____Chair