TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Committee of Council held on Wednesday 5th November 2014 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House, Tredegar.

Present: **Councillor** **R. Watkins**
T. Smith
A. Tippings
B. Willis
G. Bowen Knight
D. Howells
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry

Also Present: **Ms. C.M. Keane – Clerk**

204) Apologies **Cllr. S & H Trollope, J. Morgan, R W Thomas, O. Price and G. Meredith**

205) Vacancy in the Central & West Ward – To receive any update on the request for an election which has been received by the Borough Council.
It was agreed to confirm the date of the election and to get a break-down of costs as a matter of urgency.

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

To follow is a copy of the document formulated by Cllr. Tippings – Members expressed their thanks to her for putting the document together.

The Tony Gregory Bursary

The Tony Gregory Bursary epitomises the values and commitment that Tony admired and fought for. Through this award we will recognise the individual who makes a valuable contribution to the community of Tredegar.

Criteria

* The actions are voluntary or over and above that what is expected by their employer or nominator.

* Their contribution makes Tredegar a better place to live, work or play.

* Their actions should be selfless and non-discriminatory.

* Their values may include, loyalty, forgiveness, commitment, caring,

* Their qualities may include the desire to make things better, never giving up, accepting challenges, concern for the environment,

* Their achievements may include overcoming disabilities or discrimination, turning their life around.

Eligibility

* Must be aged between 11 and 25 on 1st January in the year of the award.

* Must live in Tredegar or their actions must be based in the town.

Nomination

* Must be nominated by a resident of the town or someone who works in the town.

* All nominations must come on the official entry form that can be downloaded from the Website.

* Nominees must be eligible

* Nomination form must be received by the 1st January of the year of the award.

Bursary

* The bursary shall be for the value of £xxx

* On being shortlisted the nominee should inform the council how they would spend the bursary if they won it.

* The bursary should be spent on books, fees, equipment or xxxx or The bursary can be spent how the winner wishes.

Decision

* Council shall shortlist 3 nominees.

* Council will select the winner based on their nomination and how they would spend the bursary.

* In the event of a tie, the mayor will have the casting vote.

Following discussion of the document the following amendments were agreed:
That the award be called the "Tony Gregory Award"
The amount awarded to be £100 which would be reviewed annually.

With the above amendments it was unanimously agreed to introduce the Tony Gregory Award in 2015.

207) To receive a verbal report and recommendations of the Public Convenience Working Party.
A verbal report was received (see Minute 202/203).
It was noted that earthing works and a light needed to be completed, the Toilet roll holders and soap dispensers were still to be fitted.
The toilets had been opened by Members to coincide with the first market held in town and had received good response from members of the public.
It was agreed that two signs be erected.
It was further agreed that Members of Tredegar Town Council continue to open and close the facilities until the cleaning company took over. Thanks were expressed to the Leader.

208) To receive and consider applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants and Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137).

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre – **A grant of £100.00 was recommended.**
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod - **A grant of £50.00 was recommended.**
Bryn Bach Park Model Boat Club - **A grant of £200.00 was recommended.**
Sirhowy Senior Citizen Association – **A grant of £200.00 was recommended.**

Allotments: Assumption is that their constitution as been seen by Members of the allotments working party during their meetings with the Allottees.
Southend Allotment Association
Vale View Allotment Association
A Member of the Working Party confirmed that they had not seen the constitutions of either Association and it was therefore agreed to invite both associations to meet with the Civic Sub-Committee of Council.

Special Grants:-
Oak FC
Cllr. P. Prosser declared an interest and took no part in discussion relating the following
Tredegar History Archive
Members agreed to invite both the Oak and the Tredegar History Archive to meet with Members of the Civic Sub-Committee of Council.

Grants to Churches and Chapels

NB. Grants have been increased to £225.00 for Financial Year 2014/15

Tredegar Methodist Church – **A grant of £225.00 was recommended.**
Trinity Spiritualist Church – **A grant of £225.00 was recommended.**

Members further agreed to scrutinise grants given to local organisations on a regular basis.

209) To put forward questions for Mr. Anthony Hughes – MD of the new Life Leisure Trust - who is Meeting with Council on Wednesday 19th November 2014.
The following questions were put forward:-
1) Parc Bryn Bach
a) clarification of the user groups and how much they contribute to the finances of the Parc.
b) Golf Tournament – sponsored on one occasion by Town Council – poor organisation and a need for a more business-like approach to any future tournaments.
c) The Pedaloes – what is their future, bearing in mind the lack of use during the exceptional Summer of 2014?
d) Sponsored events at the Parc and related charges.

2) Bedwellty House
a) the House is currently haemorrhaging staff, what steps are being taken to ensure that the terms of the HLF grant is being met?

3) General
a) Need to meet on a regular basis and have regular updates.
b) In relation to both Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House- could you advise of any future funding sources that have been made available to the Trust?
c) How do you intend to interact with the local community? Will the Trust be sponsoring events in the Parks?
d) Town Council offers financial support via its grant fund to local groups and organisations. Past take up by both Parks has been sporadic and there has been little acknowledgement of Town Council support, this funding is still available – were you aware of this?

210) To receive and consider the Risk Management Policy of Council.
The Risk Management Policy as presented by the Clerk and received by Members with their Agenda for this meeting was scrutinised in detail.
The following amendments and notes were made:-
Page 1
3. Risk Management (d) Asset Register. The new sound system and works to the Mayor's Parlour to be added to the Asset Register.
Page 3
Social Risks – with regard to policies it was agreed that Council should consider what policies it has and what it needs and correct the balance.
Page 5
Liability – it was agreed that the Town Council insurers be approached for clarification regarding the staffing of events such as the opening of the Town Clock.
Page 6
Security – Member noted that many of the pictures were not securely fitted to the walls and were being treated with distain.
Page 7
Legislative/regulatory Risk
To add the use of OVW and SLCC to the responsibility for keeping up with legislative change.
Page 8
Customer Citizen Risk
To add "which is why we need to be seen to be a pro-active Council and not just another cost to the rate-payers." Following "abolish the Town Council"
Professional/magagerial risk
To add "that additional training is available and encouraged for Members of staff"

211) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice).
1) Reminder to Members of the first round of Quiz Wizards at the Moose the following day.
2) Questions were requested and supplied to the Mayor for his meeting with the Police Commissioner regarding parking on double yellow lines, and the legality of "street preachers".
3) Members were reminded of upcoming events in November:
Saturday 8th November – wreath laying at Cairn bus at 10am from Top House and refreshments after.
Sunday 9th November – Remembrance Service St Georges at 10am, parade and wreath laying at War Memorial in Park Refreshments at the Moose after.
4) A Member asked if the Clerk could approach Carillion to hold a sponsored walk along a section of the A465 prior to it opening to traffic, in aid of the Mayors Appeal – to invite the Borough Mayor too.
5) Nantybwch/Bryn Bach Primary – concern noted regarding pathway in front of garage and lack of barrier. Again the need for a weight limit outside the school during pick up and drop off hours. It was agreed to write to all concerned.
6) A Member of the Orpheus informed Council that 4/5 Members would be available for the Mayor's Christmas Visit on Xmas Eve.

212) Planning
Cllr B Willis declared an interest in the following Planning items and took no part.

a) **to consider an Officer's Report**

List of Delegated Items determined between 12th September 2014 and 17th October 2014:-
C/2014/0194 2 x illuminated signs, 27 Gwent Shopping Centre – Approved.
C/2014/0242 Rear single storey extension, Min Y Cord, Merthyr Road - Approved.
C/2014/0222 Provision of a two storey portakabin building to be used as office accommodation with linking walkway and enclosure, permission sought for period of 5 years, Eurocaps Ltd, Unit B-D crown Business Park, Tredegar – Approved.

C/2014/0249 Application for prior notification of proposed 14.8m replacement column mast with internal antennas, together with three ground cabinets, Telecommunications Base Station, Gelli Garage, Gelli Road – Approved.
C/2014/0195 Retention of automated teller machine, 27 Gwent Shopping Centre – Approved.
C/2014/0202 Retention of ground re-profiling works and proposed extension of 2 stable blocks for storage purposes, land east of Whitworth Terrace – Approved.

Planning Report:-

C/2014/0197 2 semi-detached houses, land adjacent Plymouth Arms, Merthyr Road – Recommendation to be GRANTED subject to conditions

b) To receive a verbal report from the Planning Committee.(nb Cllr. RT Apols)

The verbal report was received and no concerns raised.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0302	Mr G Bevan 8 Gwent Way, Tredegar.	Proposed erection of a two bedroom bungalow Plot 27 Maes Morgan,

No Objections

2014/0304	Mrs S Ward UK Power Reserve Ltd 6th Floor Radcliffe House Solihull.	Construction and operation of a 20MW gas fired standby power plant comprising the erection of a new building with exhaust flues to house an engine generator and the provision of external plant to include outdoor cooler radiators, gas reception kiosk, transformer compound, security fencing, car parking and new access, vacant Plot at Tredegar Business Park.

No Objections as such, but a query as to the height of the chimney in relation to nearby houses bearing in mind the fact that the installation is on the valley floor

2014/0306	Mr G Rees 62 Rhoslan, Tredegar.	Porch to front of property

No Objections

2014/0310	Mr A Illari Rothwell House Dukestown Road, Tredegar.	Outline planning for single detached dwelling, plot adjacent to 7 Arches Close.

No Objections

2014/0322	Mrs M Davies 136 Ystrad Deri, Tredegar.	Erection of single storey disabled shower room extension.

No Objections

d) To consider other planning matters – None Received.

213) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) Martin Woodland: Reply to Clerk's enquiry regarding requirements for use of CCTV cameras outside toilets. (NB Duoguard have been approached for quote)

Received.

Cllrs Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the Licensing item to follow and took no part.

(b) Licensing w/e 31.10.14

Received.

(c) F. Williams Re: Tredegar Town Centre – Responses to letter sent by Clerk To Richard Crook re lock to Walkway and Notice Boards – repairs underway and lock replaced.

Received. Members queried whether Town council would need to purchase a key for the Business Forum.

(d) P. Miles Re: Former Cartref Aneurin Bevan Residential Care Home and Thomas Richard Centre – response to concerns raised by Council in the letter dated 7.10.14. Cartref – decision over the sale of the site will now be made by Councils' Corporate Management Team and potentially its Executive Committee. Thomas Richard – our request for a covenant will be considered but it could be restrictive and reduce the level of capital receipt obtained on the sale.

Received. It was agreed that Council continue to support both causes and to write to all Members of BGCBC, the Executive and Tredegar Member to garner support for an iconic building and that the Cartref site be developed for the benefit of the community.

(e) R. Coombs Re: X4 bus route from Tredegar to Ebbw Vale – Stagecoach unable to extend route due to time restrictions/limitations on the current route.

Received.

(f) Non domestic rates demand for toilets. (17/09/14 –31/03/15 - £977.88)

Received. RFO instructed to seek funding via the Halfpenny Fund.

(g) Re: Small business rates relief – public conveniences would not be eligible for this as per regulations.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Gwent Valleys Area Committee – Expressing disappointment at the lack of attendance to meeting on Tuesday 28.10.14 at Abertillery which was only just quorate.

Received.

(b) Devolution of Services course, Monday 1st December 2014 from 6.30pm-9pm. The Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr.

Received. Interested Member to attend.

(c) Training schedule 10-14.11.14.

Received. Interested Member to attend.

(d) Funding update for green community projects – available grants (copied to all 3 Allotments).

Received.

(e) Community Foundation in Wales, £175000 Grants available for communities, See cfiw.org.uk web site for details. Nb Closing date Mon 10/11

Received.

3) Heritage Forum

(a) Asking if Council would consider collaborate with the Heritage Forum on the launch of the book "Never So Innocent Again" by Haydn Davies expected in Feb 2015 at the ViTCC Centre.

Received. Following discussion it was agreed that as a private venture Council could not be seen to support this, but expressed their best wishes.

(b) Copy of the photographic record of their Commemoration Day in August 2014.

Received. With thanks.

4) South Wales Fire Have published Stage 2 Improvement Plan 2013/14 at www.southwales-fire.gov.uk Requesting feedback (no closing date supplied)

Received. Member to make individual comments.

5) Kidney Wales Foundation

An Evening with Rhys Meirion & Friends, Special Christmas Concert on Thursday 11th December 2014 at 7.15pm The City Parish of St John the Baptist, Cardiff. Tickets are £10 & £20, booking early is essential.

Received. Interested Members to contact.

6) David Ogilivie Engineering

Re: Commemoration WWI Bench – nearest is 70-80 miles away. Offering to bring one down for Council to view.

Received. It was agreed to ask them to bring one for Council to view.

7) National Library of Wales

Invitation to participate in the UK Web Archive by archiving Town Council website to preserve websites for future users.

Received. Agreed.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Opportunity to take part in the scrutiny study on "Through effective partnership, facilitation, practical action and the planning function, the use of sustainable transport by visitors will be encouraged and enhanced".

Received.

9) Gavo Lloyds Bank Foundation Event 20.11.14 between 10am & 12 noon at Hafodyrynys Community Centre – booking for this free event to be done by 7.11.14 Tel: 016933 241577 Gerald Jones.

Received Interested Members to contact directly.

10) EVI Poster for an evening with Phil Bennett on 6.12.14 at Ebbw Vale Institute £20 per ticket.

Received Interested Members to contact directly.

11) Cllr. Smith a) Attaching invoice from Able Touch re refurbishment.

b) Advising that he and Cllr. H. Trollope had received agreement from Able Touch to contribute to signage.

c) Press release relating to the opening of the Toilets.

Above all received. It was agreed unanimously that the final payment to Able Touch be made as soon as possible.

12) Elite Cleaners Confirming details of cleaning contract. Requesting out of hours contact number for emergencies and to be able to show the cleaner around on Friday and collect keys.

Received. A Member agreed to meet.

13) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 24.10.14 & Road works report week ending 31.10.14; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings August & September 2014; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct November 2014 Issue 96; BGCBC Road works report week ending 7.11.14. Corporate Improvement Plan: Stage 2 Review of Progress for 2013/14.

Available for all Members

14) AGENDA

BGCBC Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; November/December Cycle of Meetings – Ordinary meeting of Council dates; Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 21.10.14 at 2pm – substitute report for agenda item No. 5; Special Meeting of Council Monday 27th October 2014 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 29th October 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services & Active Living Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 29th October 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive 29th October 2014 – Education Matters Item No. 9 report; Special General Licensing Committee – advance notice of meeting on Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 10am; Executive Wednesday 5th November 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 5th November 2014 – Education Matters Item No. 6 Report; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Joint Scrutiny Committee advance notice of Special Meeting Monday 15th December 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 6th November 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale. Special Education & Scrutiny Committee to be held in the Council Offices in Ebbw Vale on Tuesday 11th November at 2pm: Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Monday 10th November at 2pm.

Available for all Members

214) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

1) Progress Mayors Parlour
2) Check the problem with the alarm in the ceiling
3) Check problem with heating in the Chamber
4) Bandstand – the state of the roof was pointed out – it was noted that the replacement sheets were of the wrong material and this should be highlighted to the Trust.
5) The Ponds – a Member noted that the water was overflowing the wall in the bottom pond.
6) To write to the Manager asking that the pictures be re-instated.

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

i.) Joint Committee of Local Councils. A new Secretary was agreed and future funding discussed.

ii.) School Governing Bodies -Bryn Bach Primary – Cllr. A. Tipping re-elected as Chair of Governors and was warmly congratulated. It was also noted that attendance figures were the highest in Blaenau Gwent and it was agreed to write with congratulations. It was noted too that a pupil at the School had not missed a single day a Member agreed to forward details.

iii.) Tredegar Youth Café. It was noted with sadness that this would be closing in June due to lack of funding and that the last trip would be a weekend trip to Ireland.

vi.) Tredegar Business Forum. It was noted that there were rumours that this group may amalgamate with other into a Borough wide organisation. Congratulations were passed to the Council representative on this Forum.

v.) One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The Cynefyn Project was highlighted to Members and further details were to be brought to Council to see how this could be amalgamated with Council Policies.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.50pm

_____Chair