TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 15th October 2014 to follow Performance Review.

Present: **Councillor** **R. Watkins**
G. Meredith
A. Tippings
D. Rowberry
B. Willis
J. Morgan
M. Cross
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
M. O'Sullivan
R. W. Thomas
P. Prosser

In attendance: **Ms. C.M. Keane – Clerk**
Mrs. A. Jones - RFO

176) Apologies: **Cllr. T. Smith; G. Bowen-Knight and O. Price**

177) Declarations of Interest.
The Mayor reminded Members to make their Declaration at the appropriate point throughout the Meeting.

178) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.
This was agreed.

179) To receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee held prior to this meeting.
The recommendations of the Performance Review Committee were as follows:-
a) That the Budget against Actual figures as presented and explained by the RFO be accepted, together with an expected small overspend – with thanks.
b) The purchase of a Consorts Chain by agreed by Council following a majority vote to accept at the Performance Review Meeting earlier.
The recommendations of the Performance Review Committee were approved by Council.

180) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.
This was agreed.

181) To confirm the Appointment of Mr. S. Bees as the Internal Auditor for Tredegar Town Council for 2014/15.

The RFO explained the requirement to appoint an Internal Auditor and detailed what would be required of him/her. She also highlighted that the audit appointment may well be a thematic assurance requirement for the Financial Year 2015/16 and that we are already following best practice by reviewing and discussing thoroughly the audit process and internal auditor appointment

The Financial year ended 31st March 2014 audit has now been successfully and officially completed and signed off by the External Auditor, with all necessary documents on display and available for public inspection.

During that financial year Mr. Bees made the required and agreed visits to the Town Council office. Both the Clerk and RFO witnessed Mr. Bees' thorough examination of Town Council's financial records and confirm that all aspects of the previously agreed audit plan were attained. Therefore it is recommended to Council that as all internal audit arrangements for 2013/14 were well met by Mr. S. Bees, that he should be considered to undertake the role of internal auditor 2014/15.

This was agreed unanimously.

A copy of the Appointment letter had been circulated to Members and this was also agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that the letter be sent immediately.

It was noted that Bank Reconciliations were available for inspection by Members.

182) Tredegar Town Council Pension Policy – to receive a report from the RFO.

Copies of the Pension Policy and the report of the RFO had been sent out with the agenda for inspection by Members.

The RFO explained the difficulties in setting up a general policy for the Town Council and had noted that OVW did not have a Model Policy available on its website. All Members found this very disappointing and it was agreed to raise this matter at the next meeting with OVW.

It was noted that many parts of the Policy would need to be applied on an individual basis and it was agreed to accept the Policy.

183) To receive an update from Mr. Paul Shackson re the Circuit of Wales Development.

Members welcomed Mr. Shackson and invited him to present an update on the Circuit of Wales development.

He explained that the financial side of the project was largely in place and was now waiting for clearance of a "Section 16" agreement. This was the agreement regarding Common Land exchange and was a legal requirement which was the only thing holding up the project. He confirmed that there were no environmental issues.

He was very confident that work would start on site in March 2015. The figures for local employment of 6000 jobs were, he said, probably underestimated with 12000 people working on the Silverstone site currently.

He gave details of the 30 Acre Solar Park which was to be a state of the art development which should be able to supply not only the Circuit and units associated with it, but also supply energy to the domestic grid. The main question being whether the power companies involved could harness and transfer the excess power generated.

Members extended their congratulations to Mr. Shackson for the way in which he had been consulting with the public.

Members suggested a way to improve the link to the recruitment agency being used for the project, which Mr. Shackson agreed to take on board.

It was agreed to put a link to the Circuit of Wales website onto the Town Council site.

All Members welcomed the progress report from Mr. Shackson and were looking forward to the commencement of work on the site. He was thanked for attending and then left.

184) Grants:
a) To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.
b) Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.- None Received.

Thanks received from Shelter Cymru and completed end of grant form from 2167 (Tredegar) ATC,

Grant from Civic Sub-Committee held 3.9.14:-
Silurion Amateur Boxing Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Heads of the Valleys Gateway Club – A grant of £200 was approved.
Tredegar RFC Youth Section – A grant of £200 was approved.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum - A grant of £200 was approved.

Cllr. A. Tippings declared an interest in the following and took no part.
It was further agreed to make a donation of £30 to the Flower Festival in Trefil as previously highlighted.

It was noted that no advice had been received from OVW regarding the Oak Football club.

185) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in October 2014.
The invoices and cheques having previously been inspected by Members were approved.
The additional payments for Able Touch(£7200), BRFM(£150) and Gavo (£250) were approved

186) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17th September 2014.
b) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee of 1st October 2014
c) Minutes of the Civic Committee of 1st October 2014.
d) Minutes of the Staffing Committee of 4th September and 3rd October 2014.
The Minutes were approved as a true record. Clerk's Note – the Minutes of the Staffing Committee of 4th September 2014 have not been received by the Clerk.

187) Matters arising from the Minutes
a) Ordinary Meeting 17th September
1. Minute No. 149 (b) ii Mayors Parlour - Members were not happy at the increased costing for the panel and it was agreed that the Members of the Convenience Committee, now the Construction Committee, move progress.
2. Minute No 149 (f) (2) re Minute no 121 (a)
Steward Training – a Member noted her disappointment that both staff members did not attend. There was also an expression of disappointment regarding the refreshments.
3. Minute No 150 (5) Commemorative Bench – the Clerk was instructed to check to see if there were any in the area that Council could view.
4. Minute No 152 (5) NHS Plaque – Cllr. Cross volunteered to attach the plaque free of charge and was warmly thanked.

b) Civic Sub Committee 1st October – there were none.

c) Civic Committee 1st October
1. Minute no 165 – the invitation to Mr Hughes MD of the Trust was confirmed
2. Minute No 166 VI – it was noted that there had been a very poor turn-out despite an extensive advertising campaign.
3. Minute No 169 – It was agreed to agenda the Award for the next meeting of the Civic Committee on 5th November

d) Staffing 4th September and 3rd October – there were none.

188) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) K. Weeks Re: Lighting in Morgan Street – waiting for sub-contractor to install a new column outside the sorting office.

Received. It was agreed to write asking for a site meeting with Mr Weeks and Mr Matthew Perry to ensure that this did not cause a hold up to the installation of the Festive lighting.

(b) C. Engel Re: Aneurin Bevan Memorial – there will be a £133.30 charge for fitting the plaque on the Stone.

Received. Cllr. Cross agreed to install the plaque at no charge to Council and was thanked.

(c) E. Morgan Re: WWI Event – Not starting on the World War I project until the end of the month but will answer any queries we have. Best to contact Ms Karn who is making the arrangements for their event project launch which is taking place on 11.11.14 at Brynmawr library.

Received. It was agreed to discuss this event at a meeting of the Event Committee to be held the following Wednesday, it was noted that some people had already been approached and would be available for the event.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Council Meeting Training, Tuesday 21st October 2014 at Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council, Abertillery 6.30pm-9pm.

Received.

(b) Larger Local Councils Committee Wednesday 15.10.14 at 10am Room 1, Hafod a Hendre Building, Royal Welsh Showground.

Received.

3) JCLC (a) Confirming Cllr J Roles as accepted the role of the new secretary of the JCLC and Cllr A Thomas is the new Chairman.

Received.

(b) Minutes of the JCLC meeting held on 2.10.14.

Received.

4) Cllr Tippings Re: Gwanwyn Community Grants Scheme – month long national festival held across Wales in May celebrating creativity in older age. Grants up to £500 available to organise an event in 2015, deadline for submission is 5.12.14.

Received. It was agreed to forward this to the Events Committee for further discussion and possible amalgamation into the Summer Concerts programme.

5) <u>Gwent Police:-</u>

(a) PS63 O'Brien Re: James Street parking issues – will send an update shortly.

Received.

(b) Invitation to Meet the Police & Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police – Invitation to Community Councils to meet with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent on Thursday 6th November 2014 at Ty Penallta,Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed. Two places are available for each Community Council.

Received. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor agreed to attend.

6) GAVO (a) Re: Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent – Invitation to have your say. Online survey available at http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/engagement/current-consultations/

Received. Individual Members to contact.

(b) Details on recipients of the Blaenau Gwent Community Chest Scheme and holding a funding workshop on 20.10.14 at Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre from 6.30pm.

Received. Interested Members to attend.

(c) Poverty Conference in Llanhilleth Institute, Abertillery on 12th November 2014 from 9am, spaces are available for community groups.

Received. Interested Members to attend.

7) Independent Remuneration Panel

Annual report available at http://wales.gov.uk/irpwsub/home/publication/201415/141002-draft-annual-report-2015-16/?lang=en

Chapter 10 – Payments to members of community and town councils.

Received. It was noted that following this consultation Council should make a determination whether or not to accept any allowances. The Clerk was also instructed to check if funding for this was from Town Council funds.

8) 2167 (Tredegar) ATC Looking for someone to take on the Secretary role as part of their civilian committee.

Received. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor had taken on a role on the ATC Committee. He gave details to Council of the need for more civilian members to join the Committee to prevent amalgamation of the branch with another larger branch. This would mean that 2167 (Tredegar) Squadron would cease to exist. It was agreed to publicise this as widely as possible.

9) APT Wales Cymru Prince's Regeneration Trust: Invitation to BRICK heritage workshop on 21st October 2014 at The Priory Centre, Monk Street, Abergavenny from 10am to 4.30pm.

10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Local Access Forum Recruitment – details on how you can apply, closing date for applications is 20.10.14 with first meeting scheduled for 2pm on 13.11.14.

Received. Available Members to attend.

11) Cllr. K. Hayden Putting forward the name of Miss Jaqueline Thomas 25 Market Street to fill the vacant post in the Central and West Ward should there be no call for election.

Received.

12) **PUBLICATIONS**
J Parker Bulbs Autumn Extra Catalogue 2014; BGCBC Road works report week ending 17.10.14; Ville D'Orvault le Cens pratique #158 October 2014 and Orvault ma ville #62 October-December 2014; Communicorp Local Councils Update October 2014 Issue 178.
Available for all Members

13) **AGENDA**
General Licensing Committee Tuesday 7th October 2014 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Statutory Licensing Committee Tuesday 7th October 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 9th October 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Audit Committee Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 13th October 2014 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Monday 20th October 2014 at 1pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 15th October 2014 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 15th October 2014 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Agenda Item No. 6 report; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting 16.10.14 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.
Available for all Members

189) Toilet Refurbishment
a) to receive a verbal report from the Public Convenience Working Party and any recommendations they may wish to make to Council.
A verbal report was received which stated that the project was well in hand and looking very good. There had been a great deal of interest from members of the public. It was noted that signage needed to be installed
A written report was also received from the RFO clarifying details of quotations for cleaning which had been received. It was suggested that the Trust and BGCBC might be approached for a quotation. However a quotation for £4095 seemed to be favourite. However a number of small issues were raised which needed clarification.
The Mayor and his Deputy agreed to investigate the technical requirements for the installation of CCTV and the Clerk was to look at the legal side.

b) Re Able Touch –
i) To receive and approve additional costings for the refurbishment totalling £977.50 + VAT
ii) To approve in retrospect the payment of £6000 + VAT to Able Touch on 9th October 2014 as a part payment for the refurbishment works.
As previously discussed the both (i) and (ii) were agreed unanimously.

190) Councillor CiLCA Training – To confirm that Council has previously agreed to pay for CiLCA registration.
To agree payment of the Step up to CiLCA course £120 + VAT
This was agreed

Cllrs. Rowberry, Morgan and Willis declared an interest in the following Planning items and took no part
191) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – none received

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2014/0287	Mr J Atkinson Coed y Cymoedd Rheola, Neath.	Application for Prior Notification of agricultural or forestry Development for a proposed NRW forestry road on land adjacent to Georgetown, Tredegar (St James – Coed Y Rhyd).

No Objections as such but a requirement to maintain the fencing in the area.

2014/0290	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 provision of an engine generator within existing building and erection of exhaust flues and provision of outdoor cooler radiators, gas reception kiosk, transformer compound, security fencing and car parking, Unit 6 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate.

No Objections

2014/0292	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 Crown Business Park, Tredegar.

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters - none
d) To consider attending the Planning Aid Wales Training Course.
It was agreed to contact other Members of the JCLC to see if they were interested.

192) Matters of Local Interest or Concern.

1) The Cynefin Project – a Member brought this project, an initiative aimed at bringing together, empowering and improving the quality of life for a number of urban and rural communities in Wales, to Councils attention. They were was a possibility of co-operation with the Climate Change group.

2) A Member warned Council that Manhole covers were being stolen in the Georgetown area.

3) A Member of the public had contacted a Councillor concerned at the condition of the War Memorial. Members agreed that they would form a working party to clean the gravel prior to Remembrance Sunday.

4) Once again the rumours concerning the "sale" of the Park were mentioned and it was strongly recommended that Town Councillors continue to reassure the public that this was not the case.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

_____Chair