

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at 6.30pm

Present: **Councillor** **T. Smith**
 A. Tippings
 M. Cross
 J. Morgan
 H. Trollope
 D. Rowberry
 R. Watkins (arrived 6.40pm)
 S. Baker
 D. Howells
 B. Willis
 J. Thomas (arrived 6.50pm)

In Attendance: **Ms A Jones – RFO**

235) Apologies. **Cllrs G. Meredith, S. Trollope, G. Bowen-Knight, R. W. Thomas, P. Prosser and O. Price**

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Smith took the Chair for the start of the meeting.

236) Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

237) Declare a vacancy in the Sirhowy Ward and approve the necessary procedure to be taken.

Council declared that a vacancy exists in the Sirhowy Ward and the Interim Town Clerk was instructed to duly advertise whilst also informing the Returning Officer at BGCBC.

238) Grants:

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.

None received –Noted.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137).

None received –Noted.

Cllrs Rowberry and Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

239) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received).

List of Delegated Items determined between 19th October 2015 and 13th November 2015

2015/0327 Proposed rear garage, 47 Glyn Terrace, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0350 2 detached dwellings and garages (outline), land at 12/13 Arches Close, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0329 Provision of a single storey building to accommodate community facilities and daycare with associated parking and landscaping, Former Sirhowy Infants School Rhoslan, Sirhowy, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0330 Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission C/2015/0036: To amend the precise siting of the approved dwelling within the plot and redefine the site boundary as per the application plans and documents, Plot 2A Maes Morgan, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0335 Replacement shop front and conversion of existing first floor residential flat into 2 residential flats, Nelsons Pharmacy, 4 Morgan Street, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0233 Residential development (outline – maximum of 5 units), land adjacent to Willow Court, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0323 Construction of two detached residential properties with individual detached garages and associated access drive from Marion Close, land at Marion Close, Tredegar – Refused.

Planning Applications Report

C/2015/0378 Change of use from B2 to mixed use (B1, B2 & B8), Unit 4 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar – Recommendation is planning permission be GRANTED.

Received with the following comments made:-

- Willow Court development – letter to be sent requesting a condition of planning is created stating a fence/screening is to be erected to prevent access by children from the school.
- Unit 4 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – It was noted that it was not possible to enforce any conditions relating to the restriction of lorry access along Merthyr Road during start/end of the school day.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

Noted no report required.

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

None received –Noted.

d) To consider other planning matters.

None received –Noted.

240) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC a) P. Miles Re: Application to acquire the site of the former Greenacres Care Home.
– copied for Members

Received. It was agreed make a request to Mr Miles for a delegate from Town Council to attend the meeting arranged with Borough Members to further discuss this application.

Cllr J. Thomas arrived extending her apologies for her lateness and proceeded to take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Cllr Rowberry declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

- b) List of licensing applications week ending 20.11.15.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Confirmation of booking of 3 places for the Devolution Of Services training session at Cwmbran on 1st December 2015.

Ratified approval of attendance of three people and payment.

- b) Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, closing date for response is 15.2.16 – forwarded to Members by email 26.11.15.

Agreed to print copies for non-email Members and to agenda for meeting January 2016.

- c) Consultation document on Green Growth Wales: Investment Support, closing date for responses 29.1.16.

Agreed to circulate to all Members and agenda for meeting January 2016.

- d) Appointment of Chair to Careers Choices, Careers Wales. Closing date for applications 1.1.16.

Available for interested parties.

- e) Temporary part-time admin position with Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council. Role is purely admin, no public contact and the 10hrs per week are flexible.

Available for interested parties.

- 3) Thompsons Solicitors 2xCopies of signed settlement agreement – one copy returned to them 24.11.15 for their records as requested.

Received. Agreed to hold a Staffing & Finance meeting in January 2016 to make progress on advertising the Town Clerk position.

- 4) SLCC Annual membership is due for renewal.
Agreed to renew Membership.

- 5) EAS J. Parry Re: School Governors – updated records & contact her in the future if there are changes.

Received. Requested that J. Parry is notified that Cllr Howells requires all communication via post. It was agreed to appoint a suitable replacement for Cllr O’Sullivan to St Josephs Primary.

- 6) Kidney Wales Foundation

Invitation to Reflections Christmas Concert on Thursday 10th December 2015 at 7.15pm (doors open 6.20pm) The City Parish of St John the Baptist, Cardiff.

Agreed to offer invitation to Mayor with Deputy Mayor to attend in his absence.

It was also agreed to send a letter of thanks for the invitation to the Organ Donation event which Cllr Tippings reported back as being a very moving occasion with amazing stories of transplants. Even though this event was led by the Kidney Wales Foundation it covered all organ donations. The letter is to also congratulate for the event and offer out continued support.

- 7) Letters of Thanks:-

- a) Eiry Jones, Head Girl Glanhwy Primary – Thanks on behalf of the school for the anniversary mugs and for the Mayor attending to present them. All thoroughly enjoyed the celebration which included them singing a song from each decade 1920s to now.

Received and agreed to add to Council website.

- b) M. Higgs - Thanks for the continued support of Tredegar Quiz Wizards and sincere thanks to Cllr Meredith for the gift.

Received. Agreed to check whether Mr Higgs has been previously nominated for the Gavo Fundraising Award, if not put his name forwarded next year.

- 8) Gavo 2167 Tredegar Squadron Air Cadets are looking for 3 computer monitors for their flight simulator, minimum size is 24inch.

Agreed Cllr Tippings would approach the IT Dept, BGCBC to check availability of redundant monitors.

- 9) J. Hunt TAS Collection (The Abandoned Soldier) – asking whether Council would be interested in displaying these creations prior to their sale which will be to raise funds for a residential NHS facility in Wales.

Agreed Cllr Tippings would liaise with Ms Hunt to ascertain further information.

- 10) Community Health Council

Looking for looking volunteers to act as the eyes and ears of patients and the public, further information available from
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/899/page/71611>

Received.

- 11) Communicorp Local Councils Update December 2015 Issue 191 – item copied for Members.
Received.

12) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC road works report week ending 27.11.15 & 4.12.15

Available for all Members.

13) AGENDA

Special Meeting of the Council Thursday 21st January 2016 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive reschedule from 13th January 2016 to Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Statutory Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 9th December 2015 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Special Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 9th December 2015 at 10am – CANCELLED; Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 2pm – reports for agenda items 7 & 8; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, National Park Authority meeting Friday 4th December 2015 at 10am Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon.

Available for all Members.

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

- a) **Joint Committee of Local Councils** – meeting cancelled.
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – no meeting.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – no meeting.
- d) **Tredeggar Twinning** – Next meeting is in January 2016.
- e) **School Governing Bodies**
 - i) Georgetown – Last week met with BGCBC officers regarding parking/traffic issues in front of the school and they are currently looking at a number of improvements. Police will also be making a site visit at least once a week to monitor issues.
 - ii) Deighton – Has received two presentations: One from EAS for how well the school has performed this year and the second from Mr L. Phillips BGCBC. Members were informed that BGCBC would no longer be honoring the service agreement for the Deighton playing field. It was agreed to setup a working party, open to all Members, to look at potential asset transfers including all playing fields and the related costs of these assets. Cllr H Trollope declared an interest and declined to sit on this working party.
 - iii) Bryn Bach – The new ballards to stop parking by Nantybwlch service station were welcomed.
 - iv) Tredeggar Comprehensive – 88 pupils were recognised for their good attendance.
- f) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** – requested to contact to confirm they have delegate's details and whether there has been any recent meetings.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** - delegate was unavailable for last meeting.
- h) **Tredeggar Crime Prevention Panel** - delegate not present this evening.
- i) **Tredeggar Business Forum** – no meeting.
- j) **VVP/ Tredeggar Heritage Initiative** – no meeting. A request was made to Members attending this group to monitor the proposal to landscape the area next to the shopping precinct. Cllr Tippings has been informed by a BGCBC officer that the trees currently decorated with Festive Lighting on that area are dead and will need to be removed to which the officer was duly informed that they would then need to replace removed trees, redressing them with the Festive Lighting.

242) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice).

- Christmas Lights Switch On – Cllr H Trollope received verbal abuse from Mr K Sullivan, witnessed by Cllr Baker, regarding the delay in the actual switch on. Later that evening Mr Sullivan placed comments on the Tredeggar Forum (www.tredeggar.co.uk) but the response Cllr Trollope sent to the Webmaster as still not been added. It was agreed to send the Webmaster a letter explaining the delay which was due to the contractors being caught in accident traffic and to request this information is

added in response to Mr Sullivan's comments. The explanation is to be added to Council website and facebook too.

Cllr J. Thomas expressed her disappointment for the lack of support at the stage from other stewards whilst waiting for the delayed Santa and highlighted the abuse taken from parents. The difficulties getting Santa to the stage due to the contractor delay, issues with him leaving the grotto and the sleigh were discussed but agreed all issues are to be dealt with during the event debrief in January 2016.

Agreed to contact ATC cadets to discuss the use of their radio system for next year's event. Members praised Bedwellty House & Park for their excellent work with the lanterns and the successful parade.

Cllr H Trollope confirmed there was only one lost child at the event who was well cared for and kept calm by the Library staff until his father was located.

- Christmas Lights – Cllr Smith reported that this evening there was not so many issues but those he has identified have been emailed in to the office and it was agreed they were to be forwarded to the contractor to resolve.

Cllr Rowberry left the meeting at this point (7.45pm).

- Bedwellty House & Park Elf on the Shelf – Agreed Council Chamber could be used.
- 75th Anniversary of the Bomber crash – agreed for Cllr Tippings to visit site on the anniversary Thursday 10th December to lay a wreath.
- Mayor's Parlour – It was noted that the sofa fabric was fading therefore agreed to approach the Heritage Officer to investigate the possibility of blinds being fitted and to further discuss this with the House Manager. It was also agreed to not send a letter requesting the replacement of the previously damaged cushion and a written agreement be drawn for use of the room by brides. Members were reminded to bring any issues they have with the House/Park up with the Duty Manager at that point in time in person and it was agreed to add "Bedwellty House & Park updates" to an agenda for feedback on reported issues only.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.55pm

_____ Town Mayor