

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 21st October 2015 following on from the Performance Review meeting

Present: **Councillor** **T. Smith**
 A. Tippings
 B. Willis
 H. Trollope
 D. Howells
 R. Watkins

In Attendance: **Ms A Jones - RFO**

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

175) Apologies. **Cllrs. G. Meredith, J. Thomas, G. Bowen-Knight, J. Morgan, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, O. Price, S. Trollope, R. W. Thomas and M. O’Sullivan**

176) Declarations of Interest.

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

177) To Co-opt a Member to serve on the Georgetown Ward until the next elections due in May 2017.

Council were informed that there was no requirement for an election and co-option was permitted.

Mr Shaun Baker was proposed, and seconded, to be co-opted as the new Georgetown Councillor. All Members present voted in agreement to accept this nomination.

RFO is to contact Mr Baker inviting him to sign the Declaration of Office as a Councillor and to attend the first meeting in November 2015.

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.

Moved.

179) To receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee held prior to this meeting.

Recommendations of the Performance Review Committee are as follows:-

- The RFO continues to monitor the budget against actual expenditure.
- Any recommendations for the adjustment of the budget, to mitigate the impact of over expenditure in specific budget headings, are to be made at the next Performance Review meeting.

Agreed.

180) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.

Moved

181) Grants:

Thanks received from St James Mothers’ Union – Noted.

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

Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) – A grant of £200.00 was approved.

FC Tredegar Seniors – Agreed to invite to a meeting with the Civic Sub-Committee.
Tredegar Junior Netball Club – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Tredegar Senior Netball Club - A grant of £200.00 was approved.

b) Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels
Bethania Congregational Church - A grant of £225.00 was approved.

182) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in October 2015.

Bank reconciliations were made available for Members to view.

The accounts, having already been inspected by Members and with cheques and invoices reconciled, were approved for payment.

183) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee 15th September 2015.
- b) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee 16th September 2015.
- c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 16th September 2015.(To Follow)
- d) Minutes of the Staffing and Finance Committee 6th October 2015.
- e) Minutes of the Civic Committee 7th October 2015.

Agreed to Move as a true record with the exception of 183c which are to be received at a future meeting.

184) Matters arising from the Minutes.

- **Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee 15th September 2015.**

Cllr Tippings has not been able to secure the redundant display used for the Eisteddod.

Cllr H Trollope has not been able to contact the owner of the old Youth Café building but had also recently heard that it has already been rented to a new occupant.

It was agreed to chase up the use of the lorry for the event.

Gwent Dragons acknowledged receipt of Council's request for a player but it is too early for them to supply a definite name. Agreed Cllr Tippings would recontact requesting Luke Garrett if possible.

It was noted that letters to town traders had not been issued yet and it was agreed that Cllr Smith & Watkins would distribute these on Monday 26th October 2015 requesting interested parties to contact the office by Monday 2nd November 2015.

- **Minutes of the Staffing and Finance Committee 6th October 2015.**

Agreed that public exempt information such as staffing matters are not to be posted to Members, they are either to be collected from the office prior to or available at the relevant meeting.

The period of the medical certificate was noted so was the lack of an update/clarification from the Union on the situation. It was agreed to give the Union another week to contact Council and to schedule a Staffing and Finance Committee meeting for 12 noon Wednesday 28th October 2015 to discuss the way forward.

- **Minutes of the Civic Committee 7th October 2015.**

i) Cllr Smith reported back from the ASD consultation meeting held in Glanhwy school; the meeting highlighted how the ASD provision in current format was undersubscribed throughout Blaenau Gwent with the exception of Pen-y-Cwm school. The proposal is to make Glanhwy school the ASD primary age provision for the area; Abertillery comprehensive as the provision of comprehensive age. Cllr Smith reported that Glanhwy school Head as welcomed these proposals which will secure the future of Glanhwy school and aim to become a School of Excellence in the future.

ii) Lantern workshops – It was noted that at a previous meeting Members had agreed for the five local primary schools to be invited with the inclusion of the Flying Start settings and all these had now already been approached by Bedwellty House & Park. Members were made aware of this item being raised in correspondence to follow.

iii) Events Committee – Agreed to call a meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at 5pm with the agenda items to include the Christmas Lights Switch on Event; Armed Forces Day 2016 and discussions with Bedwellty House & Park manager and Tredegar Twinning Association; Christmas Eve visits.

iv) JCLC – They have met with Mr P Amos who brought to their attention that the Charter is to be reviewed on a four year cycle. The JCLC members queried where this was in the Charter and raised their concerns that their questions were not being responded to in the correct manner nor was the Charter being adhered to

in any form. Mr Amos was informed that if there was no consultation with town/community councils in the right manner then this will be brought to the attention of Leighton Andrews AM. Mr Amos would report this back to BGCBC. It was confirmed that no questions were submitted by Council for the Consultation meeting but a request was being made by all town/community councils for a meeting to be held with BGCBC Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive Members.

v) Bedwellty House & Park – Cllrs H Trollope & Smith confirmed they had recently met with the House Manager who has agreed to display a sign stating Park opening hours as Winter Hours 8am-5.30pm and Summer Hours 8am-9pm; Will arrange for the rubbish inside the Market Street gate area to be removed

vi) Deighton Primary – A Facebook page has now been created with public posts being permitted once they have been authorised before publishing.

185) Chair to sign Minutes.

As the Mayor was absent it was agreed that the Mayor should sign these at the next meeting of Council.

186) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC a) Shared Purpose: Shared Future – Draft Statutory Guidance for Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Received. Available for Members.

b) Hire of gazebos – currently reviewing hiring arrangements and will update as options are developed.

Received.

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

c) List of licensing applications week ending 16.10.15.

Received.

2) Aneurin Leisure Trust Lantern Workshops:-

i) V. Nash - update of those contacted (primary schools & flying start settings as requested by Council) and confirmations received to date.

ii) Cllr Smith - Agree to honour previous agreement of contacting the primary schools and the flying start settings therefore pay the £450.00.

iii) V. Nash - Deighton & Georgetown have also now confirmed.

All noted. The news of the schools involvement was welcomed and it was agreed to honour previous funding of £450.00 for the workshops.

3) Cllr Smith Social Media postings and Code of Conduct – copied to all Members & Ms Jones
Agreed to adopt the Dress Code which had also been circulated to Members with the Social Media document.

Agreed to adopt the Social Media document, drawing attention to page 12 “Deciding when the Code applies to you”, but not over-riding any specifications set in Council’s Standing Orders.

4) One Voice Wales

a) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – February 2016.

Received. Agenda when recommendations have been formalised.

b) Appointment of Trustees for Wales – Heritage Lottery Fund/National Heritage Memorial Fund, closing date for applications 9.11.15.

Received. Agreed to forward to Cllr Watkins.

c) Consultation on the Realignment of Local Justice areas in Gwent & South Wales, consultation ends 13.11.15.

Received. Available for Members.

d) Grow Wild Community Project funding.

Received. It was agreed that Cllr Tippings would review and the item is to be on the next agenda.

The Sirhowy Woodlands litter pick event had been a great success, really well attended, with lots of fly-tipping and antisocial related litter collected. As a result, consideration is currently being given to setting up a community group to undertake regular litter picking collections. It was agreed to investigate whether Council could access the Keep Wales Tidy grant to purchase equipment (gloves, bag hoops, pickers) making them available to anyone interested in clearing their area.

- e) Register now for free 2016 Grow Wild seed kits.

Received.

5) Torfaen County Borough Council

TPFI funding application – successfully awarded funding.

Received.

6) Invitations:-

- a) Kidney Wales Foundation - Invitation to celebrate the new law on organ donation
Tuesday 1st December 2015 at City Hall, Cardiff 7pm.

Agreed to ask the Mayor to attend or Cllr Tippings would attend as the Council representative.

- b) GAVO - Four tickets for Volunteer Awards night.

Agreed Mayor should try to attend to show support for the valuable work done by the volunteers. It was also noted this event was on a Council meeting night and Council's requirement to remain quorate. RFO to discuss with Mayor and to also notify GAVO of future Council meetings to avoid a clash in the future.

7) **Publications**

Natural Resource Management Bulletin Issue 24 October 2015; BGCBC Road works report week ending 16.10.15 & 23.10.15

Available for All Members.

8) **Agenda**

Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 15th October 2015 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 21st October 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive 21st October 2015 – Reports for item nos. 8, 9 & 10; Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 2pm – Minutes for Item No. 3; Education, Active Living and Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 20.10.15 appendix 5 for item No. 6; Executive Wednesday 21st October 2015 appendix 5 for item No. 10; Special Meeting of the Council Tuesday 27th October 2015 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for All Members.

187) Planning:

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

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

Noted as none received.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

Cllr Smith outlined the changes of the application submitted below and only raised concerns regarding the possible increase in larger vehicles along Merthyr Road.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0378	Mr G Jones Gerry Jones Transport, Unit 25 Prince of Wales Ind., Cwmbran.	Change of use from B2 to mixed use (B1, B2 & B8) Plot 4 Tafarnaubach Ind. Est.

No Objections but request that consideration is given with regards to the close proximity of the nearby school and movements of the large vehicles between 8.30am – 9am/3pm - 3.30pm on school days.

d) To consider other planning matters.

Noted as none received.

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

- Town Clock garden surround – It was agreed to discuss with the gardeners the current profiling of the garden surround as there was not a gradient but a stepping effect. A site meeting is to be arranged requesting that the one side is re-profiled creating a gradient from the surrounding wall up to the base of the Clock tower and once approved by Council the remaining sides are to be addressed the same with the purchase of additional top soil if required.
- Public conveniences – Two lights reported as being fault, ladies toilets and room at rear. It was agreed to contact Mr T Cowdell to remedy the issues with these lights. It was also reported of two recent flooding from the disabled toilets into the store room at rear too, believed to be due to the ballcock sticking in the disabled toilet. Cllr Willis agreed to adjust as necessary as he is currently still on site every morning opening up the toilets due to the centre caretaker being off work.
- Recycling Trolley Boxes – It was reported that at a meeting held Tuesday 20th October 2015, where a delegate from each Georgetown street was invited, an expert supplied information that informed all present that this initiative, the literature and funding was all from the Welsh Assembly Government; there was very little local authority participation in this Welsh Assembly driven initiative and that other councils will be forced to follow suit. Members were informed that there were three options available to the public – the trolley box, individual boxes or hessian bags (not for glass) – and that a form had to be completed if assistance was required with the boxes. As it had been brought to BGCBC attention that doctors were charging to sign these forms it has been agreed that BGCBC litter wardens could not do this free of charge. The rumours that BGCBC staff would enter houses to move rubbish from the rear to the front of the property was dismissed. It was agreed to send a letter to BGCBC asking for further clarification on who requested and implemented the change to the new recycling system.
- Dementia Friend Champion training – Cllr Tippings confirmed that she has now completed further training which enables her to deliver Dementia Friend Champion training to groups in the community and would be happy to offer this service free to any smaller community groups that would benefit from it.
- Pavement surfaces in the town centre – Cllrs Willis and Trollope confirmed that they have spoken with Mr A Reed, BGCBC, regarding the algae and he will deal with this matter specifically the Circle area/bus stops by Lidl's.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

_____ Town Mayor.