

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 3rd February 2016
at 6.30pm**

Present: **Councillor** **J. Thomas**
 T. Smith
 A. Tippings
 B. Willis
 D. Howells
 J. Morgan (Arrived 7.15pm)
 H. Trollope
 R. W. Thomas

In Attendance: **Ms A Jones – RFO**

298) Apologies. **Cllrs G. Meredith, G. Bowen-Knight, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, O. Price,
S. Trollope, R. Watkins and S. Baker.**

In the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor Cllr J. Thomas took the Chair for the meeting.

299) Declarations of Interest.

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

300) To receive a presentation from Paul Shackson and Gareth Winmill, Street Games.

Mr Winmill outlined that Street Games is a national charity working with youngsters to help them to become more physically active, gain confidence and to attain qualifications to assist with future employment. During the winter months activities, held in partnership with the Police/Gavo/Communities 1st, are being held at Tredegar Leisure Centre with between 100-120 youngsters attending these 2-2.5 hour sessions. This has been running for over 2.5 years at Tredegar Leisure Centre and one of the positive impacts has been the reduction in antisocial behaviour locally; the PSCOs now attend the centre as there is a reduced requirement to patrol the Georgetown area during the session times. The costs are £1.50 for the session which covers the hire costs of the facilities and it is an extra £1 if they wish to attend the swimming session too. There are usually two paid coaches and nine volunteers at each session. Street Games tries to attract those youngsters that are non-conformist, that struggle with adhering to strict regulations; the structure is more flexible allowing them to participate as much and when they want to. They work with the youngster to breakdown any barriers encouraging those that normally sit on the side-lines to participate.

The Blaenau Gwent cluster of Street Games has been running for 6 years and continues to grow and in 2013 it won Street Games Project of the Year. In the first ¾ of the year they have impacted on over 220 individuals between the ages of 8 and 22 years old. Youngsters from 14 years plus can work towards Leadership awards and these tend to go on and become volunteers too giving back to Street Games.

During the Summer, March to October, Street Games is held at five venues to meet the needs of those that are not able to attend the leisure centre – Waundeg, Southend park, Deighton playing fields, Cefn Golau and Sirhowy. There are no restrictions on what activities can be done, it's the youngsters choice – activities range from dodgeball, rugby, netball, football, hockey, gymnastics to cheerleading and dance. The success of cheerleading in Tredegar on a Monday as been fantastic and there is now a waiting list for people to join. It was highlighted that sport was the stepping stone used to education the youngsters about health & wellbeing, nutrition and training.

Currently the gender split is 70% boys to 30% girls but this changing as Street Games are developing girls'

only activities to address this difference.

Mr Winmill responded to the concerns raised regarding the lower interaction with Game On in Tredegar. It was highlighted that Street Games mirror the opportunities given by Game On and that they have tried to work in partnership with them but in Tredegar, unlike Abertillery, there are plenty of activities already running hence the lower success of Game On in Tredegar.

Mr Winmill was invited to contact the Town Council office if there are any future activities that he would like the Town Mayor to attend.

Thanks was extended to Mr Shackson and Mr Winmill for an excellent presentation.

301) To discuss and collect a response for the Consultation “Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill” (circulated to Members December 2015).

Cllr Smith reported back the following points, from the Consultation event held in Swansea on Tuesday 2nd February 2016, regarding the impact the proposed changes in the Bill will have on Town Councils:-

Part 6 Community Councils: Chapter 2 Training and Chapter 3 Elections.

- 2017 election with 6 years term; 2023 election 5 years terms going forward.
 - Putting training in the hands of county borough councils – Proposal at event was for One Voice Wales (OVW) to do a statutory training programme rolled out that is consistent and reduces an ad hoc approach varying through the county borough councils (CBC); identify what may be compulsory training; costs of CBC training provision
 - Community/Town Councils (C/TC) should consider own training requirements and budget for all training costs themselves.
 - C/TC responsibility to address issues regarding Cllrs not attending training by detailing this at public meetings.
 - Suggested that locality taken into consideration for training courses or other options such as e-training.
- Notes as not in the Bill now was the transfer of assets between old to new CBC and sanctions on a Cllr being on both C/TC and CBC.

Part 6 Community Councils: Chapter 1 Arrangements.

- Local Gov. Boundary commission will do reviews not county authority, based on the footprint of the new authorities not the current level of 22.
- Aim – to make C/TC large enough and with adequate training to take on devolved services.
- Implemented by 2023 elections but arrangements will be known prior to this date and there will be consultation engagements to work through the process of forming the new C/TC).
- Will we be asked or told by the boundaries commission? Consultation but no veto option and no option to opt in or out.
- C/TC legislation will be reviewed after 2013 to bring in line/up to date.
- No definitive answer of communities with no C/TC and how these towns and communities will overcome this to form a council.
- Ratio for community councils per elected member? 4000 to 1 county, no ratio on community councils as yet, this is still under review.
- OVW have lobbied regarding the future function of C/TC – there are concerns that precept/staffing levels will remain unchanged as cannot plan for the future without some narrative of potential devolved services.
- Annual Reports – additional requirement on Council to publish a report so people will understand what each council has achieved during the previous year – level of report should be proportionate to the size of the Council.

Part 3 Promoting Access to Local Government: Chapter 3

- Community area committees (CAC) will aim to be the community voice so that it is still heard following the formation of the larger CBC. – Concerns at event were this just creating another tear of local government and was strongly opposed.
- Will be larger than C/TC with a number of these fitting into the CAC along with other public bodies – size based more on welling being and geographical needs of the community.

- Will be a formal feedback route to the CBC which should highlight the requirements of the community which can be utilised in the budget setting process.
- All/any Cllrs can be nominated for a seat on the board but that does not mean there will be a seat available for all representative from all C/TC.
- Suggestion: All Borough Cllrs become required to attend C/TC meetings to absorb feedback for the CBC.
- Suggestion: Review current Charters to improve communication/strength in place of the CAC which is deemed as an unnecessary tier.
- Permitted at meetings: video recording and allowing public to speak.

Part 4 General Power of Competence: Chapter 2

- Demonstrated by having the following:-
 - Clerk qualified CiLCA or at another level which as to be addressed.
 - 2/3 of Cllrs are elected (includes unopposed Cllrs).
 - Unqualified accounts for the previous two years.
 - Benefit: Access to this power which at present there is no financial cap on but this may change in the future; Give perception of better governance and accountability.
 - Risky: Council may fail to meet the requirements at some point during those 5 years so no longer meet the criteria; no requirement to have this status so for those that chose not to attain it there will be the public perception they are an incompetent Council.
 - Would pass a resolution "Council with Competence" at AM of council following the election and it would remain in place for that five years.
 - 2017 to 2023 to train clerks to the minimum requirement, CILCA is suggested by SLCC.
- This needs to be fed into transition arrangements. (Only 13 clerks in Wales with CiLCA at the moment). Cllr Smith continued by saying it was felt that the Minister had created great uncertainty for the staff of both local authorities and community/town councils for the future. Amalgamations will lead to job losses and the qualification requirements plus increased workload for part-time employment may deter people from entering the town clerk profession. It was agreed to invite the A.M. and the appropriate Minister to attend a Council meeting to receive the concerns felt.

Cllr Tippings confirmed she had read through the document as previously instructed and collated a response on behalf of Council. The proposed responses were read at the meeting and it was agreed to forward them to One Voice Wales to form part of the overall response submitted by its' member councils. The proposed response is as follows:-

Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

Consultation response form

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this consultation. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of its author are published along with the response, as this gives credibility to the consultation exercise.

Name*: Tredegar Town Council

Organisation: Community Council

Email*: tredegartc@btconnect.com

Telephone: 01495 722352

Address: Bedwellty House & Park, Tredegar, Gwent, NP22 3XN

Consultation questions

These questions should be read in conjunction with the Draft Bill, draft Explanatory Notes and draft Explanatory Memorandum

PART 1

Question 1.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 1 of the Draft Bill?

No

Question 1.2: What are your views on the options for 2 or 3 Counties in North Wales, as set out in Schedule 1 to the Draft Bill?

No preference but query why the option to divide 6 LAs into 2 or 3 authorities is given in North Wales but no options for consideration is given to S E Wales where 5 LAs are merged into one very large Authority.

Question 1.3: What are your views on the proposed configuration of Local Government areas in Wales?

Concern about the size of S E Wales. This will be larger than the former Gwent County Council. Residents felt that we were on the extremities of Gwent that was primarily a strategic local authority area, It will be far worse if the current proposals go ahead as it is larger in size and will control those areas that need to be close to communities.
If the proposals stay unchanged, it is important that the headquarters are centrally located. Many of our residents, living in a deprived area have poor access to transport and if anything the new HQ should be located to the north of the new area.

Question 1.4: Do the Welsh Ministers need to seek any further powers to support the integration of Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council?

No comment

Question 1.5: What are your views on the procedure for naming the new Counties?

Short , snappy and not in need of translation.
Public consultation would give ownership to the communities it serves.

Question 1.6: What are your views on the proposed changes to the Local Government election timetable?

We agree with the provision for Unitary Authorities

Question 1.7: Do you have any general comments on the provisions in section 16 and Schedule 3 of the Draft Bill relating to Local Government finance?

The document does not consider the opportunity to distribute a percentage of NNDR to community councils. This has been called for by OVW and we seek the opportunity that this legislation gives to address this imbalance.

Question 1.8: How could the Welsh Government measure the current level of avoidance of Non-Domestic Rates?

If it was given locally then perhaps businesses would be more prompt with their payments

Question 1.9: Do you have any comments or suggestions on how future legislation could help to reduce instances of avoidance of Non-Domestic Rates?

If it was given to local community councils then perhaps businesses would be more prompt with their payments

Question 1.10: In what other ways could the Welsh Government enable Local Government to reduce the level of avoidance and fraud within the Non-Domestic Rates system?

No comment

Question 1.11: Do you agree that the preserved counties be abolished and that consequential amendments are made so that the appointments of Lord-Lieutenants and High Sheriffs are made in respect of the counties in existence after 1 April 2020?

No comment but we welcome the removal of cap on councillor numbers.

Question 1.12: Are there other matters of a technical nature which should be considered?

No

PART 2

Question 2.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 2 of the Draft Bill?

We welcome the removal of the minimum turnover.
We also welcome the clarity on competency however greater detail is required on the differences between competent and non-competent councils.

Question 2.2: Do you have any comments on our proposals relating to Community Councils with competence?

Where a Principal authority devolves duties or responsibilities to a community council then appropriate remuneration should also be made. The pattern has been set with Leisure trusts for example.

No information is given with regards to areas that do not have community councils.

PART 3

Question 3.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 3 of the Draft Bill?

Query the need for Community area committees. Could Community councils not do the same thing?

Question 3.2: Do you have any comments on the proposed public participation duty and the requirement to consult on the annual budget?

This could delay the budget setting process. We elect members to undertake this process, if we are not happy with their decisions we can vote them out at elections. We would prefer to let them get on with the job.

Question 3.3: How should community representatives to sit on community area committees be sought and selected?

Community council representatives should be decided by the community council.
Other community members should be nominated by local organisations. Candidates should write an application. They should come from a diverse background. The committee should have gender and geographical balance. The final decision should be made the primary authority. These posts should be selected rather than elected.
The frequency, roles and responsibilities and any payments should be provided in the proposal.

Question 3.4: Do you agree County Councils should be able to delegate functions to a community area committee? If yes, are there any functions that should or should not be capable of being delegated?

No any delegated functions should be to Community councils with the appropriate funding where applicable.

Question 3.5: Do you have any views on whether transitional arrangements need to be put in place for existing area committees, or is a good lead-in time sufficient?

Sufficient lead in time proposed.

Question 3.6: Do you have any comments on the revised provisions for 'improvement requests' or on the interaction between these provisions and those relating to the public participation duty (Part 3, Chapter 2) and community area committees (Part 3, Chapter 3)?

No

Question 3.7: Do you have any comments on any of our further proposals relating to access to meetings?

We query the necessity and cost of broadcasting council meetings.

Question 3.8: Do you have any comments on our proposals to enhance participation by children and young people through the public participation duty?

Participation by young people should be real and not tokenism. They should be able to agenda items, engage in meetings/cabinet and not just youth councils. They should be engaged in the decision making process.

PART 4

Question 4.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 4 of the Draft Bill?

No

Question 4.2: Do you have any comments on the proposed duty on leaders of political groups or the monitoring and reporting roles of the Standards Committee?

No

Question 4.3: Do you have any comments on our proposals in relation to the delegation of functions by Local Authorities?

This is a welcomed provision.

Question 4.4: Do you have any comments on our proposal to give the Welsh Ministers a power to direct the IRPW to have regard to guidance when reviewing the remuneration framework for Councillors?

We support candidates having to declare their membership of a political party at elections.
We have concern on the restriction of members serving on both Principal and Community councils.
We agree that members should only be able to serve on one community council.
We welcome the withdrawal of term limits.
We welcome the provision for release from employment.
We believe that the IRPW should be wholly independent and make recommendations on remuneration independent from ministers.

Question 4.5: Do you agree the provisions relating to remote attendance in the 2011 Measure should be made more flexible?

We support this provision.

Question 4.6: Do you have any comments on our proposal that Shadow Authorities should be required to appoint interim Returning Officers?

We agree with this provision. With one returning officer for the new Principal Authority, would this mean that parliamentary and assembly counts would be held at one location?

Question 4.7: Do you have any comments on the desirability of giving Councils the power to dismiss the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Democratic Services through a vote?

No. the proper employment legislation should be adhered to.

Question 4.8: Do you have any comments on our proposal to change the framework within which Councils and their Executive determine how their functions are to be allocated?

We support this proposal

Question 4.9: Do you have any comments on our proposals in relation to the disposal and transfer of Local Authority assets?

We strongly believe that some assets in our community should be protected for public use e.g. listed buildings, open spaces etc.
Longer consultation periods are required to enable communities to develop strategies and funding to take over assets.
A disposal of assets register should be public to enable communities to take a long term vision for transfer.
Capacity building for community groups to enable them to successfully run assets.

PART 5

Question 5.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 5 of the Draft Bill?

No comment

Question 5.2: Do you have any comments on our proposal to subject Local Authorities to a governance arrangements duty?

No comment

Question 5.3: Do you have any comments on the model approach to peer assessment set out in Annex A?

No comment

Question 5.4: Do you have any comments on the proposed role for the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in relation to the Local Authority's response to the self assessment, peer assessment, combined assessment and governance review?

No comment

Question 5.5: Do you have any comments on our proposal to reject local public accounts committees?

Support this proposal

Question 5.6: Are Public Services Boards the right bodies to examine the policy choices facing local public services?

No

Question 5.7: If so, would they benefit from additional legal powers?

Question 5.8: What legislative measures could be considered to enable Local Government to take a public sector-wide shared services role?

Fully supportive of co-operatives and mutuals. Ref to proposals by CREW in the Tredegar report.

PART 6

Question 6.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 6 of the Draft Bill?

Fairer distribution of business rates

Question 6.2: Should the Boundary Commission be required to submit their draft reports to Shadow Authorities from May 2019?

What about areas without Community councils? Will the whole of Wales have community councils or will it still be sporadic?
Consultation with Community councils and OVW is essential.

Question 6.3: Should the new County Councils implement the Boundary Commission's recommendations or should this be a responsibility of the Boundary Commission itself?

Boundary commission

Question 6.4: Do you have any comments on our proposals relating to compulsory training for Community Councillors?

Any training should be flexible and not too onerous.
Training should be delivered locally and free of charge.
Remuneration should be considered if CCs remain a voluntary position.

Question 6.5: Do you have any comments on our proposal to extend the term of Community Councillors elected in 2017 to six years?

NO objections but there should be an option for members to stand down at the same time as other elections to enable active membership and removing the burden of costly elections.

Question 6.6: Do you have any comments on our proposal that Community Councils should be required to consider and plan for the training needs of their own members and employees?

Annual reports – agree with proposal however these should be delivered free of charge by the Principal council or should be available on request or online.
Training needs plans are important and the Principal council should deliver this free of charge.

Question 6.7: Do you have any comments in relation to the setting of objectives for a Community Council clerk?

Performance setting by sub-committee and approve by full council.

Question 6.8: Do you have any comments on our proposal to repeal the legislation relating to community polls and to require instead that Local Authorities should implement a system of e-petitions?

We do not support the proposal for e petitions as they are not fully inclusive of our community.

PART 7

Question 7.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 7 of the Draft Bill?

No comment

Question 7.2: Do you have any views on whether it would still be desirable to establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission if it would be more constrained in the matters on which it could issue guidance than a non-statutory Commission?

No comment

PART 8

Question 8.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 8 of the Draft Bill or on any of the Schedules?

No comment

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Question 9.1: Are you aware of any consequential amendments to legislation that will need to be made?

No comment

Question 9.2: Please provide feedback you think would be useful in relation to the supporting documents published alongside the Draft Bill i.e. Draft Explanatory Memorandum (including the Regulatory Impact Assessment) and specific Impact Assessments.

No comment

Question 9.3: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addresses, please use this space to comment.

The distribution of NNDR to Community councils

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept anonymous please tick the box:

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Both Cllrs Smith and Tippings were thanked for their diligent work.

302) Grants:

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

Bryn Bach Park Model Boat Club – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

Hospice of the Valleys – Grant of £125.00 recommended as this was what remained from the Grant allocation after to their previous £250.00. It was agreed to send a letter explaining this once the grant has been approved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Moose International Tredegar 1 Ladies Circle – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

St Johns Ambulance – Grant of £500.00 recommended.

Sirhowy Tenants and Residents Association – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

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

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

Horeb Chapel – Grant of £225.00 recommended.

Sardis Chapel – Grant of £225.00 recommended.

Ebenezer Independent – Grant of £225.00 recommended.

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

303) Planning:

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

List of Delegated Items determined between 14th December 2015 and 15th January 2016

2015/0397 Extension to roof space to provide additional accommodation including windows and Juliette balcony. Side extension to include 2 en-suites for existing bedrooms, side extension to include new lounge and new front porch entrance, Jesmond Dene, Park View, Tredegar – Refused.

2015/0404 Front extension, 102 Beaufort Road, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0383 New external ramp and steps for disabled access to the Church, St George's Church, Church Street, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0412 Application for Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed single storey kitchen extension, 13 Bethel Avenue, Tredegar – Lawful Development Certificate Granted.

2015/0390 Retention of raised patio area to the front of house, new boundary wall with gates and railings, 1 Dan Y Bryn, Trefil – Approved.

2015/0427 Discharge of condition: 1 – external wall finishes; 2 – walls, gates and fences; 7 – site investigation of planning permission C/2009/0306, land adjacent to 1 Pochin Houses, Tredegar – Condition Discharged.

Received.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

It was noted that the only opportunity for Members of the Planning Committee to view the applications was at the start of this meeting. There were no issues identified but noted that work was already ongoing at Marion Close.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2016/0018	Mr N Davies Sunny View, Gelli Road, Tredegar.	New double garage to back of bungalow, existing garage to be converted to a games room, Sunny View, Gelli Road.
No objections.		
2016/0027	Mr H Lewis 5 Bethal Avenue, Tredegar.	Construction of two detached residential properties with individual detached garages and associated access drive from Marion Close (revised scheme).

No objections but request that BGCBC look at some form of traffic management as there are concerns regarding the increased volume of vehicles accessing/leaving Marion Close on to a busy Queen Victoria Street.

d) To consider other planning matters.

None received – Noted.

304) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC a) S. Northall Re: Improving provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder – decision is to proceed with the proposals of designated ASD provision at Glanhwy Primary School and Ebbw Fawr Learning Community both from 1st September 2016.

Received.

- b) A. Fleming Re: Proposed Stopping Up and Diversion Order for the tunnel under the A465 Higan Farm.

Received and request that an appropriate surface is used for the footpath. It was agreed to write to the Rights of Way officer stating that the surfaces of the other routes created as a result of the dualling are so rough it is damaging cyclists' tyres.

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 8.1.16.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Membership renewal for 2016/17.

It was agreed to set this as an agenda item for the Meeting on 17.2.16 and to copy the letter to the Leader and Deputy Leader to assess whether this is value for money with their report to be submitted on 17.2.16.

- b) Gwent Valleys Area Committee – 1. Request for a letter to be sent to the Health Minister urging him to make a decision on the Specialist & Critical Care Centre before the Assembly elections in May, copy of their letter attached which could be used as a model letter.

It was agreed to send a letter but to also highlight that there is a need to address the transport needs of people from deprived areas trying to access/visit this centre.

- c) Proposals relating to the Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework –

<http://gov.wales/consultations/palning/proposals-relating-to-the-statement-of-public-participation-for-the-national-development-framework/?lang=en>

Closing date for responses on the consultation is 25.4.16.

It was agreed to forward link to all Members of the Town Council Planning Committee.

- d) Public appointments:

- i) Sports Wales – Appointment of Chair, closing date for applications 18.2.16
- ii) Appointment of Members to the Social Security Advisory Committee, closing date for applications 12.2.16.

Both received and available for interested Members. It was agreed that it should be noted if there is remuneration for the appointment.

- 3) PC Witcombe Response to requests made at the Council meeting 6.1.16 – update on identified vehicles and next proposed off road operation.

Received.

- 4) Aneurin Leisure Letter confirming names of those at Tredegar Library who can respond to requests for information from the local studies collection.

Received. It was agreed to send a letter to Ms J. Karn congratulating her on her new appointment as Head Librarian with Monmouthshire Council.

- 5) Cllr H Trollope Welsh Ambulance Service Defibuary campaign – asking schools and the children's families to get involved in the campaign to raise awareness of where and what defibrillators are. Want members of the public to take selfies with a defibrillator or a photograph of a public access defibrillator and post of the ambulance service twitter page along with its location.

It was agreed to contact Mr M. Morgan for clarification on the location of the defibrillators in Tredegar and ask whether he would like to attend with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to take a photo which would be uploaded to Twitter and Town Council website as part of this campaign.

6) A. Davies AM Re: A465 Heads of the Valleys – copy of Council’s letter has been forwarded to the Minister for comments and will respond to us on receipt of them.

Received.

7) CAB Any requests to attend meetings with their trustee board should be made to the Director Mr Simon Ellington based at the Bargoed bureau.

Received.

8) Mr A Richards Hospice of the Valleys – Mr Richards as stepped down from the role of Chief Executive now becoming the Finance & Performance Director with Helen Rees appointed as Chief Executive from 1st February 2016. Expressing thanks to Council for the support shown to him and the Hospice.

Received.

9) Gavo a) Blaenau Gwent Citizen Panel link –
<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=143678407604>
Anyone can apply to join.

Received.

b) Employment and Careers Event “Find Your Future” at Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre on Wednesday 17th February 2016 from 10am to 2pm.

Received.

10) Planning Aid Wales Details of dates and venues for the forthcoming planning training events.

Received.

11) Powys County Council

Submission of the Deposit Powys Local Development Plan 2015 to the Welsh Government and Planning Inspectorate for public examination and Notice of Proposed Focussed Changes Consultation.

Received.

12) Scope About Disability

Proposed house to house collection dates have been changed from 4th-24th April 2016 to 28th March – 17th April 2016.

Received.

13) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 29.1.16 & 5.2.16; Communicorp Local Councils Update January/February 2016 Issue 192.

Available for Members.

14) AGENDA

General Licensing Committee Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Economy and Infrastructure Scrutiny Meeting Thursday 10th March 2016 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Joint Scrutiny Committee Monday 8th February 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Friday 5th February 2016 at 10am Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon.

Available for Members.

305) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park—any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally.

It was noted that external lights were not working properly this evening and Cllr Tippings agreed to raise this with the House staff herself. The RFO was requested to check the availability of the House Manager for a meeting on Tuesday morning with Cllr H. Trollope and T. Smith. Members asked them to request a progress update on the rehanging of the picture gallery.

306) 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 – Members were informed that the points raised regarding the public conveniences had been taken to the Consultation meeting with BGCBC and we are currently awaiting a response from the appropriate officer. It was noted that progress in the relationship between the JCLC and BGCBC was being made in the right direction since the appointment of the new BGCBC Leader and in fact two points of contact within BGCBC have now been appointed as an interim measure to address communication issues.

b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – It was noted that access to the evening meetings in Pontypool was very difficult for non-drivers and this point is being conveyed back to One Voice Wales.

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM - Meeting being held 17.02.16.

d) Tredegar Twinning – Friends of Tredegar Twinning has now disbanded and the remaining funds have been transferred to Twinning. The next meeting is on 7.03.16 with the AGM on 21.03.16. Members were reminded of the Orvault visit to Tredegar starting 8.04.16. Plans for that weekend are Saturday evening dinner at the Orpheus hall with the Orpheus performing; Sunday is free time with the hosts; and Monday will be a trip to the cider museum in Hereford followed by shopping. Twinning welcomed the invitation to attend the forthcoming Events Committee meeting and requested the time to be changed to 6pm to accommodate this. They wish to continue to support the AFD event with Council and here at Bedwellty House.

e) School Governing Bodies – The school categorization showed that the Tredegar cluster of schools are performing well with the majority in the yellow which is a great achievement for a town of our size. It was agreed to write to all the schools to congratulate them on how excellent they have performed.

Tredegar Comprehensive – It was noted this was the most improved school in East Wales.

Bryn Bach Primary – A raffled had been held with the top prize being a ride on Rolls Royce car. Over £200.00 was raised for Coed Eva primary in Cwmbran.

Deighton Primary – It was noted that the Head was disappointed that information regarding the playfield was leaked to a website and he will be addressing this with the Governors. Following from this the RFO was requested to seek clarification on whether governor meetings are open to the public and when the Minutes of those meetings become a public document.

f) Blaenau Gwent CAB – no reports and reason already addressed in letter received as part of correspondence.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – No report.

h) Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – Representative not present at this meeting.

i) Tredegar Business Forum – No meeting.

j) VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative – Meeting on 11.02.16. It was noted that since Council's last meeting there was no further progress with the planting in the walkway area of Commercial Street. Members have concerns regarding antisocial behavior and potential damage.

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

- Change to prescription services – A Member had received a letter from the local GP notifying changes to repeat prescriptions. It was no longer permitted to leave the repeat prescription slip at the time of collecting the current prescription and now necessary to resubmit it 7 days prior to it being required. It was noted that for many this would cause great inconvenience and distress. It was agreed to send a letter to the local GP highlighting the problems this may cause residents.
- Conor Caniff – It was noted that he has successfully qualified for Wales Under 14s and Under 16s in 2014/15 plus now qualifying for the EBSA Under 18s Championship in February 2016. It was highlighted to all Members that he is looking for sponsorship if they wish to make a personal

donation. It was agreed to honour Conor at a forthcoming presentation evening.

- Mr Briggs – Resident of Peacehaven who regularly litter picks in the area. It was agreed to forward a nomination form to Cllr Morgan for the next presentation evening.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

_____ Chair