

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 6.33pm

**Present:**        **Councillor**    **G. Meredith (Chair)**  
                                 **T. Smith**  
                                 **A. Tippings**  
                                 **M. Cross**  
                                 **B. Willis**  
                                 **D. Howells**  
                                 **H. Trollope**  
                                 **P. Prosser**  
                                 **D. Rowberry**  
                                 **R. Watkins**  
                                 **R. W. Thomas**

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

**318) Apologies.**                        **Cllrs J. Thomas, G. Bowen-Knight, J. Morgan, O. Price, S. Trollope and S. Baker.**

### **319) Declarations of Interest.**

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

### **320) To Co-opt a Member to serve on the Central & West Ward until the next elections due in May 2017.**

Council were informed that BGCBC has confirmed there has been no request for an election and co-option was now permitted. It was noted that a co-option notice was displayed in the notice board from the date of receipt of the BGCBC notification with a closing date for applicants of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

It was agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting when names of potential candidates could be received.

### **321) To approve the renewal of the One Voice Wales 2016/17 subscription following a response from the Leader and Deputy Leader.**

It was agreed to make payment of this renewal in April 2016 (relevant financial year) but it was noted that Members were far from pleased with the cost and it needs to be reviewed annually to determine whether Council maintains to get value from money. Members were made aware of the fact that good advice has been and still is received from OVW but their progression towards offering this via their consultancy services on top of this annual fee could be costly.

### **322) Grants:**

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

Council received a verbal report from the Civic Sub-Committee meeting held prior to this meeting and received the following recommendations:-

#### Tredeggar Bronze Medal Rosette Horse Show

- Promote their future events on the Town Council website.
- Look at sponsorship of a section in the show's catalogue.
- Recommend a grant of £200.00

All the recommendations were improved and a cheque for the grant is to be raised as part of this month's Schedule of Payments.

Bryn Bach Park Model Boat Club – Approved a grant of £200.00.  
Hospice of the Valleys – Approved a grant of £125.00.  
Moose International Tredegar 1 Ladies Circle – Recommendation of £200.00.  
St Johns Ambulance – Approved a grant of £500.00.  
Sirhowy Tenants and Residents Association – Approved a grant of £200.00.

**b) Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.**

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

Horeb Chapel – Approved a grant of £225.00

Sardis Chapel – Approved a grant of £225.00

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

Ebenezer Independent Church - Approved a grant of £225.00

**323) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2016.**

Council was informed that Bank Reconciliations were available at the front of the Chamber for viewing. Council agreed to hold a presentation evening in the Carriage House, Bedwellty Park on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 commencing at 7pm with the Civic Meeting of Council held on the same evening starting at 5.30pm. Buffet is approved at the lowest price per head. Grants from this meeting and proposed nominations are to be invited.

It was reported that there have been several instances of graffiti in the public conveniences that have left marks on the walls even after cleaning. It was agreed to repaint the walls in the Summer.

There being no queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items with the inclusion of the grant to Tredegar Bronze Medal rosette Horse Show were approved for payment.

**324) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:**

**a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

**b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

**c) Minutes of the Civic Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.**

**d) Minutes of the Events Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016. (Available at Meeting)**

It was noted that the Minutes of the Events Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were not available and these would be brought to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council due 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Council agreed, following a Member's request, that the Minutes of the Civic Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 are revised to include Council's approved responses to the Consultation Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill. It was agreed, with the inclusion of the above revision, to Move all the presented Minutes en bloc as a true record with any matters arising to follow below.

**325) Matters arising from the Minutes.**

- **Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

Council were informed there has been no contact from the Christmas lights contractor to date.

- **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

Deighton Playing Fields – It was agreed for Cllrs H. Trollope and Tippings to attend the Council office Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 2pm to complete the expression of interest form. It was noted that the Playing Fields Association would object to any housing on this area but they could not prevent it and Members agreed this area needed to remain as a community space. The RFO informed Council that clarification would be sort on the SLA agreement offered by BGCBC and that Council should be mindful of other potential costs such as insurance, tree maintenance and vandalism or litter issues as a result of anti-social behaviour. A Member suggested contacting GAVO for support in compiling a business plan for this potential project.

- **Minutes of the Civic Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.**

1. Council's approved Consultation Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill are to be included as part of the Minutes

2. Defibrillators – Mr M. Morgan is delighted to participate in the Welsh Ambulance awareness programme with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; RFO was requested to forward the location of the defibs in Tredegar to Chris Engel BGCBC who will promote their locations; It was noted that Tredegar Rugby Club are currently investigating the possibility of having a defib onsite with them due to their location next to the Recreation Ground and the building is open regularly during the daytime; It was agreed to approach Bedwellty House management and suggest their 2016/17 grant application it used to purchase a defib which Council strongly supports.
3. Police Off Road programme – Suitable pinch points have been identified and during a recent exercise by Gwent Police there had been a number of seizures of off road vehicles.
4. It was noted that after several reports to House staff regarding the lights off in the Council Chamber there has still been no action. Cllr Meredith agreed to raise the matter again with the House staff following this meeting.
5. It was confirmed that a letter had not yet been sent to the local surgery regarding the changes to prescription services.
6. It was noted that Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel had amalgamated with Ebbw Vale and the Town Council representative was in the process of completing the forms to be part of the new committee. The new committee will be called Tredegar & Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel. It was agreed to send a letter to Andrew Green who has now left the Police service to commend him for his excellent work with the Police. It was also brought to Members attention that the OWL service is being transferred to an external company to reduce costs.

### **326) Chair to sign Minutes.**

All Minutes approved were duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council. It was agreed the Minutes of the Civic Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 which are to be revised to include Council's approved responses to the Consultation Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill will be signed on completion of the agreed revision.

### **327) Correspondence.**

- 1) BGCBC a) ASD Consultation out-turn report used as the basis for the Executive's decision is available at <http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/education/22684.asp>

Received.

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

- b) List of Licensing Applications week ending 5.2.16.

Received.

#### **2) One Voice Wales**

- a) Dates/venues of training sessions in South Wales – forwarded to Cllr Baker.

Received and available for Members. It was agreed Miss Jones (RFO) could attend the Local Government Finance – Advance course on a suitable date for her.

- b) Response to the proposal on the provision of court and tribunal services in Wales – decision is to close 86 court & tribunal buildings retaining 5.

Received.

- c) OVW's final response to Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Consultation.

Available for all Members.

#### **3) A. Davies AM & Welsh Government**

Re: A465 Tredegar to Merthyr – response from Edwina Hart AM. No major maintenance work planned for this section but currently considering schemes for funding in 2016/17 for which decisions will be made in March. Officials have been given the comments which will be taken into account when considering the schemes.

Received. Cllr Tippings she had enquired with Carillion with regards to how long a surface should last and their response was that there is no definite shelf life as it depends on weather and usage.

4) Kidney Wales Foundation

Walk for Life Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016, asking if Council wishes to participate. It was agreed to forward this to the Deputy Mayor. Before Council proceeds with the event at Parc Bryn Bach clarification on the potential charge should be sort from Life Leisure Trust reminding them that they receive a grant every other year. It was suggested that a possible alternative form of fun raising was a Golf Day at Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club if this was not being utilised by the current Mayor. The Mayor confirmed his intention to hold a golf day in aid of his Mayor's Appeal.

5) Brymbo Community Council

Bwlchgwynn village would like to link and have suggested a link could be formed between the schools.

It was noted that there is only a small number of Trefil children in the closest school Bryn Bach Primary. It was agreed Cllr Tippings would contact the governor at Bwlchgwyn CP school direct to look at alternatives.

6) Christians Together Returning of unspent grant money.

Members thanked Christians Together for this gesture. It was agreed to send a letter to the association asking them to use the unspent funds on a suitable activity such as the cookery classes they undertake at Ty Parc, Tredegar.

7) Brecon Beacons National Park

Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan Consultation – responses to be submitted by 6.4.16.

Received.

8) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Replacement CCBC Local Development Plan up to 2031: Deposit Plan Consultation.

Received.

9) J. Hunt

Re: Tredegar Partnership Forum – Deals going down. Final forum to be run by J. Hunt will take place in March but discussions are taking place regarding the benefit from these events with the possibility of BGCBC taking over the organising of them in the future.

The positive activity promoted by Ms Hunt, such as the planting of an orchard at Sirhowy Woodlands, was noted and it is hoped that these types of activities will continue after Ms Hunt leaves.

10) S.Baker

Exporting is GREAT tour comes to Wales – Wednesday 17.2.16 at The Works, Ebbw Vale from 10am to 2pm.

Received. Cllr Tippings attended this event at which there were ten companies present. It was in her view an excellent event.

11) R. Taylor-Davies

- a) The Valleys that Changed the World – Looking to establish meetings in September and March to continue momentum. Looking for suitable venues to host the meeting (coffee morning or tour) and the preferred month.

Received.

- b) Big Pit are seeking people to join their People's Panel to help support their work and bring fresh ideas. Drop in open day is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 from 1pm to 4pm.

It was agreed to add to Town Council website stating that anyone requiring transport should contact the Town Council office.

## 12) Publications

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 12.2.16 & 19.2.16.

**Available for Members.**

## 13) Agenda

Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Replacement paperwork for agenda item no. 3; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

**Available for Members.**

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

### 328) Planning:

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

None received – Noted.

#### b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

Members confirmed that they had not identified any issues.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
<i>Cllr Tippings declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.</i>		
2016/0038	Mr M Koperski 4-5 The Circle, Tredegar.	Proposed change of use of 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> floors from 3 to 4 self-contained flats and replacement shopfront to ground floor and proposed change of use and conversion (including raising of roof to create an additional floor) of tyre fitting depot to 1 self-contained flat, 4-5 The Circle, Tredegar.
Members raised concerns regarding the following points: i) increased volume of parking and whether there was adequate space in the area for any extra vehicles; ii) The proposed change of use of the tyre depot to a self-contained flat and its close proximity to the club in view of the possibility of antisocial behaviour.		
2016/0043	Ms L Whittaker Unit 1, 10 Commercial Street, Tredegar.	Change of use from a retail shop to mixed use including beauty, tanning, semi-permanent make up, tattoo and permanent make up removal, body piercing and IPL machine (Retention), Unit 1 Studio 9 Advance Treatments, 10 Commercial Street.
No Objections.		
<i>Cllr Cross declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.</i>		
2016/0047	Mr D Hale Brook Cottage, Rumble Street, Monkswood.	Outline planning permission for one dwelling, land adjacent to The Spirals bungalow, Dukestown Road.
No Objections.		
2016/0049	Mr A Williams 4 Marian Close, Tredegar.	Single storey side/rear extension, kitchen/dining room extension, 4 Marian Close
No Objections.		

#### d) To consider other planning matters.

None received – Noted.

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

- Request from Professor Nigel Copner, Plaid Cymru candidate for Blaenau Gwent, to attend the Civic Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 - Council were reminded that it would be necessary to start this meeting earlier than normal and to adhere to a strict time constraint due to the presentation evening which will follow at 7pm. Therefore it was agreed this was not a suitable meeting at which to receive this guest. Council were informed that the dates of the next three meetings had already been offered to other guests to make presentations and confirmation of their attendance was outstanding to date. It was agreed to inform Professor Copner's agent of the above and notify them if a date becomes available.
- Orvault Visitors – Members were reminded that homes for some of our French guests during their visit in April were still being sought and were asked to give consideration to hosting them.
- It was agreed to accept the nomination of Liam Davies for the forthcoming presentation evening. Master Davies is a young snooker player who has represented Wales in the Under 14s class when he was only 8 years old and last year he was second in the ranking. Cllr Meredith offer to source contact details for Master Davies.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair