

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 6.40pm

**Present:**        **Councillor**    **T. Smith**  
                                 **A. Tippings**  
                                 **B. Willis**  
                                 **S. Trollope**  
                                 **H. Trollope**  
                                 **M. Cross**  
                                 **R. Watkins**  
                                 **R. W. Thomas**  
                                 **G. Bowen-Knight**  
                                 **J. Morgan**  
                                 **S. Baker**

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

**200) Apologies.**                        **Cllrs G. Meredith, J. Thomas, D. Howells, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry and O. Price**

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

A minute silence was held for the recent passing of Cllr M. O'Sullivan.

Members spoke and regaled their memories and experiences of Cllr O'Sullivan. All agreed that he had been a tremendous ambassador for his Ward, the community and Tredegar Town Council; sad loss and Members thoughts and condolences were with his family.

### **201) Declarations of Interest.**

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

### **202) Grants:**

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

2167 (Tredegar) Sqdn Air Cadets – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Association – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

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

None received – **Noted.**

### **203) 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).**

**List of Delegated Items determined between 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

2015/0290 Single storey rear extension, 42 Glyn Terrace, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0277 Detached domestic garage, 4 Alexandra Terrace, Georgetown, Tredegar – Approved.

**Received and noted on bloc.**

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

Cllr Watkins reported no issues with any of the applications.

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

<b>App No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
2015/0383	Rev J Davis The Vicarage, St Georges Church, Church Street, Tredegar.	New external ramp and steps for disabled access to the Church, St Georges Church.
No objections.		
2015/0386	Ms L & G Williams C/o. Abletouch Ltd, Derwent Buildings, Commercial Street, Tredegar.	Refurbishment of building including replacement windows and doors, lighting and replacement of existing roller shutter door with new timber gatehouse doors, proposed front portico, rear 3 storey extension, extension and alterations to existing rear 2 storey annexe and new decking area/terrace, The Tredegar Arms Hotel, Morgan Street.
No objections.		
It was noted that Members were pleased to see this was the second application received for the regeneration of the town centre as part of the Town Heritage Project.		
<i>Cllr Cross declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.</i>		
2015/0388	Mr D Hale Brook Cottage, Rumble Street, Usk.	Outline planning permission for 2 building plots, land adjacent to Spiral Bungalow, Dukestown Road.
No objections.		
<i>Cllr Tippings declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.</i>		
2015/0390	Mr A Edwards 1 Dan Y Bryn, Trefil.	Retention of raised patio area to the front of house, new boundary wall with gates & railings, 1 Dan Y Bryn Trefil.
No objections.		
<i>Cllrs H &amp; S Trollope declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.</i>		
2015/0397	Mr J Evans Jesmond Dene, Park View, Tredegar.	Extension to roof space to provide additional accommodation including windows and Juliette balcony. Side extension to include 2 ensembles for existing bedrooms, side extension to include new lounge and new front porch entrance, Jesmond Dene.
No objections.		

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

None received – **Noted.**

**204) Correspondence.**

1) BGCBC a) D. Watkins Re: Public conveniences – Explanation of grant allocation given. It was agreed to copy to all Members and agenda for discussion at the next meeting of Council. The RFO is to investigate the possibility of establishing a not-for-profit organisation to operate the facilities on behalf of Council and to have a breakdown of total running costs to date available for Members. It was noted that the letter only highlighted financial support given and not any “in kind” support such as opening/closing of the facilities, cleaning and supplies. Further clarification of this is to be sort following further discussions.

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

- b) i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 23.10.15.  
ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 30.10.15.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Draft Minutes for Larger Councils Committee meeting 14.10.15.

Received.

- b) Welsh Government update for Community & Town Councils October 2015

Received. Agreed to copy to all Members.

- c) Consultation: Draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill – consultation closes 18.1.16.

Received. Available for Members.

- d) Green Paper: Welsh Government seeking views on healthcare services in Wales – 2 events being held, Wrexham 10.11.15 and Carmarthen 12.11.15.

Received. Available for Members if they wish to attend.

- e) November training.

Agreed to forward to Cllr Baker.

- f) The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 22 available at

<http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/en/publications/The-Ombudsmans-Casebook.aspx>

Received.

- g) Walking charity Ramblers Cymru are keen to work with Town Councils to help protect and improve paths.

Agreed to forward to Cllr Tippings.

3) PC J Witcombe Re: Anti-social behaviour – response to concerns raised about Park Row surgery.  
Received. It was noted that PC Witcombe will be attend the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

4) Mark Turner Thanks for the card and kind words for their marriage. Lots of the wedding photos are on facebook to view.

Received.

5) GAVO a) Surplus office furniture available from BGCBC, viewing day 18.11.15 between 2pm & 4pm Units 3, 4 & 5 Cwm Draw Industrial Estate, attendance must be confirmed.

Received.

- b) Age Cymru Winter Celebration grants 2015.

Agreed to forward to all Members.

6) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Stage 2 Improvement Plan 2014/15 available at

<http://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/English/aboutus/Pages/Howdidwedonin201415.aspx>

Received.

7) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

- a) Minutes for Planning, Access and Rights of Way Tuesday 6.10.15 - forwarded to Cllr Price

Received.

- b) Brecon Beacons Tourism - New PR agency appointed, Orchard Media & Events

Group.

Received.

8) J. Hunt Sports Wales grant link.  
Agreed to add to Town Council website.

## **9) PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Road works report week ending 30.10.15 & 6.11.15; GAVO Blaenau Gwent Single Integrated Plan e-bulletin; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct November 2015 Issue 102; Ville D'Orvault Orvault & Co magazine Nov/Dec 2015 issue 02; Communicorp Local Councils Update November 2015 Issue 190.

**Available for all Members.**

## **10) AGENDA**

Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 additional agenda item no. 5; Executive Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for all Members.**

### **205) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park.**

- Banners – Concerns were raised regarding the number of official/unofficial banners on the boundary fence along The Promenade. It was agreed to ask for out of date banners to be promptly removed and consideration given to the number/relevance of the ones they are erecting.
- Memorial Gates – Request the removal of opening/closing hours sign from these before Remembrance Sunday and remind them no signs should be attached to these official War Memorial gates.

### **206) 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** – Consultation with BGCBC last Thursday. The Well Being Act and its implications were discussed and BGCBC offered support to Town/Community Councils to put a plan forward; Charter – It was requested that BGCBC implement as originally agreed at its conception and a commitment was received from BGCBC Executive Members present to have more regular meetings with Town/Community Councils to discuss agenda items prior to these meetings also with an increase from these Consultation meeting from 3 to 5 each year to offer additional options when meetings have to be cancelled. Next Consultation meeting is January 2016 and next JCLC is November 2015.

**b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – no meeting.

**c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – Noted draft Minutes received in correspondence above.

**d) Tredegar Twinning** – This year's Christmas event will be on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at St James Community Centre.

**e) School Governing Bodies** – No reports.

**f) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – no meeting.

**g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – It was reported that Ms Karn will remain as secretary until she finds new employment. Members agreed to invite Ms Karn to the next presentation evening and a letter sent to her in recognition of her work.

**h) Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel** – no report.

**i) Tredegar Business Forum** – Town Partnership now established and several shops have joined. Also a number of the shops have signed up for the superfast broadband which offers any unused network capacity available for free public use.

It was requested that the lack of response from shop owners to the hand delivered Christmas event stalls

letter/poster is relayed back to the group.

**j) VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – It was reported that some delays had been experienced with this project such as shared ownership of properties. However some planning applications have now been submitted and the project are pushing forward as quickly as possible. Associations such as Tai Calon and Groundworks are on board.

Aneurin Bevan House as now successfully transferred to Coalfields Regeneration with Smart Money Cymru having open space within the building. The Smart Money Top Up Card is now available with some shops offering an additional 5-10% discount if you use it in their store. The Department of Works & Pensions have agreed that for holders of these cards they will/can have rent paid direct to Smart Money Cymru who will then pay the cardholder's private landlord direct. It was agreed to invite Smart Money Cymru to give a presentation to Council and add the information they supply to Town Council's website.

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

- Mayor's Parlour – It was agreed in principle that brides could have access to the Parlour as a dressing room but further discussions were required with the House Management to draw up some form of contract/written guarantee for the House/bride to accept liability for and rectify any damage. It was noted that the settee cushion had been previously damaged and it was agreed to request that House replaces this cushion.
- Meeting with Mr F. Olding – Agenda items are, in relation to Bedwellty House & Park, siting of benches; up keep of the Park/House; the Queen's Baton commemorative structure when there has been a recent refusal for the Heritage Forum to place a World War commemoration plaque within the Park grounds.
- Upcoming Memorial events –
  1. Cairn Memorial – The wreath laying ceremony will take place on Saturday 7th November 2015, with the mini bus leaving the Top House in Trefil at 10am.
  2. Princetown Memorial Service – Caerphilly Borough Council are holding a Service at 12 noon in Princetown on Saturday 7th November 2015 at the new Memorial erected in honour of all those from Tafarnaubach and Princetown that lost their lives during the World Wars. All Members were invited to attend and it was agreed that those participating in the Cairn Memorial Service would attend on returning from the walk. Cllr Tippings agreed to contact Cllr Cuss to enquire if Mayor is to attend event in official capacity and if so the RFO is to request the Mayor to lay a wreath on behalf of Tredegar Town Council. It was agreed to purchase an additional wreath for the event.
  3. Remembrance Sunday – Service at 10.15am St James Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November and Armistice Service will take place in the Gwent Shopping Centre at 10.55am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Members noted that the number of young people attending and participating in the Remembrance Sunday wreath laying Service was increasing.
- Consultation events – Children play event being held every Friday 3.30pm-5pm at Southend play area. These activities form part of the consultation event on the redevelopment of that play area. Sirhowy Valley Landscape holding a consultation on land at Peacehaven which could possibly be developed with meadow flowers, contact is Chris Engel BGCBC.
- Cefn Golau Tenants and Residents – 15 youngsters attended a sponsored litter pick and their prize is a cinema trip on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

#### **208) 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.

#### **209) To receive the verbal report of the Staffing and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

The Chair of the Staffing Committee gave a verbal report and informed Members that a response should be received from the union on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and any decision made following on from that response will be brought to Council for ratification.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.45pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Town Mayor