

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 16th March 2016
at 6.35pm**

Present: **Councillor** **G. Meredith (Chair)**
 J. Thomas
 T. Smith
 A. Tippings
 M. Cross
 B. Willis
 D. Howells
 J. Morgan
 H. Trollope
 D. Rowberry
 O. Price
 S. Trollope
 R. Watkins
 S. Baker

In Attendance: **Ms A Jones – RFO**

345) Apologies. **Cllrs G. Bowen-Knight, P. Prosser & R. W. Thomas.**

346) Declarations of Interest.

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

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

It was confirmed that the two names presented for this co-opt were Mrs G. James and Mr M. Turner and a secret ballot would take place at this meeting. The RFO gave all Members present the ballot form and read through the terms - listed on the form – below:-

- Secret Ballot.
- Voting at meeting only permitted.
- Clerk will be the Teller.
- Leader will verify count done by Teller.
- Successful candidate must have the majority vote.
- Chair signs completed results ballot form in the presence of Council.

The above terms were approved at the meeting and the secret ballot took place; the Interim Clerk/RFO counted all votes with the Leader verifying the count confirming the successful applicant as Mr M. Turner. It was agreed both applicants are duly informed of the outcome and an appropriate co-option process policy is presented to Council for approval at a future meeting following the guidelines used at this meeting.

348) 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.

349) Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report 2016/17: To receive and to make a formal declaration on the proposed payments for Town Councillors. (NB. All payments are made from Town Council not WAG).

Determination 46 through to 54 (inclusive) from the Annual Report were present to Members and all were approved with the following points noted:-

- Determination 46 – A claim form is to be made available if Members wish to claim and it is the Member's discretion whether they wish to donate the claim to charity.
- Determination 47 – It is agreed to offer remuneration for the Leader role with the first offer being an agenda item at the next Annual Meeting of Council.
- Determination 48 – Recommend the Mayoral allowance remains as is.
- Determination 49 to 54 – A claim form is to be made available for any Member wishing to claim.

Members were reminded:-

- If they make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these allowances then they must give written notice to the Clerk.
- There is a requirement on town councils to publish details of all payments made to individual Members.
- Payments may be taxable and this is a matter for each individual Member to establish from their tax office.

350) Re-open the meeting to the public.

Moved.

351) To approved the revised Risk Management Policy.

The revised Risk Management Policy was duly approved.

352) To receive a verbal report from the Civic Sub-Committee held prior to this meeting and make a decision on any recommendations made.

Tredeggar Thespian Players – Confirm to full Council that there is no monetary gain for third parties and the project was solely for the benefit of the Thespians; Recommend a special grant of £200 with the request that Town Council sponsorship is advertised.

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

Gwent Area Association of Welsh Pony & Cob Society - Recommending that the regular start-up is to be replaced with a grant of £200 due to the exceptional circumstances as stated below:

- Group is long standing.
- No previous financial support from Town Council.
- They proactively support the other groups within the Gwent area.

The above recommendations were received and approved.

353) Grants:

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

Teenage Cancer Trust – Approved a grant of £50.00.

Urdd National Eisteddfod 2016 – Approved no grant award.

Gwent Defibbers – Approved a grant of £200.00.

Tredeggar Quilting Circle – Approved a grant of £200.00.

6th Tredeggar Scout Group – Approved a grant of £200.00.

Valleys Life After Stroke – Approved a grant of £200.00.

Members agreed to receive the grant form received during this meeting for Ystrad Deri Community Centre

and provided all the appropriate paperwork/requirements are met the grant of £200.00 which they have now approved at this meeting can be issued.

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

None received – Noted.

354) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in March 2016.

Members were informed there were no bank reconciliations available at this meeting.

Smart Money Credit Union – Cllr Trollope has approached Mr A. Taylor of Coalfield Regeneration who as confirmed that their financial services can be utilised by Town Councils.

It was queried whether the current level of website support was excessive and if a review was required.

Members were informed that due to the reduced staffing levels, the current website updating was being actioned at a minimum level. However, the new proposed site has been created but needs data alignment between both sites for it to go live. It was agreed once the new clerk was in place and business resumed to as normal as possible that the RFO is to resume action on the new site.

The RFO informed Council that today an invoice from Tredegar Orpheus had been received by the office for the band concert on Sunday 12th July 2015. Council approved payment of the £300 fee and requested a cheque to be drawn.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items - with the inclusion of the grants to Tredegar Thespian Players, Gwent Area Association of Welsh Pony & Cob Society, Ystrad Deri Community Centre and concert payment to Tredegar Orpheus – were approved for payment.

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

a) Minutes of the Events Meeting 10th February 2016.

b) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee 17th February 2016.

c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 17th February 2016.

d) Minutes of the Civic Meeting 2nd March 2016.

It was agreed to Move all the presented Minutes en bloc as a true record with any matters arising to follow below.

356) Matters arising from the Minutes.

a) Minutes of the Events Meeting 10th February 2016.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum plaque - Members were informed that a meeting was being held with Mr F. Olding next Wednesday to discuss possible siting near the War Memorial.

b) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee 17th February 2016.

Tredegar Horse Show – It was agreed to sponsor the Overall Supreme Championship award at £100 with the Reserve prize at £50.

c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 17th February 2016.

1. Defibrillators – It was agreed to purchase a defibrillator for each school in Tredegar if they wish to have one and to review the potential of siting more through the town centre.

2. Walk for Life – It was noted that the Hospice of the Valleys are holding their charity run on the proposed date for this walk. It was agreed to send a letter to the Hospice asking them if in future they could look at not closing with this event as they can be more flexible on their date whereas the date offered for the Walk for Life event is set as the national date.

3. Environment competition – Ms J. Hunt had entered Sirhowy Woodlands and they successfully won an award of £200.

4. Orvault visit – The RFO confirmed all the necessary bookings had been done.

d) Minutes of the Civic Meeting 2nd March 2016.

1. Fairtrade Breakfast – the event was successful and very enjoyable.

2. Luca Di Roma retirement – All Members were invited to the retirement event being held at Refresh on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 4.30pm with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor being asked to wear their chains to present a gift on behalf of the town. It was noted that Tredegar Town Council had donated £100 towards the gift/retirement event via the delegated powers previously given to Cllr T. Smith.

3. Bedwellty House & Park – Cllrs H. Trollope and Smith confirmed they had raised the concerns regarding

the potholes and the ponds; the potholes have now been filled and the ponds will be inspected by the relevant people. It was noted that three bulbs are still not working in the Chamber.

4. Circle regeneration – Members were pleased to see work has started in the Circle area.

5. Tabards – Members were asked to check whether they have any of the Town Council tabards at home etc and to return them to the office. A reassessment of the quantity available is them to be done with a proposal to replenish the stock – all new tabards to bear the TTC logo – to be brought back to a future meeting.

357) Chair to sign Minutes.

All Minutes approved were duly signed by the Chair in the presence of Council.

358) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC a) Advance Notice of next Consultation with Town/Community Councils meeting being held Thursday 28th April 2016 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale. **Items for inclusion on the agenda to be submitted by 12 noon Monday 15th April 2016.**

It was highlighted that Tredegar Town Council have been at the forefront of these meetings and it is important that this continue. Therefore Members were requested to attend in cases where the delegates are not available. Concerns were raised about the short time scale available to community groups considering CATs from BGCBC and that maybe BGCBC should consider collating a list of potential disposal assets. A Member confirmed that this and all questions to be raised at the Consultation meetings must be borough wise issues therefore the other Town Councils would need to be in agreement. It was noted that the Charter means that BGCBC should consult with Town Councils regarding potential disposals.

- b) Committee Services – Invitation to Mayor and 4 representatives of Council to attend Maes-y-Dderwen 25th Anniversary on Tuesday 5th April 2016 from 12noon till 2pm. **Number/names attending must be confirmed asap.**

The Mayor confirmed he will check his availability to attend. Cllrs J. Thomas and O. Price agreed to attend with the invitation extended to the new co-opted councillor Mr M. Turner.

- c) Public Consultation – Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls. Proposing to change the controls that apply to the exercising of dogs and cleaning up of dog fouling on land within the County Borough. Proposals available to view at <http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/council/8399.asp> and all comments are welcome.

Noted.

- d) A. Fleming Re: Stopping Up and Diversion Order – confirming that the new path will be tarmac.

Received.

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

- e) List of Licensing Applications week ending 26.2.16.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Leighton Andrews AM, Welsh Government - Shared Purpose: Shared Future – Statutory Guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Wishes to encourage all town councils not subject to the duty to actively engage in the work of the Public Services Board to do so as town councils have an important role to play in improving the wellbeing of their area. First local wellbeing plans will be produced in the year following the next local government elections in 2017; so the duty on those town councils who meet the criteria to contribute to meeting the objectives in those plans will not take effect in practice until 2018.

Received.

- b) Details of the Great Fish and Chip supper being held 20th May 2016 to raise funds for spinal cord injured people.

Members noted this was a pleasant social event in the past and it was agreed to forward on to the incoming Mayor.

- c) April Training Schedule for your region.

Received and available to Members.

3) Welsh Government

- a) Health & Social Services Group – response to letter sent to Mark Drakeford AM regarding the proposed Specialist Critical Care Centre in Gwent.

Received and noted.

- b) Local Government Ethical Framework – The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 – Copied for all Members.

NB. Necessary to adopt a revised Code of Conduct no later than 26th July 2016 but suggests no later than the forthcoming annual meeting.

Received. The deadline for the revised Code of Conduct was noted and it was agreed for the Clerk to review and submit to Council for approval by the Annual if possible.

4) Members correspondence:-

- a) Cllr Smith: Queen's 90th Birthday party at Bedwellty Park – costing from House management.

Members were informed of the potential costs received from Bedwellty House. It was agreed a list of organisations who have received grants should be collated with the intention of inviting 100 people to the Party in the Park event. Members were asked to let the office know of any other community groups that may not have received a grant from Council but should be invited to the event.

- b) Cllr Watkins: Resignation as Glanhwy Governor.

Resignation was withdrawn.

- c) Cllr H Trollope: Nomination of Cameron Hudd for Tony Gregory Award.

It was agreed to hold Cameron Hudd's nomination on file and to agenda a review of the current criteria for the Tony Gregory Award with a copy of the criteria being issued to all Members prior to that meeting for their perusal.

5) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

D. Minton – response to letter sent to Tredegar Health Centre regarding changes to prescription services – copied for all Members.

Members agreed this letter cleared up the concerns raised. It was agreed to add the letter to the Town Council website to raise awareness of the options available to the public.

6) E. Morgan, Aneurin Leisure Trust

Tredegar Library – Blaenau Gwent Local Study Centre. Request for a letter of support for a funding proposal they are about to submit to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It was agreed for a letter of support to be written and Members expressed their disappointed that HLF funding was not sourced to potentially secure Ms Karn's position.

7) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2031: Deposit Plan Consultation – Extension of time. Replacement CD issued due to an appendix missing.

Received.

8) J. Hunt Tredegar Partnership Forum – Deals going down from meeting 29.1.16, Rhianon Trimm is taking over and next meeting scheduled for 22.4.16.

Received. It was reported that Ms J. Hunt's employed ceased today but she plans to continue to be part of the excellent project she started in Sirhowy Woodlands.

9) Publications

Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct March 2016 Issue 104; Orvault & Co. March/April 2016 Issue 04; BGCBC Road works report week ending 11.3.16 & 18.3.16; Brecon Beacons Tourism newsletter March 2016; One Voice Wales - Natural Resources Bulletin Issue 5 March 2016.

Available for all Members.

10) Agenda

Executive Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 10th March 2016 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting 17.3.16 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Advance notice of Special Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Monday 18th April 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Monday 21st March 2016 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for all Members.

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

359) Planning:

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

None received – Noted.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

It was reported that the Members did not identify any issues with the planning applications listed below.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2016/0066	Mrs R Llewellyn Ding-Dong Delights High Haven, Merthyr Road Tredegar.	Change of use to A3 with ancillary function room to provide baking workshops and cake decorating classes – 20 Castle Street.
No Objections.		
2016/0069	Mrs A Davies 80 Ashvale, Tredegar.	Single storey rear extension and new garage to rear garden – 80 Ashvale.
No Objections.		
2016/0078	Mr G Morgan 12 Gainsborough Road, Tredegar.	Retention of change of use from vacant land to residential curtilage and hardstand domestic vehicle parking area, land adjoining 12 Gainsborough Road.
No Objections		

d) To consider other planning matters.

Confirmation Town Council's planning application for bench on land adjacent to 9 Peacehaven has been registered; decision to be taken by 5th May 2016.

Received.

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

- 65th Wedding Anniversary – It was agreed for the Mayor to present flowers to Mr & Mrs R. Miles of Highfield Close on 31st March 2016.
- Tredegar bypass road – Concerns were raised regarding the planting taking place on the bypass from the 24 hour garage roundabout up to Ashvale. It was noted that the field/wild flowers previously there were more appropriate and there should be protection of the wild orchids habit. It was agreed to contact Mr C. Engel BGCBC to ask what is the maintenance plan for the bypass and raise concerns about the high level of rubbish.
- Meeting with Mr D. Watkins BGCBC – Notes from the meeting were distributed to Members to read and those that attended the meeting with Mr Watkins commented on how productive it was. Members were in agreement that there needs to be a level consistency between all operators of the public conveniences in the borough and it was noted that the renovation work done by Town Council in Tredegar as made these conveniences of better quality compared to those in Ebbw Vale. It was agreed to contact Mr D. Elias to discuss any possible relief on the public conveniences' business rates and to forward the notes from the meeting with Mr Watkins to the Leader and Deputy Leader of BGCBC with a request for a meeting to discuss. Cllr Smith was requested to liaise with local traders to discuss whether Council could work with them to save the business rates costs on the public conveniences.
- Tredegar Rugby Club – Cllr Meredith confirmed the previous committee were now replaced with him being the new Chair and that the senior team has also been disbanded. It was noted that the WRU are still supporting the club with the proviso that a new committee and team are in place by September. The new committee aim to working and develop the skills of the younger players so that they can progress on to other clubs. At present they have a team manager in place for a senior team and a potential coach. Cllr Meredith was commended for taking on the Chair role and for proactively moving forward to secure the future of the Club.
- Weeds throughout the town centre – Approximately nine months ago a letter was sent to BGCBC regarding the weeds in the town and Members were pleased to see that this week BGCBC had started to power wash the pavements with care; the operatives were even carefully removing any of the dirt that was blown onto parked cars as a result of their works.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

_____ Chair