

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 5.37pm

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

In Attendance: **Ms A Jones – RFO**

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

331) Declarations of Interest.

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

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

Council were informed that two nominations had been received and that further advice should be sought regarding the procedure to be followed. It was agreed to defer the Co-option to the next meeting on Wednesday 16th March 2016.

333) Staffing update.

It was noted this item was not placed on the agenda but as it was an important and necessary verbal update on staffing arrangements it was agreed it should be received at this point in the meeting.

Members were informed that the interview panel had received all seven candidates and that the interviews were of a good quality. There were two that excelled and following a lengthy discussion, as both candidates were on a very level par, it was unanimously agreed to offer the position to Ms C. Price. Ms Price would be delighted to accept the offer with a potential start date of Monday 4th April 2016 following on receipt of the appropriate references. It was confirmed that the appointment would be on a six month probation period. Ms Price was proposed for the position, seconded and Council were unanimous in their decision to approve the appointment.

It was agreed that for future appointments all Members of the Staffing committee should be informed by the interview panel prior to a Council meeting of the outcome of the interviews and that a written report is to be presented by the Staffing Chair to Council. The Chair of Staffing apologized for there being no written report on this occasion which was accepted.

Members were informed that Ms Price would be in attendance later to give both her and Members of Council to meet informally.

334) Grants:

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

Teenage Cancer Trust – Recommendation of £50.00p.

Urdd National Eisteddfod 2016 – No grant award.

Gwent Defibbers – Recommendation of £200.00p. It was agreed to ask them to use the funds to advertise where the defibs are sited locally and their locations are to be added to Town Council website.

It was agreed to send a letter to the lady from The Cambrian who assisted a man when he collapsed at Barclays Bank on Friday 26th February 2016, thankfully the defib was not required.

Tredegear Quilting Circle – Recommendation of £200.00p.

Tredegear Thespian Players – It was agreed to invite this association in the Civic Sub-Committee on Wednesday 16th March 2016 to further discuss and clarify points relating to their proposed cinema project.

6th Tredegear Scout Group – Recommendation of £200.00p.

Valleys Life After Stroke – Recommendation of £200.00p.

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

None received – noted.

Members were invited to attend a Fairtrade Breakfast event being held at the chapels in Trefil on Saturday 12th March 2016 as part of the Fairtrade fortnight programme

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

335) Planning:

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

List of Delegated Items determined between 18th January 2016 and 17th February 2016

2015/0401 Renewal of outline planning permission C/2010/0338 for 2 dwellings, land at rear of Park Hill, Tredegear – Refused.

2015/0433 Application for Lawful Development Certificate for s proposed single storey extension, 15 Beaufort Road, Tredegear – Approved.

Noted as received.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

Members of the committee present reported there were no issues identified.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2016/0056	Messers Skinner, Thomas & Skinner 4 Railway Terrace, Trefil.	Conversion of agricultural building (barn) into a single dwelling with residential curtilage, car parking and erection of garden store, Barn at Ty Morgan Howell Farm, Golwg y Mynydd.
No Objections.		
2016/0060	Messers Skinner, Thomas & Skinner 4 Railway Terrace, Trefil.	Refurbishment of abandoned 19 th Century Farmhouse into a single dwelling with residential curtilage, car parking and erection of garden store, former farm house at Ty Morgan Howell Farm, Golwg y Mynydd.
No Objections.		

d) To consider other planning matters.

2015/0284 Two storey building containing three flats, land adjacent to No. 3 Aneurin Rise – Notice that appeal against BGCBC decision to refuse the application has been made to the Welsh Government. Any further representations from Council must be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 18.3.16.

Received.

2015/0431 Land at rear of Willow Court – J. Engel’s response – Thank you for your response in respect of the above whilst I note the concerns raised by the Town Council planning permission for the site was previously approved under C/2015/0233 which indicated an access road in the location proposed in the current application as such it would be unreasonable to request that it be relocated. The western part of the site will be left undeveloped and allowed to ‘go wild’. Also within this area reptile and amphibian hibernacula will be created. It would not be encouraged to use a solid fence along this boundary to allow for the movement of any species from the adjoining SINc.

The comments were received. It was noted that Council wanted a higher boundary due to concerns of balls from the play area crossing over into this site.

Trefil quarry - A Member raised concerns regarding the original landscape plan which was established for the surrounding area of the quarry. There have been issues regarding the earth buns and slurry running down into the Trefil community. The landscape plan was part of Reserved Matters on the application and it was requested enquiries are made as to whether the Reserved Matters have been dealt with.

336) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC a) M. Howland Re: Deighton Fields – response to questions raised by RFO and request to let them know whether Council wishes to proceed with lease.

Item 5 of Correspondence was received with this item.

1a - It was agreed to notify BGCBC of Council’s interest in taking on a lease for these fields but Council needs time to ascertain the full financial costs. GAVO is to be contacted to ask whether they can help with a business plan for this project.

Further discussion of the project is to be undertaken by the Staffing and Finance Committee to enable progress to be made and it is to be noted that there are concerns over the lease only being offered for seven years.

5 – Cllr Smith gave Council a report from the meeting he had attended on 1st March 2016 with FC Tredegar and other representatives. There was a discussion at the meeting regarding the ownership and charges for the use of the floodlights at Tredegar Leisure Centre. It was noted at Council’s meeting that Council’s understanding is that Tredegar Town FC had purchased these using a community grant so they have ownership rights. It was agreed this matter was not for Town Council to discuss and it was recommended Tredegar FC write to Tredegar Members regarding the cost implications of using the floodlights.

- b) D. Watkins Re: Public conveniences – request to meet with Council Members to discuss concerns – asking for dates.

It was agreed for Cllrs Smith and Tippings to meet with Mr Watkins at Bedwellty House with the RFO arranging a suitable date and time.

- c) S. Northall Re: Statutory Notices (Improving provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder) – Objection report was presented to Executive Committee who have now determined that the proposals in the Notices should be implemented.

Received and noted.

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

- d) List of licencing applications week ending 19.2.16.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Larger Councils meeting 17.2.16 – copy of presentation by Keith Edwards.

Received.

- b) 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – Information is available at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/2018-review

Agreed to circulate electronically to All Members.

- c) i) South Wales Development Officer, £14.89 per hour & minimum of 20 hours per week. Closing date for applications 4.3.16.
ii) British Council, Wales Cymru – Chair of Wales Advisory Committee. Unremunerated. Closing date for applications 10.3.16.

Both received and available to interested Members.

- 3) EAS J. Parry – confirmation that governor meetings are open to public with exclusion during discussions on confidential items; Minutes are a matter of public record & available once approved and signed.

Received.

- 4) Cllr Smith Request from Tredegar Business Forum regarding retirement of local shop holder.

It was noted that a tea was being hosted by Mr Vesper's wife at the shop on his last working day 26th March 2016 and it was agreed that it is appropriate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor try to attend. Delegated powers were approved to Cllr Smith to enable him to offer a suitable monetary donation whilst liaising with Tredegar Business Forum to organise a celebration/gift.

- 5) FC Tredegar Wish to meet with Council to discuss developments based around the use of Tredegar Sports centre and TTC interest in the Deighton Playing Fields. Plus email inviting Council to attend a meeting held 1.3.16.

This item was discussed as part of 1a in Correspondence.

- 6) K Walters Tredegar Bronze Medal Rosette show catalogue 2015 for Council to select a category to sponsor.

It was agreed to give delegated powers to Cllrs Tippings and Cross to select an appropriate category to sponsor.

- 7) S. Oldham General Hospital, Park Row – Asking what the plans are for this building and raising her concerns regarding the vandalism and arson attacks that have occurred.

It was agreed to forward this email to Aneurin Bevan Health Board and inform S. Oldham of this course of action taken.

- 8) GAVO Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Volunteering Recognition Awards 2016 – Closing date for application 11.3.16.

Received. Recommended nominating Gwent Defibbers and the Stroke Association if they meet the awards criteria.

- 9) J. Hunt Tredegar Partnership Forum meeting 11th March 2016 at the Moose Hall, Tredegar.

Received. It was noted the Ms Hunt was instrumental in organising the recent planting of an orchard in Sirhowy Woodlands.

- 10) Tower Mint LTD Example of HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday commemorative medal available to purchase for schools and councils. Cost £1.99 each excluding VAT & carriage.

Received.

11) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 26.2.16 and 4.3.16; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Community Update Spring 2016; Local Councils Update March 2016 Issue 193; One Voice Wales Cynnal Cymru February Newsletter.

Available for All Members.

14) AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 25th February 2016 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale;

Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education, Active Living & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 23rd February 2016 – Item No. 5 Minutes of meeting 12.1.16; Executive Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 11am – additional item no. 14(a) Education matters; General Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Thursday 7th April 2016 postponed to Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 10.30am; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for All Members.

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

- The issue with the lights in the Council Chamber is still outstanding. This is to be raised with the House staff again.
- Cllr H Trollope agreed to raise with the House staff the poor condition of the driveway, dangerous potholes.
- Cllr H Trollope agreed to raise with the House staff the poor condition of the ponds.
- It was agreed to send a letter to the volunteers for their excellent work cleaning the walls, benches etc.

338) 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** – no meeting.

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

c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – no meeting.

d) **Tredeggar Twinning** – AGM is 23rd March 2016 and nomination forms for the election of officers have been distributed.

e) **School Governing Bodies**

Georgetown Primary – Governors meeting is 9th March 2016.

Glanhowy Primary – Council hosted a class of 31 year 2 pupils this morning who climbed to level one in the Clock and visited the Library plus the Museum. Cllr Prosser was requested to pass on Council's thanks to the History and Archive Group for their excellent work at the museum which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Members were pleased to see that the Thomas Richards Centre by Glanhowy Primary is being brought back into use.

f) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – no meeting.

g) **Tredeggar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – no meeting.

h) **Tredeggar Business Forum** – no meeting and will inform Council's representative as soon as date of next is set.

i) **VVP/ Tredeggar Heritage Initiative** – Members were pleased to see that the work on Nelson's Chemist as started.

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

- On Monday 29th February 2016 there was an heritage tour at Bedwellty House for a children from Tredeggar Comprehensive. A Member raised concerns that the number of Town Council hi-viz tabards available for use on this tour had dramatically reduced and all Members were requested to check and return any they may have plus seek the return of any of those that may have been loaned out for events. It was noted that in future all new tabards ordered are to bear the Town Council logo to identify ownership.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 6.43pm and Council moved to the Carriage House for the presentation evening.

_____ Chair