

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 6.30pm

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

### **In Attendance:**

**243) Apologies.**                                **Cllrs J. Thomas, G. Bowen-Knight, J. Morgan, P. Prosser,**  
   **O. Price, S. Trollope and Ms Jones (RFO)**

Prior to the meeting, with the knowledge of the absence of the Clerk/RFO for tonight's meeting, it was recommended that the Leader Cllr Smith takes the Minutes of this meeting. Members approved of and agreed this recommendation.

### **244) Declarations of Interest.**

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

### **245) To recommend questions for PC Jamie Witcombe's attendance at the next meeting of Council on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

The following questions were agreed with the request for the RFO to forward them to PC Witcombe:-

- 1. Update on off road biking.*
- 2. Illegal parking outside all schools in Tredegar.*
- 3. What are the Police not giving summons to illegal parking in general?*
- 4. Members are keen to have your vision for the future of Policing in Tredegar and would like an update on the current policing structure.*
- 5. Speeding with particular concerns raised about the Tredegar to Blackwood road.*
- 6. Litter and fly-tipping: related antisocial behaviour of this activity.*
- 7. Parking of trailers and commercial vehicles in residential areas.*

### **246) To appoint Cllr S. Baker as Council's representative on St Joseph's Primary School Governors.**

Cllr Baker was proposed and seconded to fill this vacancy; voting was unanimous and the RFO is to duly inform the relevant bodies of the appointment of Cllr Baker.

### **247) To approve the amendment to point 5.5 of the Financial Regulations which will permit the Leader to initial payment documentation as part of the payments approval.**

Members were in receipt of the proposed amendment to the Financial Regulations prior to this meeting. Members approved the amendment.

#### **248) Grants:**

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

None received – Noted.

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

None received – Noted.

#### **249) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in December 2015.**

Members were informed Bank Reconciliations were available at the front of the Chamber for viewing

A Member queried whether the Christmas Window competition judging had been done, if not then it needed to be done asap. It was agreed that Cllr Tippings would make the necessary enquiries.

There being no queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items were approved for payment.

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

##### **a) Minutes of the Staffing and Finance Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (available from Office prior to meeting or collect at meeting).**

##### **b) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

##### **c) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

##### **d) Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.**

##### **e) Minutes of the Civic Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Agreed to Move en bloc as a true record with any matters arising to follow below.

#### **251) Matters arising from the Minutes.**

##### **• Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

THI/VVP – Leader informed Council that the query relating to the lighting infrastructure for the walkway in Commercial Street has been raised with THI representatives.

##### **• Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

1. It was proposed to change the timing of the road closures to start at 2pm to facilitate safe setup of the rides and stage; it was agreed to invite only William Holmes fairground rides next year; Members agreed to move the switch on time to 6.30pm.

2. Members were informed the letter to Tredegar.co.uk website regarding comments relating to the switch on delay had not been sent.

##### **• Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.**

1. Thanks were extended to Cllr Smith and Ms Jones for attending the bomber crash site with Cllr Tippings to lay a wreath commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Photographs had been added to social media with relatives from afar as Canada commenting.

2. Mayor's Parlour – It was noted that the House Manager as agreed for blinds to be fitted by Council; and that a member of staff will look at the marked settee and try to rectify. All agreed that the process of face to face discussions to raise concerns was working well and in future no letters will be sent addressing any concerns.

3. Dementia Christmas lunch – Cllr H. Trollope attended the lunch in the tearoom at Bedwellty House at which Bryn Bach Primary choir sang. He continued by praising the choir on their fantastic singing and how they lifted the spirit of those attending the lunch. It was agreed for the Governors to relay this back to the Head Teacher and governing body.

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

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

## 253) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC a) D. Watkins - Response to queries raised regarding the public conveniences in Blaenau Gwent.

Members were not content with the response received and wants further clarity on the points that were raised. It was agreed to invite Richard Cook, BGCBC to attend a Council meeting and a Freedom of Information request is to be completed on Business Rates for the public conveniences in Blaenau Gwent.

- b) Notification that Precept requirements are to be submitted by 31.1.16.

Received and it was noted that the RFO is currently producing the draft budget proposals for the first meeting in January 2016. Members wished to convey their thanks to the RFO for all the work and responsibility taken on to support Council.

A Member requested that consideration is given for the centenary such as repainting the Clock and feedback at the next meeting to incorporate into 2016/17 Budget.

- c) S. Jago Re: Flying Start Christmas Programme – thank you for the sponsorship of this programme.

Received. Agreed to invite to a Council meeting in the new year to form a better relationship and understanding of their work.

- d) Consultation with Town & Community Councils

i) Meeting date confirmed as 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – **All items for inclusion to be submitted by 12 noon Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

ii) P. Amos - Agreed at the last Consultation meeting that there would be agenda meetings prior to the Consultation meetings; attendees BGCBC Leader/Deputy Leader/Town Clerks/Democratic Services Officer/ Information & Governance Officer. **First meeting arranged for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 11am – Need to confirm happy to proceed with this date.**

Following on from a discussion about the Charter, the Leader fed back that the last meeting was very positive and welcomed this meeting arranged for 14.01.16. It was noted that Cllr J. McIlwee is now Deputy Leader of BGCBC and as agreed to give feedback to the JCLC on points rejected from the main meeting agenda.

## 2) One Voice Wales

- a) Invitation for Nominations – New Year 2017 Honours Round.

Two names of local residents were put forward and agreed.

- b) Buckingham Palace Garden Party Invitation to the current (outgoing) Chairperson/Mayor. Deadline for nominations is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

It was agreed to submit the required information of the outgoing Mayor and Consort.

- c) Launch of the Public Health Outcomes Framework Consultation,  
<http://gov.wales/consultations/healthsocialcare/outcomes-framework/lang=en>

Received.

- d) Transparency of Senior Remuneration in the Devolved Welsh Public Sector – Statement from the Minister for Public Services.

Received.

- e) Publication of the Positive Planning Implementation Plan  
<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/legislation/planning-wales-act-2015-positive-planning-implementation-plan/?lang=en>

Received, available for Planning Committee to look at.

- f) Appointment of Independent Member to Board of Community Health Councils, closing date for applications 13.1.16.

Cllr R. Thomas was proposed, seconded and unanimously put forward to apply.

- 3) Aneurin Leisure            A. Hughes Re: Local Studies Collection – no plans to change this provision in Tredegar, roles/responsibilities have been delegated to another chartered professional Librarian.

Received and agreed to write extending thanks for the response whilst also requesting the name of the responsible person.

- 4) Cllr Watkins                Re: Christmas Eve visits – confirmation that a few members from the Orpheus will attend as individuals but with a request for the CD player not to be used this year as it is an hindrance not beneficial; if this cannot be done then they will have to withdraw their support in the future.

Following on from intense discussions, it was agreed that a CD player would not be used; adequate song sheets are to be produced and made available in the office in advance; and confirm bus has been booked.

- 5) Welsh Government        Road Safety Review across trunk roads in Wales, findings of the review can be found at  
<http://www.traffic-wales.com/Trunkroadsafetyreview.aspx> .

It was agreed to send a letter to BGCBC copied to the AM and MP for Blaenau Gwent regarding the potholes/poor road surface on the A465 between Tredegar to Merthyr Tydfil (both carriageways).

- 6) Pierre Cornlouer            Open invitation to Veterans Coffee morning at St Georges Church between 10am & 1pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – added to website.

Received.

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

- 7) R. Taylor-Davies            Invitation to “The Valleys that changed the World” networking event on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 General Offices, Ebbw Vale, 9.30am-3pm, delegate booking form included.

It was agreed to book two places at this free event.

- 8) GAVO            a)            Consortia (partnership of organisations) training Friday 4.3.16 General Offices, Ebbw Vale 9am-4pm.

Received.

- b)            “Breathe in the New Year” Smoking Cessation event at Brynmawr Market Hall between 10am & 2pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016. – added to website.

Received.

- 9) Public Health Wales        Breast Test Wales will be returning to Tredegar from January 2016 to March 2016 sited in the Town Centre car park – added to website.

Members agreed for a letter to be sent to BGCBC expressing concerns that last year there were issues regarding access to the scanner due to ice/snow. Agreed to advertise on website.

- 10) J. Hunt            a)            Sirhowy Woodlands Litter Pick – nice to hear Council commending her work regarding the litter pick.

Received and a Member’s concern about the reoccurrence of rubbish at this site was noted.

- b)            Tredegar Town Partnership Forum:-  
i) Deals going down from the last meeting.  
ii) Next meeting Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016, from 12 noon to 2pm – no venue given.

Both received and noted.

11) **Publications** - Natural Resources Bulletin Issue 2 December 2015; Road works report week ending 11.12.15 & 18.12.15.

**Available for Members.**

12) **Agenda** - Executive Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 2pm – CANCELLED; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 11am Tredegar Library; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 agenda items 2a & b; Executive Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 time changed to 9am; Executive Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 now being held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for Members.**

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

**254) Planning:**

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

None received – Noted.

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

The verbal report given briefly outlined the two applications and it was noted by Members that the Peacehaven application was a reorganisation of the layout.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0429	Mr A Smith Davies Homes Ltd 7 Gelliwastad Road Pontypridd.	Proposed replan of plot 30-34 and 39-46 of the residential development at Peacehaven.
No Objections.		
2015/0431	Mr R Hughes 29 Fields Road, Tredegar.	Two storey dormer style dwelling and detached garage – land rear of Willow Court.

Members wish to request a site meeting with the Planning Officer to further discuss this application. There are concerns over the number of trees already cut down by the applicant on this site which formed part of a boundary. It is felt that the access road should be relocated to allow sufficient room for new trees/shrubs to be planted and a solid fence construction which would then prevent balls and children from the area adjoining the site gaining access here.

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

None received – Noted.

**255) Approve the closure of the Office from 3.30pm Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 and reopen at 9am Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

Moved. It was also agreed for the office to be closed to the public and answerphone only on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 to allow the RFO time to complete the necessary documentation and budget preparation work for the first meeting in January 2016. Only urgent items from this meeting – Leader to prioritise with interim clerk – are to be dealt with prior to the Christmas break with all other actions being dealt with in January 2016.

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

- Members agreed for a letter to be sent to the house on Georgetown hill commending them for their festive display on their property done to raise funds for charity.
- It was agreed for the Leader to take flowers to Mrs S O'Sullivan and Mrs K Prosser with a £50.00 donation to Cancer Research which was the selected recipient of funeral donations for Cllr M

O'Sullivan.

- Benches –Two potential sites in the Sirhowy and Georgetown Wards (Peacehaven) have been photographed and sent to planning. Members from Central & West Ward suggested a potential site would be at the end of Commercial Street forming part of the THI/VVP project.
- Christmas Lights – The Leader updated Members on the current status. Members expressed disappointment with the biggest let down being the switch on event; it was felt that Mr T. Lewis is giving excuses, they are not honouring their contract and that some items used have been from another installation.

It was agreed for the Leader to request from Mr T. Lewis the company's director details; The Leader is also to voice Council's concerns about this company to One Voice Wales and contact Trading Standards for advice.

The Chair thanked Members for attending and wished them a very happy Christmas.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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