TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 21st April 2010 commencing at 6.10 p.m.

Present: Councillor H. Trollope
M. Cross
A. Tippings
G. Bowen-Knight
D. Howells
M. O' Sullivan
D. Rowberry
S. Trollope
H. Woolf
B. Willis
G. Woolf

In attendance: Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk

449) Apologies: Cllrs. J. Morgan; P. Prosser; A. Cotton (R. Thomas ill); A. Williams: T. Gregory

The Leader of Council, Cllr. M. Cross made a statement at the outset of the Meeting asking Members to make progress on each item and that all Members be allowed to air their views.

450) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The Chair reminded Members to make declarations of interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

451) GRANTS: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE GRANTS TO SPORTING AND CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS.

Friends of Deighton Primary – **A grant for £200 was approved.**
Tredegar Town Band – **A grant for £200 was approved.**
Tredegar Cricket Club – **A grant for £150 was approved.**
Tredegar Boxing Club – **A grant for £150 was approved.**
Catapult Football Club – To be invited to the next meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee.
Bedwellty Park Bowling Club – **A grant for £150 was approved.**
Blaenau Gwent Otters – **A grant for £200 was approved.**

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

None Received.

452) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in March 2010 and for payment in April 2010.
The accounts having been scrutinised by the Leader before the Meeting were accepted.

453) TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEE TO MR. HYWEL LEWIS FOR THE WEB SITE.
It was agreed to meet with Hywel and discuss what he planned to do.

454) TO ADVISE COUNCIL OF THE BUDGET AGREED FOR THE TOWN CLOCK SURROUND.
A budget had been agreed of £1200 and it was agreed to approach Management team of the film "A Little Bit of Tom Jones" to seek sponsorship. It was further agreed that Cllr. Tippings would liaise directly with Messrs Mantle and Hill.

455) TO VIEW THE UPDATED VERSION OF THE WEB-SITE (SUBJECT TO LIBRARY I.T.)
Unfortunately this was not possible. It was agreed to agenda the Web-site for another Meeting and that updated information be requested from Councillors as well as Tourism and Heritage Officers. Also that the Heritage Forum be approached for input.

Cllr. K. Hayden arrived at 6.30 pm

456)TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2010
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

457) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.
There were none.

458) To receive the notes of an ad-hoc Meeting of the Events Committee held on 1st April 2010.
It was noted that this was held as an emergency meeting.

459) MATTERS ARISING.
It was agreed that the Membership of Committees needed to be looked and that work commitments should be taken into consideration when they were formed. It was also agreed to look at the number of Members in each Committee.

460) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 14th April 2010.
Minute No. 436. (Latvia) It was agreed that the International Committee would meet after the AGM to discuss co-operation.
Minute No 437 1& 2 - PCSO's – It was agreed to write to Insp. Green seeking a list of the specific duties of PCSO's in the Tredegar area.
Minute No. 441 (1) (b) Tredegar Museum – It was agreed to seek clarification of the opening hours.

Minute No 441 (1) (d) Trefil – It was agreed to seek a site meeting to highlight ongoing problems, especially in view of the increase in visitor numbers since the "Weatherman Walking" programme.

461) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA
It was agreed that the incoming Deputy Mayor would take charge of the "Fish and Chip Supper"

The RFO left at 6.40 pm

462) TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT on the Events Committee Meeting of 21st April 2010.

Cllr. Tippings presented a verbal report of the Meeting which had been very productive although not quorate therefore recommendations were made to the Ordinary Meeting that:

a) Tabards – a quantity of 20 larger size versions of the printed tabard be ordered at a cost of £5 each. This was agreed.
b) Banners – various types of banner had been discussed and it was agreed to price a similar vinyl banner to the "Lights" banners with Town Council logos and wording that could be used for various events.
c) Tug-of-War – it was agreed to purchase a rope and source a trophy.

All these recommendations were agreed.

Details of all the organisations who had agreed to attend were listed and the support of the TA and ATC was acknowledged. It was confirmed that all proceeds would go to Help for Heroes and that the event had been registered with both Help for Heroes and Armed Forces Day.
Fr. John Davis had agreed to handle the details of the Service and liaise with The Town Band.
It was agreed that the events would run from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

463) DRAFT CHARTER – TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CHARTER BETWEEN COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND TO DELEGATE PLENARY POWERS TO THE TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.
Cllr. Cross advised Council that all other Community Councils had agreed the Charter and had agreed that the Members of the Joint Committee should have plenary powers to agree rather than to keep talking to and fro. Having previously received copies of the Charter it was agreed unanimously that plenary powers be granted.

<u>464) CORRESPONDENCE</u>

1) BGCBC (a) Precept payment received.
RECEIVED

(b) Street Lighting Part Night Lighting – request not to make file Public until a decision as been made at the Executive Meeting in May.

RECEIVED. Members again raised concerns relating to the switching off of lights and the Clerk was asked to write to BGCBC to find out how much the switch-off is actually saving, bearing in mind the technological costs involved.

(c) Licensing
(i) W/Ending 11.4.10 Licensing List.

(ii) W/Ending 18.4.10 Licensing List.

BOTH RECEIVED

(d) Regeneration Partnership Board

(i) Regeneration Partnership Board meeting Friday 23rd April 2010, attached Consultation Document on the Assembly's Economic Renewal Programme to read prior to meeting. – copied to Cllr J. Morgan 15.4.10

RECEIVED

(ii) Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting Friday 23.4.10 at 11am ViTCC, Tredegar – Agenda & attached documents sent to Cllr J. Morgan

RECEIVED

(e) Notice of Parliamentary Election 6th May 2010 – displayed in Town Council notice, Library window.

RECEIVED

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Planning Aid Conference 2010 being held in Cardiff on Thursday 29th April 2010 and Friday 30th April 2010. Further details and booking form available at www.planningaidwales.org.uk/conference.

INTERESTED MEMBERS TO CONTACT THE CLERK.

(b) Receipt for 2010/11 membership renewal and request for details of the councillor nominated to represent the council at the quarterly Area Committee meetings.

RECEIVED. Representatives Cllrs. Cross and O'Sullivan

3) University of Gloucestershire

Summer Seminars Thursday 8th July 2010 to Friday 9th July 2010 at Francis Close Hall, University of Gloucestershire.

RECEIVED. The Clerk was asked if she wanted to attend but declined.

4) Brecon Beacons National Park

Advert for 24 National Park members with details on how to apply.

RECEIVED. INTERESTED MEMBERS TO CONTACT THE CLERK.

5) Gwent Valleys One Voice Partnership

Agenda for meeting on Tuesday 20th April 2010 at 7pm Brynmawr Town Council Offices, Orchard Street, Brynmawr.

RECEIVED. Refer to Delegates report to follow.

6) Tredegar Twinning

Letter of thanks to Christine, Councillors Williams, Tippings, Willis, Trollope, Cross & Hayden for all their assistance and participation with the French visit.

RECEIVED.

7) Fellowes

Acknowledging receipt of warranty claim, will issue replacement within 48 hours.(re shredder)

RECEIVED.

8) 4uHosting

Changing server for hosting package (old website) on 27.4.10.

RECEIVED.

9) H. Lewis Website update – have found free software which can be used to resize images etc, added a statistics icon which will display number of visitors etc. Also can redirect visitors to old website to the new website but this will mean renewing that domain name for another year.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to renew for another year.

465) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No 114 April 2010 and Orvault Magazine No. 44 April/May/June 2010; BGCBC Road works report week commencing 16.4.10; SMP Playgrounds Quarterly Parish and Community Newsletter; Kevin Mayhew April 2010 Church products magazine; Pestforce South Wales Details of service they offer; Edon Publishing World War II Re-enactors magazine, opportunity to advertise events from £99.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

466) AGENDA

Planning Committee Wednesday 5th May 2010 – postponed until Thursday 13th May 2010 at 2pm, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Thursday 15th April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – report for item No. 5.02; Executive Committee Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – report for item No. 10.01; Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 2.30pm – 3 copies distributed to Cllr M.Cross/O'Sullivan/Williams; Special Meeting Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 10am Tuesday 27th April 2010 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

467) DELEGATES: TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM DELEGATES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES.

I. Bedwellty Park Management Board – **Members had recently been shown around Bedwellty House and Park and Members were impressed with the quality of the renovation work being carried out. The Project was on schedule and on budget. A number of questions were raised with regard to the future use of rooms by the Town Council and it was agreed to write to Mr. David Watkins to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to discuss these matters.**
II. Joint Committee of Local Councils – **Both representatives had attended and reported back that moves to initiate the Charter were ongoing.**
III. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – **This had been a well attended Meeting, it was suggested that locations of future meeting be re-considered. Members were informed that the Former Clerk of Tredegar Town Council had left his post at Monmouth. With regard to training more work was to be done and future courses were suggested on Planning and Chairmanship.**
IV. Tredegar Twinning – **It was noted that the Twinning membership was on the increase, with younger people getting involved. Thanks were expressed to Kidz R'Us for hosting the Civic Reception at Venue 1 and it was agreed to write to them. The Camelia that was received from the Orvault group had been planted**

at the Comprehensive School, but it was noted that this location may need to be reviewed. It was agreed to write to Mrs. Lynne Price expressing thanks for her work before and during the visit.

V. School Governing Bodies
St Joseph's – it was reported that the new head teacher was about to be appointed.
Tredegar Comprehensive – the Art Department had provided the gifts for Orvault and it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £25 to the Art Department and to write thanking them.
Georgetown – It was reported that Mrs. A. Hulbert had just been appointed as new Head Teacher.

VI. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled – **No Report**

VII. Brecon Beacons Advisory Group – **No Report**

VIII. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – **Information was received concerning the high level of vandalism at the Golf Course and again the management of the Parc was called into question. With regard to dog fouling it was noted that a new Bye-law was needed before prosecutions could be made. Many Members commented on the dangers relating to dog faeces and the fact that it was not cleared up at all. The upcoming use of the Parc as a Caravan site during the Eisteddfod raised some concerns – a) regular visitors to the Parc would not be allowed vehicular access; b) where the income from the caravan site would go –to the Eisteddfod or the Parc? It was note that the AGM could not be held at the Parc because the costs were prohibitive.**

IX. Tredegar Youth Café– **No Report**

X. Tredegar Development Trust– **It was noted that the AGM was to be held on the 29th April and that the Mayor and Leader had been invited.**

XI. Blaenau Gwent CAB – **No Report however Members queried whether local people were getting value for money in return for the grant money received by this organisation.**

XII. Communities First Board – **AGM due on June 9th, possible connection with CAB was discussed also that Communities First are working with the Town Centre Manager regarding the hanging baskets.**

XIII. Blaenau Gwent Joint Liaison Committee – **items already covered**

XIV. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – **Much was made of proposed changes, including members being vetted by the Police and funding issues which Members disagreed with.**

XV. Tredegar Business Forum – **No Report**

XVI. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – **No Report**

XVII. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **Mention was made of a book to be launched at the Eisteddfod about Henry Hughes – local 'rags to riches' story.**

XVIII. Blaenau Gwent HARPS project – **No Report.**

468) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT – None Received.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0135	Mr S Edwards 11 Wall Street, Ebbw Vale	Erection of 3 bedroom dormer bungalow, land adjacent to Tafarn Y Uchaf Public House, Trefil

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0144	Mrs S Phillips Mrs Tiggywinkles Nursery Stonestodge, Merthyr Road	Erection of a single storey log cabin, Stonelodge Merthyr Road

NO OBJECTIONS

Cllrs. D. Howells and A. Tippings declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

2010/0146	BGCBC Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale	Provision of 2.2m wide footway over Council owned land between St. Martins Crescent and Greenwood Avenue, Ashvale, Tredegar. Construction to be ½ tarmac footway construction

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters

None Received. However Members raised a question to be put at the next Joint Committee Meeting regarding the voting rights of the Chair, especially regarding the contentious Woodfield Road development when the Chair cast 2 votes. The question to be raised – although lawful is it immoral and against the policy of open and transparent government? It was also agreed to put this question to the Leader of the County Borough Council and to copy to the CEO, Mr. Robin Morrisson.

469) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

1)Cllr. Cross spoke of a visit to Southend Allotments to view a tree which had been reported as in a dangerous state. The tree had been coppiced previously and appeared to be dying. The Arboricultural and Woodland Officer, Mr. Vaughan Lewis advised that the tree should be removed but fortunately another was growing next to it which could be used as a replacement, since the tree was covered by a Protection Order. Cllr. Cross again urged that the Allotment Policy should be reviewed and recommended a visit to Abertillery & Llanilleth Community Council which also ran allotments but at no cost to themselves.(Clerk to contact). It was noted that all the allotments in Tredegar were in one ward and that other areas might benefit from new developments, the Rhoslan area being highlighted.

2) Eisteddfod – a Member noted that bunting was being given out free of charge and that they wanted to see every street decorated. Members questioned who would be footing the bill for putting up and down.

3)Wheelie Bins – a Member questioned the fate of the thousands of bins that would have to be disposed of on the introduction of wheelie bins and wondered if the County Borough Council had any plans to re-cycle them?

4) Cllr. H. Trollope requested that any outstanding monies for the Walk for Life be brought to the office as soon as possible.

5) The location of the AGM was confirmed as The Rhyd Hall Tredegar on 5th May at 6pm.

6) A Councillor raised the question of the future of Tredegar General Hospital once Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan had opened in Ebbw Vale with questions regarding funding of the unit when at full capacity. He pointed out that the General is still a medical facility and pointed out again the history of the Hospital. It was agreed that Tredegar Town Council would fully support the Hospital and the matter was referred to a meeting of the Heritage Committee.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.20 PM.

_____ Town Mayor