TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Tredegar Town Council held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 7th October 2009 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor A. Williams
M. Cross
H. Trollope
A. Tippings
K. Hayden
J. Morgan
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
S. Trollope
R. Thomas
B. Willis
G. Woolf
A. Cotton

In attendance: Dr. John R.P. Evans – Town Clerk
Together with Inspector Green and Sgt. Petrie.

199) Apologies: Cllrs T. Gregory and H. Woolf

200) Inspector Tony Green.

The Inspector responded to the items previously submitted to him:

1) St. James Car Park. The Police were not aware of any large numbers of "boy racers" congregating in that area. However it is patrolled by the Police. This area was not raised at the local PACT meeting.

2) Dyfed-Powys Operation, Trefil. Gwent Police were not involved – Inspector Green stated that the local Police had not been informed. He understood from subsequent discussions that no vehicles were confiscated. He further stated that there is to be a joint force meeting in November 2009.

3) Crime Statistics. Inspector Green stated that the Police were in attendance at the Street Lighting sub-committee meetings but had not had discussion with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council concerning the lights switch off. He also stated that no risk assessments – if any were carried out - had been available to Gwent Police. However, Inspector Green assured the Committee that, as of Mid-September 2009, there was no significant year on year increase in low level crime associated with the switch-off. He acknowledged that the fear of crime had increased. Inspector Green further stated that the situation would continue to be monitored.

4. Response Team v Neighbourhood Policing. Inspector Green stated that the Response Team based at Tredegar Police Station covered North Gwent from the Herefordshire

border in the East to Merthyr Tydfil in the west. This operated with a team of 12 officers in 6 cars on a 24/7 basis, in comparison neighbourhood policing teams stopped at 12.00 midnight. Inspector Green accepted that there were still teething problems but response times will improve.

5. SAG Meetings. Inspector Green alluded to communications breakdowns as part of the problem but pointed out that Messrs. Dave Matthews and Mike Nightingale of Gwent Police Traffic Dept. were usually in attendance.

6. Opening Hours of Coffee Shop. Inspector Green stated that Gwent Police had made no objections to the opening hours. It was agreed to send him a copy of the Planning Departments notes.

7. Initiative for Young People. Inspector Green stated that in general terms Gwent Police did not provide any activities for young people, rather they worked in partnership with other agencies in the Community Safety Partnership. A number of sets of football posts had been erected. He also stated that a Youth PACT was being set up to ask young people about their needs.

8. Benches in Commercial Street. Sgt. Petrie stated that he had been tasked with sending a letter on behalf of Central & West PACT to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council concerning the benches in Commercial Street. He was unaware that Tredegar Town Council should have been consulted. Ultimately, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tredegar Members decided not to remove the benches. Sgt. Petrie stated that if Tredegar Town Council wished to be represented on the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership that this would have to be discussed with Ms. Helena Hunt, Safety Manager, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

9. Mr. D. Wells, Police inaction. Inspector Green stated that Mr. Wells had not been exonerated but the Police had decided not to prosecute. There was, he stated, insufficient evidence to proceed.

It was agreed to invite Inspector Green every 2 months. The Mayor thanked Inspector Green and Sgt. Petrie and the Police withdrew.

201) CORRESPONDENCE

1) BGCBC (a) Response from Steve Smith to letter dated 14.9.09 Security Fixtures for shop fronts.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. A Member stated that a fund of £50,000 was available for Security Fittings to shop fronts, with a maximum of £3000 per unit.

(b) Response from Mr J Thomas to letter regarding Ambay Service Station, informing Council that an Enforcement Notice is to be issued and investigations to ascertain whether Advertising Consent was required are being made. More details to follow.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(c) Chief Env. Ser. Officer confirming that representatives from the Waste & Recycling team will be at the meeting on 21st October to give a presentation on the changes to refuse provision.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(d) Weekly Licensing lists w/e 20/9/09.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(e) Holistic Area Regeneration Plans (HARPS) local Steering Group Meeting, Friday 16.10.09 10am to 12 noon, Kidz'R'Us Building.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Cllr. J. Morgan to attend on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

2) One Voice Wales (a) Council does not need to have a Welsh Language Policy in place until Welsh Language Board request Council to produce one and then they will info Council of which level of scheme they require.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(b) Invitation to ECOTEC 10 November 2009 at National Botanical Garden, Carmarthenshire

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Cllr. Tippings to attend on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

(c) Workshop encouraging community participation in Sustainable Projects, Ty Mawr Farm Llanasty Brecon 11th November 2009.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Any Member interested to contact the Clerk.

(d) Details of BT Community Connections seeking applications from groups for a free laptop and one year's free broadband.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Agreed to send copies to all Members.

(e) Free Event – "Rural Broadband" 14.10.09 Pembroke Dock, booking form to be completed by 1.10.09.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(f) Conference & AGM 10.10.09 – Agenda documents for Dr Evans, Cllrs Cross & Williams – Cllr Cross collected from Office 5.10.09 & Cllr Williams will receive 7.10.09.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

3) Webmaster@tredegar.co.uk

(a) To Mr Cross and General Council ref request for more information regarding the last council tax increase.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(b)Repeated request for information to be e-mailed. And Clerk's responses.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. After considerable discussion it was agreed to send copies of the Agenda papers for the Estimates Committee of February 2009 together with the Minutes of the Estimates Committee to www. tredegar.co.ukltd.

4) ICO Guidance for dealing with "Vexation Requests".

"Guidance for dealing with "Vexatious Requests" The Vexatious Requests guidance from the ICO was received. It was agreed to send a copy of the guidance to all Members to collate all of the requests and to consider whether the correspondence was vexatious. It was also agreed to send the list to OVW for their opinion of the matter."

5) CADW (a) Tredegar Hospital not registered on listed building database, to send reasons & photos of why it is believed that the Hospital meets the listing criteria.

CADW requires photographs and justification for the hospital to be listed. Following discussion it was agreed to liaise with the Heritage Officer of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

(b) Re: query regarding handrail Clock - recommends contacting local authority planning for advice first.

It was agreed to liaise Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council regarding the erection of a handrail. To assist with public access to the Clock.

6) BBNP (a) A new readable version of the Response form for the Detailed Site Assessments & Summary sheet. All completed Response forms are to be sent electronically.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(b) Hwyel Woolf Email Re: Brecon Beacons site assessment response form. Request to pass form on to Cllr Thomas & for us to request a presentation pack – Email sent requesting pack 7.10.09

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(c) Minutes of the meeting 20/5/09 – copied to Cllrs H. Woolf and R. Thomas.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

(d) Western Area Advisory Forum – Joint Themed Meeting on Fri 23 Oct in Sennybridge 2-5pm.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

7) GAVO BG Voluntary Sector Forum Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th August 2009; Ideas for the design of the basement at the Works; Living in Blaenau Gwent Survey Presentation of results 21 July 2009.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

8) Monmouth Town Council

Seeking information about TTC Allotment policies.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to respond.

9) Inspector Green Still awaiting a reply from Council as to which future Council Meetings they wish him to attend, agrees to one a month.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

10) Armed Forces Day

Event 2010 accepted.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Pass on to Events Committee.

11) Allianz Insurance Ref change of address, seeking more information.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to provide further information.

12) GAVO Re Special/Disabled Volunteer shield – which will remain in the GAVO Office and offer the chance to sponsor a glass award at a cost of £100.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to seek further clarification as to the cost of the glass award.

13) Alun Davies AM Requesting an opportunity to attend a meeting of Council.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to invite Mr. Davies to the Meeting on 4th November 2009.

14) WAG Inclosure Act 1845 section 147 proposed exchange of land at Bedwellty Common/ Cefn Golau Cemetery allowed.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to inform WAG that Tredegar Town Council supports the exchange.

15) Tredegar Twinning Association

Invite to attend the 30th Anniversary Concert/Dance at Tredegar Sports Centre on Saturday 14th November at 7pm tickets £7 each proceeds to Hospice and sponsor a table (or two) of 10 people. Plus poster.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that Tredegar Town Council have a table and the following agreed to participate: Cllr. B. Willis +1; Cllr A. Tippings +1; Cllr J Morgan +1 Cllrs H & S Trollope and Cllr. M. Cross +1. It was agreed to inform the Twinning Association.

16) A R Edwards Complaining about lack of coverage of Tredegar Mayor's activities in the Gwent Gazette.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

17) Samaritans Purse Xmas Shoe Box Scheme.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Copy for all Members. Cllr. S, Trollope also brought to Council's attention a similar charitable effort on behalf of troops in Afghanistan. Agreed to support the initiative.

18) HSBC – Tredegar Old Peoples Welfare Committee Account

Changes to payments and banking.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

19) Peter Morgan Jones

Thanks for the contribution to the Bevan DVD launch and a copy of the catering bill enclosed (NB Peter has already paid the bill)

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to write to Mr. Jones thanking him for his efforts.

20) GAVO (a) Email from Mandy Moore, Campaign to "Badge the Valleys" to highlight the good points of the area in preparation for the Eisteddfod 2010.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that Cllr. Tippings would attend on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

(b) The Engagement Gateway pre-qualification questionnaire briefing session at Swffryd or Ystrad Mynach.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that the Mayor would attend on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

21) HiJinx Theatre Details of the theatres 2010 touring productions.

RECEIVED AND NOTED, send to Events Committee. Cllr. Tippings commented that Tredegar Town Council had heard nothing from the Sherman Theatre. The Clerk informed the Committee that he had contacted the Theatre in May 2009, was told to re-contact the Sherman in September and when this had been done he was told that the productions were all booked. It was agreed to send a letter to the Theatre.

22) A. Tippings (a) Media release for Tidy Wales Campaign.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Additional litter bins needed.

(b) Horeb Chapel Poster advertising Harvest Services & Flower Festival.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. The Mayor agreed to attend.

23) Shelter Cymru Changes to housing advice surgeries in Blaenau Gwent as of 14.9.09.

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

24) BG Public Health Team
Upper Sirhowy Locality Group Meeting 13.10.09 1pm Catapult .
RECEIVED AND NOTED.

25) Maxim Lamps Xmas Light Offers.
RECEIVED AND NOTED.

26) HM Revenue & Customs Employer Bulletin Issue 33.
RECEIVED AND NOTED.

27) WAG Launch of Low Carbon Communities Challenge, 2 year programme to provide financial & advisory support to 20"test-bed" communities in England, Wales & Northern Ireland.
RECEIVED AND NOTED.

202) PUBLICATIONS
BG Roadworks report w/commencing 11.9.09; BG Roadworks report w/commencing 2.10.09; Komplan Play equipment catalogue; Equanet Printer offers; Local Govt Boundary Commission For Wales Review of Boundaries in the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent Final Proposals; Ville D'Orvault Orvault Magazine Issue no. 42; CADW Listed Buildings book; CCF (part of Travis Perkins) Building Schools for the Future programme
AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS.

203) AGENDA
Executive Committee Wednesday 23.9.09 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Bedwellty Park Management Board meeting at 5pm in the Library Tredegar on Wednesday 30th September; Executive Committee Special Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Wednesday 23rd September immediately following the meeting of the Executive scheduled for 2pm; Audit Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Monday 28th September 2009 at 9 am; Special Licensing Committee meeting to be held in Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Monday 28th September at 2pm; Planning Committee to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Thursday 1st October 2009 at 2 pm; Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 1st October 2009 at 12.30 pm; Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting being reconvened on Friday 23rd October 2009 at 2p, in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Special Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 2pm; Joint Scrutiny Committee Thursday 1st October at 12.30 Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Monday 28th September 2009 at 9am Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee to be held Monday 19th October at 3.30 pm; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 8th October 2009 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; BG Heritage Forum meeting on Thursday 8th October at 9.30am in Tredegar Library
AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS.

204) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLTY HOUSE AND PARK.

1) MUSEUM. Members commented that the opportunity to use Bedwellty House as a museum had been missed by the Secretary of the Historical Society. Now there would be mobile exhibitions but no static museum.

2) Members queried the status of Bedwellty Park, Bedwellty house and the Recreation Ground in the event of further local government re-organisation. Rumours have it that Blaenau Gwent will become part of a new Heads of the Valleys authority and Members questioned whether the Trust Deed would follow this re-organisation. It was agreed to query this matter.

3) Signs on Memorial Gates. Members were concerned at the use of the Memorial Gates to post notices to the public. Cllr. Tippings provided information that these will be removed when the main contractor is revealed. It was agreed to write to Mr. Watkins requesting that the signs be removed a.s.a.p.

205) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19

Mencap Cymru – Further information required as to Tredegar beneficiaries.
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club, Junior Section –NEW APPLICATION – arrange to meet.
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Shopmobility Newport - Further information required as to Tredegar beneficiaries.
Victim Support Cymru – Further information required as to Tredegar beneficiaries.
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales – a grant of £100 was agreed.
Urdd Gobaith Cymru – a grant of £50 was agreed.
Wales Air Ambulance – a grant of £200 was agreed.
B.G. CAB – It was agreed to request further information as to the number of Tredegar beneficiaries.

Hospice of the Valleys – ***Cllrs. H. Trollope and D. Rowberry declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon***.
Following discussion and noting that the profit would be going to the Mayor of Blaenau Gwent's Appeal, Members felt unable to support this application as it would breach both Financial Regulation s and the Audit and Finance Regulations. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Hospice.

Peacehaven Tenants & Residents Association – A grant of £200 was agreed.
2167 Squadron Air Training Corps – A grant of £200 was agreed.
Tredegar Ironsides RFC – A grant of £150 was agreed.
Tredegar RFC, Mini/Junior/Youth – A grant of £300 was agreed.
Tredegar Twinning Association – This event comes in the next financial year.

Trefil Rugby Welfare Club – ***Cllrs A. Tippings and P. Prosser declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.***
A grant of £150 was agreed.

Vale View Allotments – A grant of £200 was agreed.

Grants to Churches and Chapels

Bethania Congregational Church – A grant of £200 was agreed.

206) PLANNING
Cllr. D. Rowberry declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussions or the voting thereon.

a) OFFICERS REPORT – was received.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2009/0284	Mr John Wales & West Utilities Spooner Close, Newport	Outline planning application for residential development (up to 27 houses) with associated access all other matters reserved on the former Gas Holder Station Vale Tce

Tredegar Town Council are still concerned at the intention of the applicant to simply bury the contaminated material in the hope that it will not harm future residents nor pollute the water course leading to the Sirhowy River.

2009/0286	Mr Alun Bevan 34 Bethel Avenue, Georgetown	4 bed detached dormer bungalow at 1 Maesmorgan Nantybwch

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0287	Mr Alun Bevan 34 Bethel Avenue, Georgetown	2 storey 4 bed detached dwelling at 7 Maesmorgan Nantybwch

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0288	Mark & Sharon Evans 9 Fair Field, Tredegar	Double storey extension

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0294	M & B Scaffolding Maes-yr-Haf, Queens Road Merthyr Tydfil	retention of 3 no storage containers, new entrance gate, small section of fencing and to retain use as a scaffolders yard/office- rear of No. 40 Vale Terrace

Tredegar Town Council has serious objections about noise in respect of this application and opposes it.

2009/0298	Mr Brian Jones Circle Partnership Coach Bach	Change of use from A1 shop (previously a florist) to A2 offices (Communities First) – 51 Commercial Street

Cllrs. B. Willis, J. Morgan and A. Tippings declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

Tredegar Town Council expressed its concern over the loss of yet another retail unit in Commercial Street. Concern was also expressed at the lack of parking places for the new business. It was agreed to object to this development.

2009/0306	Mr M Sykes 23 Coronation Street, Six Bells	Detached dwelling & associated groundworks (resubmission C/2008/0312) – Land adjacent to 1 Pochin Crescent

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0309	Mr P Hooper 9 Llandaff Road, Beaufort Ebbw Vale	New Garage, rear of Highfield Road, Waundeg

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters

2009/0006 Dr Cheung proposed installation of aluminium shutter for shop front (retention) 11-12 Commercial Street - an appeal to WAG against BGCBC decision to refuse has been made. Appeal to be dealt with by Written Representations Procedure (full details available) **– NOTED.**

2009/0076 Appeal by Mr Davies against the decision to refuse planning permission for the change of use from garage to bungalow at land rear of 70 Park View Tredegar – appeal by means of informal hearing at 10 am Tuesday 20th October 2009 in Committee Room 3 Civic Centre **– NOTED.**

2009/0148 Mr Morris Construction of a poultry unit (Building 6) Isaf Carreg Bica Farm – an appeal to be dealt with by informal hearing date and venue to be in formed – representation to Planning Inspectorate by 19 October (full details available) **– NOTED.**

2009/0149 Mr Morris Proposed retention of building to be used for egg packing, storage and poultry rearing (Building 5) Isaf Carreg Bica Farm – an appeal to be dealt with by informal hearing date and venue to be in formed – representation to Planning Inspectorate by 19 October (full details available) **– NOTED.**

207) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

1) Env. Awards. Tredegar group won bio-diversity award. They were the only Tredegar entrants.
2) Regeneration meeting was concerned with the state of the Town, lack of policing, lack of activity of Tredegar Town Council.

THE TIME HAVING REACHED 9.00 P.M. THE MEETING CLOSED.

_____ TOWN MAYOR