TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Council held at Tredegar Library on Thursday 25th February 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: **Councillor** **H. Trollope**
A. Tippings
M O'Sullivan
G. Bowen-Knight
T. Gregory
K. Hayden
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
B. Willis
M. Cross (arriving late)

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

372) Apologies: **Mrs. A. Jones Acting RFO: Cllrs: A. Williams; D. Howells; G. Woolf; S. Trollope and J. Morgan**

373) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The Chair advised Members to make declarations of interest at the appropriate point in the agenda.

374) GRANTS:

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE GRANTS TO SPORTING AND CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS.

Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club – a grant for £150 was approved

CHURCHES & CHAPELS (S.137) TO APPROVE GRANTS TO CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Reconciliation Ministries – a grant for £200 was approved.

375) ACCOUNTS: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in January 2010 and for payment in February 2010.
The accounts having been inspected prior to the meeting were approved.

376) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20 JANUARY 2010.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

377) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.
There were no matters arising.

378) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2010
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

379) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.

1) Minute No. 335 (6) Twinning – It was agreed to provide the refreshments and that they should be Fair Trade or Welsh based – the Mayor to liaise with the Twinning Association.

2) Minute No. 335 (7) It was agreed to invite Inspector Green to the Civic Meeting in April and to agenda an item requesting questions at the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 17th March 2010. Initial questions regarding parking tickets in Town and PCSO's, the absence of a traffic warden, general speeding and anti social behaviour in the Linsdsay Gardens area were raised.

Cllr. M. Cross entered the Meeting at 5.45 pm.

1) Minute No. 339 ref 2010/0001 Woodfield Road – Members were still anxious that the full details relating to this matter had not been openly presented and the Acting Clerk was instructed to write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to ask for a full explanation of the strategy and criteria for locating such premises and why this site had been proposed.

380) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2010.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

381) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

1) Minute No. 342 (6) Members agreed to look at the costings associated with the Armed Forces Day event and to approach Blaenau Gwent for funding from the Halfpenny rate also to seek help via the British Legion. It was also agreed to contact the Help the Heroes Fund to check if they had a lottery licence to cover fund-raising on the day.

382) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE STAFFING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2010.

The Minutes were received and approved as a true record. The Acting Clerk pointed out that the hours to be worked by staff had been agreed and included in the Contracts of Employment for both staff. Also that the hours agreed for meetings were mentioned separately to any other additional meetings. Any additional meetings or request for additional working hours would be subject to the approval of Council/Leader/Deputy Leader or Chair of Staffing & Finance Committee.

383) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE CIVIC SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2010
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record and the recommendations therein were agreed.

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

385) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2010
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

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

387) CORRESPONDENCE

1) BGCBC (a) Licensing
(i) W/Ending 7.2.10 Licensing List.
(ii) W/ending 31.1.10 Licensing List.
RECEIVED AND NOTED
(b) F. Olding – confirmation of scrolls in storage at lock-up.
RECEIVED AND NOTED
(c) A. Holland – request to meet with Town Council on 5.3.10 in the afternoon at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale to discuss a review of Electoral Arrangements – **3pm.**
It was agreed that any Member could attend.
(d) Mr A Reed - Re: gritting provisions – reply copied to all Members.
The response was noted, however it was felt that each School should have a grit box, with special provisions for Primary Schools and efforts should be made to grit manually if necessary.
(e) G. Jones - Re: Tredegar General Hospital – No support from BGCBC for the listing of the hospital.
Members were greatly disappointed and it was agreed to seek support from the First Minister.

2) Cadw Re: Tredegar Hospital – does not meet the necessary criteria to become a listed building.
As above Members were greatly disappointed as it was felt that the historical links with the Hospital and Aneurin Bevan were of international importance. The fact that that there had been additions and alterations was likened to Windsor castle – which had similarly been extended and modified. It was agreed to copy both letters to the First Minister and seek his support.

3) Kidney Wales Foundation
(i) Brochure on Walk for Life & Kidney Wales Foundation services.
(ii) Posters, leaflets, sponsor forms & Insurance for Walk for Life 2010.
Both Received. It was agreed that Tredegar Town Council provide the refreshments for walkers and to contact the Foundation to ascertain whether T shirts would be received in time.

4) One Voice Wales

(a) Working with Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales & British Council to support town councils wishing to work towards building a sustainable & resilient future. Questionnaire to be completed asap.

RECEIVED. To be completed.

(b) Advert for Appointments to Community Health Councils, closing date 22.2.10.

RECEIVED

(c) Local Government Legislative Competence Order was debated 9.2.10 and attached to email is evidence submitted to the Assembly by One Voice Wales.

RECEIVED

5) W.A.G. Review of Councillors' Allowances Regulations – seeking councils views on the need to review allowances.

To be discussed at the next JCLC meeting – to be copied to representatives.

6) In the Pink Notifying of closure from 27.2.10 due to changes in economic climate.

Members were saddened at the closure of In the Pink and the Acting Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs Fox thanking her and the volunteers for their involvement.

7) Safer Blaenau Gwent

Request to submit a project proposal to maximum of £3000 for a new pilot scheme where local people are involved in community safety related projects.

Whilst welcoming this scheme Members were concerned at the tight time constraints that it involved and felt that there wasn't enough time to consider projects and to get together the information required. There was also confusion about the way the projects would be selected.

8) Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff

Running contract for Community Task Force in area and are seeking interested groups who would benefit from taking placements.

Interested Members to contact.

9) Pontypool Community Council

Minutes of Gwent Valleys One Voice Partnership 26.1.10.

RECEIVED

10) Fairtrade (i) Nationwide campaign to ask your Assembly Member to swap one item for a Fairtrade alternative, includes a bilingual letter template to be used when contacting A.M.

(ii) Free resource CD available for items for events during Fairtrade Fortnight.

(iii) Limited Special offers available from Divine Chocolate.

ALL RECEIVED. Members re-iterated their support.

11) Care4You Training Brochure.

RECEIVED

12) Venue 1 Details of Christmas party entertainment 2010, book by 31.3.10 to receive a £5 per person discount.

RECEIVED

13) CommuniCorp

Local Councils Update January/February Issue 123/124 – relevant points copied for all Members.

RECEIVED

388) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report w/commencing 5.2.10; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No 112; BGCBC Road works report week commencing 12.2.10; ATCM High Street Index January Newsletter; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi January 2010

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

389) AGENDA

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 18.2.10 at 9.30am, Tredegar Library; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 11th February 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 10th February 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – item No. 8.01 report; Special Planning Committee Wednesday 24th February 2010 at 10am at 84 Lakeside Way, Nantyglo.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

390) DELEGATES: To Receive And Consider Reports From Delegates To Outside Bodies And The Recommendations Of Sub-Committees/Working Parties.

i. Bedwellty Park Management Board - **NO REPORT**
ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils – **NO REPORT**
iii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales **– The latest meeting discussed the Digital Switchover. Concern was voiced over the abandonment of the last meeting.**
iv. Tredegar Twinning – **Delegates were concerned that meetings clashed with Council meetings and the Acting Clerk was asked to write to make the Association aware of this. Members questioned the costs of school exchanges, with many parents being unable to afford them. It was suggested that the Comprehensive School's Art Department might be able to furnish a suitable memento for the upcoming visit. It was agreed to contact them. It was also pointed out that Bryn Bach Primary School alone had linked with a French school.**
v. School Governing Bodies – **It was noted that Bryn Bach had an inspection due, both Georgetown and St. Joseph's were advertising for a new Headteacher, and that pupils at St Joseph's were writing to troops in Afghanistan. It was agreed to ask the School to take part in the Armed Forces Day event. It was agreed to write to Miss Fitzgerald on the occasion of her retirement and to put her name forward for a Civic presentation. The use of Deighton School for polling purposes was to be opposed by Governors.**
vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled – **NO REPORT**
vii. Brecon Beacons Advisory Group – **NO REPORT**
viii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – **Members reported that vandalism had cost £10,000 and the Parc had an overspend of £40,000.**

Members were concerned that the full potential of the Parc was not being exploited, and the Acting Clerk was instructed to write to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Leisure Services to invite them to meet with Council.

ix. Tredegar Youth Café – **NO REPORT**

x. Tredegar Development Trust – **It was noted that the AGM was due to take place at the end of March.**

xi. Blaenau Gwent CAB – **Cllr. Bowen-Knight was unable to attend meetings which were held on a Tuesday and it was agreed to write to CAB and advise them of the reserve (Cllr. H. Woolf)**

xii. Communities First Board – **Mention was made of the public criticism featured in the National media and it was pointed out by a Central and West Member that individual staff members had been extremely supportive. It was felt that the criteria for support was changing and the community was not getting best value for money. It was agreed that Tredegar Town Council would offer what support it could to the Cefn Golau Tenants and Residents Association.**

xiii. Blaenau Gwent Joint Liaison Committee – **NO REPORT**

xiv. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – **Well attended meeting.**

xv. Tredegar Business Forum – **Mention was made of splitting the Christmas events it was agreed to invite the Forum to the next Event Committee meeting.**

xvi. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – **NO REPORT**

xvii. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **It was reported that a letter was to be sent to Tredegar Town Council seeking an update on the Museum situation and that the Forum regretted the closure of In the Pink.**

xviii. Blaenau Gwent HARPS project – **NO REPORT**

391) PLANNING:

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

a) OFFICERS REPORT – Received, no refused applications.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0037	Mr D Watkins C/o. Technical Services, BGCBC	Proposed refurbishment/resurfacing of existing tennis courts and associated paths and steps. To include the installation of a flood lighting system. Bedwellty House, Bedwellty Park.

Members were concerned that the lighting might attract an anti-social element and queried how they would be operated.

2010/0050 2010/0051 2010/0052 2010/0053 2010/0054	BGCBC, Central Depot	To place sponsorship advertising signs on Borough Roundabouts:- Tafarnaubach Roundabout, Nantybwch Roundabout, Sirhowy Roundabout, Town Centre Link Roundabout; Ashvale

2010/0055	Roundabout, Park Place Roundabout,
2010/0056	Heathfield Roundabout

Members were concerned at the quantity and location of the signs on the roundabout.

c) Other Planning Matters
Nothing received. **However the mobile food van outside Parkers Garage was highlighted by Members a potential safety issue, with a number of lorries being seen parked along the Avenue.**

392) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

1) The ViTCC Centre – parking along the main road again during inclement weather was highlighted, and it was thought that as access to an industrial estate the road should be on the gritting route.
2) A Member raised the question of a presentation for Dr. Evans following his retirement, and it was agreed to contact Dr. Evans to arrange a suitable date and to seek donations for a gift from Members.
3) A Member requested that One Voice Wales be contacted to see if Tredegar Town Council would qualify for a bursary towards training.

393) To discuss the formation of a Mayor's Appeal Support Committee to aid and support each new Mayor's fund raising activities.
It was agreed to support this idea in principle and to form an Ad Hoc voluntary group. Members were concerned that this should not increase the workload on staff members.

394) 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.
This was agreed.

395) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE STAFFING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE of Council held on 15th February 2010 and the recommendations therein.
The recommendations of the Committee were proposed by Cllr. M. Cross, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Sullivan and by unanimous vote agreed by Council. The Chair welcomed the appointments of the Clerk and RFO and it was agreed that Monday, March 1st 2010 would be an appropriate time for the new structure and hours to begin. The new Clerk was instructed to issue a Press release to this effect.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15 PM

_____Town Mayor.