TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Tredegar Town Council held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 16th September 2009 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor A. Williams
M. Cross
A. Tippings
G. Bowen-Knight
D. Howells
J. Morgan
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
R. Thomas
B. Willis
H. Woolf
A. Cotton

In attendance: Dr. John R.P. Evans – Town Clerk

176) Apologies: Cllrs H. Trollope, S. Trollope, T. Gregory and G. D. Woolf

177) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, the Mayor reminded Members to make declarations of interest at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

178) THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF 15 JULY 2009 were agreed.

179) MATTERS ARISING

1) Minute No. 133. Action List. Cllr. Tippings stated that this needed to be done. An Action List must accompany the Minutes.

2) Minute No 137 (10). Cllr. Tippings pointed out that there were still materials in the base of the Clock tower. This needs to be cleared out. Weeding is also needed and the soil levels are too high. It was suggested that the Gardeners Club be contacted to tender for the work.

The question of storage for the Christmas Lights and the road signs was raised and the Clerk was instructed to investigate this.
The question of a hand rail to assist in negotiating the external steps was raised. It was pointed out that this would require Listed Buildings consent. The Clerk was instructed to contact CADW for advice.

180) THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE were received

181) MATTERS ARISING

1) Minute No. 154. A Member queried access to the secure store. It was pointed out that Mr. Watkins had responsibility for everything in the store and if Tredegar Town Council wished to remove or retrieve items then they would not be permitted to return them. It was agreed to await Tredegar Town Council's own secure unit.

182) THE MINUTES OF THE STAFFING & FINANCE COMMITTEE held on 2 September 2009 were received.

183) THE MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE held on 2 September 2009 were received.

184) MATTERS ARISING

1) Minute No. 162, 5 (g) The Leader's action in instructing Forest Signals to put up road closure signs given the inability of Blaenau Gwent staff to identify location of Tredegar Town Council's road signs, in the sum of £150 + VAT was approved. It is to be noted that the road signs had been discovered after the decision was made. It was agreed that pending the approval of a secure store that the road signs be stored at a facility courtesy of Cllr. R. Thomas. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to relocate the road signs.
Members also commented on the Cycle Event and stated that it seemed to go off well. It was agreed to send a letter to Stuart Stanton with Tredegar Town Council's congratulations.

2) Minute No. 165 (4) Bandstand Roof. The damage to the roof had been noted but no information was available as to its repair. The Clerk informed Council that under the Restoration Agreement the ongoing maintenance of the Bandstand was the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. It was agreed to contact the Borough to ascertain the state of the roof and the repairs schedule.

3) Minute No. 168 (b). The Clerk informed Council that the birthday of Mrs Steed of Stockton Way had been missed, but a letter of apology, a card and a bouquet of flowers had been delivered by the Mayor. It was pointed out by a Member that if a Member wished to contact Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council then this could be undertaken via Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Elected Members.
4) Minute No 168 (5), Cllr. J. Morgan informed Council that he had verbal information that Tredegar Round Table's Sleigh would be available on 5th December 2009.

185) SPECIAL SAG. The report was received and noted.

186) ACCOUNTS. The schedule of Accounts having been inspected by the Leader, cheques and invoices reconciled were recommended for approval. Cllr. Tippings asked why two cheques remained outstanding, Cllr. Cross responded. The Accounts were approved.

187) CORRESPONDENCE

1) BGCBC

B.Toose — a) Re shutter policy – Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 2 available at http;//www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/business/7727.asp (he will also send office a paper copy). Executive Committee designated part of Tredegar as a conservation area on 11.3.09 giving additional guidelines on security/shutters & fixings.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

Cllr. K. Hayden — b) Copy of letter to Mr D Watkins re memorial trees that have been cut down in Bedwellty Park.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Concern was expressed that the Cherry Trees near the Bandstand had been removed. It is understood that these will be replaced.

L. Phillips — c) Response to Cllr. Cross's letter re security of Bedwellty House and Park, confirming that the alarms etc have been re-instated and also detailing the times of the security firm.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

Licensing — d) (i) Weekly list week ending 06.09.09
(ii) Weekly lists week ending 13.09.09

RECEIVED AND NOTED

Environment — e) Approved version of Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan Sept 2009

RECEIVED AND NOTED

2) Ellis Whittam — In conjunction with OVW offering H & S training.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

3) One Voice Wales — a) Consultation event organised by WAG re proposals for a charge on single use carrier bags – events at Swansea Thursday 17.09.09 Brangwyn Hall 7pm – 8.45pm

RECEIVED AND NOTED

b) Motions for debate in the AGM 10th October 2009. Details of the Annual Conference 2009. Details of a legislative Competence Order setting out new areas in which the Assembly might make legislation.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to send the details of the Conference to delegates.

c) Welsh Assembly offering free Public Appointments Training, 2 day courses available, ring Tel: 02920 825372 for dates and venues

RECEIVED AND NOTED

d) Fairer and Better Environmental Enforcement consultation event at Cardiff 29.09.09

RECEIVED AND NOTED

e) Summer edition of Directors Bulletin issue 18 link http://www.penknife.co.uk/EAW_Director's_Bulletin_18_English.pdf

RECEIVED AND NOTED

f) Brecon Beacons Trust - Town/Community Councils eligible for grant funding towards projects which conserve/enhance their local environment.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain what grants are available.

g) Update from W.A.G. on Welsh Language Policy and legislation.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

h) UK Local Govt Alliance for International Development - survey link http://surveys.lg-alliance.org/index.php?sid=14948&lang=en

RECEIVED AND NOTED. The Clerk was instructed to complete the survey.

i) Public appointment notification – Appointment of Members to CyMAL: Museums, Archives & Libraries Wales Advisory Council. Closing date for applications 02.10.09

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to pass this on to Cllrs. P. Prosser and J. Morgan.

j) Public appointment notification – Appointment of Chair Sports Council of Wales and Members to the Arts Council for Wales. Closing date for applications 1.10.09

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

k) Public appointment notification – Appointment of Chair of National Independent Advocacy Board. Closing date for applications 1.10.09

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

l) Public appointment notification – Appointments to National Park Authorities Council for Wales. Closing date for applications 1.10.09

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

4) Fair Trade Wales

a) Campaigns day in London 10.10.09, 16 free places available on a mini bus being supplied by Fairtrade Foundation in a bid to have a strong Welsh contingent present.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

b) Free Fair Trade Social Saturday 7th November at University of Newport, Caerleon 10am – 2.30pm. Must book for catering reasons.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

5) Smith of Derby

Engineers report and invoice 37983 £287.50

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was reported that the Herian Lights had been incorrectly wired into the Clock's power supply. Vandalism damage to the lights and the resultant short circuit tripped the power circuits and stopped the Clock. The lights were disconnected and works will proceed to isolate the lights from the Clock.

6) Mr Topping

Street lighting in Tredegar letter – Copied to all Members

RECEIVED AND NOTED. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Topping informing him of the current campaign to get the lights back on.

7) Inspector Green

a) Re: Bedwellty House – Sgt Petrie will ensure additional patrols – security of the premises is the responsibility of the contractors.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

b) Unable to attend Sept meeting, but will attend 7.10.09
If unable to attend future meetings he will arrange for another representative to attend, request Council informs him of their preference in respect to this.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

8) City Illuminations Laser Lights brochure

RECEIVED AND NOTED

9) Peter Morgan Jones Re: DVD Launch at VITCC Centre Friday 18.09.09 at 2 pm – all arrangements have been made – Invite to all Council Members, need numbers asap

RECEIVED AND NOTED

10) Wales Audit Office Auditor General report on how Councils can improve their financial arrangements accessible from website www.wao.gov.uk/news/news_2743.asp

RECEIVED AND NOTED

11) BBNP Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan – locations and dates of consultation events

RECEIVED AND NOTED Copies to Cllr. H. Woolf and R. Thomas.

12) Local Govt Boundary Commission for Wales
Annual Report & Workshops 2009 – topic "Strategic Plan." Event at Merthyr Tydfil 16.12.09 Booking form attached

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

13) Tredegar Comprehensive
a) Recipient of Aneurin Bevan Prize – Laura Price. Presentation 1.30pm Wednesday 16.9.09

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Cllr. M. Cross attended the event and gave the prize to Laura Price who is to read medicine at Cardiff University.

14) Royal Mail Confirmation Neopost have informed them of our address change for the franking machine licence

RECEIVED AND NOTED

15) Peter Watkins-Hughes Request for another date to make a presentation on the Local TV Channel project and thanks for congratulations letter and Plaque

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to arrange a new date.

16) Neopost Order form for new "return address" slogan for franking machine £119.99 + VAT

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to amend our return address.

17) Hwyel Lewis We are to contact Cabinet Office to enquiry about a .gov website name

RECEIVED AND NOTED

18) Lylac Ridge Copy of Insurance & a Risk assessment for reindeer hire Xmas Lights Switch On. 50% of Invoice £300 due at time of booking

RECEIVED AND NOTED. 50% deposit agreed.

19) Kidz R Us Timetable of events at Venue 1
RECEIVED AND NOTED

20) BG Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting to be held in Tredegar Library 24.9.09 at 9.30 am. Also poster advertising "Day School" on Saturday 3.10.09 in Ysgol Gymraeg Brynmawr 10am – 4pm
RECEIVED AND NOTED

21) Local Councils update Issue 119 September 2009 – Items copied for all members
RECEIVED AND NOTED

22) W.A.G. Poster, tabards & black bags for the Tidy Wales Week
RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to request more tabards etc.

188) PUBLICATIONS

Glasdon Autumn 2009 catalogue: BGCBC Roadworks report 04/09/09: Timberline Brochure & Pricelist 2009: Orvault Bordereau d'envoi, Le cens Pratique Town guide 2009/10: Bison Hi-Viz Ltd Winter Sale 2009 Catalogue: BGCBC Roadworks report 11-18.9.09
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

189) AGENDA

Social care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Meeting in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Monday 14th September at 3pm : Executive Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Wednesday September 2 at 2pm : Audit Committee now to be held on 28th September at 9am in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th September at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Revised time for the Regeneration Board Meeting 11am at the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Wednesday 16th September 2009 at 2pm: Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Thursday 17th September 2009 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre: Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Thursday 17th September 2009 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre – withdrawal of Item No. 6: Special Executive Wednesday 23rd September 2009 Council Chamber, Civic Centre – *Immediately* following Executive Meeting: Special Meeting Thursday 22nd October 2009 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale: Special Finance, Improvement and Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

190) Cllr. Tippings A handwritten note about Harvest Festival was received. It was agreed to sponsor a floral display in the sum of £25.

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

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum **– A grant for £200 was agreed.**
MacMillian Cancer Support **– A grant for £100 was agreed.**
Nantybwch & Waundeg T.A.R.A. **– A grant for £200 was agreed.**

Shelter Cymru **– A grant for £100 was agreed.**
Tredegar Athletic Football Club **– A grant for £150 was agreed.**

The Mayor declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
Tredegar Community Youth Café **– A grant for £200 was agreed**

Tredegar & District Canine Society **– A grant for £200 was agreed.**
Tredegar Operatic Society **– A grant for £200 was agreed.**
Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) **– A grant for £150 was agreed.**

GRANTS: TO APPROVE GRANTS TO CHURCHES & CHAPELS.

Trinity Spiritualist Church **– A grant for £150 was agreed.**

192) 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 – **NO REPORT**
iv. Tredegar Twinning – **It was agreed to arrange for a calligrapher to draft a 30th Anniversary Twinning document.**
v. School Governing Bodies – **NO REPORT**
vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled– **NO REPORT**
vii. Brecon Beacons Advisory Group– **NO REPORT**
viii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee– **NO REPORT**
ix. Tredegar Youth Café– **NO REPORT**
x. Tredegar Development Trust– **NO REPORT**
xi. Blaenau Gwent CAB– **NO REPORT**
xii. Communities First Strategy – **It was reported that the Grants Policy is being changed. There is a meeting with Rachel Eleston.**
xiii. Blaenau Gwent Joint Liaison Committee **– Meeting due on 24.09.09**
xiv. Tredegar Crime Prevention panel– **NO REPORT**
xv. Tredegar Business Forum– **NO REPORT**
xvi. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum– **NO REPORT**
xvii. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **The Forum intends to launch its DVD on Friday next 18th September 2009.**

193) REDUCTION IN STREET LIGHTING IN TREDEGAR.

Council was informed that a campaign against these cuts is gathering pace across the Borough. There is also a Day of Action planned for 10th October 2009.

194) TO CONSIDER THE LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE ORDER IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY & TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES IN RELATION TO RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND ALLOWANCES AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ABERYSTWYTH SCOPING STUDY.

Following discussion it was agreed to opt for status quo. Allowances only if Local Councils increase their responsibilities.

195) GRANTS TO CHURCHES & CHAPELS, TO RE-CONSIDER THE CURRENT POLICY under LGA 1972 s. 137.

Following discussion it was agreed to amend the policy on grants to churches and chapels to reflect other organisations within the town and also to increase the grant from £150 to £200. This was unanimously agreed.

196) QUESTIONS FOR INSPECTOR GREEN, GWENT POLICE.

The following points were raised:-

1. Boy racers using St. James' Car Park.
2. Action in Trefil – did Gwent Police have any involvement with the Dyfed Powys initiative?
3. Have crime statistics gone up as a result of lights reduction?
4. Policing – Response teams v Neighbourhood/Community policing – any comments?
5. Non-attendance by Police at SAG meetings.
6. Why did Gwent Police object to new coffee shop opening hours?
7. Are any initiatives for young people being planned?
8. Proposals to remove seats in Commercial Street – why was Tredegar Town Council not informed of this initiative?

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

a) OFFICERS REPORT – NONE RECEIVED

b) APPLICATIONS –

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
2009/0276	Brian Brooks Jesmond Dene Stadium	Proposed development on land to the rear of Marion Close & adjacent to Jesmond Dene Stadium

Members were concerned at the stability of this site and are not minded to support this application unless the stability can be guaranteed.

2009/0283	Mr J Singleton Wales & West Utilities Newport	Former Gas Holder Station Vale Terrace, Outline planning permission for residential development (up to 25 houses) with associated access, all other matters reserved

Members expressed considerable concern at the likely levels of contaminated ground at this site. It was felt that the proposals to deal with any contaminants did not provide any

confidence that these might not migrate to the surface in any development. It was therefore decided to object to this application unless and until the safety of the site can be established.

c) OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

2009/0178 Retention of roller shutters & external air conditioning units, The Inn Place, Upper Salisbury Street – REFUSED 3.9.09 - **NOTED**

2009/0180 Construction of private car park including new vehicle access, Siloam Baptist Church, Siloam Terrace – GRANTED 3.9.09 - **NOTED**

2009/0205 Change of use from a wallpaper shop A1 to a coffee shop (not café) 29 Commercial Street – GRANTED 3.9.09- **NOTED**

198) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

1) Cllr. Cross brought to Council's attention that 2010 was the 50th Anniversary of the death of Aneurin Bevan. It was agreed to agenda this for the next Events Committee.

2) A Member raised a query about the Museum and Council was informed that the person currently in charge of the Museum is still not co-operating with others, preventing the extension of opening hours.

3) Assembly Visit. A Member enquired when this was to take place. The Clerk was instructed to progress this matter.

4) Council was in formed that Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in Ebbw Vale will not have Accident and Emergency facilities and all other minor units will be closed. It was decided to query the fate of Tredegar Hospital.

5) A Member queried whether Tredegar Hospital was or could be listed by CADW. The Clerk was instructed to contact CADW.

6) Cllr. J. Morgan informed Council that Christian Morse and the School choir were going to London.

7) Council was informed that Cameron Herring had been selected to attend the Glamorgan Under 19 Academy. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Cameron.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

_____ Town Mayor.