TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at Bedwellty House on Wednesday 20th May 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor
A. Williams
M. Cross
A. Tippings
J. Morgan
G. Bowen-Knight
T. Gregory
D. Rowberry
M. O'Sullivan
R. W. Thomas
B. Willis
G. Woolf
H. Woolf

In Attendance: **Dr. John R.P. Evans – Town Clerk**

Apologies: **H. Trollope S. Trollope K. Hayden D. Howells**

36) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr. Williams reminded Members to make those declarations of interest at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

37) THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 22nd April 2009 were received. Cllr. Tippings challenged Minute No. 469 and following discussion it was agreed to amend the Minute. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved.

38) MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 463 (1) It was reported that the Tredegar Business Forum were appalled at the attack on the Council which they agreed was unwarranted.
Minute No 463 (2) It was agreed to Agenda this for an Events Committee meeting on 27th May 2009.

39) THE MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF 22nd April were received and approved as a true record.

40) Matters Arising.

1) Minute No 453. Members reported on the recent meeting with Tredegar Twinning Association and were of the opinion that the atmosphere had improved and a new constitution for the Association had been provided by GAVO for scrutiny and adoption by Tredegar Town Council. The Association had also agreed to form a 'Friends of Twinning' to access grants not currently available. It was noted that the visit to France was going ahead and that Tredegar Town Council would be represented. It was agreed to request a copy of the new constitution as soon as possible. It was also agreed to request dates of future Twinning meetings, location and times. And also that Tredegar Town Council would provide names and contact details for our representatives on the Association.

41) THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL were adopted as a true record.

42) MATTERS ARISING.

1) Minute No. 20 – Committees of Council. A Member raised the point of his deletion from many of the Committees. It was pointed out that this was a matter for private discussions with the Leadership of Council.

43) RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY.

It was agreed to accept the Policy document circulated by the Clerk as the Risk Management Policy for Tredegar Town Council for 2009/10.

44) ACCOUNTS.

The accounts having been scrutinised by the Mayor before the Meeting were accepted. In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that no overtime had been paid.

45) AGENDA ITEMS FOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE.

A total of seven items were listed:
1) An update is required on animal trespass.
2) Condition of highways with many potholes, especially in Georgetown.
3) Was the Health and Safety Executive consulted on Planning Applications.
4) Concern has been expressed that the Planning Department are reluctant to defend decisions at Appeal because of costs, is this a factor in making decisions or are planning grounds paramount?
5) What plans do the Planning Department have to take action against visually intrusive developments?
6) A report on school closures and development policies.
7) The incidence of litter across the Borough is becoming very evident, especially with the dumping of large items.

46) AGENDA ITEMS FOR INSPECTOR GREEN, GWENT POLICE.

1) Vandalism to cars in Ladies Row.
2) Damage to vehicles between Ashvale and the Crown.
3) Covert camera operations – underage purchase of alcohol and car vandalism Georgetown area.
4) General vandalism on the increase.
5) Co-ordinated action with Dyfed Powys Police in the Trefil area, need to re-organise the protocol.
6) Bedwellty Park – ongoing illegal drinking and subsequent vandalism.
7) PACT Meeting – report on effectiveness.

47) CORRESPONDENCE

1) Eisteddfod	Official invitation Ceremony to be held on 27th June 2009 at 2pm opposite the Leisure Centre Ebbw Vale – invite for 4 Members

A number of Members indicated their intention to be present. This list was sent to the Eisteddfod organiser.

2) B.G. Heritage Forum	Agenda for next meeting on 28th May 2009 at 9.30 am in Tredegar Library. Plus accounts

NOTED

3) RISE Learning Support	Request for support for the QUEST For Employment Bid being put forward on 4th June 2009.

It was agreed that a letter of support be written.

4) Civic Trust for Wales	Open Doors 2009(European Heritage) Registration form for events.

RECEIVED. Agreed to refer to Heritage Committee. A request was made to open Churches and Chapels and the Museum. These organisation are outside the control or influence of Tredegar Town Council.

5) BGCBC

Returning Officer	a) No request for election on Georgetown Ward so may be filled by co-option.

RECEIVED

Bethan Cartwright	b) Details of the street market on Wednesdays.

RECEIVED

Bethan Cartwright	c) Request to borrow the "road closed" sign for several weeks for the new weekly market, sign will be stored in a local business.

AGREED

d) Invite to official opening of Tredegar Sports Centre Wetside Changing rooms on 2nd June 2009 at 4.30 pm reply by 22nd May.

Mayor plus 1 and Cllr. Tippings.

e) Details of "Noise Action Week" 18-22 May 09

RECEIVED

f) Planning Applications – guidance notes.

RECEIVED. Defer until decision on fencing at Southend is discussed.

6) One Voice Wales — Notice of 2009 Conference and AGM on Saturday 10th October at Pontrhydfendigaid.

RECEIVED. To be attended by Mayor, Leader and Clerk.

7) Kenneth Evans — Virus warning.

RECEIVED. Agreed to send on to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

8) Brec. Beacons Nat. Pk — Public consultation exercise on the attached Draft Copy of Planning Relations Protocol. Requests any comments on the attached draft are forwarded to Planning Services by 12th June 2009 (copied RT & HW)

RECEIVED. There were no comments to make.

9) Dai Davies MP — Response to letter re Green Energy Bill from Mike O'Brien.

RECEIVED

10) Fair Trade — a) A.Tippings - Re Fair Trade Wales Conference 6th June Carmarthen.

RECEIVED

b) Kate Meakin - Ditto – with forms attached.

RECEIVED

11) Hospice of the Valleys — Invite to AGM on 25th June at 6.45 in the Link Rooms Guest speaker Edwina Hart. Annual Report & Audited accounts will be available on the night.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that Cllrs. A.Williams, R. Thomas and Hywel Woolf would attend.

12) Smith of Derby — Confirming visit to Clock

RECEIVED

13) CYCLE RACE — a) Paul Gray – Requesting full details if race route for road closures.

RECEIVED

b) Stuart Stanton– Road closures

RECEIVED

c) First Race – is round the Park possible?

RECEIVED

14) ARMED FORCES DAY

a) Fr John Davies — Will not be available on 27th June, suggesting 28th at 3pm.

RECEIVED

b) Chris Rundle Tredegar ATC — Seeking to take part in Armed Forces Day and letter of support from TTC or Mayor.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send a support letter. It was noted that the Clerk had contacted the M.o.D. who had confirmed acceptability of 28 June 2009, subject to it being in the

afternoon. It was agreed to proceed on this basis and to refer it to the Events Committee on 27th May 2009.

15) Tredegar Gardening Club — Complaint that they were not invited to the House closing event.

RECEIVED

16) Cllr. Trollope — News coverage of Tredegar Comprehensive's trip to Latvia.

RECEIVED

17) Royal Mail — Updating listings – seeking info.

RECEIVED

18) David Bevan — 3D Clock Model – seeking addition information (e-mail and hard copy)

RECEIVED. It was agreed to provide what help we can.

19) Carol & John Wiltshire — Thank you card

RECEIVED

20) SLCC — Summer Seminar at the Spa on Wed/Thurs 15/16 July 2009

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Clerk would attend. A Member queried the difference between travelling and overnight costs. The Clerk was instructed to report.

21) Really Welsh — Acknowledgement of Daffodil order – delivery tba.

RECEIVED

22) Barclays Bank — Returned mandate to have clarification as to whether Cllr M. Cross's signature is correct.

RECEIVED

23) DIS — Issue No 707 dated 20th April 2009 – no items of interest.

RECEIVED

24) Dylan John — Re response to Mr. Wells

RECEIVED – refer to confidential items later in meeting.

25) David Wells — The following correspondence has been received:

a) Congratulations to Cllr. A. Williams on her appointment and a request to meet to discuss his complaints and concerns.
b) Response to letter dated 14th May from Cllr. Cross.
c) To Cllr. J. Morgan – requesting an apology for comments made.

RECEIVED – refer to confidential items later in meeting.

26) Mr. P. Topping — To all Members of Council, including the Finance Committee voicing concerns over the Council Tax increase for 2009/10.

RECEIVED – copied to all Members

27) Charity Concert — Poster for concert in aid of Pen-y-Cwm School and the Blaenau Gwent's Mayor's Appeal on 27th May at 6.30pm at Beaufort Theatre – featuring Mandy Starr & Friends. Tickets £4

RECEIVED

48) PUBLICATIONS

Kompan – Playful Living; BGCBC Road works report w/c 15/05/09; Orvault Revue de Presse April 09, Le cens pratique May 2009 no 105 (nb Mention of 30th Anniversary visit)
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

49) AGENDA

Finance Improvement & performance Scrutiny 28/04/09: Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Co 06/05/09: Special Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny 08/05/09: Special Meeting of Council 07/05/09: Licensing Co 05/05/09: Education & Leisure Scrutiny Co 05/05/09: Item 9 for same: Spec Exec 1/5/09: Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Co 11/5/09: Executive Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th May 2009 at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale. Item 3: Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 14th May 2009 at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Audit Committee meeting Monday 18th May 2009 at 2pm, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, E/Vale– Report for agenda item No. 8 and 6: Planning Sub Co 20/05/09 re 2008/0472 Amber Ser Stn. Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 27th May 2009 at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Minutes April/May 2009
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

50) GRANTS

Thanks were received.

<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19</u>

<u>Carp Crunchers Community Disco</u> –New Application - It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Civic Sub.

<u>Cefn Golau Junior Angling Club</u> – a grant of £150 was agreed.

<u>Cefn Golau TARA</u> – a grant of £200 was agreed.

<u>Visually Impaired Club</u> – a grant of £200 was agreed.

<u>Cylch Meithrin ABC</u> – a grant of £200 was agreed.

Tredegar & District Floral Arts – a grant of £200 was agreed.

North Gwent Table Tennis Centre – a grant of £150 was agreed.

Blaenau Gwent Otters – a grant of £200 was agreed.

Transitions Counselling & Therapy Service – new application – arrange to meet.

Circle of Friends - a grant of £150 was agreed

Tredegar Ladies Circle – a grant of £200 was agreed.

Grants to Churches and Chapels – NONE RECEIVED

51) 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 Meeting**
ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils **- No Meeting**
iii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales **- No Meeting**
iv. Tredegar Twinning – **received previously**
v. School Governing Bodies – Cllr. D. Howells spoke of Bryn Bach School: Cllr. M. O'Sullivan spoke of Glanhowy – new head teacher Ms. Julie Protheroe. It was agreed to send her a letter wishing her all the best in her new post.
vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled **- No Report**
vii. Brecon Beacons Advisory Group **- No Report**
viii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee **- Cancelled**
ix. Tredegar Youth Café – ***Cllr. A. Williams declared an interest on this matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon*** **– There was no report**
x. Tredegar Development Trust **- No Report**
xi. Blaenau Gwent CAB **- No Report**
xii. Communities First Strategy – **No Report**
xiii. Blaenau Gwent Joint Liaison Committee – **unsure as to the status of this organisation**
xiv. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel - C**llr. P. Prosser gave a report on the good work being done.**
xv. Tredegar Business Forum – **Cllr. J. Morgan reported on the Easter Bonnet Parade and confirmed there would not be a Carnival.**
xvi. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – **No Report**
xvii. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **Cllr H. Trollope attended in place of Cllr. P. Prosser**

52) ALLOTMENTS. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE FENCING ADJACENT TO RHYD TERRACE and to make a decision.

The Clerk's report was received. It was agreed to hold a site meeting to examine the fencing.

53) TO RECEIVE A REPORT OF THE CLERK ON A PROPOSAL TO RE-VAMP THE TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL WEB SITE.

The report of the Clerk was received. It was agreed to put the proposals to a Publicity Sub-Committee.

54) TO NOTE AND TO DECLARE THE ONE VACANCY to represent the Georgetown Ward and to move to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Andrew Cotton would represent Georgetown Ward on Tredegar Town Council.

55) 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING WITH ORVAULT, to note and approve the attendance of the Deputy Mayor together with the Leader to represent Tredegar Town Council at the 30th Anniversary Celebrations and to agreed that a suitable gift from Tredegar Town Council be made to Orvault Town Council.

The attendance of Cllr. H. Trollope, Deputy Mayor and Cllr. M. Cross, Leader at the 30th Anniversary celebrations in Orvault was approved as was suitable gifts.

56) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT –Received.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
2009/0144	Mrs L. Thomas 28 Queen Victoria St	Householder application for Kitchen extension

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0149	Mr. P. Morris Isaf Carreg Bica Farm Georgetown	Retention of building to be used for egg packing and storage and poultry rearing (Building No 5)

STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS – REQUEST FOR SITE MEETING

2009/0162	Mr. Gareth Jones BGCBC Regen.	Application for change of use from B1 to B1 and D1 (office use and vocational training centre) at Innova One, Tredegar Business Park, as part of the Learning Zone project to be implemented at the former Steel Works site Ebbw Vale.

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0164	Mr. C. Lake 36 Arches Close	Householder application for 2 storey extension to right hand side of existing dwelling g/f to be used as game/fitness room; f/f as master bedroom with Juliet balcony. Revised Plans for above

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0167	Mr. Dickon Oliver Eurocaps Ltd Unit B Crown Business Park	Full application for construction of external fire escape and new window in exiting unit and removal of internal stairs.

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0169	Mr. Martyn Williams "Mi-Casa" Merthyr Rd	Householder application for a single storey extension to the right hand side of exiting building.

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters – 2008/0244 retention of fence/wall at 39 Twyn Star planning permission was **GRANTED** at the meeting on 7th May 2009.

DECISION NOTED

57) TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC from the remainder of the meeting by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.
It was agreed to exclude the Press and Public by virtue of the matters to be discussed in the remainder of the Meeting.

58) ALLOTMENT RENTALS: to receive the **confidential** report of the Clerk.
The report of the Clerk was received. Following discussion it was agreed to contact the other Local Councils in Blaenau Gwent to ask for their rental policies.

59) TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF A STAFFING AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE [no date, 11 March 2009?]
These Minutes were withdrawn for future scrutiny.

60) TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE STAFFING AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE 8 APRIL 2009 (To follow)
These Minutes were withdrawn for future scrutiny.

61) TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT OF THE STAFFING AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 20 MAY 2009.
Following considerable discussion it was agreed to invite Mrs. Jones to attend the Staffing Sub-Committee to represent the interests of the Staff. This was opposed by a Member who believed there could be a conflict of interest.
Once again a request was made to obtain the Accounts of other Local Councils, despite their previous rejections of earlier requests.
Further discussion of the Clerk's Contract of Employment again met the impass of an attempt to change the existing Contract without the Clerk's agreement which is illegal. The Council cannot make illegal decisions.
It was agreed to recommend to Council that One Voice Wales be invited to try and resolve the dispute. Following further discussion, Council resolved not to seek arbitration but to defer further consideration. The suspension of Standing Orders for 10 minutes was moved and agreed.

62) TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE LETTER ADVISING THE CLERK OF HIS AMENDED DATE OF TERMINATION.

The Clerk's letter of dismissal with a termination date of 31st October 2009 was received. The Clerk informed Council that he would appeal and communicate this to all Members of Council.

63) The correspondence from Mr. Wells was noted and Cllr. Cross's response as per the advice of Mr. Dylan John was approved.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 P.M.

_____ TOWN CLERK