TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 2 September 2009 at 6.00pm.

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

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

160) Apologies: None Received

161) REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

The report of the Internal Auditor was received and approved. Council noted the requirements of countersigning card payments and initialling cheque counterfoils. It was agreed that these need to be referred to a Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee to ensure this requirement is being complied with. The designated Member signatories are the Mayor and the Leader of council.
The Accounts for 2008/09 were signed off as a true record.
The Annual Return was completed and approved by Tredegar Town Council in accordance with the Audit Regulations. It was also agreed to advertise the availability of the Accounts for inspection, it was noted that access to Tredegar Town Council's own notice board is currently not possible it was agreed to request use of the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council notice board in Commercial Street to advertise the Audit.

162) CORREPONDENCE

1) Cllr. Mike Roberts Sec JCLC — Postponing meeting for 8th September 2009 (Copies to MC/MO'S)

RECEIVED AND NOTED

2) BT — Ref BT Broadband cessation on 722352 on 20th August 2009.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

3) Ministry of Defence — Ref Gurkha's attendance at Armed Forces Day – glad that they could attend and a reminder that Armed Forces Day is our chance to say "Thank You".

RECEIVED AND NOTED

4) Blaenavon TC — Thanks for the provision of the wind energy policy.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

5) BGCBC

a) Chief Env. Services Officer — In response to meeting on 18th June 2009, procedure to deal with fly-tipping bulky wastes.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

b) Licensing — Licensing Policy due to be reviewed in Jan 2010, draft policy available on website. Comments or representation before 1st October 2009 to Licensing Team.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

c) Highways & Traffic Mgr. — Reducing hours of street lighting illumination – list of streets affected.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to copy this document to all Members and agenda it for the Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2009. It was agreed to write to Mr. R. Morrison and Cllr. Don Wilcox about these proposals.

d) Regeneration — Snap! Details of this years photographic competition.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

e) Business Support — i) Consultation with Town/Community Councils – pre-meeting booked Thursday 24th September at 2pm in Committee Room 3.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

ii) Meeting at 2.30 pm in the Council Chamber (Copied MC, MOS)

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that the following items would be put forward for the Agenda :-

a) Street Lighting
b) Wheelie Bins
c) Shutters
d) Visually Impaired Club

f) Planning — Details of "Security Fixtures for Shopfronts" as requested.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to send copies to all Members and to request a presentation of this subject from the Planning Department.

g) Paul Gray Environment – re Cycle Race – meeting at Central Depot, Barleyfields on Thursday 3rd September at 10 am if necessary to finalise any details.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that Cllrs. Cross, Morgan and Cotton and the Clerk attend the Meeting. It was agreed to request that the Mayor attend the start.

h) Bethan Cartwright — Seeking information on the use of the house post restoration and anticipated date of completion.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Send on to Mr. D. Watkins

i) Licensing Licensing Lists for w/e 16/8/09

RECEIVED AND NOTED

j) C. Rogers Chief Tech Off. Re residential naming of new development on land off Stable Lane – suggestion The Granary or The Stables.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Following discussion it was agreed to support The Granary as the name of the new development. The Clerk was instructed to inform Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

6) RBL Tredegar Request to meet re Armed Forces Day 2010.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to refer this to the Grants Committee.

7) Janet Karn
Peter Jones Re Bevan DVD

Re DVD Launch possible dates from Peter Jones, Approx 50/60 people interested in DVD launch – suggests the VITCC Centre. Gwent String Quartet will be invited. Back from hols today (2nd Sept)

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Following discussion it was agreed to confirm support for the event and to under write the cost of the buffet to a maximum of £200. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Jones and Ms. Karn.

8) Jeff Mitchell – Synergy Planning a learn to sing course and seeking help in advertising.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to pass this on to the Gwent Gazette.

9) WAG Tidy Wales Week 21/27 September 2009 1000 free clean up kits available.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to order four kits.

10) NAW Consultation on proposed Legislative Competence Order relating to Community Councils and Councillor recruitment, retention and allowances.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to agenda this for the Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2009. It was also agreed to copy this to all Members.

11) DEFRA Study re conserving biodiversity invitation to take part

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Pass on to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

12) BBNP Managing change together Management Plan 2010-2015/LDP Update Meeting 4/8/09 at BBNPA Offices Change of venue for LDP Update meeting (overtaken by time)/ LDP Update Meeting key points and actions.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to send copies to Cllrs. H. Woolf and R. Thomas

13) Dept of Energy & Climate "The Road to Copenhagen" Taking International Action on Climate change - the UK's case for a new International agreement on Climate change

RECEIVED AND NOTED

14) Adjudication Panel For Wales Annual Report 2008/09

RECEIVED AND NOTED

15) Local Councils Update Issue 118 August 2009.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

16) Blaenau Gwent VIP Club — Copies for JM and KH and a letter to all Members inviting them to a meeting to discuss the future of the Club, following the withdrawal of funding from BGCBC to support transport costs. Meeting to be held in the Moose Hall Tredegar on Wednesday September 9th at 1.45 pm.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to place this on the Agenda for the JCLC Consultation meeting with the Borough.

17) Gwyn James Argoed Community Council

Markham Miners Memorial to be dedicated to all those who worked there on Saturday 12th September 2009 at Noon. (North of the roundabout on Abernant Rd in Markham Village) and afterwards light refreshments at Markham Sports Centre.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that Cllrs. A. Williams and H. Trollope will attend on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

18) OVW Paula Evans — Update from WAG on Welsh Language Policy and Legislation.

RECEIVED AND NOTED It was agreed to seek guidance on the adoption of a Welsh Language Policy.

19) Steve Shaw Unlock democracy — Re sustainable Communities Act – seeking help by lobbying MP's.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to support this action.

20) Clerks & Councils Direct — September 2009 Issue 65

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Available for Members.

21) Ombudsman — Re David Wells – decision not to investigate complaint against Cllr. Trollope

RECEIVED AND NOTED.

22) P. TOPPING — Request for financial information, complaint about the response by letter not e-mail and also about the old website link.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to refer to previous correspondence. A Member requested this information be sent electronically, but there were problems with this including maintaining a paper trail.

163) PUBLICATIONS

BG LHB Aneurin Bevan LHB Briefing No's 5 & 6: Lift Services SW Ltd Details of lift services; Orvault Bordereau d'envoi; Living Churchyards Newsletter Issue 3 Summer 2009; Maxim Lamps Xmas light 2009; Ashwood Price Buyers Guide 2009/10; Faculty One VAT Courses offered, Noah's Ark Appeal Newsletter Issue 20 Summer 2009, WAG Local Government Partnership Scheme Report 2008-09, BBNP Management Plan 2010-2015

164) AGENDA

Licensing Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 11 am: Consultation with Towns/Community Councils – next meeting 24th September 2009 at 2.30pm Council Chamber Ebbw Vale, items for inclusion no later than Noon Thursday 10th September 2009: Joint Scrutiny Committees Tuesday 8th September 2009 to follow Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Joint Scrutiny Committee Thursday 1st October 2009 at 12.30 pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale. Special meeting of Council in Council Chamber Ebbw Vale 29th July at 11am Item No 4 Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Co Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on 27th July at 3pm Finance Improvement item 4 withdrawn Social Care Item 4 withdrawn Education & Leisure Item 4 withdrawn; Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 3rd September 2009 at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale.

165) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLTY HOUSE AND PARK

1) <u>Storage.</u> Questions were asked about access to the secure store. It was agreed to request a meeting with Messrs Watkins and Olding on Wednesday 16th September 2009 to discuss this matter and to request an update on the contracts and dates.

2) The report of the attempted break-in was noted. There were conflicting messages about the reasons for the release of the perpetrators. It was agreed to ask Insp. Green.

3) The vandalism of paint spray on the walls and windows was reported. It is understood that security has been stepped up.

4) <u>Bandstand roof.</u> It is understood that the roof has sustained serious damage, with an attempted theft on the assumption it was lead.

166) GRANTS

Thanks from the Gambia were received.

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

Tredegar Quiz Wizards 2009_- **1st £50 2nd £30 3rd £20 were recommended as prizes**
Macmillan Cancer Support – A grant of £100 was recommended.
Shelter Cymru – A grant of £100 was recommended.

Cllr. A. Williams declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the voting or discussion thereon.
Tredegar Community Youth Café – A grant of £200 was recommended.

Cllrs. H. Trollope and J. Morgan declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the voting or discussion thereon.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – It was agreed to recommend a grant of £100

Tredegar (Mon) & District Canine Society – a grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) – a grant of £150 was recommended.

Tredegar Athletic Football Club – a grant of £150 was recommended.
Nantybwch and Waundeg TARA – a grant of £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Operatic Society – a grant of £200 was recommended.

167) Grants to Churches and Chapels

Trinity Spiritualist Church - a grant of £150 was recommended. It was also agreed to advise them of other grant sources.

Following discussion it was agreed to agenda a re-visiting of the policy of grants to Churches and Chapels.

PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT – NONE RECEIVED

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal

Cllr. M. Cross declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

2009/0248	Mr Allen Jolly 5 Frondeg	Request for outline planning permission on land adjacent to Plymouth Arms Merthyr Rd for one building plot.

THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0257	Mrs Carol Fowler	Householder application for retention of boundary fence and decking at 17 Railway View Sirhowy.

NO OBJECTIONS

2009/0226	Mr. Paul Morris	Application for planning permission at Isaf Carreg Bica Farm for the siting of a mobile home for residential purposes for 3 years.

Tredegar Town Council has the strongest possible objections to this application which is designed to evade the restrictions on sporadic development in the countryside. The whole site is a blot on the landscape.

2009/0246	Working Lines (Employment) Garden House London	Change of use from A1 to A2 Employment Services at 1-2 Commercial Street

NO OBJECTIONS in principal, but is concerned at the loss of yet another retail unit.

2009/0250	Mr Kevin O'Connor 48 West Hill	Householder application for planning permission for erection of single concrete garage with roller shutter doors.

NO OBJECTIONS

c) OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

2008/0314 Mr & Mrs Davies Detached house and garage on former Scouts Hall Scwrfa Rd an appeal has been made to WAG against decision to refuse, being dealt with by means of written representation to The Planning Inspectorate Cardiff (full details from office)
NOTED

2007/0547 Mr Morris 4 agricultural buildings (retention) at Carreg Bicca Farm appeal has been made to WAG against decision to refuse, being dealt with by means of written representation to The Planning Inspectorate Cardiff (full details from office)
NOTED

2008/0359 Proposed 3 bed detached bungalow amended to 2 storey 3 bed house) plot of land between Brynheulog Farm & No's 1 & 2 Crown Ave – application has been withdrawn
NOTED

168) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

1) Blaenau Gwent in Bloom. It was agreed to send letters of congratulations to all Tredegar winners
2) Cllr. Trollope reported that the Rugby 7 a-side Tournament was a great success. It was noted that Tredegar Youth RFC won the Tournament. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations.
3) Cllr. Howells raised the matter of the failure of Tredegar Town Council to recognise the 100th birthday of Mrs Eva Steed of Stockton Way. Cllr. Howells stated that Tredegar Town Council did not send her a card or arrange flowers nor informed Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council of her birthday. The Clerk pointed out that the event took place in the middle of the move from Bedwellty House, but would investigate.
4) A question was asked as to when Insp. Green will be invited to Tredegar Town Council. It was agreed to invite him to the Civic Meeting on 7th October 2009 and to send him a list of questions in advance.
5) Cllr. J. Morgan brought to Council's attention a flyer from Lylac Ridge offering a Reindeer for the Christmas Lights Switch-On. The fee would be of the order of £300. A Member queried whether Tredegar Round Table had been contacted regarding their Sleigh. It was agreed to contact them.
6) Road Safety Film. Members informed Council that Tredegar Comprehensive School's film on Road Safety produced by Peter Watkins-Hughes had received many plaudits and was very well received. It was agreed to send congratulations to the School, PC Tony Davies and Mr. Peter Watkins-Hughes.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

_____ TOWN MAYOR