TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 14th April 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:	**Councillor**	**H. Trollope** **M. Cross** **A. Tippings** **T. Gregory** **D. Howells** **S. Trollope** **H. Woolf (Arrived Late)** **K. Hayden** **P. Prosser** **B. Willis** **G. Woolf**
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**
435) Apologies:		**Cllrs. A. Williams; G. Bowen-Knight;** **D. Rowberry; J. Morgan; A. Cotton** **(R. Thomas ill)**

436) To receive a presentation by Mr. Andy Taurins, Latvian Consul to Wales.

Mr. Taurins gave an interesting presentation outlining many similarities between the people of the Gulbene Municipality in Latvia and Tredegar. He highlighted its location on the Baltic Sea and the Memorandum of Understanding which had been signed between Wales and Latvia in 2004. This led to a choir from Gulbene winning the Adult Mixed Choirs competition at the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod in 2008. He also highlighted the links between a school there and Tredegar Comprehensive, indeed some youngsters from the School had recently returned from a visit to Latvia. He issued a formal invitation from the Chairwoman of Gulbene Municipality Council, Ms. S. Saudzina, to a delegation from Tredegar Town Council to visit during the weekend of 9th/10th July 2010 to take part in a meeting with Gulbene and its other partners and to enjoy a song and dance festival the following day.
Members commented on the warmth of the welcome that the Schoolchildren had experience and the generous hospitality of the Latvian people. Many children stayed in touch with their Latvian friends even after leaving school.
Mr. Taurins stated that he was aware of the cost implications of a full twinning link and it was suggested that both sides take a "see how it goes" attitude and build cultural links. The Latvian Ambassador was due to visit the Comprehensive School on the 6th May and Cllr. H. Trollope, as incoming Mayor, issued an invitation to them both to attend his inauguration.
Mr. Taurins was thanked for his interesting and informative presentation and then he withdrew.

437) To receive Insp. Green to answer questions previously supplied by Members

1) Members have queried the lack of a traffic warden in the Town.

2) A query was also raised about the powers of PCSO's especially in relation to parking tickets.

In response to both question 1 and 2 he replied that the traffic warden would not be replaced, but that PCSO's had the power to issue tickets etc. He stated that they patrolled the Town as part of their duties but he would not have them tied down to traffic management on a daily basis. It was noted by Members that signage in the Town had changed and that Tredegar Town Council had not been consulted or informed and the Clerk was instructed to write to Highways. Members also raised the ongoing problem with deliveries being made in Town to shops that had rear entrances, causing gridlock on many occasions. He advised that he would speak to Sgt. Petrie and write to traders.

3) Increasing occurrences of anti-social behaviour in Lindsay Gardens.

His impression from a recent PACT meeting was that the situation was improving, however a Member also present at the PACT meeting reported that residents had had hedges and property damaged by youths using the area as an access route. He agreed that Sgt Petrie would continue to monitor the situation.

4) Members of the public have approached Councillors in the Central and West Ward complaining about the lack of response of local Police to repeated reports of drug taking in Stable Lane. Indeed one even took a bag of drug paraphernalia to the Mayor in the hope that she may be able to get some action. Could you advise what steps are being taken to monitor and/or prevent this?

There was no substantive evidence of drug taking in the area. It was thought that the paraphernalia previously found could well have been dumped there. It was noted by Members that there is no needle exchange or disposal scheme in Tredegar, even for the insulin dependent. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Health Board. An additional point was raised regarding the reduction of street lighting and the Inspector stated that although the fear of crime might have increased there was no evidence to show that anti-social behaviour had increased.

5) Members queried the various numbers that could be used to contact the Police and requested a list, together with details (eg. 999 Emergency etc.)

The Inspector had sent in details, which had been copied to all Members.

6) Are the local Police consulted with regard to planning applications? Or is there a "template reply". Members quoted the example of the Woodfield Road development.

Whilst not being consulted directly, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Officer may be asked to offer advice on design.

7) Is it possible for local people to have input in deciding the location of mobile CCTV cameras.

He advised that PACT meetings are the public's way of highlighting problem areas and this input is relayed on. He praised the support received from Mr. John Curtin who manages the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council CCTV section.

8) There seems to be little regard for the ASBO system amongst young people, are there any plans to change the system to make it more of a deterrent?

He stated that the ASBO system is under constant review and that he was hoping that there were moves for a more victim focussed system. He also commented that the current "three strike" system received better response from private housing companies than local authorities.

A Member took the opportunity to ask the Inspector about the problems with the Crime Prevention Panel and constitutional problems – the Inspector was unaware of this and would look into it.

Cllr. H. Trollope then thanked the Inspector and invited him and his wife, to his inauguration on 6th May. The Inspector then withdrew.

Cllr. H. Woolf arrived at 6.45 pm.

438) To receive quotations for the planting and maintenance of the Town Clock.

Only 2 quotations were received. After much discussion it was agreed to check the amount allowed in the budget and the cost of plants as well as writing to local businesses for sponsorship. It was agreed to check the need for permissions beforehand.
It was also agreed to seek costings for a split year i.e. summer planting and maintenance and winter.

439) <u>GRANTS</u>

Thanks from Tredegar and District Canine Society were noted, as was their participation in Armed Forces Day.

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

Friends of Deighton Primary – a grant for £200 was recommended.
Tredegar Town Band - a grant of £200 was recommended (this to be their annual grant award).
Tredegar Cricket Club – a grant of £150.00 was recommended.
Tredegar Boxing Club – a grant of £150.00 was recommended and the Club was praised for the work it was doing with youth in the area.
Catapult Football Club – It was agreed to seek a meeting with this group.
Bedwellty Park Bowling Club –a grant of £150 was recommended. It was noted that this group always support the Quiz Wizards fund raiser and they were sent best wishes for the new season.
Blaenau Gwent Otters –a grant of £200 was recommended.

<u>440) Grants to Churches and Chapels</u>

None received.

<u>441) CORRESPONDENCE</u>

1) BGCBC (a) (i) Street Lighting Part Night Lighting plans – receipt confirming delivery sent back 31.3.10
(ii) Street Lighting – Part night lighting – included in previously received folder was a report "Update Conversion of Street Lights to Mayflower System" which outlined delay of electronic components associated with the conversion thus indicated a potential commencement of switch off from 1.4.10 onwards. The delays are continuing therefore work unlikely to be completed before May with switch off commencing thereafter.

Members were eager that members of the public be made aware of plans for the switching off of lights in their area and suggested inviting them to view. The Clerk was instructed to contact One Voice Wales and seek guidance on this matter.

(b) Frank Olding – progress has been made to re-open the museum. Curator has approved 3 volunteers. Mr Olding will be meeting with 3 potential volunteers from Friends of Bedwellty Park on 12.4.10 with hopes to re-open shortly after that.

A Member reported that substantial progress had been made and that plans to re-open the Museum were well in hand.

(c) Mr A. Holland – reply to letter dated 23.3.10. Enclosed a list of electorates by Ward at present. He has not received estimates of growth via housing nor are there definite proposals from the Electoral commission at present. Once any further information becomes available he will provide it to Council.

The contents were noted.

(d) Trefil Village Enhancements: Retrospective application under Section 194 of the Law of Property Act. Plans/maps available for viewing at Business Resource Centre. Representations in respect of such environmental works please write to Planning Division, WAG.

The contents were received but Members were dismayed at the quality of the work that was carried out and noted that some projects seem to have been unfinished. It was agreed to write to Mr. Chris Engle at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to request a site meeting to highlight ongoing problems

(e) Licensing

(i) Notice of the five new mandatory licensing conditions as per Licensing Act 2003 (mandatory licensing conditions) Order 2010.

RECEIVED

(ii) Small Society Lottery Licence application form for Tredegar Town Council.

(iii) W/Ending 4.4.10 Licensing List.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to complete this form on an Annual basis.

(f) Commercial Waste & Recycling – Trade refuse documents for 2010/11 to be completed – NB this is for Bedwellty House.

RECEIVED – Clerk to check with Dave Watkins if this is relevant to Tredegar Town Council.

3) Carwyn Jones AM Re: Tredegar Hospital – recommend approaching BG Heritage Officer as local authorities are able to draw up lists of buildings which reflect the significance of buildings in their area. Cadw will be publishing draft guidelines later in the year to make it easier for local authorities to identify and designate buildings of local interest.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to copy correspondence to the Heritage Forum and also to the Heritage Officer.

4) One Voice Wales

(a) Copy of the formal response submitted by One Voice Wales on the draft review of the Planning Application Process – Copied to Planning Committee Members.

RECEIVED

(b) Re: Provision of allotments by local Authorities. Following the BBC Wales discussion on allotments One Voice Wales anticipate that they will be approached for a Community/Town Council perspective, therefore they are requesting a reply containing details of the Council's allotment provision and experiences.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to review the Allotment policy and to contact other Town Councils, notably Abertillery & Llanilleth for advice and information. Clerk to reply.

(c) Jane Davidson, Minister for Environment, letter inviting groups to participate in the first Wales Sustainability Week 17th-23rd May 2010. Also a copy of "One Wales, One Planet: be involved – make Wales a more sustainable nation" flyer attached containing details of the Sustainable Development Challenge Fund.

RECEIVED Members requested that this be copied to all.

(d) Proposed Welsh Language Measure – Link given to a bulletin update for public meetings held in April.

RECEIVED.

(e) Community Action for Climate Change, advance notice of events.

RECEIVED.

(f) Appointments to the Welsh National Park Authorities, closing date for applications 29.4.10.

RECEIVED

(g) War Memorial Trust publication on War Memorial Theft: Prevention and solutions. NB. Centenary of World War 1 approaching.

RECEIVED

5) Mazars Annual Return Year ending 31.3.10 – copied to Internal Auditor.

RECEIVED. RFO to complete.

6) AON Insurance Notification that they now handle the insurance policies for Allianz Insurance Plc, request for contact details to be updated (form completed & returned 12.4.10). Renewal due 1.6.10, premium £8300.69

RECEIVED. It was agreed to seek further quotes and to contact OVW

7) Website Update

(a) Ehosting Website package details and receipt for payment.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the Library IT section had been contacted seeking access for the computer in Room 2 to display the web-site to all Members.

(b) H. Lewis

(i) Website now transferred to www.tredegartowncouncil.co.uk domain name, still some items needed to be configured but content can be loaded onto the site now. New site not live on internet at moment.

(ii) Request info for certain pages on new website – copyright, disclaimer, terms, privacy.

Both items Received. Cllr. H. Woolf sought Council permission to pay an annual retainer to Mr. H. Lewis for web-site maintenance – this to be put on the Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of 21st April. Pro-forma information sheets were made available for Councillors to complete.

8) Safer Blaenau Gwent Your Voice Your Choice Event - Timescales were tight due to them being obliged to spend the money by 31.3.10. Would like to meet with Council to make a presentation and to listen/take on board Council's comments/concerns. – copied to all Members

It was agreed to invite Ms. Hunt to the Ordinary Meeting in May.

9) Kidney Wales Foundation

Offer of two complimentary tickets to the Annual Walk for life Gala Dinner at Cardiff City Hall on 17.6.10. Booking form - **must be returned by 30.4.10.**

RECEIVED. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs. Williams and Tippings for their organisation, and mention was made of a lack of enthusiastic co-operation from Parc staff members. It was suggested by Cllr. Gregory that the next event should have collection buckets that could be used on the day too. This was agreed.

10) Spinal Injuries Association

"Fish & Chips Supper" fundraising pack.

RECEIVED to be forwarded to Events Committee.

11) Orvault Visitors

(a) Kidz R Us Ltd

Acceptance of catering for Orvault .

RECEIVED

(b) Tredegar Comprehensive

Acceptance of tree planting offer from French visitors.

RECEIVED

(c) L. Price

(i) Letter & itinerary for French Visit. Also requesting confirmation of the number of Councillors attending the buffet/dance on the Saturday night.

RECEIVED. Cllrs. Cross, Willis and H. Trollope to attend buffet dance.

(ii) Request for names of the councillors who will be present at the Mayor's reception next Sunday.

Cllrs. Williams, H. Trollope, M. Cross, A. Tippings, K. Hayden, B. Willis and H. Woolf to attend Civic Reception on Sunday.

12) SLCC Agenda for meeting Friday 16.4.10 and minutes of previous meeting and Charter for Community/Town Councils for meeting 16.4.10.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend.

13) Brecon Beacons National Park

(a) Alan Ward, Eastern Area Manager, has resigned and Clive Williams has assumed the role of Acting Area Manager for the time being.

RECEIVED.

(b) Brief update on Local Development Plan and reminder of dates for the training sessions with Planning Aid Wales.

RECEIVED.

(c) Request for names of those wishing to attend the training sessions with Planning Aid Wales to be submitted asap.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.

14) Mal Ransom Confirmation sponsor cheque to be made payable to TredBMX and 2 trophies will be presented on Sunday as requested.

RECEIVED.

15) Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund

Pension fund being audited by Grant Thornton who may contact the Council to verify the figures we send for the pension fund.

RECEIVED.

16) John Morgan Letter regarding comments made about the inspection of Tredegar Comprehensive

RECEIVED and contents noted.

17) M. Winstone Won Champion Band of Wales 2010 and have been invited to represent Wales at European Brass Band Championship 2011 in Switzerland. Looking for funding towards the overall costs – grant form sent 29.3.10 but have already submitted a form for this Financial Year.

Also won Yeovil Entertainment Contest and South Wales Miners Eisteddfod Titles.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations.

18) B.G. Arthritis Support £100 cheque towards Help the Heroes Appeal.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks for their support.

19) Tredegar & District Floral Art Society

Unable to participate in the Armed Forces Day event, have included a £50.00 donation for the Help the Heroes Appeal.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks for their support.

20) Mr B Reardon Letter to inform us that due to ill health he has retired from the role of secretary for Tredegar Corps of Drums and Branch Secretary of RBL Tredegar. New contact details for both supplied.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks.

21) Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir

Mr K. Davies as retired as Secretary, new Secretary is Elwyn Jones.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks.

22) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Agenda for AGM Thursday 22.4.10 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

RECEIVED

23) Fairtrade Fairtrade Towns Newsletter. Also looking for people from Fairtrade Groups to join the newly formed campaign advisory group.

RECEIVED.

24) Wales Deaf Sports Posters and letter offering training/coaching etc for any deaf person living within our area – request to past this information onto any person interested and to display the enclosed posters – one poster placed in Library.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that this information be placed on the web-site when available.

25) Communicorp Local Councils Update April 2010 Issue 126 – Copied to All Members

RECEIVED.

442) PUBLICATIONS

Nomix Enviro leaflet for residual herbicide approved for hard & soft surfaces; BGCBC Road Works report W/commencing 19.3.10; KEY March/April 2010 sales brochure for safety/office equipment; 2 x Connect, community magazine; BGCBC Road Works report W/commencing 29.3.10; KEY April 2010 sales brochure for safety/office equipment; Play Wales, Play for Wales Spring 2010 Issue 31; BGCBC Road Works report W/commencing 1.4.10; BGCBC Road Works report W/commencing 9.4.10; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi February/March 2010; WPS 2nd Quarterly E-Bulletin – Play areas; National Eisteddfod Leaflet on events at the Eisteddfod during 31.7.10 to 7.8.10; CWDC details of available funding for playworker qualifications; Amberol Information on self watering planters; Ellis Whittam Details of Health & Safety services; Healthcare Inspectorate Wales Details of Three Year Work Programme 2010-2013 and covering letter.

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

443) AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting Thursday 25th March 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 31st March 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 6th April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 6th April 2010 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 14th April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 14th April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – invitation extended to ALL Elected Members; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 12th April 2010 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 11th May 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 26th May 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Executive Monday 17th May 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

444) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLTY HOUSE AND PARK

1) **Cllr. Prosser reported on the Management Board visit to the House and Park and Members again requested the Clerk to contact Mr. Watkins, this had already been done by post and e-mail and she was instructed to contact him again.**
2) **The Clerk had been in touch with Royal British Legion (Tredegar Branch) who had informed her that the Bayonet on the War Memorial seemed to be bent. The Clerk to investigate.**
3) **The boundary wall of the Park opposite King David Tyres appeared to be in a dangerous condition and a Member had already left a message with Mr. Watkins. The Clerk was instructed to follow this up.**
4) **A Member reported that the gate at the rear of the Masonic car park appeared to have been open throughout the renovation works, allowing access to the Park.**
5) **A Member expressed interest in discovering whether the on-site security had decreased the incidence of illegal alcohol consumption in the Park. Clerk to contact D. Watkins.**

445) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT – Received, no refused applications.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0104	Mr A Jenkins 26 Cefn Glas, Tredegar	Porch, 26 Cefn Glas

NO OBJECTIONS

Cllr. Gregory declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

2010/0107	Mr M Dowsell 20 Cefn Glas, Tredegar	Single storey rear extension for use as kitchen/utility area and lounge. Single storey workshop at rear of garden, 17 North Avenue

NO OBJECTIONS TO EXTENSION, ANXIOUS THAT THE WORKSHOP IS NOT USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

Cllr. Willis declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

2010/0109	Mr G Thomas 69 Charles Street, Tredegar	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, new vehicular hard standing, 69 Charles Street

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0112	Mrs L J Edwards 47 Vale Terrace, Tredegar	Single storey garage, 47 Vale Terrace

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0119	Mr D. Oliver Eurocaps Ltd, Unit B Crown Business Park, Tredegar	Erection of smoking shelter, EuroCaps Ltd.

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0123	Mr S. Miles 6 Lakeside Close, Tredegar	Replace polycarbonate lean-to roof on existing conservatory with a pitched roof and slate covering to match slates on existing house roof, 6 Lakeside Close

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0125	Mr A. Davies 15 Parkville Tredegar	Single storey extension to side elevation of existing property to provide enlarged kitchen and bathroom facilities with an additional utility room, Dros Y Llyn Farm, Trefil Road, Trefil

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters

2009/0051 18 Castle Street, Tredegar – Split decision by Inspector. Allowed the use as a photographic studio, dismissed appeal for the roller shutter due to Conservation Area.
NOTED. Members noted the split decision and comments were made about the additional costs levied on businesses inside the Conservation Area and the possible effect this may have on the survival of small businesses. The lack of business grant availability was also raised.

2006/0380 Appeal by Pennant Wind Energy Ventures Ltd. Construction of Wind Energy Project (4 wind turbines), Mynydd James near Blaina. Public Inquiry commencing 27.4.10 at Blaina Evangelical Church, Shop Row, starting at 10am. Estimated duration of inquiry length is 6 days.
NOTED

2009/0328 & 2009/0329 Developments on Park Hill, Tredegar – Planning have contacted to confirm that there are designated play areas on the plans, more in depth plans are available at the Planning Office for inspection.
NOTED

2010/0001 Demolition of existing storage sheds & development of 10 no. two storey residential dwellings, supported accommodation and associated external works, Former Bus Depot Site Woodfield Road, Tredegar – **GRANTED** 19.3.10
NOTED. It was further noted that an appeal is to be made by residents, and thanks given to all Members for the support shown.

2010/0389 Part change of use of land to facilitate a mobile outlet (retention), Parker Motors Promenade Garage, The Promenade, Tredegar – **REFUSED** 1.4.10
NOTED. It was further noted that this was still operating and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Enforcement Officer, Mr. Julian Thomas seeking action.

446) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

1) A Member reported that Daniel Atkinson, a young swimmer who had previously been honoured by Tredegar Town Council had won all six races that he had taken part in. Congratulations were expressed.
2) A Bit of Tom Jones – Thanks were expressed to all those who took part in this extremely successful event which had featured widely on TV and in newspaper coverage. However the Clerk and the Mayor were heavily criticised by Cllr. Willis for allowing the Clock to be used for advance filming on Good Friday. Both were he stated "totally out of order". In the absence of the Mayor, the Clerk detailed the sequence of events that led to these actions. The Chair stated that lessons had been learned.
3) Location of the AGM. The costs of Parc Bryn Bach were highlighted and found to be unacceptable. However an offer had been made by Mr. Andrew Jenkins to use the Rhyd Hall for both the AGM and subsequent festivities free of charge. The Clerk having checked that the AGM could take place on licensed premises, and having seen the accommodation with the incoming Mayor, it was agreed that the Hall be used. Buffet costs were pending.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM

_____Town Mayor