TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 beginning at 6.15 p.m.

Present:	**Councillor**	**A. Williams**
		H. Trollope
		M. Cross
		A. Tippings
		T. Gregory
		K. Hayden
		D. Howells
		J.C. Morgan
		D. Rowberry
		M. O'Sullivan
		P. Prosser
		S. Trollope
		B. Willis
		H. Woolf
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**

399) Apologies: **Cllrs. G. Bowen-Knight and A. Cotton**

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF THE RT. HON. MICHAEL FOOT MEMBERS STOOD IN SILENCE AS A MARK OF RESPECT.

It was agreed to open a Book of Condolence in the Library.

400) TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL/SPORTING GRANTS
Tredegar Gardening Club – A grant for £200 was recommended.

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

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO CHURCHES & CHAPELS (S.137)
St James Church – A grant for £200 was recommended. NB this had previously been reviewed and increased from £150 as previously received.

401) TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FOR PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWN CLOCK FLOWERBEDS.

The proposal from Messrs Hill and Mantle was received and following discussion it was agreed that 5 quotes for the maintenance and planting of the Clock should be sought, and a deadline of 1st April 2010 be given.

402) CORRESPONDENCE

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

1) BGCBC (a) Licensing W/Ending 21.2.10 Licensing List.
RECEIVED AND NOTED
(b) Confirmation of Small Society Lottery Registration for Tredegar Mayors Appeal.
Agreed. It was further agreed to obtain this annually and also to obtain a licence annually for the Town Council.

2) One Voice Wales
(a) Renewal notice for Council Membership, £1702.
It was agreed to renew the membership.
(b) Equality of Opportunity Committee Inquiry into the accessibility of Railway Stations – invite to contribute to inquiry.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
(c) International Women's Day, Conference on Tuesday 9th March 2010 at County Hall, Cardiff & booking form.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
(d) Training Opportunities for Councillors – Public Perceptions of Councillors and Officers. Monday 15th March 2010, 10.30am The Assembly Rooms, County Hall, Cwmbran. Free Entrance but booking necessary.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
(e) W.A.G. review of the Planning Application system in Wales, presentation & question/answer session event being held at the Millennium Stadium 11.3.10 at 2pm. One Voice Wales will be in attendance but Council may wish to respond directly to the consultation report which will be available on the web from 8.3.10.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
(f) Planning Aid Newsletter February 2010 and details of Conference at the Park Inn, Cardiff City Centre on Thursday 29.4.10 and Friday 30.4.10.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
(g) Local Health Board & NHS Trust Appointments in Wales, closing date for applications 11.3.10.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
(h) CCW Funding Newsletter March 2010.
RECEIVED.

3) SLCC Details of Larger Councils' Conference 2010 at Nottingham Belfry Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd April 2010, booking form included and fees start from £130 (non-members) for a day or £360 (non-member) for 2 days.
RECEIVED.

4) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council
Agenda for Joint Committee of Local Councils with Blaenau Gwent on Thursday 4th March 2010 at 6.30pm Blaina Council Chamber – Copied to Cllrs M.C., A.W. & M.O'S. 18.2.10.
RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Clerk should also attend.

5) Hospice of the Valleys

Re: response to letter querying permission for Bucket Collection at Christmas Lights Switch On. Claims permission was grant by Dr Evans and aware that perhaps a more formal arrangement with appropriate licenses being obtained, £24.01 raised.

RECEIVED.

6) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Re: Museum Closure – asking if Town Council is able to resolve the issue with the closure of the museum.

RECEIVED. Members were disappointed at reports that other local museums had received grants from the Borough and that the Tredegar museum didn't qualify because it didn't open for enough hours. It was agreed to copy the letter to Blaenau Gwent's Heritage Officer and to query.

7) Andy Taurins

Reply to email requesting more details on upcoming Latvia events. Will do a presentation to Council if they wish; a Town Council in Gulbene wishes to discuss twinning with a Town Council here and extend an invite to a small delegation from Tredegar Town Council to visit during their annual music & dance festival 23-25.7.10.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to invite Mr. Taurins to make a presentation. It was further agreed that this should be at the end of the next Civic Meeting.

8) Tredegar Twinning

Orvault wish to present Twinning & Town Council a tree that they have already selected. Twinning wishes to know whether it can be planted at Bedwellty Park with a ceremony. Also requesting a letter to support their complaint at Leisure Centre on Friday.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the Clerk had been in touch with the Leisure Department and that planting in the Park was out of the question. Mr. Watkins had stated that 50 new trees were to be planted as part of the ongoing works and that one could be dedicated to the Twinning Association. Members suggested planting in a school or Parc Bryn Bach as an alternative. Clerk to liaise with Twinning.

9) Transformation Partners Staff Appraisal Training, £600 fee per day.

RECEIVED. It was noted that GAVO had also been contacted and we were awaiting details from them. It was agreed to source other trainers, and the Mayor agreed to pass information on to the Clerk.

10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Unconfirmed Minutes 10.12.09 and agenda 4.3.10 – copied to Cllrs H.W. & R.T. 18.2.10

RECEIVED.

11) Safer Blaenau Gwent

Reminder to submit project grant application for Participatory Budgeting by 12pm Thursday 4.3.10.

RECEIVED. Members again complained about the tight time constraints involved, making it extremely difficult to get quotations for planned work. It was felt that the whole programme had been put together hastily and had not been thought through. The Clerk was instructed to write expressing these views.

12) Sustainable Energy Partnership

February 2010 newsletter requesting support for their new campaign to keep the lights on. By 2015 there may be a danger to energy supplies, New Climate Change (Sectoral Targets) Bill suggests targets to overcome this problem.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to support as previously.

13) Community Health Council

Public notice for meeting on Wednesday 10.3.10 at 5.30pm Llanhilleth Miners Institute – displayed in Library 1.3.10.

RECEIVED.

14) GAVO Appointment to Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council, Third Sector. Nominations closing date 15.3.10.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.

15) Spinal Injuries Association

Poster for next fundraising event, "hold a fish & chip supper to help spinal cord injured people live full & independent lives" Friday 21.5.10.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to request an event pack and to take part.

403) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road Works Report week commencing 19.2.10; Wicksteed Playscapes leaflet promoting the availability of their new product book; BGCBC Road Works Report week commencing 26.2.10; TC Advertising Gifts New website launched for promotional gifts; Smith of Derby Spring Newsletter 2010 Issue 3.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

404) AGENDA

Special Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 24th February 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Partnership Board agenda 26.2.10 – copied to Cllr J.M. 18.2.10; Joint Scrutiny Committees Friday 26th February 2010 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 1st March 2010 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 2nd March 2010 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 2nd March 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Council Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Items for agenda to be submitted no later then 12 noon on Friday 9th April 2010 – 3 copies distributed to Cllrs M.C./M.O'S./A.W; Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Thursday 4th March 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting Thursday 4th March 2010 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 18.3.10 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Audit Committee Tuesday 9th March 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

405) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLTY HOUSE AND PARK

1) It was noted that no contact had been received from Mr. D. Watkins regarding the Town Council visit to the House and Park and it was agreed to contact him urgently to ensure that the Council visit takes precedence over any other organisation. Clerk to contact urgently.

406) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT – None received.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0062	Mr C Davies 47 Whitworth Terrace,	Retention of 4 bedroom detached dwelling on land to the east of Whitworth Terrace C/2007/0564

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0068	Mr A Hoskins Cedar Lodge, St Lukes Road	Detached single storey hot food takeaway on plot of land at Ysguborwen

Tredegar Town Council voiced concerns over the possible increase in litter, long and late opening hours and the possibility of increased anti-social behaviour.

2010/0072	Mr J Allen, BGCBC Technical Services,	Flying Start Facility at land between 113 Attlee Way & 1 Attlee Close - Change of use of land to "play area" within boundary fence; approval of the existing 2m high weld mesh fencing; approval of landscaping design within boundary fence

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters
Nothing received.

407) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN.

1) Members raised many issues relating to the running of Communities First and the reduction of young people's provision in the Cefn Golau area. Also raised as a point of concern was the current use of the Community bus and the difficulty in getting access to use it by voluntary groups. Members urged that the proper channels be followed if any complaint was to be made and assurances were made that this matter would be closely scrutinised and that Tredegar Town Council would, as far as was possible, endeavour to support the projects currently running in the area and any new initiatives.

2) Congratulations were made to all Members who turned up in support of Borough Councillor Keith Hayden at the public meeting relating to the Woodfield Road development. The Clerk was instructed again to write to

Blaenau Gwent Planning Department to ascertain the reasons for the initial site in Holland Street Ebbw Vale being rejected and the ground conditions on the second site. Members expressed a wish to be represented at the Planning Meeting and to speak against the development at the meeting. This was to be conveyed to the Planning Department by the Clerk.

3) Members highlighted a talk by Hywel Francis on Chartism at the Nantybwch Senior Citizens Hall, taking place on the following Friday at 7pm and all were invited to attend.

4) Members raised concerns at the state of the Town centre and the loss of jobs especially with a local development and regeneration strategy in place. It was agreed to write to Trish Law AM to ask what the Welsh Assembly can do to improve the situation. It was suggested that she be asked to attend an open meeting and to take questions from members of the public. The date and time of such an event to be at her convenience.

Members were reminded of the visit to the CCTV room on Thursday 18th March and interested Members came forward.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55 PM.

_____ Town Mayor.