

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee of Council held in Room 2 at the Library,
Tredegar on Wednesday 2nd February 2011 at 6.00 p.m**

Present:	Councillor	H. Trollope M. Cross(arrived late) A. Tippings B. Willis T. Gregory D. Howells K. Hayden M. O’Sullivan P. Prosser R. Thomas S. Trollope G. Woolf A. Cotton (arrived late)
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In attendance: **Ms. C. Keane – Town Clerk**

Before the commencement of the Meeting and with his full permission, the Mayor relayed the good news that had been received regarding Cllr. T. Gregory and all Members wished him well. It was agreed that any length of absence as a result of his transplant would be with the full approval and support of all Members of the Town Council – who all gave their support and best wishes.

291) Apologies: Cllrs. D. Rowberry, H. Woolf and G. Bowen-Knight

Mr. Alun Davies AM had been delayed and it was agreed to take the other items prior to his arrival.

292) Heritage Summit – to receive a verbal report from the Heritage Committee.

Thanks were given to Cllr. Tippings for the work that she had undertaken so far. The format for the evening was set out and details of the pro forma were given and the date of 9/10th March 2011 put forward, with the Chair to be the Mayor or Leader.

Cllr. A. Cotton arrived at 6.10 pm.

Various locations were discussed and it was felt that this should be an upbeat meeting not a “finger-pointing” exercise, hopefully with points to take forward. A press release was to be drafted.

293) To inform the Clerk of the Council's position regarding E-planning in advance of the Meeting of Clerks with the Planning Dept. on 3rd February 2011

Members re-iterated their feelings that although this exercise would save the County Borough money – that cost would simply be transferred to the Town Council which was unacceptable. The implications for the e-mail system were outlined – with 1 planning application taking up all available space. It was agreed to raise this matter with the JCLC. Meanwhile the Clerk was instructed that the receipt of planning applications electronically was unacceptable.

294) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants and to receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137)
THERE WERE NONE.

295) An e-mail which had been received from the Manager of Bedwellty House and Park had been copied and circulated to all Members and was taken at this time as a matter of urgency. This was in response to the list of dates and events previously put forward by the Events Committee of 26th January 2011.

- 1) It was agreed that an alternative venue be sought for the Annual Meeting – since the House would not be completed, It was agreed to contact the Moose Hall for either the 9th or 12th May 2011. Members queried whether the Council Chamber might be used just for the Inauguration.**
- 2) The charges for events in the park was unclear.**
- 3) The date of 3rd July 2011 suggested by the Manager for a concert of several bands was not welcomed by Member who felt that other venues such as a theatre – wouldn't be encouraged to have several plays in one day. They felt that the historical precedence of the Bandstand Season of Concerts was not being recognised.**

Cllr. M. Cross arrived at 6.30pm.

The concerts themselves would draw people into the Park it was felt, and it was felt that the Park should be available to the Town Council on a number of occasions for events to be held, as was custom and practice.

- 4) Members were advised that the Mayors Parlour, which was to be used for weddings was in fact solely for the use of the Mayors of Tredegar and the County Borough and was not in fact a public room.**
- 5) It was noted that Pontypool and Pontypridd both have Bandstands in their parks and the Clerk was instructed to contact both to find details of hire, use etc.**
- 6) There were many questions raised about how the Park and House would accommodate weddings in the House and Bandstand, the taking of photos in the grounds, with the idea of the Bid being to make them both more accessible, whereas the use of the House and Park for weddings etc seemed to be making access more problematic.**
- 7) An alternative location to be sought for the Poppy Party in aid of the Royal British Legion on the weekend of 10th June 2011.**

It was agreed that an urgent meeting with the Management of Bedwellty House and Park should be arranged.

296) CORRESPONDENCE

1)BGCBC a) 2011 Census Councillor Handbook – copied to relevant members of the JCLC.

A briefing session to be carried out prior to the Consultation with Town & Community Councils on 24th February 2011 at 1.30pm

(b) Mr A Reed – Thank you for the letter of the 18th January regarding the Vitcc Building during bad weather. I would like to inform you that arrangements have been put in place that a team of our employees will report to the Vitcc building when the weather is bad to ensure access to the car park is available.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to write and thank Mr. Reed and to feature the letter on the web-site.

(c) B. Cartwright – RE: Town Centre Branding and Marketing Workshop - A key part of the exercise is to develop both overarching and town centre specific branding that can be used in future town centre marketing work including the business investment packs.

RECEIVED. Members queried the venue – Ebbw Vale Institute and noted the lack of parking. Also that each town should have had such a workshop for ease of access. It was agreed that available Members should attend to press the case for Tredegar.

(d) Miss. H. Jones – RE: Taxis (Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles) – In reference to letter dated 10th January 2011 whereby a number of issues from Members were raised relating to taxi companies in Blaenau Gwent. Information and different types of Vehicles and Licenses are explained in the letter.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

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

(e) Licensing Applications Week Ending 14.01.11

Licensing Applications Week Ending 21.01.11

RECEIVED.

(f) D. Ware – Next Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting 11th February 2011 at 11.00am ViTCC, Tredegar. - Agenda Attached.

RECEIVED. Copied to Cllr. J. Morgan

(g) Freedom of the County Borough Saturday 19th February at 11.30am – The Royal Welsh march through Ebbw Vale Town Centre

RECEIVED. Notice displayed in the Library window.

(h) A. Tippings- Anyone who are collecting Votes for the Valleys Top 50 – Send them in today as the voting ends on Monday.

RECEIVED. This had already been given to Library staff.

(i) J. Kivell – RE: Hire charge for Armed Forces Day 18th June 2011. Charge of £500 consists of formulation of a safety plan, all barriers and cones needed for parking areas and roads will be carried out by staff, use of radios and pa system, gate security and car park security.

RECEIVED. Agreed to book.

2) Flight T2520

Alyson Tippings - Story Board For Film – Parts Forwarded to relevant persons.

RECEIVED.

3) Brecon Beacons National Park

(a) Draft Community Council Charter – Meeting 28th February 2011, BBNPA would like to explore with all Community and Town councils wholly or partially within the National Park area the development of a BBNP Community Council Charter.

RECEIVED

(b) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Environmental Assessment of plans and programs regulations 2004, The Town and

Country Planning regulations 2005. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Local Development Plan, Notice of site Allocation Representations
RECEIVED

4) Southend Allotment a) Steve Ambler- Tree Inspection at Southend Allotment. Fee to undertake inspection and provide a written report is £345+VAT
RECEIVED

b) BGCBC granting permission for a Crown Reduction retaining the lower branches intact.
RECEIVED

c) Telephone quote from Clive Francis
RECEIVED.

It was agreed to seek quotes for the work required

5) Gwent Police Thank you letter to all the Town Councillors for the kind donation of £100 towards the 2011/12 Wings to Fly Drama productions.
RECEIVED

6) Kidney Wales Foundation
Annual Year Book 2010-2011 and details of this years Walk for Life on Sunday 27th March 2011.
RECEIVED. It was agreed that the incoming Mayor would organise the event.

7) Society of Local Council Clerks
Events in Wales 2011
RECEIVED

8) GAVO Blaenau Gwent Voluntary Sector Forum Meeting held Tuesday 15th February 2011 at 9.30am at the Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale.
RECEIVED

9) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council
Attached a public notice advertising the next meeting in Llanhilleth Miners Institute
RECEIVED

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

10) Cllr Keith Haydn Asking why the provision of funding from the developer on Planning application 2209/0289 (The old gas work site Vale Terrace) towards Georgetown Primary School and Tredegar Comprehensive School has been withdrawn and seeking Council support.
RECEIVED. It was agreed to write to the Planning Department in support of Cllr. Haydn.

11) Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

R. Edwards- Hopes interest in participating in Fields in Trust's exciting new legacy project being led by Prince William to mark Her Majesty The Queens Diamond Jubilee

RECEIVED AND NOTED. Available to any interested Member

12) Lesley (JCLC)

Advise that the next Joint Committee of Local Councils in Blaenau Gwent will be held on Thursday 17th February 2011 at 7.00pm in Abertillery Council offices, Mitre Street.

RECEIVED It was note that the main item of discussion would be the Draft Charter.

13) Graham Donald

Search Engine Optimization to put the website on the top search results for keywords pertaining to the domain

RECEIVED

14) Tredegar Town Band

Letter requesting a Meeting with Council to help aid in funding for the bands appearance at the European Championship to be held in Montreaux Switzerland in April.

RECEIVED – it was agreed to arrange a meeting with the Civic Sub Committee of Council as soon as possible.

15) Fr. J. Davis

Where and when will we be meeting to plan Armed Forces Day 2011

RECEIVED . It was agreed to invite Fr. Jones to the next meeting of the Events Committee.

Cllr. J. Morgan declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

16) Stephen Evans TCIC Request for financial assistance for a forthcoming young entrepreneur event (In the style of TV's Apprentice)

The details of the competition were further clarified with the youngsters having a shop for a day to market goods they had made/sourced and marketed. It was agreed to support this venture and to request costings.

17) Local Council Update

January/ February 2011 – Issue 135/136

RECEIVED. Items of interest copied to all Members.

297) PUBLICATIONS

Road works report week ending 28.1.11; Road work report week 28.01.2011-4.02.2011; Living Landscape Lectures Tuesday 1st & Saturday 19th Feb 2011; Ville D'Orvault Bordereau d'envoi, press cuttings for December 2010; Shelter Cymru Policy e-letter; BBNP LAF Minutes; Blacher Offers on refurbished Christmas motifs; a call for evidence – shelter Cymru commission.

298) AGENDA

Special Executive on Monday 21st February 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Extra Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 7th February 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee on Wednesday 26th January 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 27th January 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council on Monday 7th February 2011 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive

Meeting Wednesday 9th Feb 2011, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 26th January 2011 at 11.00am at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Planning Committee Meeting Held in The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Friday 18th February 2011 at 11.00 am BRYNMAWR ONLY; Licensing Committee Meeting, Held in The Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale on Tuesday 1st February at 11.00am.

299) TO RECEIVE MR. ALUN DAVIES A.M.

Mr. Davies was welcomed by the Chair and firstly apologised for his lateness. Although no definite questions had been set he touched on a number of items relating to the relationship between Town and County Borough. The “changing face” of Tredegar Town centre had been highlighted to him and the need for business rates to be reduced or take a “holiday” from them was put forward. “It was heartbreaking”, he said, “the way the heart was being lost, buildings like the NCB, although many things have changed - the place of a town centre in the life of a town hasn’t”.

A number of questions arose from this point relating to Heritage and key buildings and how they could not only be preserved, but also used for local low cost meeting places.

A Member raised a point concerning the charges being suggested for use of Bedwellty House and Park and that the main area behind the Library side of the Circle (including the Fire Station, British Telecom building, Magistrates Court and the Police Station) almost a square mile of town – was not being used. He did point out that the surrounding area of Tredegar was looking better than it had ever done before – but that the town needed inward investment. Another Member raised the question of powers being devolved from the Welsh Assembly to Local Government whilst highlighting the lack of consultation on current issues we have with Planning and notification of the budget meeting. Mr. Davies assured Members that this was not purely a local problem, although he spoke scathingly about the “Connect to Listen” series of consultations which he said “provided a secretarial service but not answered anyone’s questions”. He raised a point about having a single station for Police, Ambulance and Fire authorities, and was impressed with the way Gwent Police were pulling together services.

Members raised a number of questions relating to the closure of local nursing homes, the new hospital in Ebbw Vale which was applauded, how the minor injuries unit works, the lack of a 24hour pharmacy service in Blaenau Gwent, the inaccessibility of the new Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, the sixth form review and how pupils from all areas would be able to access new education facilities. The response from Mr. Davies was that he was aware that there were some teething issues with the new Hospital, the issues relating to the bus service were also well known. The issues of the pharmacy had been taken up by himself and MP Nick Smith with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. With regard to recent rumours concerning Nevill Hall – his reply was that there were issues about the management of the hospital that needed to be addressed. The questions on education brought out details of the PISA report that showed Wales doing badly as a whole. It was agreed that those delivering education needed to look at what was happening in the classroom. To further improve skills and job prospects there was a need to improve connectivity via superfast broadband, the dualling of the Heads of The Valleys – all being drivers for growth, and linking to bigger economic regions. The vexed question of pupil transportation was raised with bus passes for children not being seen as suitable – many Tredegar children don’t live on a regular bus route. Varying class times for older children would also be a problem as would after school clubs. It was acknowledged by all that modern homework needs access to the internet and children who did not benefit from this lost out badly.

He assured Members that, if elected, he would do his best to get extra funding for Blaenau Gwent and ended by saying that he was due to play in a Wales v Parliament rugby match shortly!

The Chair thanked him for his open and forthright responses to their questions and Mr. Davies withdrew at 8.25 pm.

300) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLY HOUSE AND PARK

Further to the points raised earlier (Minute No. 295)

- 1) Queries were raised regarding the Management Board, with Members querying whether some of those who sat on the Board ever attended and that some groups who are represented do not have meetings there, whilst those that use the facilities were not represented.
- 2) The Pavilion for the bowlers – this was raised again, with Members wondering whether they were losing out because of the problems that had occurred with the roof.
- 3) War Memorial – the query whether this was part of the bid was raised again.

301) PLANNING

a) To consider an Officer's Report

C/2009/038 Parker Motors The Promenade, Tredegar- Appeal Dismissed

List of Delegated items determined between 14th December 2010 and 20th January 2011.

2009/0306 Land Adjacent to Pochin House, Tredegar – Detached Dwelling and ground works – Approved: 2010/0401 Parc Bryn Bach- development of 3 poly tunnels and 2 site cabins - Approved: 2010/0414 11 St James Way Georgetown, Proposed conservatory to rear elevation – Approved: 2010/0331 Plot 4 Former LCR Site Charles Street, One Dwelling-Plot 4 –Approved: 2010/0385 113 Gwent Way, Erection of steel frame, first floor bridge link provides disabled and wheel chair access. – Approved: 2010/0408 Land Adjacent to Vale Terrace Chapel, Vale Terrace. Single dwelling for outline application – Approved:

2009/0283 Outline Application – Former Gas Holder Station Vale terrace Georgetown, Outline planning permission for residential development up to 25 houses with associated access. All matters reserved.

NB (For Members Information the following is taken from the Committee recommendations)

“It is a matter of fact that this is a heavily contaminated site in a residential area and it is in the public interest to clean it up and return it to beneficial use. Since the proposed S160 obligation for education would exacerbate the negative residual value of the site, thereby potentially jeopardising its future redevelopment potential, this is considered reasonable justification for the Council not to pursue the planning obligations in this instance. It is therefore recommended that no S160 obligations be required in relation to education provision for the reasons set out above.” **It was agreed to object to this course of action at every opportunity**

b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0016	Mr D. Steed 2 Garnlydan Farm Llangynidyr Road Ebbw Vale	Access construction with regards to protection of trees, details of dwelling/garage with landscaping and parking Facilities existing and proposed site levels – Land at the Nook, Harford Street, Tredegar,
NO OBJECTIONS		
2011/0017	Mrs. S. Edmunds, Glastonbury Charles Street, Tredegar	Resubmission of the c/2010/0345 2 nd storey being reduced from 5m to 4.5m in order to comply with policy D4 of BG UDP
NO OBJECTIONS		
2011/0019	Rhyd Development Ltd Windsor Villa, The Rhyd	Reserved for detailed design for 1 detached dwelling on one of the two plots granted outline planning consent.
Tredegar Town Council are minded to object to this addition on the grounds that site access is insufficient for the increased number of dwellings.		

c) Other Planning Matters- None received

302) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

- 1) An Open Meeting of TDT was announced on 11th February 2011 when the Trust would go into liquidation. As a director of Tredegar Community Interest Company on behalf of TDT, Cllr. Morgan announced that he would stand down as soon as possible. Members were saddened at the news but were mindful of their achievements such as TEMS and Ashville Ceramics.
- 2) Cartref Aneurin Bevan – it was reported that this was now empty with staff either taking voluntary redundancy or being redeployed. There had been rumours that another concern was to takeover the building but this was unlikely, and the aim of an extra care facility at Greenacres was still a main aim.
- 3) New Timings – as previously suggested that time of both Civic and Ordinary Meetings to start at 6.30pm, this to allow those who work outside Tredegar to attend on a more regular basis – was agreed. To take effect from the next Ordinary Meeting on 16th February 2011.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM

_____ Chair