

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held at The Library,  
Tredegar on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:**                      **Councillor**    **H. Trollope**  
   **B Willis**  
   **M. Cross**  
   **A Tippings**  
   **T. Gregory**  
   **K. Hayden**  
   **D. Howells**  
   **P. Prosser**  
   **R. Thomas**  
   **J. Morgan**  
   **D. Rowberry**  
   **G Woolf**  
   **M. O’Sullivan (late)**

**In attendance:**                      **Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**

**Mrs. A. Jones - RFO**

**Also Present :**                      **Mr. C. James (Internal Auditor)**

**95) Apologies:**                      Cllrs. H. Woolf and G. Bowen-Knight (in hospital)

**The Leader reminded Members of the importance of making apologies directly to the Clerk and not giving them to other Members to pass on.**

## **96) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants**

Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls – A grant of £200.00p was recommended

Tredegar (Mon.) & District Canine Society – A grant of £200.00p was recommended – It was further agreed to write and thank them for their involvement in Armed forces Day.

Tredegar Camera Club – A grant of £200.00p was recommended

Vale View Allotments – It was agreed to defer this application pending a policy review.

Peacehaven Tenants/Residents Neighbourhood Watch Association – A grant of £200.00p was recommended

NSPCC – A grant of £50.00p was recommended

Shelter Cymru – A grant of £100.00p was recommended

## **Grants to Churches and Chapels**

Saron Congregational Church – A grant of £200.00p was recommended also further information supplied about other funding available.

### **97) To receive the report of the Internal Auditor and to approve the Annual Accounts and Return for 2009/2010**

1) The report of the Internal Auditor, Mr. Clive James, was received.

The underpayment in Pensions had been noted and corrected. It was agreed to review the pension provider. It was agreed to review the Risk Management Policy, especially with regard to the move back to Bedwellty House. He highlighted the need to monitor the impact of a reduction in staffing numbers to on the standard of governance – to ensure that the levels of servicing for the Council, are maintained. Changes to the VAT system meant that they could now be brought in line with the financial year(to be actioned by RFO/Internal Auditor) With thanks expressed to Staff for co-operation and information supplied, the Internal Auditor was able to certify the Internal Audit Section of the Annual Return. It was noted that the regulations regarding the submission of the Return have been amended therefore:

2) The Council authorises the Clerk to send a copy of Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Annual Return to the External Auditor.

3) Council confirms that the assurances recorded in the Annual Governance Statement are complete and final subject to the External Auditor's findings.

(A letter stipulating the above Minute to be sent with the Annual Return and the approval and notice to be displayed on completion.)

The Governance Statement was read and agreed unanimously and duly signed.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Internal Auditor and the RFO who then left. (6.30pm)

**Cllr. M. O'Sullivan arrived at 6.30 pm**

### **98) To receive Insp. Green, who will answer questions previously supplied by Members.**

Insp. Green was unable to attend – Members highlighted their previous request that PACT meetings should not clash with Town Council Meetings, something that PC Pat McGuire, standing in for the Inspector, said that he would take back. The questions posed and the written response from the Inspector had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting.

1) Have the revised Fixed Penalty Notices been received? Could you provide results of the recently promised "zero tolerance" blitz of the Town Centre with an update on the number of parking fines issued.

The Fixed penalty tickets have been received and my team have been issuing these to any vehicle that has breached the parking regs. A full article will appear in the local papers reinforcing the stance and the parking regs as they exist, this is being prepared by Ps Petrie and our corporate communications department.

2) Query the increasing number of car thefts throughout Tredegar and could you supply Members with the Car crime statistics for the last quarter.

I am very concerned at the perception that there has been an increase in ' Car thefts' throughout Tredegar and also where this perception has come from. I am happy to provide up to date figures in respect of ' Theft from motor vehicles' and ' Theft of motor vehicles' for Tredegar as a year on year comparison - 2009 to 2010 and 2010 to 2011.

2009 - 2010 Theft from vehicles = 31

2010 - 2010 Theft from vehicles = 24

2009 - 2010 Theft of motor vehicles = 17

2010 - 2010 Theft of motor vehicles = 13.

As can be seen there are reductions in both crime criteria, I would therefore be obliged if this message could be circulated as widely as possible amongst your colleagues and the various forums that they attend, to dismiss any myths that exist in respect of increases here and to increase public confidence in the police activity here to reduce and continue with the focus in doing so.

3) There appears to be an increase in Anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights and Members have noted that some shop keepers are closing early to avoid problems. Do you have any plans to increase patrols etc to cover these periods.

I am similarly concerned re the perception that Anti social behaviour is increasing in the Town Centre. This is totally incorrect and needs addressing and publicising by the town council in the various forums that its members attend. The Town centre has been the focus of increased patrols and sustained efforts by not only the police but many partner agencies too during the past 6 months. Ps Petrie and his team have devoted many hours of patrol to the area and as a result of the combined efforts of the police and the partner agencies, including the BGCBC, local pubs and clubs, etc anti social behaviour in the town has seen a significant decrease in the year on year comparison of 2009 / 2010 and 2010 / 2011.

ASBO for ALL categories that are recorded by Gwent police has seen a 33.3 % decrease in ALL ward areas of Tredegar. This equates to a drop from 726 recorded incidents to 484 incidents.

ASBO for ALL categories recorded by Gwent police for the Tredegar Central and West Ward ( which covers the town) has also seen a massive reduction of 47.8%. This equates to a drop from 433 to 226 incidents.

ALL categories of ASBO covers - 10 Sub categories of behaviour, ie - Animals, hoax calls, malicious nuisance, noise, prostitution, rowdy or nuisance behaviour, street drinking, trespass, vehicle nuisance, vehicles ( parking).

The one area that I tend to use as a gauge of activity is Rowdy and Nuisance behaviour - usually links to anti social youths. I am happy to report that Tredegar Central and West ward has seen a reduction here too - from 260 recorded incidents to 153.

As can be seen there have been significant efforts to reduce ASBO in all areas of Tredegar, not just the town center. Again I would urge you and your members to publicise these results in an effort to subdue quickly any myths and increase public confidence.

4) Police Surgeries – Members query the lack of publicity and are seeking a fixed timetable which can be advertised in advance.(Highlighted in my letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010, copy enclosed)

Police surgeries are well advertised on the Gwent Police Website and are supported by leaflet drops and local advertisements in retail outlets and community meeting points. I have also asked Key Individuals in the community of Tredegar to assist in the publication of these, ie Cllrs- both Borough and Town, Neighbourhood watch coordinators, etc.

5) P.C.S.O. Powers – also ref. my letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Members are seeking clarification of the responsibilities and powers of the PCSO's which are specific to Tredegar.

PCSO Powers - already supplied this list at a previous meeting, the powers are the powers - nothing specific to Tredegar !

6) Street Lighting – Members question again whether Police were consulted in respect of the lights switch-off. We have a response from Clive Rogers, Chief Technical Officer for Blaenau Gwent CBC to a question from Cllr. Gregory that states that you were. (copy attached for your information)

Street lighting - We were not part of the decision process to turn on or turn off lighting.

7) Burglaries – Members have queried Police response to and clear up rate of burglaries in the area which, they say, seem to be on the increase.

Burglary of dwellings has seen a small increase of 10 crimes in this fiscal year ( April to June) in Tredegar. My criminal investigation department have investigated all crimes and have made a number of arrests and with the assistance of the Crown Prosecution Service have charged several individuals to appear at court. My neighbourhood team visit every victim of burglary and offer support and guidance with my crime reduction department. A majority of these burglaries could have been prevented by the owner / occupiers taking simple precautions such as - locking all doors, windows. The Summer is with us and people will leave lower floor windows open, making it an easy opportunity for opportunistic burglars. Crime Prevention messages are sent out at this time of year to all home owners, these are supported by my officers who provide a 'Burglary pack' to all victims of this crime.

Gwent Police has commenced a Crime Prevention message with the assistance of Wynne Evans ( Welsh tenor) called ' Beat the Burglar'. The message is on our Gwent Police website. There will be a marketing campaign to publicise this by our corporate communications team - start is 3rd July which will combine visits by a team of officers and support staff to areas of Gwent where there have been increases in burglary. School Liaison officers will visit ALL schools in BGCBC area and deliver messages for the children to take home to their parents. More info on this initiative can be found in the interim on the Gwent Police Website, I would again urge all your members to publicise this very worthwhile project.

8) Pub Watch Scheme – you highlighted the “Traffic Light” system for Members previously. However many Members query its effectiveness with youngsters, as young as 12 years of age, being pictured on Facebook and similar sites in local pubs etc with alcohol.

Pub watch - I dare say that Facebook does show children with alcohol in their possession, however Facebook pictures are invariably not dated, etc and cannot be relied upon as evidence sufficient for consideration of prosecution. The effectiveness of Pubwatch schemes very much depends upon the motivation of its members, they are not run by police.

A number of incidents were discussed with PC McGuire and Members highlighted the previous Meeting of Council when a large number of people were in the street near the Library drinking alcohol. Much discussion ensued relating to anti-social behaviour, the benefits of the ‘Street Games’ scheme and the problems caused by constantly moving young people from one area to another. Members asked how many prosecutions had resulted directly from CCTV coverage and the Clerk was asked to write. The question regarding police surgeries raised response from Members by offering to host them in respective Community centres in Waundeg and Cefn Golau.

A Member raised, once again, the dangerous parking of cars at Mydriam Place, stating yet again that it was an accident waiting to happen. Details were noted by PC McGuire. Another Member also raised a query regarding the closure of the road above Trefil from 5pm in the evenings and over weekends – meaning that those who couldn’t walk up to the quarry were being penalised. She noted too, that there had been no consultation with villagers, commoners or Town Councillors – Clerk to write to BGCBC and Police.

The Mayor thanked PC McGuire who assured Members that he would take their concerns back to the Inspector and at 7.15pm he left the meeting.

## 99) CORRESPONDENCE

1) BGCBC (a) Notice that Divine Service at St Georges Parish Church is now at 3pm.

**RECEIVED AND NOTED.**

(b) Received by Cllr Trollope. Letter of congratulations to all at Tredegar Town Council from Des Hillman for Armed Forces Day Event.

**RECEIVED. The letter was warmly welcomed and it was agreed to write to Cllr. Hillman seeking his support to have the charges for Parc Bryn Bach waived – and the money put to the Help For Heroes Appeal.**

(c) Residential Development – Street naming, Glandoverly Terrace 10 units. No objections received against proposed name “Prince Llewellyn Court” therefore this will be presented for approval.

**RECEIVED AND NOTED**

(d) requesting meeting dates for Transport & Highways Principal Officer to attend to discuss community expectations regarding snow & to encourage community resilience.

**RECEIVED – It was agreed to invite the representatives to the Civic Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010. (Clerk to confirm)**

(e) Local Development Plan 2006-2021 update (4) June 2010, deposit plan now due out Autumn 2010.

**RECEIVED (copied to Cllr. Thomas)**

(f) SNAP! The Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Photographic Competition 2010 Poster & leaflets, closing date 15.10.10

**RECEIVED**

(g) (i) Licensing Applications Week Ending 13.6.10  
(ii) Licensing Applications Week Ending 20.6.10  
(iii) Licensing Applications Week Ending 4.7.10

**RECEIVED**

2) One Voice Wales

(a) One Voice Wales Details of and booking form for training events planned for the 6 modules of the Working With Your Councils Course.

**RECEIVED – It was suggested that Cllrs Prosser Cotton and H. Woolf might benefit from this training (Copies of the documents to be sent to them)**

(b) (i) Appointments to Community Health Councils, closing date 22.7.10

**Members were advised of the purpose of the CHC – the fact that they are the people who will help you if you have a dispute with your GP – he felt that more people should be made aware of what the CHC could do for them.**

(ii) Creative Industries Board, Appointment of Chair and 4 Members, closing date 15.7.10

**RECEIVED**

3) W.A.G.

Local Authority Byelaws in Wales – A consultation paper. Seeking views on the consultation paper which proposes a simplification to the byelaw process in Wales.

**RECEIVED. It was thought that the costs involved would prohibit take up.**

4) ICO

Confirmation of breach regarding complaint made by Mr Wells and advice on steps to be taken by Council to prevent any future incidents.

**RECEIVED. It was further agreed that the Clerk register the Council with the Data Protection Register (cost of £35) and that a “Publication Scheme” be drawn up as a matter of urgency.**

5) Brecon Beacons National Park

Request for information on whether we undertake works on public paths and costs of the works.

**RECEIVED. It was noted by Members that the membership of the Access Forum was purely observational, with no voting rights etc.**

6) H. Lewis

Free translation available to be added to website, cannot guarantee how accurate it is though.

**NOTED. Update on Web progress – a copy of Cllr. Morgan's Time Line to be sent to Hywel.**

7) A. Tippings

Link to wales.gov.uk website & information from the above link regarding Communities 1<sup>st</sup> membership.

**RECEIVED. It was noted that an Extraordinary Meeting of this organisation, chaired by GAVO was imminent. Members challenged any discrimination against Councillors sitting on community groups.**

8) Llangynidr Community Councillors

Councillors are interested in meeting to walk the boundary and discuss concerns.

**RECEIVED. It was agreed to seek information on the outcome.**

9) Cllr K. Hayden

Copy of letter received regarding the future of Tredegar Hospital – copied to all Members.

**RECEIVED. Members noted the content of the letter to Cllr. K. Hayden, the Clerk informed Members that no response had been received to her letter regarding the plaques etc.**

*Cllr. T. Gregory left the Meeting at 7.55pm.*

**A Member stated that anything made of wood would not be transferred to another hospital. It was agreed to write to Mr. David Jenkins, Chairman and Mr. Bobby Bolt, Locality Director of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and invite them to meet Council to discuss areas of concern. It was also agreed to further write to CADW with regard to the association of the hospital with Aneurin Bevan.**

10) Fair Trade

- (a) Online survey seeking views on the Fair Trade Wales Program "Fair Trade Ambassador", funding as been secured for a pilot in selected area across Wales.

**RECEIVED. It was agreed to forward the e-mail to Cllr. Tippings.**

- (b) Request for volunteers to help on Fairtrade stall at this year's Eisteddfod.

**RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.**

11) Armed Forces Day Event

- (a) Chris Rundle, ATC

Thanks for buffet at A.F.D. event, also request for truck fuel to be paid to him rather than the squadron, next outing is 11.7.10 B.G. Mayors Civic Service.

**RECEIVED. It was agreed to make the fuel payment directly. Thanks were expressed to all those who took part in the event.**

- (b) Wootton Bassett  
Thanks for invite to Armed Forces Day, thoroughly enjoyed. Support to Wootton Bassett is greatly appreciated.

**RECEIVED.**

- (c) Mr Baufield  
Correspondence regarding recent Armed Forces Day letter in Gazette.

**RECEIVED.**

12) Thanks received

- (a) Kidney Wales Foundation  
Letter of thanks for raised funds and copy of Annual Year Book 2010-11.

**RECEIVED. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Willis and Cllr H. Woolf who attended on his behalf.**

- (b) Mr G. Davies  
Thank you for support for the Trains event.

**RECEIVED. It was agreed to write to Mr. Davies and to Mr. Peter Morgan Jones to congratulate them on the success of the event. Also to nominate Mr. Davies for a Civic Award.**

- (c) Orvault  
Letter of thanks for the welcome received during the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary visit. Also included a thank you for Tredegar Comprehensive which we have now forwarded.

**RECEIVED. Concern was expressed about the Camelia and it was agreed to contact the School to endure that it was in good health.**

- (d) Cllr Thomas  
Letter of thank for condolences received.

**NOTED.**

## **100) PUBLICATIONS**

Hewitt Local Government Pension Scheme Employer briefing June 2010; BGCBC Road works report Week commencing 18.6.10; BGCBC Road Works report Week commencing 25.6.10; Living Churchyards Newsletter Issue 5 Summer 2010; J. Parker Wholesale catalogue Autumn 2010; BGCBC Road works report commencing 2.7.10; Living Churchyards Upcoming trips & training; Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report 2009/10; D. Vaughan European Update Summer 2010; Clerks & Councils Direct July 2010 Issue 70; Brecon Beacons National Park Confirmed Minutes of 4.3.10 meeting – email forwarded to Cllr H. Woolf & postal copy to Cllr R. Thomas.

## **101) AGENDA**

Executive Committee Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Joint Scrutiny Committees Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 at 3.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Joint Scrutiny Committees Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale report for agenda Item No. 10; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – distributed to relevant Cllrs 7.7.10; Licensing Committee Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Councils notice of pre-meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

2010 at 2pm Committee Room 4 - distributed to relevant Cllrs 7.7.10; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 9am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

## **102) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLY HOUSE AND PARK**

- 1) Return to Bedwellty House – it was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr. David Watkins to discuss arrangements for the return and future use of Bedwellty house by the Town Council. It was also agreed to contact other Clerks in the area with similar experiences for their information.
- 2) Appointments at Bedwellty House – it was noted that the Staffing Positions available at the House were being advertised and Members queried whether the Town Council might be involved in the selection process. Clerk to query.

## **103) PLANNING**

*Cllr. H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.*

- a) to consider an Officer's Report - **Received**

C/2010/0144 Erection of a single storey log cabin, Mrs Tiggywinkles Nursery, Stonelodge, Merthyr Road – Recommendation to **GRANT** planning permission with one condition.

- b) to consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

| App No    | Applicant                        | Proposal     |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 2010/0217 | Mr M Durham<br>66 Charles Street | Conservatory |

## **NO OBJECTIONS**

- c) to consider other planning matters - **NONE**

## **104) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN**

- 1) Tredegar Hospital – **This had been raised earlier. {see Minute No. 99 (9)}**
- 2) Armed Forces Day – to appeal costs for hire of Parc and equipment – **This had been raised earlier {See Minute No 99 1(b)}**
- 3) Xmas Lights Switch-On – To confirm date of switch on as 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 - **CONFIRMED**
- 4) Town Centre Policing – This had been dealt with earlier (**See Minute no 98 and discussions**)
- 5) Members requested that the base of the Town Clock be weeded. Clerk to action.
- 6) The following people had been recommended to Council for Civic Recognition:
  - a) Gerald Davies
  - b) Lauren Woolf (Kick-Boxing for Wales)
  - c) Robert Reynolds (Street Cleaning –Services to Tredegar)
  - d) Chris Sanders ( Shopping Centre – Services to Tredegar)

With the exception of Gerald Davies it was noted that Awards had already been made. It was agreed as previously detailed in Minute No 99 12(b) to nominate Mr. Davies.



- 7) Members noted that rumours had been circulating regarding a possible closure of Tredegar Fire Station – Clerk to make enquiries.
- 8) Access Road from the Heads of the Valleys to Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – Members agreed to support any attempts to bring this about. Mention was made of a meeting between Mr. Doug Harris – an ardent campaigner – and others. It was agreed that Tredegar Town Council support all attempts to bring about the link.
- 9) 20 mph Speed zones near schools – It was noted by Members that neither Bryn Bach Primary nor Glanhwy Junior School had a buffer zone around them – it was agreed to query this.

***Cllr. G. Woof left the Meeting at 8.15 pm***

- 10) Closure of Aneurin Bevan Home – **It was agreed that Town Council should support all actions to keep the Home open until another could be built in the Town and write to support.**
- 11) There were also reports that the Halifax in the Town Centre was due to close.
- 12) Woodfield Road development – it was reported that residents had concerns re rats and the state of the culvert. It was agreed to request a site meeting with both Planning and the Environmental Dept to answer concerns regarding:
  - a) Asbestos
  - b) Dust in James Street
  - c) damage to the culvert.

**Letter to be copied to all Georgetown Members.**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM.**

\_\_\_\_\_Chair