

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held at the Library, Tredegar on
Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at 6.30 p.m**

Present: **Councillor** **H. Trollope**
 B. Willis
 A. Tippings
 K. Hayden
 D. Rowberry
 Cllr. G. Bowen-Knight

In attendance: **Mrs. A. Jones – RFO**
 Ms. C. M. Keane – Town Clerk

337) Apologies **Cllrs D. Howells, T. Gregory and R. W. Thomas**

338) To receive a verbal report from the Civic Sub Committee Meeting of 2nd March 2011 with Tredegar Angling Club and consider their recommendations.

A report of the Meeting was presented and the RFO confirmed that both constitution and bank account had been checked. The recommendation of the Sub Committee was to award a grant of £150.

339) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants

Thanks were noted.

Cllrs. H. Trollope and D. Rowberry declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Hospice of the Valleys – A grant for £250 was recommended, with a note that this should be acknowledged on signage/advertising of the event. Should there be an opportunity for an Annual event then the possibility of a Town Council sponsored award would be looked at in the future.

Tredegar Athletic Football Club – It was agreed to meet with Officers of the Club.

Tredegar Angling Club – The verbal report of the sub-committee having been received a grant of £150 was recommended.

To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137)

None Received.

340) To receive an update on the “Heritage Summit” proposed for 9th March 2011.

It was noted that all invites had been sent and there seemed to be huge support from many organisations. It was agreed to gather contact details from people attending. There would also be an opportunity for people to interact and put forward buildings throughout the town that they were concerned about.

It was agreed to start with the powerpoint presentation followed by key speakers and then Gary Dann from Kidz R'Us who would show what could be done. The meeting would then be opened to members of the public for their ideas and suggestions. There would also be an exhibition area where letters that we had already sent and replies received would be available.

The idea that the Council should take a "back seat" for the meeting and be prepared to listen to the views of the public was key. Any possibility that regeneration of the Town might end with Bedwellty House and Park and that the other Authorities could hide behind the spending on that project would not be acceptable.

Cllrs. Morgan and H. Trollope declared an interest and took no part in the discussion when it turned to No 10 The Circle. This was a key building in the history of the Town and it was felt that it should be listed for its historical interest. It was further noted that a grant was available to the NCB Club, also a listed building and that both that and No. 10 the Circle were in the hands of the same receiver, Jones Giles of Cardiff. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact them to ascertain the current situation.

341) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC (a) Residential development – Peacehaven, Tredegar. Development will be known as "Bedwellty Gardens". It has been agreed that the Developer's Agent, Bairstow Eves, may liaise with local primary school under competition to put forward the most suitable and appropriate name(s) for the roads. Once a list of suggested street names is available they will contact us to ascertain which we consider most appropriate. Site layout plan of phased development enclosed.

RECEIVED.

- (b) Principal Engineer, Highways. Re Caving Hut Trefil – Funding unavailable at this time for wall or satellite navigation warning signs.

RECEIVED. A copy of the response was sought by Cllr. Tippings, who noted that it was the re-design of the road by the County Borough that had made the hut into an island. She called upon all Tredegar Borough Members to take the matter further.

- (c) Mrs. Liz Majer, Director of Social Service. Clarifying a point raised at the Consultation Meeting re a reduction of £20,000 within voluntary organisations – this is in relation to Service Level Agreements not to grant funding in any way.

RECEIVED

- (d) Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan Draft First Revision, comments to be submitted by 21.4.11

RECEIVED

- (e) Nicole Deufel offering 5/12/26.6.11 & 3.7.11 as possible Park concert dates.

RECEIVED. Thanks were expressed, and it was noted that the last meeting held with Ms. Deufel and Mr. Watkins was far more positive.

- (f) A. Tippings. Request to consider being involved in National Family Week 30.5.11 to 5.6.11, any type of event can be organised.

RECEIVED

Cllrs. Willis and Rowberry declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

- (g) List of Licensing Applications week ending 11.2.11.

RECEIVED

- 2) One Voice Wales A number of specialist volunteer responders needs to be established to assist with the increased number of policy consultations One Voice Wales have been invited to participate in. Councillors are invited to submit their names/email addresses as volunteer responders against one or more of the policy areas listed – list supplied.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.

- 3) SLCC 7th Larger Councils' Conference "Establishing the Impact of Localism", Thursday 14th & Friday 15th April at Hilton Hotel, Cardiff. Members Day delegates rates £100.00

RECEIVED. It was noted that a number of financial items of note were topics for discussion and it was agreed that the RFO and possibly the Internal Auditor might be interested. Awaiting complete agenda.

- 4) Powys County Borough Council

Powys Local Development Plan – Call for Potential Development Sites, Candidate Site Submissions, 14th February to 6th May 2011. (Excludes BBNP). Once finalised will replace the Powys Unitary Development Plan and used as future basis for planning decisions up to 2026. Potential Sites (candidate sites) to be used for housing, retail, recreation etc to be submitted now.

RECEIVED AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

- 5) Brecon Beacons National Park

- (a) Notice of Site Allocation Representations, Extension to Consultation Period due to amendments to Schedule, consultation period will now end 6.4.11

- (b) Request for views on UDP Draft Guidance Note which provides further detail on the practical interpretation and implementation of policies G3, G5, G6, Q13, Q14, Q16, Q17, Q18 & Q19 in relation to the design of new shop fronts.

RECEIVED AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

- 6) Heritage Summit

- (a) Civic Trust for Wales. Dr. Matthew Griffiths (Director) unable to attend but wishes to be kept informed of developments. Suggests that a way forward might be "via a building conservation trust which manages a revolving fund in order to invest in, find uses for and sell on the building it tackles" and gives contact addresses for the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Buildings Preservation Trusts.

RECEIVED. This was agreed as a major possibility (copy to the Heritage Summit) It was agreed that a new Town Guide be produced ready for production at the end of 2011.

- (b) Webmaster, Tredegar.co.uk. Thanks for Heritage Summit information, will mass email everyone and glad to support.

RECEIVED, WITH THANKS

- (c) Cllr Tippings. Apologies for Presentation Evening also expresses disappointment at invite to Jayne Sullivan to attend Heritage Summit.

RECEIVED

- 7) Sunnyvale Confirming funfair for AFD.

RECEIVED, WITH THANKS

- 8) Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod

Offer of 2 complimentary tickets and available dates.

RECEIVED, with thanks, to the incoming Mayor.

- 9) RNIB Cymru

Letter asking whether Mayor Elect will consider RNIB as the Charity of the Year during 2011.

RECEIVED

- 10) Energy Saving Trust The Welsh Assembly Government's "Ynni'r Fro" Programme which aims to promote the development of community scale renewable energy. Energy Saving Trust is managing the programme on behalf of W.A.G. and will be supporting social enterprises to develop their own installation that will then generate a sustainable, long term income. Details of support available to interested groups. Town & County Councils play an important role in that community groups will need further local support with community engagement.

RECEIVED, AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

- 11) GAVO (a) WRAP & Community Cohesion Workshop events list.
(b) Minutes and supporting documents from Meeting of 15.2.11

RECEIVED

- 12) Pear Technology Digital Mapping for Parish & Town Councils brochure.

RECEIVED

- 13) Royal British Legion Tredegar Branch

Article on "Save our Memorials".

RECEIVED – Copy to Mr. Frank Olding, War Memorials Officer BGCBC.

342) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 25.2.11; Ville D'Orvault Press cutting for January 2011; Wicksteed Playscapes Flexi-swing leaflet; BGCBC Road works report week ending 4.3.11; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique February 2011 No. 122; Aon Hewitt Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Briefing March 2011; Gwent Wildlife Details of Churchyard Natural History sessions in May run by Friends of Trevethin & St Cadoc's Churchyards

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

343) AGENDA

Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st March 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 7th March 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 8th March 2011 at 2pm, Council Chamber, Civic Centre,

344) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

See Minute No. 341. 1 (e) The dates of 5/12/26.6.11 & 3.7.11 as possible Park Concert dates were accepted, seating would be provided as in the past. There was an ongoing possibility that the catering by voluntary organisations might still be allowed. Further news that the pavilion, which could be used by bowls, tennis and the outdoor arena, was currently before planning, was welcomed. At this point it was mentioned for further consideration that the Council broadband system and phone tie in with the Borough's, meaning that calls to officers or departments within the County Borough would be free. There would also be an opportunity to visit the site next week.

The Twinning Association had been in touch to ascertain that as a Committee of Council they too would be able to have free use of a room for their meetings as previously.

Following discussions with both Ms. Deufel and Mr. Watkins, the possibility of having the Annual Meeting of Council at Bedwellty House with the Mayor's handover taking place in the Chamber was deemed possible, with a date of 25th May being considered. Reports that the Waterford Vase casing had been removed and destroyed were relayed with no response from Ms. Deufel by e-mail received to date. Although it was agreed that things might not necessarily go back in the same place, it was agreed that some things were too important to be hidden away.

Concerns were raised regarding the boundary wall and the work being carried out on the railings.

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

345) Planning

a) Officers Report

C/2010/0262 The Bush Hotel, Park Row, Tredegar- Appeal Dismissed by Planning Inspectorate.

It was noted by Members that the building opposite also displayed signs which were sometimes not professional in quality.

Tredegar Company Shop, Shop Row, Tredegar. Mr & Mrs Khan – Appeal Dismissed by Planning Inspectorate, recommends £161,629.55 costs are recoverable by BGCBC.

List of Delegated items determined between 21st January 2011 and 9th February 2011.

2010/0420 New build 4 bed detached house with integral garage (alternative positioning)

Resubmission. 24 Lakeside, Tredegar – Approved

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0042	Tech. Services Division, BGCBC Baldwin House, Ebbw Vale	Construction of new pavilion serving existing bowling green and tennis courts, Bedwellty Park, Morgan Street

Whilst not objecting in principle Members did query whether the materials and finishes were in keeping with the Park setting.

2011/0048 Mr G Aplin Residential Development (2 plots)
 “Arosfa” Maes Glas, “Arosfa” Maes Glas
 Stockton Way, Tredegar

Objections were made regarding site access overcrowding and increased traffic.

2011/0052 Mr I Schofield Retention of boundary walls & railings.
 1 Cefn Rhos, Tredegar

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters

C/2008/0095 Residential (Outline), land opposite Plymouth Arms, Merthyr Road, Tredegar –
Application withdrawn. – **NOTED**

A Member made those present aware of an application due to be received whilst she was on holiday and asked if queries regarding ownership of the land and legality of the application could be answered.

Members raised once again the fact that the burger van was still on site at Parker Motors. It was felt that the enforcement action previously notified should be followed through.

346) Matters of Local Interest and concern

- 1) A Member queried the works being undertaken at bus stops in town, it was noted that funding had been made available to modernise the bus stops, improving their design and accessibility. The fact that no information had been received by the Town Council prior to this work starting was noted. It was a matter of concern for all that although strictly speaking in the Central & West Ward, the Town centre was something for all Councillors to be consulted about. It was agreed to write to Planning & Highways pointing out the lack of notification.
- 2) Following also from this a Member queried the fact that the cobbles that had been disturbed by works in many part of the town had not been replaced – just with tarmac.
- 3) Trip to Parliament – awaiting information.
- 4) The Mayor reminded Members that tickets for the Mimics were available.
- 5) He also detailed his visit to the Yeti Project at Cefn Golau and highly praised all those who took part. The winners had wanted to donate their earnings to his Mayor’s Appeal but he felt that after putting in so much hard work they should enjoy their rewards.
- 6) He had also attended the Annual Dinner at Moose International and had received a cheque for £150 for his Appeal.
- 7) The T2520 Bomber Memorial Cairn site – a possibility for HLF funding to improve the site was raised.
- 8) The invitations, partners welcome, for the Mayor’s Inauguration on 26th May to be sent as soon as possible to be able to firm up numbers for the Moose Hall.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.45 PM

_____ **CHAIR**