

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at the Library, Tredegar on Wednesday 20th
April 2011 at 6.30pm.**

Present:	Councillor	A. Tippings
		M. Cross
		H. Trollope
		B. Willis
		D. Rowberry
		P. Prosser
		J. Morgan
		K. Hayden
		R. Thomas
		H. Woolf
		A. Cotton (arrived late)

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

394) Apologies: Cllrs. D. Howells, T. Gregory and S. Trollope

Member stood in silence to mark the passing of Mr. Alan Fox, former Member of the Town, County and Borough Councils, First Mayor of Tredegar and a Freeman of the Town. Many Members recalled his contribution to the life of the Town and the many and varied organisations that he had been involved in, and that he would be missed by all. He would offer advice when asked and it would be constructive and well thought through. The Leader was praised for the role he played in the Celebration of Alan's life that had been held previously. He had handled a difficult task with dignity.

395) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded Members to make declarations of interest at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

396) Grants: To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.

Tredegar Cricket Club – A grant of £150.00 was approved

Tredegar & District Canine Society – A grant of £200.00 was approved

Grants: Churches & Chapels (s.137) to approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
There were none

397) ACCOUNTS: TO CONSIDER A SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID IN MARCH 2011 AND FOR PAYMENT IN APRIL 2011.

The accounts having previously inspected by the Mayor and Leader and cheques and invoices reconciled were approved. A cheque had been withheld on a previous occasion and the Deputy Leader agreed to speak to the contractor concerned. A number of cheques remained outstanding and the RFO was asked to chase them up.

The RFO left the Meeting at 6.35 pm.

398) TO VERBALLY RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE OF 20TH APRIL 2011.

The verbal report of the Performance review meeting was received by Members. The RFO was warmly congratulated for the excellent presentation of figures and the following items were noted as requiring further attention: Xmas lighting grants, Clock planting and sponsorship, allotments and Xmas lighting. The RFO was praised for her accuracy and diligence and the reduction in Pension contributions, which had been checked and would not directly affect staff, was agreed and implemented. The report was received and approved unanimously.

399) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE EVENTS MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON SITE AT PARC BRYN BACH ON 16TH MARCH 2011.

The minutes were received and accepted as a true record.

400) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 1) It was noted that a response regarding the bar proposed by Kidz R'Us was still awaited. It was further noted by Members that additional bar facilities had been available for the Eisteddfod.
- 2) Members were informed that Ms. Iris Williams would be attending and that information regarding a possible RAF Helicopter being flown in on the day was still pending. This was a direct result of co-operation and help by Chris Rundle of the ATC and his help and co-operation was noted by all.
- 3) It was agreed to invite all Town Mayors, Borough Councillors, the new Mayor of Blaenau Gwent and to issue a public plea for all current and serving members of the Armed Forces to attend.
- 4) Members were dismayed that neither the Manager nor any other staff members of the Parc took part in the site meeting.

401) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH MARCH 2011.

The minutes were received and accepted as a true record.

402) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.

- 1) Aneurin Bevan Health Board (Ms. Bolt) It was agreed to invite Ms. Bolt to a Meeting for an update on the services at the new hospital and an update on the General Hospital following the setting up of the Heritage Steering Group.
- 2) Walk for Life – a request for all donations to be returned asap was made and it was agreed that the incoming Mayor and consort as well as two others should attend the presentation.
- 3) Woodfield Rd – it was noted that a meeting had been held the same day with residents and Officers of the Borough and that some agreement had been reached, with road surfaces being

renewed on completion. The question of renewal of surfacing following remedial work by utility services and others to be put on the agenda for the next Consultation Meeting with the Borough.

4) Waterford Crystal Vase – Members were not satisfied with explanations relating to the oak case and awaited a response from the House Manager.

5) Draft Regeneration Strategy – Cllr. Morgan had drafted the following comments which were agreed:

a) New housing in Tredegar should be balanced between rented and owner occupied ensuring that owner occupancy does not fall below Tredegar present average.

b) A housing ladder structure must be introduced from affordable housing to housing for professionals and higher management. The building of bungalows should be including designed especially for the elderly.

c) Regeneration and improvements are required to a tired Tredegar town centre.

d) The towns historic building need to be protected and preserved revitalized with new uses found. Within the Conservation Area roads and pathways should be maintained to a high standard being repaired to existing finishes. Uniform finishes must be introduced.

e) Completion of the Tredegar Business Park with high quality premises and a link being included between the park and the Promenade.

f) Completion of the Heads of the Valleys road to include direct access to the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate and Parc Bryn Bach.

g) Improve public transport links especially with places of work the new train link new collage and hospitals. Evening transport should be adequate and relevant.

h) Build and promote the Industrial, Health and Social History of Tredegar

i) Develop cultural, performance and concert facilities in Tredegar to match those in the other towns in the borough.

j) Replacement of Aneurin Bevan Home with new facility

k) Provide initiatives for raising life expectancy, quality of life healthy living etc

l) To keep Blaenau Gwent clean and green and to improve and maintain the quality of the natural environment.

m) To maintain the green divide that marks each separate part of the County Borough

The comments were to be e-mailed to the Clerk to pass to the Borough.

6) Energy from Waste Generating Station – it was believed that a meeting was being held in Ebbw Vale to seek views. Cllr. H. Woolf advised Council that he would be unable to comment or offer advice on any part of this proposal due to his work connections.

7) Planning Application 2011/0075 – Clarification was still being sought.

8) Bedwellty House – a number of Members had seen the new web-site for Bedwellty House and Park and thought that the request for people to volunteer in the Park would replace paid employment.

403) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2011.

The minutes were received and accepted as a true record.

404) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

1) It was noted that the representatives from Carillion had given a presentation the night after our Meeting which had been well attended, with a majority of people preferring a pelican crossing not a bridge over the extended Heads of the Valleys road.

2) Orvault visit – a representative from Town Council still being sought.

3) Scouts time capsule – it was agreed to check if the capsule had been unearthed during the recent renovation works.

405) TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF 18TH APRIL 2011

The minutes were received and accepted as a true record.

406) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 1) Opening Event – it was suggested that the Mayor of the day might present a scroll with a message to be read at the House.
- 2) Tredegar Hill Memorial– it was agreed that the casket should be returned on 4th June at 2.15pm. Members were concerned that the full contents of the cabinet may not be replaced. It was agreed that there should be a service at St. John's and a procession to the House.
- 3) Office accommodation – again this raised concerns with decreased space and lack of storage being issues. Further meeting with officers requested.
- 4) Artefacts – concerns that were raised relating to insurance cover if the artefacts were damaged whilst being unpacked by the House Manager had already been addressed by the Clerk who had e-mailed the House Manager with these concerns and that the Borough would be held fully accountable.
- 5) Band Concerts – Stewards to be sought, bands to be confirmed.

It was agreed that the Deputy Leader had tackled a series of difficult queries well.

407) TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20TH APRIL 2011

The verbal report of the Heritage Committee was received. It was agreed that all 7 applicants who had supplied details of their past involvements and interests be invited to join, together with Mrs. Megan Fox who had also put her name forward. It was agreed that no Borough Members be involved on the Steering Group so that there could be no conflict of interest and that by being on the Borough and its Committees they might serve a far more useful purpose by supporting any requests made by the Steering Group. It was further agreed that 4 Members of Tredegar Town Council take part and Councillors Morgan, Prosser and Howells were put forward, with Cllr. Tippings to Chair the first meeting. Representatives from the Borough's Regeneration and Heritage also to be invited. The Clerk would take the minutes for the first meeting and a draft constitution was available on the AHF website. The fact that this was not a Council led project was re-iterated. There were suggestions that the Leader and Deputy Mayor meet with officers from the Borough to discuss the future of No 10 The Circle.

408) CONSULTATION WITH TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS – TO CONSIDER ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA.

The following items were put forward:

- 1) State of the roads in Tredegar - with some areas within the conservation area not being replaced like for like by the Utility companies and others.
- 2) Planning - we understand that the planning department receives three copies of the application form, plans and specification ref Town & Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1998 SI 1988/1812 and Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 SI 1995/419 - it was previously the practice to pass one of these to the local council. Could you confirm whether 3 copies are still received from applicants.
- 3) The need for a cultural and performing arts centre for Tredegar is still being highlighted.
- 4) The Corus Site - questions have been asked whether the workforce is in line with the "social contract" requirements. Is it known what percentage of the workforce is local.

409) CORRESPONDENCE.

1) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council

Staff & Members offer their condolences to Megan, family & friends of Alan Fox.

RECEIVED.

2) BGCBC (a) Precept payment for 2011/12.

RECEIVED.

- (b) N. Deufel Re: Re-instatement of Tredegar Hill Memorial. Offering 2pm on June 4th (day of reopening) for the return of the Memorial with possibly a procession from the Bandstand to House. Unable to confirm an earlier date due to uncertainty of handover of House from contractor.

RECEIVED.

- (c) Alun Evans Re: Merthyr Rd, Tredegar. Reply to letter dated 11.4.11 road is not part of the identified Strategic Highway Network and is therefore unlikely to receive funding for delivery of a significant project. However they are currently working with Bryn Bach School to improve road safety in the immediate area including consideration of a 20mph speed limit and new footway links. Introduction of a weight restriction will not be supported.

RECEIVED. A suggestion had been made by the School for a time limited weight restriction i.e. for the busy hour in the morning and afternoon when the children are dropped off and picked up. A Governor of the School had checked if there had been contact from the Borough and was told that this was not the case. At this point Members raised the issue of lorries over 7.5 Tonnes using Beaufort Road. It was noted that they were delivering to a factory and a main store in the Waun-y-pound area. The amount of traffic using this area was highlighted with a call for a zebra crossing and also information to be requested regarding the number of accidents.

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

- (d) List of Licensing Applications week ending 1.4.11

RECEIVED

- (e) Poster for Family History Open Day on 14.5.11 10am to 3pm Tredegar Library – added to TTC website 13.4.11

RECEIVED.

3) One Voice Wales Agenda for Larger Local Councils Committee Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 10am Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells.

RECEIVED. Apologies sent

4) SLCC Regional training and events guide April-July – Regional Conference 28th June 2011 at Llandrindod Wells, Members £65/Non members £85.

RECEIVED. The Clerk to attend.

5) Armed Forces Day

- (i) Tredegar & District Floral Art Society
Good luck for the AFD and enclosed a cheque for £50.00 in aid of H4H appeal.

(ii) Blaenau Gwent Arthritis Support. £15 cheque donation towards the Help for Heroes Appeal.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

6) Tredegar Community Interest Company

Returning grant cheque for £200, the planned project will not be going ahead.

RECEIVED, SADLY.

7) MacMillan Cancer

Celebrating 100 years this year, requesting we participate in the celebration by holding a special fundraising event or including them as part of another event with the hope that groups can raise £100s throughout 2011.

RECEIVED.

8) Cllr H Trollope

Link to donation page for Cameron Hudd.

RECEIVED Personal donations welcome.

9) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Vacancies on Local Access Forum, closing date 9th May 2011.

RECEIVED

10) Communicorp

Local Councils Update April 2011 Issue 138 – items copied for Members.

RECEIVED

11) Fields in Trust

Reminder that there is still time to submit community outdoor Recreational space for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

RECEIVED

12) Western Power Distribution

Details of Stakeholder Workshops on Future Investment Plans.

RECEIVED

13) The Public Catalogue Foundation

Information on the Foundation and request to include details of our oil paintings in a future catalogue called “Oil Paintings in Public Ownership in South Wales”.

RECEIVED

14) Listed Property Owners Club

Offer to contact us when Clock insurance is due for renewal.

RECEIVED

15) Blaenavon World Heritage Site

Poster for Welsh Salon of Photography Exhibition 2011 9th April to 6th May, 9am to 5pm at World Heritage Centre; and Torfaen’s Heritage & Beyond 14th May to 26th June, 9am to 5pm at World Heritage Centre.

RECEIVED

410) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Press cutting for March 2011; BGCBC Road works Report week ending 22.4.11; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 124 April 2011 & Orvault#48 ma Ville Magazine April-June 2011; W & S Safety work wear catalogue.

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

411) AGENDA

Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 14th April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 18th April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Friday 15th April 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 13th April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 21st April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 5.30pm Miner's Institute, Llanhilleth; Executive Meeting Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 11am, Item No. 11.01 notice of exempt item; Licensing Committee Tuesday 3rd May 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

412) DELEGATES: TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM DELEGATES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES.

- i. Bedwellty Park Management Board – **No Report**
- ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils – **No Report**
- iii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales- **No Report**
- iv. Tredegar Twinning – **Concerns raised over the Camelia in the Comprehensive School – governors were asked to ensure that it was watered, possible relocation to be considered.**
- v. School Governing Bodies – **No Report**
- vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled – **Cuts by Blaenau Gwent were highlighted and it was agreed to write to the Borough in support of the Council for the Disabled.**
- vii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee - **No Report**
- viii. Tredegar Youth Café - **No Report**
- ix. Blaenau Gwent CAB - **No Report**
- x. Communities First Board – **together with Pathways engage with stakeholders who are difficult to engage, possibility of sensory garden at Cefn Golau.**
- xi. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – **details given of alarms available for sheds etc via Community Police Officers**
- xii. Tredegar Business Forum - **No Report**
- xiii. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – **Discussion of LDP, private development being taken over by Association Housing reducing the housing ladder, HOV, preservation & protection of buildings of historical importance, sites listed for development to be put on display amongst them the Milefield site. A proposed unit recycling waste as**

- compost at Waun-y-pound with consultations at Hilltop, which due to its location should also include Tredegar. Seek presentation.**
- xiv. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **A presentation of photos not seen before to be made at the House opening event.**
 - xv. Blaenau Gwent HARPS Project - **No Report**

413) PLANNING:

a) To consider an Officer's Report – None Received

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0101	Mr Jenkins 105 Peacehaven, Tredegar	Erection of conservatory in rear garden of existing bungalow
NO OBJECTIONS		
2011/0105	Mrs Thomas 29 Llwyn Cyncoed, Oakdale	Retention of retaining wall and boundary fence, 24 (plot 4) Maes Morgan, Nantybwlch
No objection in principle but concerns that this might increase risks of flooding in neighbouring properties.		
2011/0108	Mr D Spears David Spears Commercials Ltd The Granary, Pant Glas, Llanishen	Replacement of perimeter fence (new material & height), Former Geith Site, Crown Business Park
NO OBJECTIONS materials to be in keeping		

c) To consider other planning matters

C/2009/0276 Retention of engineering works to altered grounds levels and profiles for the purpose of grazing, Land rear of Marion Close & adjacent to Jesmond Dene Stadium Tredegar – REFUSED 5.4.11

C/2011/0048 Residential Development (2 plots) Arosfa, Maes Glas, Tredegar – REFUSED 12.4.11

414) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

- 1) The car wash at the garage from near the roundabout from the Heads of the Valleys to Trefil and to the bypass was described as an eyesore – to contact Environment & Planning Control.
- 2) Cars continuing to be sold on Beaufort Road – write to the Borough
- 3) The recent Connect to brochure from the Borough seemed to highlight how little was being spent on Tredegar

415) ADDITIONAL ITEM

416) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.

This was agreed

417) No. 10 The Circle – discussion took place concerning the future of the building

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEEETING CLOSED AT 9PM

_____ **CHAIR**