

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Room 2 at the Library, Tredegar on Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 6.00 p.m

Present:	Councillor	H. Trollope
		B. Willis
		M. Cross
		A. Tippings
		D. Howells
		K. Hayden
		D. Rowberry
		R. W. Thomas
		T. Gregory
		G. Bowen-Knight
		G. Woolf

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

270) Apologies: Cllrs H. Woolf, S. Trollope
Cllrs J. Morgan and P. Prosser (at the Bedwellty
House & Park Management Meeting)

A minutes silence was held at the start of the Meeting to mark the passing of Cllr. Terry Maggs, funeral details were relayed to Members, with those possible attending.

271) Declarations of Interest

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

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

- a) Time Banking Spirit of Bevan Studio – **A grant for £200 was approved**
- b) Sling Shot Street Band – **A grant for £200 was approved**
- c) St. John Ambulance Tredegar Division – **A grant for £500 was approved**
- d) The Community Interest Company – **A grant for £200 was approved**
- e) Homemaker Community Recycling – **Correspondence item 3(b) was taken at this time and read by the Clerk. Cllr. Trollope was adamant that at no time had he given permission for this group to visit Monwell Hankinson – something which was beyond his remit. He requested that the proposed grant of £100 be held until this matter had been resolved. This was agreed unanimously.**

Grants: Churches & Chapels (s.137) to approve grants to Churches and Chapels.

THERE WERE NONE

273) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in December 2010 and for payment in January 2011.

The cheques and invoices had been checked and reconciled by the Mayor prior to the Meeting and were approved, with a decrease of £100 to reflect the decision regarding Homemaker Community Recycling.

274) To verbally receive the recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee of 19th January 2011.

The recommendations were outlined by the RFO. It was proposed by Cllr M. Cross and seconded by Cllr. K. Hayden to accept the recommendations of the Performance Review Committee. This was agreed unanimously.

Mrs. Jones, RFO left the Meeting at 6.25 pm and Cllr. P. Prosser joined at 6.25 pm.

275) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15th December 2010.

The Minutes were received and adopted as a true record.

276) Matters arising not on the Agenda.

- 1) Minute No 244 Hospice of the Valleys – It was noted that there had been no news of an event to replace the “Winter Wonderland” cancelled because of the weather.
- 2) Minute No 247 (2) Members requested that the Clerk write again to Mrs. Bolt regarding memorabilia at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. It was noted that the photo was by Karsch a famous photographer. The lack of response by Regeneration was noted and Member highlighted the plight of a number of Listed buildings in the area – the NCB Club, British Legion Truck Shop. All corners of the Town centre held buildings with an uncertain future. The lack of support and help from key organisations was noted again and a “Heritage Summit” was suggested to bring together organisations such as CADW, HLF, Assembly Members, Civil Servants and members of local societies to form an alliance to preserve the working class heritage of the town. Members felt that they were shouting in the dark and although in the centre of a Conservation Area, there would be nothing left to conserve. Member were reminded of the march from Tredegar to Ebbw Vale some years ago. Some of those present had taken part. THE PROPOSAL FOR A HERITAGE SUMMIT WAS TO BE AGENDAED FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE.
- 3) Minute No. 247 (4) Details of the relevant RAF charities had been sourced and it was agreed that the monies raised at the Memorial Service (£314.17p) should be divided equally between the local ATC division and the RAFBF (R.A.F. Benevolent Fund) which provided support to members past and present as well as their families and dependents. This was agreed unanimously.

Cllr. J. Morgan joined the Meeting at 6.32 pm.

- 4) Minute no 250 (3.k) Licensing of Council Chamber for Weddings. In response to the Council’s written objection, a call had been received from the Legal Dept. querying whether the objection still stood following the meeting with the House Manager and Blaenau Gwent staff held previously. The Clerk informed the Members that although the security of items within the drawers of the Chamber had been discussed and hopefully resolved, the objection to the room being used for Weddings etc still stood. The objection to this use was re-iterated by all Members present.
- 5) Minute No 250 (5) It was agreed to contact Wootton Bassett for a suitable date.
- 6) Minute No 253 (viii) It was noted that the time should be 2pm – this was amended.

7) Minute No.255 (6) Mayor's Christmas Visits – following the success of the visits it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Town Band for their support and also write in thanks to Mr. Matthew Harley who had supplied the bus and treated everyone with great courtesy.

277) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting of Council held on 12th January 2011

The Minutes were received and adopted as a true record.

278) Matters arising not on the agenda

Subject to Minute No 272 (e)

279) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held on 12th January 2011

The Minutes were received and adopted as a true record.

280) Matters arising not on the agenda.

- 1) Subject to Minute no 272 (e) (regarding Homemakers)
- 2) Minute No 260 (1d a) re lack of gritting at Vitcc Centre. It was highlighted by Members that although streets were gritted during the recent snowfall the fact that car parks remained uncleared and unsalted, resulted in chaotic parking on the main roads, making pedestrian and disabled access impossible in parts
- 3) Minute No 260 (4) Ref the artwork being commissioned by Tredegar Town Council for the Twinning Association – it was agreed to contact the artist at the Spirit of Bevan Studio to check progress.
- 4) Minute No. 260 (5) It was noted that Parc Bryn Bach was also amongst the Heart and Soul of Wales top 50 and Members were encouraged to vote for both.
- 5) Minute No. 260 (10) It was further agreed to hold an event in Bedwellty Park
- 6) Minute No 260 (11) It was agreed to place both on the Council web site and the Facebook page created by Cllr. Tippings.
- 7) Minute No 265 (2) Addition to minute – a Member had previously reported rumours from a very good source that the General Hospital would be demolished within eighteen months. The same source had previously predicted the fate of “Arosfa”. It was agreed to change the Minute to record this.

281) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC

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

- (a) A. Tippings – Community Tourism Ambassador Training, details of The Valleys Community Tourism Scheme. The voluntary ambassadors will promote and enhance the Valleys as an attractive area for visitors. The scheme encourages volunteers from all walks of Valleys life to receive free, accredited training and become a welcoming host and a source of information for their locality. This training will consist of two core modules – Croeso Cynnes (Warm Welcome) and Local Studies, specific to the Ambassadors' community. In addition further special interest modules will be available.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the training would be provided free of charge and that the ambassadors would operate on a voluntary basis. The information was available to all interested Members.

- (b) Dave Watkins – Notice Board at Bedwellty Park, confirming that our notice board is being stored at Bedwellty Park and will be re-instated somewhere in the courtyard area towards the end of the work.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the site was to be identified – but that the requirements of notification in the LGA 1972 Sch 12, paras 10 (2)(a) and 26 (2)(a) to be adhered to.

- (c) Licensing
W/Ending 07.01.2011 Licensing List

RECEIVED.

- (d) Local Development Plan 2006-2021 – Consultation delayed and will now take place in Spring 2011

RECEIVED.

3) For Information Only

- (a) Letter from Technical Services Division, BGCBC – RE: Traffic Management, Tredegar Comprehensive School. A Prohibition of Waiting Traffic Order is proposed at Stable Lane and will be introduced as part of the new housing development. Unable to state a timescale for implementation at the moment.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the car park nearby had been barred to prevent misuse thus taking it out of commission but that this would in future be the main car park for Bedwellty House.

- (b) Letter from Cllr, H Trollope sent to Homemakers asking why they “claim” he had given them permission to visit Monwel Hankinson and requesting an apology to be made to the staff of Monwel Hankinson as they believe Cllr Trollope has exceeded his powers.

RECEIVED. This item of correspondence taken during Grants - Refer to Minute No 272 (e)

4) One Voice Wales

- (a) Buckingham Palace Garden Party Tuesday 12th July 2011, invite to submit current Chairperson for possible selection. Nominations must be received by 18.3.11.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to nominate Cllr. Trollope and his escort, Jean.

5) Welsh Assembly Govt.

- (a) Guidance on Borrowing by Community and Town Councils in 2011-12

RECEIVED.

- (b) Confirmation of Section 137(3) Expenditure Limit for 2011-12, £6.43 per elector.

RECEIVED and NOTED.

6) Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Letter From Ms. Bobby Bolt regarding the equipment at Tredegar General Hospital.

RECEIVED. A subsequent conversation with the Facilities Manager Mr. Colin Philpott was relayed by the Clerk, in which he stated that there had been water ingress and damage to ceilings and floors due to the theft of lead from the roof. This damage was to be repaired as best they could, but that the heating was still on. Equipment left – some had been earmarked for alternative sites and was awaiting collection, an itinerary of what was left would be made available for Town Council in 2/3 weeks. Records from the Hospital and Bevan House had been taken to the County Archivist and were secure. However he also stated that the intention to use the site as a resource centre would mean “a third party

build” and that it “wouldn’t need the same footprint” but that part of it would be cleared for use as a car park. The urgent need for a Heritage Summit was again re-iterated.

7) Gwent Valleys One Voice Partnership

Agenda for meeting on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at Cwmbran Community Council Offices, The Council House Ventnor Road old Cwmbran NP44 3JY

RECEIVED. Cllrs Cross and O’Sullivan to attend.

282) PUBLICATIONS

Care4You Training Details of available course all VAT free; Road works report week ending 21.1.11; Newsletter 2011, planting watering products; Shelter Cymru Training Offers February 2011.

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

283) AGENDA

Bedwellty Park Management Board on Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 5pm Tredegar Library; Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 2.00pm; Crime and Disorder and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Monday 24th January 2011 at 2.00pm; Audit Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 2.00pm.

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

284) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/working Parties.

- i. Bedwellty Park Management Board – It was noted that dates for these meetings still clashed with Town Council Meetings, it was agreed to send a list of dates of Town Council Meetings so that they did not. A number of items were brought back by Members who had attended the Board meeting:-
 - a) Although the works were 14 weeks behind schedule the planned date of 7th May for the first wedding could still be met.
 - b) The Long Shelter was nearly complete as was the block of coal structure and the kitchen garden.
 - c) Phase II Bowls Pavilion – Members reported that the funding was not yet in place. This caused great dismay and Members agreed to back any moves to make sure that funding was secured.
 - d) Charges for rooms –details were relayed to Members, it was felt that local groups and organisations who had previously used the House would be priced out. It was noted again that other areas have multiple use venues owned by BGCBC which could be hired out at low costs.
 - e) Security – patrols were in place both day and night.
 - f) Park Toilets – these were due to be refurbished at a cost of £50,000. Members were mindful that the toilets had been closed following refurbishment previously, due to their misuse and that facilities would be available in Bedwellty House. Some Members thought that such funds would be better spent on the Bowls Pavilion, which would be well used and looked after.
 - g) Rumours of changes in local Unitary Authorities to a “Heads of the Valleys Authority” were raised. Members queried that should this happen the trusteeship of the

House and Park which lay with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, should be offered back to Tredegar Town Council in the first instance.

h) The actions of the “Management” Board were called into question, with decisions being made and taken without any consultation – similar to that at Parc Bryn Bach.

- ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils - **NO REPORT**
- iii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales - **NO REPORT**
- iv. Tredegar Twinning - **NO REPORT**
- v. School Governing Bodies – Members reported the success of the Christmas Lunch for senior citizens put on by Tredegar Comprehensive and featuring Georgetown Primary School. Congratulations were sent to all those who took part and helped organise the event. Special mention was made of James Sillman as a future singing star. There was also a dramatisation by local Police of door step distraction burglary which struck a chord with many. Queries regarding the selection of people to attend the event were raised and it was agreed to enquire how the selection was made.
- vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled - **NO REPORT**
- vii. Brecon Beacons Advisory Group - **It was agreed to remove this item from the list.**
- viii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee - **NO REPORT**
- ix. Tredegar Youth Café – **Cllr. Roger Thomas was appointed as the new representative of Tredegar Town Council, it was agreed to inform the Café.**
- x. Tredegar Development Trust - **NO REPORT**
- xi. Blaenau Gwent CAB - **It was noted by Members that Blaenau Gwent CAB had amalgamated with Caerphilly and would shortly be returning to Catapult.**
- xii. Communities First Board - **NO REPORT**
- xiii. Blaenau Gwent Joint Liaison Committee – **It was agreed to amend this title to “Consultation with Town and Community Councils”**
- xiv. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel - **NO REPORT**
- xv. Tredegar Business Forum - **There had been no contact from the Forum and it was agreed ask for a list of meeting dates.**
- xvi. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum - **NO REPORT**
- xvii. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum - **NO REPORT**
- xviii. Blaenau Gwent HARPS Project - **NO REPORT**

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

285) Planning:

- a. To consider an Officer’s Report – **NONE RECEIVED**
- b. To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council’s observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0001	Mr P McGarth Carig-y-Nant, Rose Cottage	Retention of roller shutters to C&K hair hair salon Crown Avenue, Tredegar.

No Objections. Members noted that the provision and retention of roller shutter doors throughout the Town was raising many concerns locally.

2011/0007	Mr. M Roberts Appointed Administrator For the Estate of the Late Brian Roberts. Tamarisk, Trethurgy, St.Austell, Cornwall	Proposed Dwelling Plot Land Adjoining Tafarn Ty Uchaf Trefil
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No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

285) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) Problems regarding damage to the Caving Club hut on the turning circle at Trefil were outlined. It was noted that damage had been caused by large vehicles attempting to turn. It was agreed by Members to write to the Highways Department, BGCBC to see if a low wall might be built to protect the building. Also the use of satellite navigation was difficult in this area and there was a request for warning signs to be erected.

2) A Member advised the strong possibility that the Accident and Emergency Unit in Nevill Hall hospital would be reduced from a 24/7 facility in April 2011, with no provision for accident and emergency coverage after 6pm, with the Royal Gwent being suggested as an alternative. Members were outraged at this news and that people from as far afield as Brecon would be expected to travel to Newport for cover. The Clerk was instructed to write urgently to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board seeking clarification.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15PM

_____CHAIR