

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held at The Library, Tredegar on Wednesday
1st September 2010 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present:	Councillor	H. Trollope
		B Willis
		M. Cross
		A Tippings
		K. Hayden
		D. Howells
		P. Prosser
		R. Thomas
		S. Trollope
		J. Morgan
		D. Rowberry
		G Woolf
		H. Woolf
		A. Cotton

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

133) Apologies: **Cllr. T. Gregory; G. Bowen-Knight**

134) TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL/SPORTING GRANTS

Thanks were received from:- Catapult Football Club; Kidz R Us; NSPCC; Shelter Cymru; Tredegar Amateur Boxing Club; Tredegar Gardening Club

Cllrs. B. Willis, J. Morgan and H. Trollope all declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum- A grant of £200.00 was recommended

Friends of Tredegar Twinning Association- A grant of £200.00 was recommended

Heads of The Valleys Gateway Club- A grant of £200.00 was recommended

Tredegar Badminton Club- A grant of £150.00 was recommended

Tredegar Ironsides RFC- A grant of £150.00 was recommended

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

Tredegar Town AFC (seniors) – **A grant of £150.00 was recommended**

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

None Received, mention was made of a forthcoming concert to be held at Saron Chapel by Helen Shapiro – interested Members to contact Cllr. Tippings. It was agreed to write to the Chapel to see if we could offer more help.

135) CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) BGCBC (a) Dave Watkins RE: Armed Forces Day Parc Bryn Bach – After discussions with park manager who confirmed microphone issue was resolved, he is advising Council no reduction or refund can be offered on the hire of the park.

Received. Members were still unhappy that the PA system had failed and that we had not been able to test prior to the event. It was agreed that Cllr. A. Cotton would inspect the current systems owned by Tredegar Town Council.

- (b) Des Hillman - Congratulations on a successful Armed Forces day. As the P.A system problem was resolved it did not distract from the formal proceedings. With regards to the alleged conversation between Mr. Bourne and Borough Mayor, “was it in jest perhaps?”. Also the Armistice Day Service situation with RBL was resolved.

Received. The suggestion that the remarks were made in jest was refuted by all the Members of council who were within hearing distance. Whilst acknowledging the fact that the “Armistice incident” had been resolved, Members still felt that Tredegar Town Council, as organisers, had been embarrassed and were minded to seek an apology from the Mayor. The Clerk was instructed to write to Cllr. Hillman and request an apology from the 1st Citizen.

- (c) Regeneration Partnership Board
(i) Links from the Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting – 27.7.10 email forwarded to Cllr J Morgan.

Received. There was mention of a new project for the Tredegar area (to be confirmed by Cllr. Morgan)

- (ii) Minutes for Blaenau Gwent regeneration partnership board - forwarded to Cllr Morgan

Received.

- (iii) Regeneration strategy updated August 10 – Draft revised strategy and action plan, comments to be submitted by 20.9.10

Received.

- (d) Administration applications – they will contact the applicants on our behalf if we wish to invite them in for an interview – 28.7.10 emailed to say we have written direct to all 5 applicants for interviews on 4.8.10

Received. Interviews had been completed and the successful applicant Ms. Michaela Arnold had joined the team. Members commented on the success of the Future Job Fund.

- (e) Consultation with Town and Community Councils- Report of meeting held 22nd July 2010

Received.

- (f) Licensing

Cllrs. K. Hayden, B. Willis and D. Rowberry declared an interest in this item and took no part in the voting or discussion thereon.

- (i) Review of Licensing Policy – review of policy is required every three years, draft policy now available from the Licensing Team. Comments and representations in respect of the draft policy to be forwarded to the Licensing

Team before 10th September 2010.

(ii) Licensing Newsletter Issue 5 Summer 2010.

(iii) Licensing Applications Week Ending 25.7.10, 15.08.10 & 22.8.10

All items received. Comments were noted regarding the number of applications for taxi licences and Members queried about the way that the vehicles are maintained and the records that are kept relating to such maintenance. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Licensing Department on these points and also to query whether the applicants are queried about maintenance on application and whether spot checks are carried out.

3) Former Bus Depot, Woodfield Road

- (a) BGCBC Re: Site of former bus depot, Woodfield Road – Asbestos was removed at time of demolition, no evidence of asbestos contamination on site; contractor will monitor dust and utilise dust suppression on site when required; no significant evidence of rodents so will not be pursuing this further; culvert on site is undamaged and work to divert this culvert is beginning – copied to Georgetown Ward Cllrs 18.8.10
- (b) Cllr J Owen Re: Vulnerable Family Unit on the Former Bus Depot Site Woodfield Road – Letter highlighting Cllr K Hayden's participation/knowledge of the proposed plans for the site – copied to all Members 5.8.10
- (c) Cllr K. Hayden letter in response to letter from Cllr. J. Owen

All items received. A Member stated that a camera would be used to check the culvert. Other Members queried the working times at the site and the Clerk was instructed to write and check working hours.

4) One Voice Wales

- (a) Latest edition of The Voice
- (b) Confirmation that Carl Sargeant AM introduced the Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure 2010 into the National Assembly on 12th July 2010. Main provisions have been outlined in the letter.

Both items received and available to Members.

5) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Refutes rumours regarding closure of Tredegar. Link to Draft Risk Reduction Plan 2011/12, Plan does indicate a review of fire cover.

Received. Whilst refuting the closure rumours the letter also referred to a “review of fire cover”. It was agreed that the correspondence should be posted on the Council website for public information.

6) Tredegar General Hospital

- (a) Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Reply to letter dated 1.7.10. Due to importance of Tredegar Hospital there are currently discussions as to what & where memorabilia relating to Tredegar Hospital & Aneurin Bevan will be sited.
- (b) David Jenkins RE: Future of Tredegar hospital building – Offering assurance that Health Board fully understands the significance of the site and are actively pursuing a strategy for its continued use.
- (c) Aneurin Bevan Health Board - Thank you for the opportunity to talk to the Town Council. Bobby Bolt will be contacting some of the Members to follow

through on the issues raised.

Above items received. A Member with interest in the archive material at the hospital expressed concern about the future of the written records kept and noted that some had been taken to TDT – this was to be confirmed by a fellow Member. It was further noted by Members that the future of the Hospital building was still far from sure. The efforts made so far to have the building listed were noted and the location of the Hospital within a threatened conservation area was noted too. There was a clear separation between the health services being offered and the need to preserve the building. Following much discussion it was agreed to write to:

- a) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to try again to get a list of buildings of local interest and seek support for the future use of the Hospital building.**
- b) Royal Commission – seeking help and support**
- c) WAG – Alun Ffred Jones, Jocelyn Davies (Regeneration) and Carwyn Jones AM**
- d) CADW – to appeal against the decision not to list and to highlight the fate of the former Mines Rescue Centre in Wrexham.**

(all letters to be copied to Alun Davies, Nick Smith MP and Trish Law AM)

Members noted that the BBC were always looking for local stories to feature and thought that this would be an ideal opportunity to get more publicity for the campaign.

- 7) Trish Law Details of next Connect 2 Listen meeting in Tredegar which are the ideal forums for raising issues that are a concern to Town Council Members and Public.- Copied for all members.

Received. It was noted by Members that the meeting at Dukestown Club Sirhowy was not featured in the letter. Again Members asked that the National Assembly Member for Blaenau Gwent be contacted and invited to attend Council to discuss a number of local issues of interest to all Members, and also to invite prospective Labour Candidate for the 2011 elections Mr. Alun Davies.

- 8) Gwent Police Authority Proposal to introduce Police and Crime Commissioners from May 2012 – Copied for all Members.

RECEIVED.

- 9) R. Tucker Event Management Training, 6th October 2010 at Pontypool Community Offices approximate cost £54

RECEIVED. It was noted that the Clerk would like to attend and it was agreed to seek further information on content. Members also expressed an interest.

- 10) SLCC 36th National Conference in Durham 15th-17th October 2010
- Received and Noted.**

- 11) Communities First Following the Partnership board meeting held 25th August 2010 a joint statement was issued to say Jayne Nicholas no longer represents Tredegar Communities First as Chair. In the interim Mandy Moore will act as Chair.

Received and Noted. It was agreed to write to the Chair, to offer our full support in the future.

- 12) Welsh Assembly Government Website link to Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report 2009-10.

RECEIVED.

13) Welsh Water Details of water investment programme from lower Carno to Nant-y-Bwch.
RECEIVED. Members were told that an ancient burial site may have been discovered and that investigation was under way. The fact that Tredegar Town Council had not been consulted or informed at any time caused disquiet. It was felt that, whilst accepting work had to be carried out, the way in which it was done was unacceptable. A suggestion was made that they be invited to Council.

14) GAVO Nominate a Volunteer for an Award
RECEIVED. It was noted that Cllr. Gregory had already been nominated and that the invite for nominations had been re-issued due to lack of response. A number of names were suggested, but it was noted that the nominee had to be made aware of the nomination.

15) Webpropel.com Notification of renewal date & costs for domain names ending .com, .org,
 .net & .co.uk
RECEIVED. It was agreed that H. Lewis would look into the costings.

16) Tredegar Twinning Association
 Letter requesting funding towards European Youth Trip as agreed by Dr
 Evans January 2009 – copies of relevant minutes/letter attached.
RECEIVED. It was agreed to forward this to a Meeting of the International Sub Committee and that copies of all relevant items be sent to Members in advance.

17) M. Higgs Invite to continue to support Tredegar Quiz Wizards by sponsorship
RECEIVED. It was unanimously agreed to support the competition again this year and it was suggested that Mr. Higgs be put forward for a GAVO Award.(Clerk to contact and seek his agreement)

18) Tredegar Youth Café Invite to 15th Anniversary Celebration at 2pm on Friday 10th September 2010
 at Youth Café – copied to all Members 12.8.10
RECEIVED.

19) Spinal Injuries Association
 Certificate & letter of thanks for the Fish & Chip Supper fundraising. Date for
 next year will be Friday 20th May 2010.
RECEIVED. It was agreed that the certificate for the sum of £281 would be presented to the Deputy Mayor by the Mayor at the next Presentation Evening.

20) H4H Tredegar armed forces day, thank you for organising an event.
RECEIVED.

21) HIW Opportunity to become a member of the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
 Advisory Board, one peer reviewer and one lay reviewer. Interest in
 becoming a member must be submitted by 13.9.10.
RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact the Clerk

22) Brecon Beacons National Park
 Planning for sustainable Buildings – Details of where to find the policy
RECEIVED.

- 23) Cllr H Trollope A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling Section 3 Brynmawr to Tredegar – Letter sent out on 15th June 2010 to Non-motorised Users as part of the User Group Consultation to determine how existing facilities are used and how connectivity may be maintained across the proposed new dual carriageway.

RECEIVED. Current access problems highlighted.

- 24) GAVO Blaenau Gwent Cohesion Forum 2010/11, Updated issue of Draft Funding Request.

RECEIVED. Permission to put the form or a link onto our website to be sought.

- 25) Fair Trade Wales

- (a) Update from new Fairtrade Campaigner Advisory Group
- (b) South East Social event at St Michael's Centre 10a Pen-y-Pound Abergavenny on Monday 20th September 2010 6.30pm to 9pm. Places are free but limited so need to in advance (also for catering reasons).
- (c) Diary Marker Fair Trade Wales
- (d) Fair Trade speaker training days available free of charge during September and November, Booking form included.

ABOVE ITEMS RECEIVED. A Member stated that we needed to review our status – there was a possibility that the Town could apply to be a Fair Trade Town which could be advertised widely. It was suggested that we hold a Fair Trade Festival. It was thought that with schools and local shops already involved Fair Trade status would not be difficult to attain. It was agreed to set up a working party with plenary powers to co-opt member of the public – also any interested Members.

- 26) Factory Shop Request to advertise the store on our website

RECEIVED. It was agreed that this would not be possible, however it was suggested that they might be interested in sponsoring the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event.(Clerk to contact)

- 27) Hewitt Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Briefing August 2010.

RECEIVED.

- 28) Shelter Cymru Details of dates, venues & costs of briefings on the changes in housing benefit and the impact on tenants.

RECEIVED.

- 29) HSBC Tredegar Old Peoples Welfare Committee – details of Financial Services Compensation Scheme covering HSBC.

RECEIVED. It was noted by senior Members that this account had been closed for some time. The Clerk was instructed to write to the bank to ascertain if there were still funds in the account. If not, then to have it closed permanently.

- 30) No Need for Nuclear House of Commons Early Day Motion No. 557. Campaign newsletter explaining new power stations are unnecessary and request for Council to lobby the MPs asking them to sign EDM No. 557.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that individuals could support.

- 31) Communicorp Local Councils Update August 2010 Issue 130 – Copied to all members

RECEIVED.

32) Vaughtons Enamel products brochure & pricelist.

RECEIVED. It was noted by Members that the price of the “Past Mayor” badges was quite reasonable and it was suggested that this be looked into. Also that past Mayor’s names be inscribed on the Mayoral Chain.

136) PUBLICATIONS

Play for Wales Summer 2010 Brochure Issue 32; Proludic Tiboo paly equipment brochure; BGCBC Official guide & street plan; BGCBC Education & Leisure Services Directorate Newsletter Summer 2010 edition 1; Ville D’Orvault Le Cens Pratique June 2010 No. 116; Tredegar Thespians Poster for next production “Haywire” at Little Theatre, 9th to 11th September 2010 – displayed in Library & Town notice boards 12.8.10; QC Supplies savings on ink cartridges; Clare Cox Flood Warning Information; BGCBC Road works report week commencing 23.7.10; BGCBC Road works report week commencing 30.7.10; BGCBC Road works report week commencing 6.8.10; BGCBC Road work reports for period 20/08/10; BGCBC Road Works Report 27/08/10; Clerks and council direct Sep 2010 issue 71; WPS Town Council Insurance Scheme.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS. It was noted that the poster for Haywire should have been included in Correspondence – apologies.

137) AGENDA

BGCBC Special Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Monday 27th September 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Agenda Special Executive Committee on Thursday 29th July 2010 at 8.45am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 29th July 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 28th July 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; B.G. Heritage Forum Agenda Meeting on Thursday 19th August 2010 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Minutes of meeting and agenda for meeting on Wednesday 11th August 2010 at 5.30pm Miner’s Institute, Llanhilleth; BGCBC Audit Committee; BGCBC Agenda Wed 1st Sept 2010.

138) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLYTY HOUSE AND PARK

- 1) A Member had been contacted by the Bush Inn complaining that the cellar had filled with water thinking it was back fill from Bedwellty Park. Following investigations it appeared that the problem was at Arosfa. Although flooding problems in the children’s play area were also highlighted.
- 2) The condition of the Promenade wall was discussed and it was noted that the wall seemed to be failing rapidly. Safety railings had already been positioned and it was thought that repairs would be carried out as part of the renovations. Members requested a visit to Bedwellty House again to check progress and the request for a meeting with the Borough to discuss the move back was pressing.

139) PLANNING

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

a) To consider an Officer's Report - **None Received**

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0253	Mr. M Dowsell 20 Cefn Glas, Tredegar	Single storey rear extension for use as kitchen/utility area and lounge with decking Area, 17 North Avenue

Recess – No Objections from Ward Members

2010/0254	Mr. & Mrs. R Wakeford 74 Glanhowy Street, Tredegar	Proposed extension.
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Recess – No Objections from Ward Members– NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0257	Mrs. S Pearce 33 Union Street, Tredegar	Two storey extension at rear.
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Recess – No Objections from Ward Members– NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0262	Mr. P Woodward Tredegar Ironsides RFC, The Bush Hotel, Park Row	Advertising Fascia boards x 4, The Bush Hotel, Park Row
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Recess – No Objections from Ward Members– NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0270	Mr. G. Smith 65 Park View	Retention of first floor bed extension
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NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0272	Mr. D. Steed 2 Garnlydan Farm Llangynidyr Road	4bedroom detached house and detached garage Land at The Nook Harford Street
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NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0273	Mr. A. Jones Llysweddog House Off Popular Road Tredegar	Double Garage
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NO OBJECTIONS

2010/2076	Mr. J. Griffin House Park Place	Single story detached dwelling, Angorfa Land opposite Hunts Lodge Newport Road
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Members were minded to object to this on the grounds of it being ribbon Development and outside the UDP

2010/0280	Mrs. Shirley Phillips Mrs. Tiggywinkles Day Nursery, Stone Lodge Merthyr Rd Tafarnaubach	Increase number of children from 16-30,
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NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0290

Mr. Omar Khan
10B Castle Street, Tredegar

Retention of flat.

Whilst not objecting as such Members were concerned that the building should conform to current Fire and Building regulations

c) Other Planning Matters

2009/0284 Outline planning for residential development (up to 27 houses), Former Gas Holder Station, Vale Terrace Tredegar – **Application has been withdrawn.**

140) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

- 1) Some Members had visited the extra care home on Bryn Serth Road in Ebbw Vale and were extremely impressed with the home and facilities and suggested that it would be a good idea for all Members to visit. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the home to make arrangements.
- 2) A Concert, Rhydfest II, in support of the Mayor's Appeal had been arranged at the Rhyd Hall on Saturday 20th November 2010. It would feature the bands Nemisis (Cllr. A. Cotton's group) and Fusion, tickets to cost £5.
- 3) It was noted by Members that Sarah Gratton, the Special Olympian from Trefil, was starting a Judo class for all abilities, at Ystrad Deri Community Centre. It was agreed to send a letter of support.
- 4) Details of the Bomber crash site had been supplied and a Member reported that the organist for the Memorial Service had offered their services free of charge. Access to the road at Trefil would be required for the laying of a wreath on the anniversary in December.
- 5) A Member pointed out that whilst visiting other Town Councils they featured photographs of Mayor's and full Council and that there was no such official photograph of the Members of Tredegar Town Council. He requested that prior to the return to Bedwellty House one should be taken. It was agreed to contact the Camera Club.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30 P.M.

_____ Chair