

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held at the Library, Tredegar on Wednesday 6th April 2011 at 6.30 p.m

Present:	Councillor	H. Trollope B. Willis M. Cross A. Tippings D. Howells J. Morgan P. Prosser D. Rowberry R. Thomas S. Trollope A. Cotton G. Rowberry
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In attendance: Ms. C. M. Keane – Town Clerk
Members of the public also present.

367) Apologies Cllrs K. Hayden, T. Gregory, G. Bowen-Knight,
M O'Sullivan, G. Woolf and H. Woolf

368) TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MR. HOWARD ALLBROOK, CARILLION PLC, REGARDING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE DUALLING OF THE A465.

Mr. Allbrook was accompanied by Mr. Mike Cummine, who gave a presentation detailing the route of the new road and was able to provide some graphics to show how it would fit into the landscape. Unfortunately it was noted by all that there was still no provision for direct access from the Heads of the Valleys to the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate – something which was raised as a matter of grave concern by all present, especially Members who also lived north of the town. The pedestrian access to the garage, used as a convenience store by many, and the access to Bryn Bach Primary school raised many concerns, with the lack of a footpath on part of the road near the garage being highlighted. This was taken up by the gentlemen who said that it was something they might be able to sort out. Members urged the representatives from Carillion to use whatever powers they might have to implement direct access to the Industrial Estate highlighting the dangers and possible consequences of a major accident on the route from the roundabout to the estate. It was noted that Mr. Allbrook had been to the site during its busiest times.

Members were concerned to hear that the gentlemen were to hold a public meeting and display of the dualling plans in Nantybwlch the following day – only one person had been notified directly and all present voiced their disappointment at the lack of advertising. Having apologised profusely it was agreed that any future meetings would be notified to Town Council.

A number of suggestions relating to the location of the pedestrian access across the road were put to Members, with some problems being highlighted.

There were cast iron guarantees that during the construction of the road none of the grave at Dukestown Cemetery would be disturbed and that construction in the area would be sympathetic to the location and that they would be liaising with clergy and undertakers to minimise any noise and disruption in the vicinity.

Both gentlemen were thanked for their presentation and assured Members that they would, in future, liaise through the Town Council and would hold another public meeting if necessary. They then withdrew

369) TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIVIC SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 6TH APRIL 2011.

The Meeting had been cancelled and Members informed.

370) TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL/SPORTING GRANTS

Thanks received from Homemakers Community Recycling and they are requesting to add Town Council logo onto their website in recognition of Council support.

Noted. It was further noted that whilst not actively promoting any specific organisation, support of the Council should be acknowledged by all organisations receiving grant aid.

Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19)

Tredegar Cricket Club – **A Grant of £150 was recommended**

Tredegar & District Canine Society – **A grant of £200 was recommended**

Mencap Cymru – **Members requested to meet with the Society**

Grants to Churches and Chapels

None received

371) CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) BGCBC (a) Castle/Commercial Street
(i) Copy of letter sent by Cllr Trollope to Mr C Rogers Re: poor condition of Town centre with tarmac being used in place of the brickwork.
(ii) Mr M. Matthews, Principal Engineer Highways. Copy of reply sent to Cllr Trollope explaining that bitmac used to replace the failed stone settings until finance for a complete scheme to enhance the area becomes available. The query regarding the works to the bus stops has been passed to Technical Services to reply.

RECEIVED. Members questioned whether it was part of the contract to services such as gas etc, that the original paving be replaced after any work. Members also queried what was happening with the expensive setts when they were being removed – where were they ending up? This question also applied to the work being carried out at the bus stops.

It was agreed to write to Highways and Regeneration at the Borough asking why the replacement of these area was piecemeal. Also questions regarding the conservation status of the roads and pavements had brought the response that this did not apply to “the built environment” one Member commented that if this was so the road could be painted pink. It was agreed to seek further clarification from Regeneration at BGCBC.

- (b) Steve Smith, Planning – reply to letters Re: vehicle movements at Woodfield Road. Providing vehicles are taxed, insured and otherwise road

legal they have the right to use public highways. If vehicles are carrying out dangerous manoeuvres or breaking highway code then it is a matter for the police.

RECEIVED. I was still thought that the unloading of materials featured as part of the planning conditions for this site. It was agreed to seek clarification on this point and to copy correspondence to the action committee at Woodfield Rd. It was agreed also to write once again to the Health & Safety Executive to visit and investigate practices on site.

- (c) Barry Toose Re: Catering trailer at Parker Motors. As of Monday 28.3.11 the trailer ceased operating on the site, they will continue to monitor the site.

RECEIVED and Noted.

- (d) N. Deufel Re: Twinning Meetings. Asking for exact timings and that the Management Board may need to review the free of charge meetings in the future.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to re-iterate the status of the Twinning Association and to note the comments for the Events Committee.

- (e) Letter sent to Town Council Leader by Cllr J Owen. Thanks for organising the Heritage Summit and offering his assistance with the Heritage Steering Group as he believes “there are not only opportunities that cannot be missed about heritage, but also we have to maximise our tourism opportunities”. He hopes that fellow Councillors will accept that this is not a political issue. Attached letters he has sent with reference to the NCB and General Hospital – original copy of letter sent to Leader 23.3.11

RECEIVED. It was agreed to add Cllr. Owens name to those interested in forming a Steering Group.

- (f) Consultation with Town/Community Councils
(i) Notice of meeting Thursday 19th May 2011 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre and request for items for the agenda to be submitted by 6.5.11 – copies issued to relevant Members.
(ii) Report of meeting of Town/Community Councils 24th February 2011 – copied for relevant Members.

Both RECEIVED. It was agreed to agenda for the next Meeting of Council questions to be put to the Consultation meeting. A question regarding the balance of the Borough’s Connect magazine was suggested.

- (g) Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting Thursday 7th April 2011 at 2.30pm Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, attached report on Local Development Plan – Deposit Plan for Consultation. (Email forwarded to Cllr Morgan).

RECEIVED. A Member suggested that our representative on the Board should mention the need to conserve heritage buildings and to find new uses for them citing Llanilleth Institute as an outstanding example.

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

- (h) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 18.3.11
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 25.3.11

RECEIVED

3) One Voice Wales

- (a) Job description and application pack for South Wales Development Officer, closing date 9.4.11
- (b) One Voice Wales 2011 Conference and AGM Saturday 8th October 2011 at Bont Pavilion, Pontrhydfendigaid. Early booking £65 per delegate, normal rate £75 per delegate. Registration form must be returned by 28.7.11 to receive early booking discount.
- (c) Reminder of upcoming available courses for Councillors and request for them to be support to enable them to hold the training sessions.

All Received. It was agreed to nominate the Clerk and Leader or Mayor to attend the AGM.

4) SLCC

Summer Symposium on 6th & 7th July 2011 at the Nexus Facility, Gloucester, Early Bird rate until 17.6.11 is £175 per SLCC Member.

RECEIVED

5) Armed Forces Day

- (a) Gurkha Company. Unable to send any representatives to AFD.
- (b) Cpt M. Newman. No cadets/bands will be available for this year's AFD due to this year being GCSE/A Levels for all the members.

RECEIVED

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

6) Chartist Festival and Community Film Project.

- (i) Ivor Beynon. Request for a letter of support from Council for the proposed "Chartist Festival and Community Film Project". Aim is to promote the history and heritage of our area in an entertaining way that engages and involves the whole community. The project, which involves a community play that will be performed in town centres and key sites, is being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and organized by the Blaenau Gwent Chartist and Historical Society.
- (ii) A. Tippings, Tourism Manager, BGCBC. Request for letters of support for the proposed "Chartist Festival and Community Film Project". Please send any letters of support for the proposed community play direct to ivorguide@yahoo.co.uk

RECEIVED. It was agreed that individual Members might register their support and to send a letter of support on behalf of the Council.

7) Welsh Assembly Government

Consultation on a Draft Welsh Fire & Rescue Authority Equality & Diversity Strategy 2011-16, looking for comments/observations.
Consultations available on Welsh Assembly Government's website.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to ask Cllr. O'Sullivan to check the document and provide observations.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Confirmed Minutes of 21.1.11 meeting – email forwarded to Cllrs Thomas & H. Woolf 24.3.11.

NOTED

- 9) L. Price Request for an update on who will represent Council on the next visit to France in May.

RECEIVED. Cllr. Tippings would be able to confirm shortly if she would be able to represent the Town Council.

- 10) The Little Theatre (i) New website, www.tredegar.co.uk/littletheatre.
(ii) Poster for "Trivial Pursuits" by Frank Vickery, Wednesday 13.4.11 to Saturday 16.4.11, tickets available now Stalls £6 and Balcony £7.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to link the web-site with ours.

- 11) Cllr H. Trollope Details of free cleaning products available to charitable Organisations.

RECEIVED. Available for Members.

- 12) Cllr Prosser Information on the time capsule buried by the Scouts in Bedwellty Park in 1986.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to write to Mrs. Skeates and thank her and to make contact with the contractors at Bedwellty House to see if it had been found.

- 13) Mr White Souvenir programmes for Public Recognition of Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan on 28.9.46 & Tredegar Orpheus 60th Year Commemoration Concert on 11.3.69.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to donate the material to the Heritage Forum.

- 14) The Valleys Congratulations for the Nye Bevan Heritage Trail making the Top 50 Valleys Essentials, window stickers enclosed and offer of download web banners for use on websites.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to place on the web-site

- 15) Blaenavon World Heritage Site
Poster & leaflets advertising Learning Landscapes Open Day Saturday 2.4.11 9am-5pm – leaflets given to library 28.3.11

RECEIVED.

372) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report Week Ending 25.3.11; BGCBC Connect Spring 2011 magazine x 2; BGCBC Road works report Week Ending 1.4.11; BGCBC Road works report Week Ending 8.4.11; Fame Factory Presentations Details of 2011/12 Pantomime "Peter Pan", available from 2.12.11 to 9.1.12; Ashwood New products brochure

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

373) AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting Thursday 24th March 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 10th May 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 29th March 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 30th March 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 4th April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 5th April 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 5th April 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 30th March 2011 at 11am Council

Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, exempt item No. 7.04; GAVO Blaenau Gwent Voluntary Sector Forum Tuesday 19th April 2011 at 10am Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale; B. G. Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting on Thursday 21st April 2011 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

374) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLTY HOUSE AND PARK

- 1) Members were concerned that following a recent visit to the House only one room had been assigned to Town Council and not two as had been agreed prior to the renovation. Following some investigation it was revealed that the safe could not be placed on the second floor and a “room-share” of the old Clerical Assistants office with the Registrar had been suggested. Details of the refurbishment of the Park and House were to be featured by the Heritage Group in a display at the Library open to the public.
- 2) The lack of storage space as well as the use of the rooms that Council had previously (2 offices, Council Chamber, Mayor’s Parlour and the room off it, as well as a great deal of storage in the caretaker’s room) contrasted greatly with the single room currently put forward. The fact that the use of the Mayor’s Parlour had been downgraded and not properly used in the years prior to the renovation had meant that whilst we had been able to use rooms such as the Miners Room to entertain small groups – we now had nothing.
- 3) The e-mail from Ms. Deufel with regard to Twinning caused alarm.
- 4) The need to move on with arrangements for the move back was highlighted. The space allocated to the Registrar in comparison to the space they currently have was thought to be disproportionate.
- 5) Questions to be itemised prior to a meeting with Ms. Deufel.

375) PLANNING

a) to consider an Officer’s Report

C/2011/0016 House & garage (Reserved Matters), land at the Nook Harford Street – Recommending permission to be GRANTED with planning conditions.

C/2010/0313 Security & boundary fences, land adjacent to Vale Terrace Chapel, Vale Terrace - Recommending permission to be GRANTED.

List of Delegated items determined between 10th February 2011 and 21st March 2011.

2010/0422 Proposed change of use from former public house to dwelling with photographic studio to include single storey extension to create granny annexe, first floor extension and re-roofing works, The Crown Inn Merthyr Road – Approved.

2011/0001 Retention of security roller shutters to hair salon, C & K Salon Crown Avenue – Approved.

2011/0017 Second storey rear extension for use as playroom/study directly above ground floor dining room extension, Glastonbury Charles Street – Approved.

2010/0371 Change of use from chapel to a domestic dwelling, Carmel Chapel Carmel Close – Approved.

2011/0021 Erection of steel frame canopy over existing loading bay hard standing, Unit 6A Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate – Approved.

2011/0028 First floor bedroom extension, rear single storey kitchen extension, garage conversion and associated additional parking facilities (revised scheme), 4 St James Park - Approved

REPORT NOTED

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

2011/0082	Mrs M Davies	Conservatory to rear elevation. 11 St James
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NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0085	Mr P Davies 3 Brambling Drive, Thornhill, Cardiff	Residential Development (4) at Graham's Coaches, Graham's Yard, Sirhowy
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Council were minded to object on the grounds that the development was very close to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, that a watching brief be kept during any work, that the archaeology on site should be preserved and enhanced and made available for public access and that any construction should be sympathetic to the site.

2011/0088	Mr T Smith. Lidl UK Waterton Industrial Estate off Cowbridge Road Bridgend	Refurbishment of existing Lidl store consisting of internal reconfiguration, reduction in parking spaces to accommodate larger parking spaces and associated alterations to external elevations to accommodate the changes plus changes to external materials and finish, Lidl Gelli Road, Tredegar
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NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0095	Mrs C Green Time Banking Wales, Aneurin Bevan House 40 Castle Street, Tredegar	To erect a brick clay sculpture and smaller framing sculptures on Sirhowy Village Green, land adjacent to Beaufort Close and Beaufort Road
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NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0096	Mr G Williams 10 Westville, Abertyssyg	Renew shop front, roller shutter and external renovations with change of use at ground floor A1 to A3, 15 Commercial Street Tredegar
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Council were minded to object on the grounds of the over provision of fast food outlets in the town. It was thought that a moratorium was in place.

c) To consider other planning matters.

It was noted that a Member of the public, Mrs Ann Roberts had contacted the Council regarding the incinerator proposals and had informed Council that she was the Secretary of the Group called the United Valleys Action Group seeking a letter of support for the group in their opposition to the development. This was agreed. It was noted that a letter of support had been sent to a previous public meeting.

376) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

- 1) Present for Orvault - the wording for the plaque was agreed.
- 2) A Member expressed dissatisfaction at the public release of the film about Flight T2520. It was agreed to meet with the Spirit of Bevan to discuss.
- 3) Planting in Bedwellty Park – a Member expressed concern that the planting to the front of the House had not taken into consideration the fact that it had been planted to commemorate the end of World War II with specific roses. It was agreed to add to the list of items for discussion with the Manager.

4) Aneurin Bevan Memorabilia – once again the question of which member of the family had given permission for the items to be displayed in Ebbw Vale was raised and a Member agreed to ascertain the information.

377) 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 and the members of public present were asked to leave and did so.

378) Pensions - To receive the Report of the RFO and to make recommendations to Council. The RFO had not been able to attend but had provided a full and comprehensive report. The Clerk left whilst the report was discussed. Later it was agreed to defer any decisions and to ask the Greater Gwent Torfaen Pension fund for further information.

The Leader of Council advised Member that the recent One Voice Wales meeting hosted by Tredegar Town Council at the Moose had been a great success and that presentations had been made to Mr. Lyn Cadwallader the new CEO and Mr, Ken Burton on his retirement. Mr. Burton's help over many years had been acknowledged by all. The Clerk was thanked for the provision of the buffet at relatively short notice. It was noted that Mr. Cadwallader had planned to meet all Town Councils to see what they did and had been impressed with the efforts and actions of the Town Council.

He also mentioned the recent Walk for Life – highlighting the relatively few Members that had taken part – the Clerk and her partner were thanked by the Deputy Mayor for their assistance on the day. It was agreed that the Town Council would be represented at the dinner to present the cheque.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM.

_____ Chair