

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee held at Meeting Room 2, First Floor, Tredegar Library on **Wednesday 11th May 2011 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors

**H. Trollope
B. Willis
A Tippings
K. Hayden
D. Howells
J. Morgan
P. Prosser
R. Thomas
S. Trollope
G. Woolf
G. Bowen-Knight
M. O'Sullivan (late)**

In attendance:

**Ms. C. Keane – Town Clerk
Mrs. A. Jones – RFO**

424) Apologies:

**Cllr. M. Cross, D & G Rowberry, T. Gregory,
A. Cotton and H. Woolf.**

425) TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIVIC SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11TH MAY 2011.

The verbal report was received and it was agreed that the following grants would be recommended to Council:

Sirhowy Senior Citizens - £200

Tredegar Quilting Circle -£150

Tredegar Athletic Football Club – a set up grant of £150.

A review of the grants policies to be carried out in September.

426) THE SIRHOWY WYVERN SCULPTURE – SIRHOWY VILLAGE GREEN – TO CONSIDER ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT COUNCIL MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION.

Following investigation by the RFO and discussion amongst the Members it was agreed to support the project in principal but that funding for re-construction was beyond our means. It was agreed to write to the Spirit of Bevan and Sirhowy Tenants and Residents supporting the project in principle. It was also agreed to write to the sculptress thanking her for her work and the sculpture that she had done free of charge for the Council to be given to Orvault. The sculpture was displayed for all to see.

Cllr. M. O'Sullivan arrived at 6.40 pm.

427) TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL/SPORTING GRANTS

Members were reminded that organisations needed to state a specific project for grant aid. The following grants were recommended:

Blaenau Gwent Visually Impaired Club – **£200.00**
Carp Crunchers Community Disco – **£200.00**
Cefn Golau Junior Fishing Club – **£150.00**

Cllr. H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon. The Chair was handed to Cllr. Willis for this matter.

Cefn Golau Tenants & Residents Association – **£200.00**

Devils Martial Arts – It was agreed to seek clarification.

Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group – **£200.00**

Tredegar Amateur Boxing Club – **£150.00**

Tredegar Angling Club – **£150.00**

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

Tredegar Community Youth Café – **£200.00**

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

Tredegar Community Archive Group – **£200.00**

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

None Received – Members were urged to let Churches and Chapels in their areas know about the grants available.

Mrs. A. Jones left the Meeting at 7pm.

428) TO AGREE THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AS THURSDAY 26 MAY 2011 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER BEDWELLY HOUSE, AND THE JUNE MEETINGS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Council would be held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty house at 6pm on Thursday 26th May 2011, with a reception at the Moose Hall from 7pm and that the schedule of Meetings in June would stand, i.e the first Civic Meeting to be held on Wednesday 1st June.

429) CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) BGCBC (a) F. Olding Re: 10 The Circle. Requesting more information on what are Council's concerns regarding No. 10. Highlights that it is already in a conservation area and covered by detailed design guidance for any alterations that may be done.

RECEIVED. It was noted by Members that the question regarding the progress of the list had not been answered. It was agreed to write again seeking progress on the list.

- (b) N. Deufel, Bedwellty House & Park Manager
(i) Re: Formal Opening Ceremony 23.8.11. Access will be permitted to staff but there will be a request that no-one enters the Atrium during the speeches.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

- (ii) Re: Inventory of Artefacts. Wishes to assure Members that no vital information relating to the artefacts has been lost and they continue to use

the original inventory supplied by TTC which had also been used by the removal company. The removal company did not take photos of items in situ as previously thought. A display proposal as been supplied for Members to comment on. Request images of the 76 black & white photographs previously displayed in the Assembly Room. Currently now unnecessary to unwrap artefacts in storage so the items in the proposal will be transferred wrapped and the other artefacts will remain at the unit until a decision on their future as been made.

RECEIVED. Members were unhappy about many of the proposals, with Civic Gifts being included. It was stated that Tredegar Museum was already overcrowded and that with the association of the Council with Bedwellty House dating back to 1973 they should have had the courtesy to ask someone from Tredegar Town Council for advice. It was pointed out that an offer of help at the storage facility had been turned down because of lack of space. Amongst items that caused concern was the destruction of the cabinet that housed the Waterford Crystal Vase. This had been made by Hywel Fox, son of Megan and the late Alan Fox and it had caused upset. Comments were made that the last 50 years of the memories of the Council and the history of the people had been taken away and replaced with Lord Tredegar. It was agreed that an urgent meeting take place with the Manager and the Heritage Committee of Council.

(c) Road Closures for Casket return 4.6.11

- (i) P. Gray. Copy of email sent to Forest with reply and quote from Forest - both emails attached together.
- (ii) P. Gray. Asking how many we expect to form as a procession? Expresses assumption that they will be confined to the footpath.
- (iii) D. Watkins. Asking if the Casket return event forms part of the opening event at the House?
- (iv) P. Gray. Cannot see a problem with it only being 20-30 people but will inform the Safety Advisory Group so they are aware of the event.

ALL ABOVE RECEIVED. It was noted that the quotation for road closures should have been directed solely to the Manager of Bedwellty House. The event had been included in the opening event and that all those attending the Service at St. James's would be asked to stay on the pavement on the return to the House. Cllr. Tippings agreed to put together readings and hymns for the Service at St. James's.

(d) Merthyr Road

- (i) Alun Evans. Reply to letter of 11.4.11 - The 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. The Strategic Highway Network includes the A465 & A4046 with the former being the responsibility of the Assembly.
- (ii) Welsh Assembly Government. Reply to letter of 11.4.11 – They are aware of the concerns in relation to heavy traffic using this road as access to the industrial estate and commissioned a survey to investigate options to alleviate the traffic which was subsequently forwarded in July 2008 to BGCBC as the responsible highway authority for their consideration, determination, action and funding as appropriate.

BOTH RECEIVED. It was noted by Members that a weight restriction had been requested for one hour per day during the picking up and dropping off times. Copies to be sent to Mr. Alun Davies AM, Cllr. A. Tippings and Mr. D. Howells.

- (e) Mr McHugh Re: B. G. Regeneration Strategy. Thank you for comments. Deposit of LDP is scheduled for 5.5.11 to 16.6.11 including an exhibition in Gwent Shopping Centre.

RECEIVED. Comments had previously been agreed with the addition of:

“To keep Blaenau Gwent clean and green and to improve and maintain the quality of the natural environment To maintain the green divide that marks each separate part of the County Borough”

These were also agreed.

- (f) L. Healy Re: BGCBC Local Development Plan 2006-2021 Deposit Plan Consultation. Consultation period 5.5.11 to 16.6.11. Council would welcome TTC's views and enclosed a comments form for completion. Public exhibitions are being held within Borough – Tredegar's will be in 15 Gwent Shopping Centre 12th May 2011 10am to 3pm, 13th May 2011 1pm to 7pm & 14th May 2011 9am to 1pm. Full documentation available at all Libraries for viewing and copy held in Town Council offices.

RECEIVED, COPY AVAILABLE. It was noted that the Milefield site had been taken out and all Members were urged to look at their own area.

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

- (g) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 15.4.11
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 29.4.11

RECEIVED

- 2) L. Price Request to know who will represent Council on the Twinning trip to France?

RECEIVED. It was agreed to contact Cllr. Cross to see if he might be available.

- 3) Zurich Municipal Insurance Renewal notice £2773.28.

RECEIVED. The recommendation had been made by the RFO to accept. This was agreed.

- 5) 4UHosting Invoice £35.99. This is for the old web address and last year it was agreed to renew for a year to enable it to be used to redirect visitors to the new website.

RECEIVED. The recommendation of the RFO not to renew was accepted and agreed.

- 6) W.A.G. Community & Town Councils Survey 2010 findings report available at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/research/commtcsurv1011/?lang=en>.

RECEIVED and available.

- 7) Armed Forces Day

- (a) Lt. Col. Wheeler. Unable to offer any support for the AFD due to prior commitments in Cardiff and a major event they are holding in Tidworth for his soldiers and their families.

RECEIVED

- (b) C. Rundle. Group Captain Simon Ellard will attend AFD.

RECEIVED

8) Kidney Wales Foundation

Invitation to Walk for Life Gala Dinner, Cardiff City Hall, Wednesday 15th June 2011, offer of 4 complimentary tickets. RSVP by 20.5.11

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the incoming Mayor and consort and 2 fund raisers should attend.

9) Cllr H Woolf

St James Parade. Believes the construction company may have gone bust before completing the work and recently the Fire Service were called to the site. Concerns this site will become an eyesore similar to the site in Mount Street. Asking if Council are able to send a letter to BGCBC expressing strong concerns and what are their intentions to resolve the issue.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the Comprehensive School had also raised concerns and the Clerk stated that she too had called the Police to report youngsters breaking into the site. It was agreed to write to Supt. Warrender.

10) Cllr Thomas

Details of a virus email called "Postcard from Hallmark".

RECEIVED. Details of other scams also shared.

11) United Valleys Action Group

(i) Thank you for the support shown by Council for their campaign against The Incinerator. Currently organising a meeting with Dr Dick Van Steenis (retired GP) who has been campaigning for 16 years against waste incineration – date & venue to be confirmed.

(ii) "Say no to Monster Incinerator" poster – copied and distributed to all Members.

RECEIVED. Members noted their disappointment concerning the occasional lack of acknowledgement of Council support. Members agreed that more consultation in the Tredegar area was needed. It was agreed that the Action Group would receive the full support of the Town Council. It was agreed to write to the new Chief Executive of the Borough, Mr. D. Waggett and the Environment Agency as well as an open letter to the press.

12) One Voice Wales

Ken Burton. Thank you for support and friendship shown to him during his time at One Voice Wales.

RECEIVED.

13) Wootton Bassett

Announcing change of Mayor from Cllr M. Champion to Cllr P. Heaphy & Mrs K. Heaphy, all send their best wishes to Tredegar Town Council.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the new Mayor would send his best wishes after his inauguration.

14) R. Tucker

Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales Minutes of Meeting 4.4.11.

RECEIVED.

15) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Running two events during Wales Sustainability Week, 16.5.11
Sustainable Tourism in the Community 9.45am-12.45pm Myddfai
Community & Visitors Centre; 18.5.11 Sustainable Living & the
Community – Energy, Transport & Growing Food 4.30pm-7.30pm

Henderson Hall, Talybont on Usk

RECEIVED.

- 16) GAVO Annual Funding Fayre Wednesday 25.5.11 Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale. 3 Sessions being held: 10am - 12.30pm, 1pm-3pm, 3.30pm-5pm.

RECEIVED.

- 17) Annette Jones Request to change current working hours to enable attendance on a 4 year ACCA course.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to convene a Meeting of the Staffing Committee.

430) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 29.4.11; Peter Cox Ltd brochure on the Property Services they offer; SMP Playgrounds Newsletter; Play Wales, Play for Wales Issue 34 Spring 2011; BGCBC Road works report week ending 6.5.11; BGCBC Road works report week ending 13.5.11; Kompan Playgrounds, Park & recreation 2011; Ville D'Orvault Le cens Pratique No. 125 Mai 2011; Clerks & Councils Direct May 2011 Issue 75; Local Councils Update May 2011 Issue 139.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

431) AGENDA

Council Meeting Thursday 5th May 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – POSTPONED; Special Planning Committee Tuesday 10th May 2011 at 11am, meet at Land at the Nook Harford Street, Tredegar – copied to Sirhowy Members; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 12th May 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday 12th May 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Item No. 30 Report on Healthier Future III Strategy 2011-2014; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 12th May 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional item No. 31 (a)

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

432) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLY HOUSE AND PARK

1) It was confirmed that lead had been stolen from the roof of Bedwellty House over the Easter Holidays. No major damage had been caused and the costs would be down to the contractors. A possible target, the flat roof outside the proposed Council office would be covered by CCTV. It was noted by Members that young people were still using the Park for drinking sessions and it raised a number of questions regarding security, the Bandstand roof, the War Memorial and the proposed Bowls pavilion. The renovation on the perimeter wall was commended.

2) It was brought to the attention of Members that the Company Shop was up for sale and to write to the Heritage Officer and the Agent with regards to the Listing.

Cllrs. H. Trollope and B. Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. The Chair was passed to Cllr. Tippings.

433) PLANNING

a) To consider an Officer's Report

Planning Committee Friday 6th May 2011 - Appeals received and determined

Appeal Ref: 515355 Mr Khan, Tredegar Co Shop, Shop Row – Decision notice previously reported, verbal update.

C/2010/0280 Appeal Ref: 2144601 Mrs Phillips Tiggywinkles Nursery, Merthyr Road – Questionnaire being compiled.

List of Delegated items determined between 22nd March 2011 and 14th April 2011.

2009/0279 Retention of engineering works to altered ground levels and profiles for the purpose of grazing, Land to rear of Marion Close and adjacent to Jesmond Dene Stadium, Tredegar – Refused.
2010/0347 Refurbishment of existing premises, single storey extension with decking and handrails to first floor area, The Cambrian Hotel, The Circle, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0082 Conservatory to rear elevation, 11 St James Way, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0048 Residential development (2 plots) Arosfa, Maes Glas, Tredegar – Refused.
2010/0158 New shop front, alterations & improvements, 8 Morgan Street, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0033 Retention of shed & gates, 34 Fields Road, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0052 Retention of boundary wall and railings, 1 Cefn Rhos, Tredegar – Approved.

Planning Report

2009/0387 (Full) Semi detached town houses (2), Lower Salisbury Street – Recommending planning permission be GRANTED.

2011/0075 (Retention Application) Retention of fence with a gate & new bridle gate, Land adjacent to Dorian House, Tynewydd - Recommending planning permission be GRANTED with bridle gate constructed and brought into beneficial use within 1 month of the date of this proposal.

ALL RECEIVED AND NOTED.

2011/0075 - It was further noted that a site meeting had been arranged and all Sirhowy Members urged to attend.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0124	Mr G Richards 59 Scwrfa Road, Tredegar	Retention of existing boundary wall and proposed erection of wooden fencing.

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0128	Ms T Kiraly (on application but Mr Greg Karaley on BGCBC letter)	Single storey kitchen extension to rear of dwelling, 95 Glyn Terrace
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NO OBJECTIONS

c) to consider other planning matters

1. Welsh Assembly Government

Copy of letter sent by the Planning Division to Mr D Assinder Landscape Projects Officer BGCBC
Re: Law of Property Act 1925 Section 194 Environmental Works on Trefil Common. Consent granted under section 194 of the Law of Property Act 1925 for the retention of the works listed at Northern Gateway, Southern Gateway, Play Area 1, Play Area 2, Parking, Footpaths improvements and Tree Planting.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

2. Llangynidr Community Council

Re: Temporary change of use of land to create a film set at Trefil Quarry. Notice of the planning application 11/06519/FUI with regards to the above. Wishing that the residents of Trefil and farmers are informed of the application and seeking their views as there may well be increased traffic usage

on the road for 3 months and problems with noise. BBNP will ensure the barrier to the quarry is closed every night to prevent reoccurrence of burnt out vehicles.

RECEIVED AND NOTED

3. Planning Aid Wales

Whilst there is clear legislation requiring Local Planning Authorities to consult their community/town councils on planning issues there is no protocol relating to the format of the consultations.

Recommends discussing the issues with other community councils in the area and by collaborating it will strengthen the case being taken to the Local Authority.

RECEIVED AND NOTED. This item to be raised at the Consultation Meeting with the Borough.

4. C. Rogers, Chief Technical Officer, BGCBC

Re: Residential Development – Street Naming, Former Bus Depot, Woodfield Road, Tredegar.
Request for proposals.

RECEIVED. A number of proposals were put forward and it was agreed to suggest: Woodfield Close, Woodfield Way or Woodfield Court.

Cllr. Trollope then took back the Chair.

444) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

1) Concerns were raised that there were reports that Caerphilly County Borough Council were to terminate their contract to provide a School Library Service in Blaenau Gwent. It was agreed to write to Mr. Lyn Phillips BGCBC to seek further information.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.20PM

_____ Chair