

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held at The Library, Tredegar on  
Wednesday 6th October 2010 at 6.00 p.m.**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>H. Trollope</b> <b>B Willis</b> <b>M. Cross</b> <b>A Tippings</b> <b>K. Hayden</b> <b>D. Howells</b> <b>P. Prosser</b> <b>R. Thomas</b> <b>D. Rowberry</b> <b>G. Woolf</b> <b>T. Gregory</b> <b>M. O’Sullivan (late)</b>
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**In attendance:** **Mrs A. Jones – R.F.O.**

**164) Apologies:** Cllr. H. Woolf, J. Morgan and S. Trollope and Ms. C. Keane (Hols)

The Mayor welcomed Deanne Griffiths, Principal Civil Contingencies Co-Ordinator and Neil Hughes, Transport & Highways Principal Officer, from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Mr Hughes started the presentation by outlining this Winter's plans stating that the forecast is that it is quite possible there will be another hard winter.

From 1st November 2010 to 31st March 2011 standby system is operational with five gritters on 24 hour call covering all main routes including Fire and Ambulance locations. All gritters are 4x4 and fitted with trackers enabling confirmation that routes have been salted. Purchased smaller 4x2 gritters with spreaders for side streets but highlighted the problems caused by parked cars. Ploughs and spreaders have been purchased for the tractors which can be utilised in town centres.

**Salt** – Currently the storage is full with 2.5 thousand tonne with an additional reserve of 1 thousand tonne in the Regional Salt Facility also based at the Waun-y-Pound Industrial Estate. Once all five regions sign the agreement the Regional Salt Facility will be stocked to 10 thousand tonnes giving BGCBC a reserve of 2 thousand tonne.

Grit Bins – Currently checking their status and locations. New bins and refill of current will be done end of October to avoid unnecessary vandalism. All bins will be rechecked every two months for refilling.

Members raised questions:-

1. Who is responsible for clearing between the two Georgetown School sites?

The main road will be cleared as it is part of the main gritting route.

2. Public concerns over clearing areas themselves?

The Ministry of Justice issued a statement which says it is permit-able to clear an area outside your home within reason and a claim against you will only be successful if the area cleared is worse than before.

3. Locating of grit bins – Can a bin be placed by the Mountain Air Public House (agreed by owners) and by Cheveux Hairdressers which would be of benefit to St Josephs School?

Will look into these options.

Cllr Rowberry left the meeting at 6.10pm.

A Member suggested that BGCBC look at the Welsh Assembly's "Safe Route to School" to check if any money is available to help with the clearance of snow for the schools.

Mr Hughes confirmed that a twelve hour shift rota will be in place this year with the foreman making the decision on when to call-out the gritters but assured everyone that they would be out if it was snowing.

Ms Deanne Griffiths outlined that her role was Emergency Work for the Environment or Welfare of People.

BGCBC will receive weather reports direct from the Met. Office and if severe weather conditions are expected a Severe Weather Team will be setup. This will include all staff such as refuse collectors, grounds staff etc who will be unable to continue their normal roles due to the weather. These staff will be despatched to clear schools, hospitals, town centres in their locality.

Cllr O'Sullivan arrived at 6.20pm.

An arrangement has been made with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board which allows Ms Griffiths to contact them to confirm who in Blaenau Gwent has medical appointments/treatment to enable them to make sure the patient has access from their street. Last year there were several false claims which diverted staff from more important routes.

Community Resilience – This year, before Winter, BGCBC will be promoting "Helping people take care of themselves and others in the Community". They want to encourage a "snow buddies" system where neighbours or friends help those who are more vulnerable or if they have major concerns contact BGCBC to ask for help.

Members raised questions:-

1. As Post Offices are the main focal point of the community will this areas be targeted for clearing?

This was noted. Ms Griffiths stated that this information can be passed to them by contacting the C2BG number but if conditions become severe they will consider setting up a helpline.

2. Why are BGCBC not using the Probation Service to assist with clearing?

This point was taken on board and will be looked as an option.

3. A Member suggested if a report/information is sent to our Office we will be able to publicise it on our website.

BGCBC will be publicising all routes to be gritted and locations of grit bins.

4. A Member raised concerns that there were inconsistency in school closures and would it be advisable to review the guidelines for schools?

It was pointed out that the decision to close is the Head Teachers. However, there will be a meeting with schools soon to move progress on the policy set last year for informing parents of closures and it will be an opportunity to discuss the school closure guidelines.

Both Mr Hughes and Ms Griffiths were thanked for the excellent presentation and it was agreed that Council will support the proactive community

## **165) TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL/SPORTING GRANTS**

Thanks received from North Gwent Table Tennis Centre.

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

Devils Martial Arts – A grant of £150.00 was recommended and it was requested that the letter mentions that the grant is towards the purchase of squad suits and not the trip.

Tredegar and District Floral Art Society – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Tredegar Round Table – A grant of £200.00 was recommended and it was requested that the sponsorship from Tredegar Town Council is included in the programme.

Bill Harry Court Tenants Ass. – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

2167 ATC Squadron – A grant of £200.00 was recommended and it was requested that the letter includes a thank you for their continued support.

Council requested that a costing is sought for boards which can be displayed at pitches. Board to say “Tredegar Town Council supporting sport in Tredegar”. A Member stated that BGCBC will charge for boards around pitches.

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

None received.

Council requested the Grant Application Form is made available on our website for download.

A Member also agreed to mention the availability of a grant at the next church meeting she attends.

**166) Questions for Inspector Green**

It was confirmed to Members that Insp. Green will be in attendance on Wednesday 17th November 2010.

1. Please can you outline the process of dealing with complaints that are passed to Officers or made over the telephone? Are these passed to an Officer the following day? And who to separate reports of the same crime linked together?

Members were asked to send further questions to the Office.

**167) CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) BGCBC (a) Bethan Cartwright – Wishes to discuss the possibility of running a joint Christmas window dressing competition for local businesses

**Received. Agreed to invite Bethan Cartwright to next Events Committee Meeting.**

- (b) Parc Bryn Bach Advance Booking for Armed Forces Day 2011 No costings as of yet but the costings will be substantially more than this years event

**Received. Agreed to chase up the meeting with David Watkins, BGCBC, to discuss use of Bedwellty Park/House in the future and costings.**

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

- (c) Valleys Regional Park - Community Tourism Day – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
10am -3.30 pm at Cwmaman Institute

**Received.**

- (d) Consultation with Town/Community Councils pre meeting - Room 3 has been booked for pre-meeting at 2pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Copied to relevant members

**Received.**

***Cllr B. Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in discussions.***

- (e) (i) Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order 2010 – order has been approved and it sets five new mandatory licensing conditions what will apply to all those licensed to sell or supply alcohol in the “on trade”.  
(ii) List of Applications Received week ending 12/9/10  
(iii) List of applications received week ending 26/9/10

**Received.**

- (f) Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Partnership Board  
(i) Meeting is 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 held at ViTCC Tredegar at 11am- email forwarded to Cllr Morgan  
(ii) Wag Economic Renewal – Director of Transport and Strategic Regeneration at WAG attending next meeting. All Board Members to provide questions in advance to the meeting 22.10.10 – email forwarded to Cllr Morgan

**Received and noted.**

- 2) One Voice Wales Tidy Wales award 2011 now open for entries – Presentation will be made at a special ceremony in January 2011 and will recognize groups who have made a major contribution to the cleanliness of their local area during 2010

**Received. Sirhowy Woodlands was suggested as a nomination.**

3) Woodfield Road Development

- (a) Keith Hayden - Copy of letter sent to Mr. D. Cook  
RE: United Welsh Housing Development
- (b) Haydn Trollope - Copy of letter sent to Mrs. Kath Kelman detailing steps taken after Council Meeting
- (c) United Welsh - recommending specific concerns are raised with Gareth Davies or Richard Mann
- (d) Mr. D Cook – Copy of letter sent to Cllr Trollope regarding the Woodfield site
- (e) Lynne Price – Copy of letter sent to Mr. R Morrison at BGCBC – copied to all Members.

**The Mayor expressed thanks to all Members who attended the open meeting.**

**A Member reported back the negative comments from B.G.C.B.C. who claims it is down to the developer. Height of building is higher but actual plans are correct. They are currently submitting new plans. Newts have been recently discovered and this is being investigated. It was agreed Council will continue to support residents and help them get answers. A Member expressed how disappointing it was that Police have reported back that the Site Manager claims residents are blocking the lane illegally and any vehicle found doing this will be booked.**

**Another Member informed Council that a new road access from Woodfield Road is now being used by the contractors.**

**It was noted that at a Public Meeting Cllr J. Owen claimed that Tredegar Town Council did not object to this development but Members of Tredegar Town Council who were in attendance at the meeting were able to provide the Minutes showing the objections.**

**4) Tredegar General Hospital**

- (a) CADW - Tredegar Hospital is not listable as a listed building of special architectural or historic interest but it is located within the Tredegar conservation area.

**Received. Agreed to write to Simon White (Ex C.O. of One Voice Wales) at Cadw requesting he meets with the Heritage Sub-Committee to discuss what can be done.**

**Also agreed to write to Edwina Hart, Alun Davies, Nick Smith and Alun Ffred Jones to request a meeting to discuss the Hospital.**

**Write to Steve Smith at Planning BGCBC for an update on the status of the historical building list.**

**Recommended that the Leader contacts BBC either directly or at BBC event in Merthyr Leisure Centre on 17.10.10 to highlight the Tredegar Hospital story.**

**Requested that all letters and replies regarding the Hospital is placed on our website with a blog.**

- (b) Aneurin Bevan Health Board - All comments considered by Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Discussion with Andrew Richards, Chief Executive of Hospice of the Valleys, regarding the future use of Tredegar Hospital

**Received.**

**5) T2520 Wellington 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service**

- (a) RAF Marham unfortunately due to current operational tempo, it's not possible for personel to attend

**Noted. Requests letter to be sent asking if they wish to send a message which can be read out at the Service.**

- (b) Squadron 115 – Current Commanding Officer would be delighted to attend the Memorial Service

**Received. Instructed to confirm which flowers are appropriate for the wreath.**

- (c) Link to 115 Squadron website –  
[http:// www.raf.mod.uk/rafcranwell/aboutus/115rsqn.cfm](http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafcranwell/aboutus/115rsqn.cfm)

**Received.**

**6) Christmas Lights**

- (a) Inspector Green – Ps Petrie will contact us regarding Police assistance. Unable to guarantee Police presence, dependant on operational commitments (Town Clerk has informed Inspector Green that we have Hi-Viz jackets and possible problem spots identified which we will discuss with Ps Petrie)

**Received. Instructed to clarify with other local Town Councils as to whether they have a Police presence and the cost if any. Requested to write to the Chief Constable to seek the protocol regarding community events.**

- (b) Julie McGuire School of Dance – Unable to participate this year

**Received.**

- 7) Ruth Tucker  
(a) Gwent Valleys One Voice Partnership Agenda for meeting on Tuesday 5th October 2010 at 7pm in Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council – copied to Cllr Cross & O’Sullivan 28.9.10

**Received.**

- (b) Details of the basic Fire awareness course and booking form  
**Received.**

- 8) Kidz R Us  
**Received.** Confirming participation in Armed Forces Day 2011

- 9) Porthcawl Town Council  
Requesting support in a campaign against the reduction of hours of the search and rescue helicopter based at RAF Chivenor North Devon, being cut from 24 hour cover to 12 hours by 2012

**Received. Agreed to send a letter of support and any Members who are able to attend the protest on 31.10.10 will.**

- 10) Tredegar Quiz Wizards  
First quiz being held at Rugby Club Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 8.30pm  
**Received. Mayor requested that to ensure attendance of Councillors at this event will all Members please read and make notes of any questions regarding Minutes prior to the Ordinary Meetings to enable them to be Moved in block to speed up the meeting. Also requested that it is confirmed that The Rugby Club is the first venue.**

- 11) Brecon Beacons National Park  
Managing Change Together - Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan  
**Received. A Member highlighted that a M.P. has raised concerns regarding Trefil. They will be inviting Council to a meeting to discuss these Trefil issues.**

- 12) Sustainable Energy Partnership  
Looking for support for Early Day Motion No 557 No need for Nuclear campaign, request to write to MP  
**Received. Agreed to write to Nick Smith M.P.**

- 13) Wrexham and District National Eisteddfod 2011  
Asking for Financial support from Councils throughout the Country  
**Received.**

- 14) ICO  
**Received.** Amended copy of Register entry

- 15) Fair Trade  
Youth Fair Trade 2010 – this years ultimate event for young people keen to find out more about Fair Trade- 29-31<sup>st</sup> October at Coventry University  
**Received.**

- 16) WCVA  
Wales Funding Conference 2010 at Venue Cymru Llandudno Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010 £85 per WCVA Member  
**Received.**

**Received.****168) PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC road works period from 17/9/10-24/9/10; BGCBC Road works report Week commencing 24.9.10; 1 Voice Wales Cittaslow Uk, details of 2010 National Conference Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010, The Soutar Theatre Perth Scotland; Ville d Orvault Magazine July- august 2010; Blaenavon world Heritage Site Best of British photography 2010 and living landscape lectures posters; BGCBC Road works report 1/10/10-8/10/10; Blanchere illuminations 15% off list prices on selected tree lights and icicle lights; BBC Cymru Wales Posters and flyers Merthyr leisure centre 17.10.10  
**AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS.**

**169) AGENDA**

Executive Committee meeting held Council Chamber, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September immediately following the meeting of the Executive at 10am; Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale starting at 2pm; Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary meeting of Council held in Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010; Executive Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010- attached minutes of the Special Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010; and minutes of the meeting with NASUWT 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010; BGCBC Agenda Finance, Improvement and Performance Scrutiny meeting held in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 2.00pm; Audit Committee meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 3.00pm; Special Planning Committee meeting held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2pm; Licensing Committee Meeting, Council Chamber Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 11.am. Executive Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at Council Chambers, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale at 11 am – RECONVENED for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 2.30 pm in the Executive Room at the Civic Centre Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Councils Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 2.30pm in Council Chambers, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale.

**AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS.**

**170) MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLY HOUSE AND PARK**

1. A Member informed Council that the Dog Cemetery had been found but the headstone had now been removed and placed under the stairs in Bedwellty House. It is believed the faint details on the stone show the name “Twig 1814”. Mr F Olding is going to retrieve the stone and the Contractor is trying to find out where it was originally found. It was mentioned that the work is progressing with the ponds looking amazing and as weddings have been booked for May 2011 it is anticipated to be open in April 2011.  
It was requested that a letter is sent to Mr D Watkins, BGCBC, for an urgent meeting to discuss use of Bedwellty House.
2. It was also requested that a letter was sent to Mr D Watkins, BGCBC, concerning the flooding of the Bush Public House which is believed to have been due to the culverts running into the Park.
3. A letter is to be sent requesting that security of the Park and House is on the agenda for the next Bedwellty Park Management Board meeting for discussion.

## 171) PLANNING

*Cllrs. B. Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.*

### a) To consider an Officer's Report

C/2010/0254, 74 Glanhwy Street Tredegar, proposed extension – **Approved.**

C/2010/0248, 10A Castle Street Tredegar, Lawful Development Certificate Application for residential flat – **Refused.**

C/2010/0253, 17 North Avenue Tredegar, single storey rear extension for use as kitchen/utility area & lounge with decking area – **Approved.**

C/2010/0236, 129 Charles Street Tredegar, proposed replacement garage & wall – **Approved.**

C/2010/0257, 33 Union Street Tredegar, two storey extension at rear – **Approved.**

C/2010/0270, 65 Park View Tredegar, retention of first floor bed extensions – **Recommendation is to Refuse.**

C/2010/0272 Land at The Nook, Harford Street Tredegar, 4 bedroom detached house and detached garage – **Recommendation is to Refuse.**

**RECEIVED.**

A Member highlighted his concerns that there had been a change in powers by the Planning Department who have now been delegated powers for refusal. If they wish to raise concerns on the application Councillors must now write to Planning stating the concerns.

### b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0312	Mr Robert Gunter 26 Bedwelty Pits Tredegar	Domestic Garage, 26 Bedwelty Pits Tredegar
<b>NO OBJECTIONS</b>		
2010/0313	Mr Les Kisby Vale Terrace Chapel c/o, 39 Rhyd Terrace Tredegar	Security and Boundary fence, Land adjacent to Vale Terrace Chapel, Vale Terrace, Tredegar
<b>NO OBJECTIONS. Council also recommended sending a grant form to Vale Terrace Chapel.</b>		
2010/0314	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Anvil Court, Abertillery Blaenau Gwent	Removal existing Edwardian door, frame and reinstate original archway and beading archive to dating from between 1800-1824, Bedwellty House, Bedwellty Park Tredegar
<b>NO OBJECTIONS</b>		



***Cllr B. Willis left the room whilst the following item was discussed.***

2010/0331	Mr Bernard Willis	development plot 4,
	70 Charles Street, Tredegar	Former LCR site at
		Charles Street Tredegar

**Clarification had been sought prior to meeting from Mr D. John of BGCBC that it was permitted for Council to make observations.**

**NO OBJECTIONS**

2010/0338	Mr Andrew Jenkins	Renewal of outline
	Windsor Villa, The Rhyd Tredegar	planning approval, Land
		at rear of Park Hill

**NO OBJECTIONS**

### **172) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN**

- 1) Tredegar Comprehensive is not available for the Mayor's Concert. It was recommended that a letter is sent to Tredegar Orpheus to check availability for December.
- 2) A clay model was suggested as a gift for Orvault and it was requested that costing for this was sought.
- 3) It was suggested that Council should approach local associations to seek interest in participating at a free concert in Wootton Bassett with the possibility that Wootton Bassett can use the concert to raise funds for the Armed Forces if they wish.
- 4) Concerns were raised over the possibility of the Nye Bevan portrait being moved from Tredegar General Hospital to the new Hospital Site. It was agreed to write to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board stating that we wish to have the original at Bedwellty House and a copy can be made for the new Hospital.
- 5) A Member suggested the presentation of a plaque to Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club for their continued support of Tredegar Town Council. It was agreed and a plaque is to be available for presentation at the Mayor's Appeal Golf Day on Saturday 9th October 2010. The Mayor reminded all Members of his Appeal event and thanked Cllr Cross for all the work he has done in organising the event.
- 6) Patrick Thomas is representing Wales in Table Tennis at the Commonwealth Games in India. It was agreed to check if he has previously received a gift from Council and if so then a letter of congratulations is to be sent on this occasion.

**173)** It was agreed that the meeting was exempt from public involvement by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a

### **174) To receive a verbal report of the Staffing and Finance Committee**

The R.F.O. briefly outlined the discussions over the three quotations received for this year's Christmas Light and that the quotation being recommended for approval was from B.G.C.B.C. It was mentioned that the following queries were raised by the Committee:-

- 1) The Christmas Lighting erection is not to be carried out on Armistice Day.
- 2) The lights are only to be on for a specified time, 4pm to 2am recommended.
- 3) Council wishes to specify the motifs and locations to co-ordinate the display from the Clock through town – matching designs and colours on opposite lamp posts.
- 4) No lights including those around the Clock are to be on before the switch on event.
- 5) To request a calculation of electricity costs for the lighting, as it is known what the voltage, specification and number of lights are being erected, prior to any payment being made for the electricity.

Members queried how it could be possible for BGCBC to this year hire and install the Christmas Lighting cheaper than just installing last year.

Thanks were expressed to the Town Clerk, Ms C Keane, for all her hard work in obtaining these quotes and site meetings. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation raising the questions above with BGCBC.

Council also requested a Press Release to be sent out prior to the switch on explaining that this year's lighting will be different to previous years and that it is now more sustainable and greener. Also there will be no strings of lights across the road due to Health and Safety concerns. This press release is to be placed on the Council website too.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25 P.M.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair