

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held at the Library, Tredegar on Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 6.30 p.m

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

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

258) Apologies: **Cllr G. Bowen-Knight**

259) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants

Following the Civic Sub-Committee meeting previously the following recommendations were made:

- a) *Time Banking - Spirit of Bevan Studio* - a grant of £200 was recommended.
- b) *Homemakers* - a grant of £100, as requested, was recommended
- c) *Sling Shot Street Band* - a grant of £200 was recommended.
- d) *St. John Ambulance* - It was recommended that a grant of £500 be made to the Tredegar Division

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

- e) *The Community Interest Company (CIC)* - a grant of £200 was recommended.

To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137) – there were none.

260) Correspondence

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

- 1) BGCBC a) Licensing applications w/e 17/12/10 & 24/12/10

RECEIVED

b) A. Tippings Tourism – Centenary handover of Bedwellty House & Park seeking info on exhibits.

RECEIVED. A file had been found in the office, but did not contain the information requested.

c) F. Olding Heritage – Asking for a copy of the pre-restoration inventory.

RECEIVED

d) Consultation with Town & Community Councils – next Meeting to be held on Thursday 24th February 2011 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale (pre meeting in Committee Room 2 at 2pm) Items for agenda by Friday 11th February 2011.

RECEIVED. Members suggested the following:

a) recent bad weather had highlighted the problems with snow clearance/gritting at the Vitcc Centre, with cars parking on the main road. A suggestion to put a road from Bridge Street to the site was also put forward.

b) what are BGCBC going to do to improve the art and cultural facilities in Tredegar to bring them in line with facilities in the rest of the Borough.

2) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

Informing the funeral arrangement for the late Town Councillor Terry Maggs. This is to be held on Thursday 20th January 2011 at 10.30 am in Wesley Chapel Nantyglo to be followed by cremation at Gwent Crematorium Croesyceiliog at 12.30 pm

RECEIVED. A letter of condolence to be sent. Members to attend if possible.

3) SLCC Membership renewal Form 2011 (cost £151 as last year)

RECEIVED. Agreed.

4) Twinning Assoc a) Details of the bi-annual trip to Orvault which is scheduled to take place from Thursday 26th May 2011 to Tuesday 31st May 2011. Requesting whether any representatives of the Town Council will be travelling with them.
b) Copies of costings etc for Cllrs. Tippings, Willis and Rowberry

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Mayor should attend and that the costs be paid by Council.

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

5) The Valleys, The Heart and Soul of Wales

The Nye Bevan Trail has been selected amongst the Top 50 Valley Essentials to promote the Valleys as a top tourism destination for 2011 (poster and voting details available in the Library)

RECEIVED. Voting form and poster on show and available at the Library – also already on the web-site.

6) One Voice Wales a) Gwent Valleys OVW Meeting 25/01/11 with Shelley Bosson Chief Exec of Heddlu Gwent Police – requesting items for the meeting.

RECEIVED. A question relating to the way Police would respond to the cutback in frontline services was suggested.

b) Larger Local Council Committee – meeting at Llandrindod Wells on 19/1/11 at 10am (apologies offered)

RECEIVED. Apologies were tendered.

7) Ms. Jayne Sullivan Response to invitation to meet Council – not yet endorsed as a candidate and so respectfully declines invitation at this stage.

RECEIVED. Having read the response, Members were greatly disappointed that Ms. Sullivan did not want to hear, first hand, the issues that concern the people of Tredegar. The Clerk was instructed to write to Ms. Sullivan and inform her of this.

8) H. Trollope Info regarding awards to performance groups – circulated to Tredegar Thespians, Town Band, Kidz R Us, Operatic Soc and Orpheus.

RECEIVED and circulated.

9) Wales Air Ambulance

Information on a fund raising event – a trek to Kilimanjaro in June 2011 and the Everest Base Camp in November 2011. Also details of the British Heart Foundation “Heart Start” campaign detailing courses available free of charge in the Brecon Beacons area. Contact for community groups: Mr. Alan Ward, tel. 01874 625077, e-mail: info@bigfootservices.co.uk

RECEIVED

10) Royal British Legion

Great Poppy Party Weekend brochure to celebrate the Royal British Legion’s 90th birthday. Wishes to encourage local communities/individuals to hold their own ‘Poppy Party’ over the weekend of 10th-12th June 2011.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to take part in the event and to write to the local branch of the RBL to let them know this. (to be forwarded to the next Events Co)

11) a) Ian Lucas Reimbursement for wreath and thanks for organising the Memorial Service
115 Sqdn RAF for Flight T2520. All the extra items and photographs they have received
Association will be added to the archives at Witchford.

b) F. Leatherdale A “Thank you” for the organisation of the Flight T2520 Memorial Service
Sqdn Leader (Ret’d) ‘the passing of the years does not minimise the sorrow that we feel on such
115 Sqdn occasions, but we draw comfort from the fact that there are people such as you
and your colleagues who care for the memorial and keep the memory of the
crew who perished there that night in 1940’.

BOTH ITEMS RECEIVED. A request was made for the letters to be scanned and posted on the Facebook page created by Cllr. Tippings. The question of what to do with the money raised at the Memorial Service at St. Georges, just over £300, was deferred until the next Meeting to allow time for research into suitable charities.

12) BBNP a) Planning Surgery Dates 2011 at Abergavenny and Llandovery
b) LAF meeting to take place 21/01/11 at 2pm
c) Vacancy on Standards Committee
d) LDP Deposit consultation extended (7/1/11)

RECEIVED

261) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report w/e 140111: Ville D’Orvault Bordereau d’envoi November: Orvault Magazine Jan/Mar 2011: Play for Wales Issue 33: J Parkers Wholesale Bulb Catalogue Spring 2011: Ashwood Calendar: The Voice (OVW): Blachere Illuminations spring offers: Shelter training courses: Gavo Network Winter 2010: Clerks & Councils Direct

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

262) AGENDA

Bedwellty Park Management Board rescheduled to Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 5pm in the Library; Ordinary Meeting of December rescheduled to 19th January 2011 at 10am Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday 9th February 2011 at 11am Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 20th January 2011 at 9.30 Tredegar Library: the following agenda available: Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny of 11th January; Social Care inclusion Scrutiny Co on 10th January; Special Planning 7th January Ebbw Vale; Executive Co 5th January; Ordinary Meeting 20th December postponed and Licensing Co. 4th January Cancelled
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

263) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park - To receive a report on the meeting with Messrs Watkins and Olding (BGCBC) and Ms. Nicole Deufeld, (Manager of Bedwellty House and Park), regarding the return to Bedwellty House, held on 5th January 2011.

A number of matters of concern were raised by Members including the siting of the Notice Board purchased by Council at great expense. (Clerk to contact D. Watkins urgently). The Meeting had been arranged at quite short notice and apologies offered to those who had not been contacted. It was agreed that we would schedule the next Meeting for the convenience of *our Members*.

Amongst items raised was continued maintenance of the War Memorial. It was pointed out by a Member that there had been provision for repair/revamp in the original bid.

Members were keen that the Assembly Room which reflected the history of Tredegar and which was often visited by people from far away, should remain as it was. Members also commented that people who booked the House for weddings etc did so because of the history of the House. Also there had been promises that the mosaic which marked the 150th Anniversary of the Chartist movement, which was originally sited in the Long Shelter before being vandalised and partially destroyed in an arson attack, would be replaced. The use of the Bandstand for concerts was raised with dates needed asap – possible clashes with weddings again highlighted as well as the provision of indoor space should the weather be inclement. It was highlighted by the Clerk that a Meeting of the Events Committee was needed as a matter of urgency.

264) PLANNING

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

a) OFFICERS REPORT –

The following items were taken under “Delegated items” between 16/11 and 13/12/2010:

2010/0354	116 Peacehaven	Porch	Approved
2010/0355	36 Arches Close	Retention of Balcony	Approved
2010/0356	67 Vale Terrace	Single storey kitchen extension	Approved
2010/0389	25 Gwent Shopping Centre	Replacement signage	Approved
		Halifax/Santander	
2010/0381	Tennis Courts Bedwellty House	Refurbishment	Approved
2010/0359	Land adjacent 6 Queen Victoria St	Pair semi-det. Houses	Approved
2010/0380	4 Vale Terrace	Retention of block shed	Approved
2010/0378	Car Showroom Tafarnaubach	New porch	Approved
2010/0345	Glastonbury Charles St	2 nd storey extension	Refused

2010/0363 Rhyd Hall	Retention of deck/smoking shelter	Approved
2010/0379 Cambrian Hotel	New signage	Approved
2010/0350 6 Rhymney Row	Two storey extension	Approved
2010/0314 Bedwellty House	Reinstatement of archway	Approved

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

2010/0293 Nant-y-Rhyd The Rhyd	Conversion of bungalow to 2 storey building/garage	Approved
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b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0422	Mr.& Mrs S. Ruddock 20 Cae Ffynon Penybryn Gelligaer	Proposed change of use from Public House(The Crown) to Dwelling with photographic studio.

NO OBJECTIONS

2010/0420	Mr A Edwards 44 Glanhowy Street	Re-submission new build 4 bed house re-positioning at 24 Lakeside
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NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters –None Received

265) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN

- 1) It was noted that Mr. Keith Marsh of 2 Golwg-y-Mynydd had recently donated his 100th pint of blood. It was agreed that he should be nominated for a Civic award at the next presentation.
- 2) A Member reported, from a good source, that there were strong rumours that the General Hospital would be demolished within 18 months.
- 3) It was announced that Harcourt Terrace Chapel would be closing in August 2011. It was noted that this was a Listed Building, but costs of some £250,000 to make repairs were beyond their means. It was agreed to approach BGCBC to see what help they could offer.
- 4) A Member queried the ownership of the land beyond Top House in Trefil, noting that there used to be road trials held some time ago.
- 5) A Member highlighted the upcoming Fair Trade Fortnight to be held in February. This year's highlight to be an attempt to break the World's Longest Bunting record, with bunting made by local schoolchildren. Use of the Town Clock was requested but Members replied that they would want to view the bunting beforehand. Cost implications for erection and taking down were highlighted by the Clerk.
- 6) Upcoming visit to Parliament – further information regarding available dates and transport was requested by Members.
- 7) It was noted by Members that Cameron Hudd, of United Way, had been named as one of Cancer Research UK's "Little Stars" in recognition of his courage and positive outlook throughout his illness. It was agreed that he should receive a Civic award at the next presentation.
- 8) The kind donation by Kidz R'Us to the Mayor's Appeal of tickets for their upcoming pantomime – Dick Whittington on the 26th, 27th and 28th January 2011 was welcomed by the Mayor, Cllr. Trollope.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM.

_____Chair