

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at the Library, Tredegar on Wednesday 15th December 2010 at 6.00 p.m

Present: **Councillor** **H. Trollope**
 B. Willis
 M. Cross
 P. Prosser
 D. Rowberry
 G. Bowen-Knight
 K. Hayden
 M. O'Sullivan
 S. Trollope
 G Woolf

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

242) Apologies: **Cllrs T. Gregory; A. Cotton; J. Morgan**
 D. Howells; R. Thomas; A Tippings
 and H. Woolf

Before the Meeting began the Chair welcomed back Cllr. Bowen-Knight who had been ill

243) Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members to make declarations of interest at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

244) Grants: To consider and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.

Due to Cancellation of Civic Meeting 1st December 2010 following grants need recommendation and approval:-

British Heart Foundation – Requesting a donation to help keep more vulnerable Welsh hearts beating- PREVIOUS – 2009/10 CQ No 743 £100
A grant of £100 was recommended and approved.

Llangollen International Eisteddfod – Requesting donation. PREVIOUS – 2009/10 CQ No 737 £50
A grant of £50 was recommended and approved.

Cllrs H. Trollope and D Rowberry declared an interest in the following two items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Hospice of the Valleys – Request for funding to help with specialist care services 24/7 for patients.
PREVIOUS – Nov 2007/08 CQ No 528 £250
A grant of £250 was recommended and approved.

Hospice of the Valleys – Request for funding to help with Winter Wonder Land at Parc Bryn Bach.
PREVIOUS – Nov 09 2009/10 CQ No 956 £500 – event cancelled, event planned for January 2011
no further details

It was agreed to hold this grant back until the new event had been notified.

Tredegar Junior Netball Club – Request for funding to help with the running costs of the club.
PREVIOUS – 2008/09 CQ No 002 £300

A grant of £300 was recommended and approved.

Tredegar Ladies Circle – Request for funding to help with fees and safety vests. PREVIOUS -
2009/10 April CQ No 612 £200

A grant of £200 was recommended and approved.

Cllr. M. O’Sullivan declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon

Tredegar and Rhymney Golf Club – Request for funding for restoration of greens and tees also generally maintenance of the club house and course. PREVIOUS – Feb 2010 CQ no 760 £150

A grant of £150 was recommended and approved.

The Stroke Association – Donation Request for Christmas Appeal.

It was agreed unanimously to donate £100 to the Christmas Appeal.

Grants to Churches and Chapels

None received.

245) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in November 2010 and for payment in December 2010.

The accounts having previously inspected by the Mayor and Leader and cheques and invoices reconciled – with the addition of the grant to the Stroke Association - were approved.

The Audit Return (number 13 on the Correspondence list was taken at this time) Mrs. Jones the RFO read out the note that had been made by the Audit Office and aired her feelings and those of the Internal Auditor that the comments were unfounded and unnecessary. There was unanimous agreement.

The Audit Return and the letter of protest were accepted and noted.

Discussion followed regarding the budget and precept which were pending with a number of items highlighted.

It was further noted that the Audit Report will feature on the Town Council Web-Site.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Jones who then left the Meeting at 6.20pm

246) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17th November 2010.

The Minutes were received and noted as a true record

247). Matters arising not on the Agenda.

1) Minute No 223. It was noted that the visit and presentation by Insp. Warren from Cwmbran had been cancelled due to the weather and it was agreed to issue a new invite for the New Year.

- 2) Minute No 227 (1). It was noted that there had been no response from Ms. Bolt regarding memorabilia and it was agreed to write again.
- 3) Minute 231. It was noted that the NCB Club had closed and Members were concerned that it should not fall into serious disrepair. It was noted that a grant in principal from CADW would refer to the building itself - irrelevant of any possible changes in ownership.

Cllr. B. Willis left the Meeting at 6.30 p.m.

4) Minute No 232 (5) Memorial Service. The Mayor, at this stage, commented on the Memorial Service which had been held the week before, commenting that it had been one of our greatest successes giving thanks to Fr. John Davis, the Orpheus Choir and conductor Ian Waite and Cllr. Tippings. It was further re-iterated that Tredegar Town Council would pick up the costs for the service and buffet in the amount of £200. It was mentioned that the Deputy Mayor of Blaenau Gwent, Cllr. Mike Bartlett was very impressed and offered to host any of the families of the victims of the crash who might visit, in his term as Mayor. It was noted that the evening was non-political in nature with a feeling of real warmth in the Church. The collection of £144 was discussed and it was agreed to suggest putting a Memorial plaque in Bedwellty House and that any money left over should go to the local ATC. This was agreed. It was unanimously agreed too, to donate £100 to the Orpheus Choir as a gesture of thanks for their continued support.

248) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting of 22nd November 2010

The Minutes were received and noted as a true record.

249) Matters Arising not on the Agenda.

It was agreed that there should be a Meeting of the Events Committee as a debrief of the Christmas Lights Switch-On – date to be arranged.

250) Correspondence.

1) P. M. Jones The Brecon Beacons Memorial Cairn
The booklet showing the Cairn and reflecting on its history was shown to all Members. It was agreed to write to Mr. Jones thanking him for the book and his efforts

2) L. Price Journal Sans frontiers No 54 – Newsletter showing article on Town Clock and photograph

RECEIVED. It was agreed to send information on all future events, including the Memorial Services etc.

3) BGCBC (a) S. Smith – Tredegar General Hospital RE; Joined up approach, Letter forwarded to G. Jones Regeneration Officer waiting response.

RECEIVED – response by Regeneration still pending. A Member highlighted the fact that some equipment still remained at the Hospital. It was agreed to write to the health Board to try to get an inventory and to offer our services to help redistribute as much as possible through the community.

(b) B. Cartwright – Querying Shops not having Christmas trees despite having brackets.

RECEIVED – it was agreed that traders would be contacted post Christmas to seek permission. Also that some brackets may have not been connected due to electrical connection problems – this to be reviewed in the New Year.

Cllr. D. Rowberry declared an interest in the following

- (c) Graph Comparison of the burial costs in Wales

RECEIVED

Cllrs D. Rowberry and K. Hayden declared in interest in the following.

- (d)
 - (i) Licensing Applications Week Ending 21.11.2010
 - (ii) List of Licensing Applications Week Ending 28.11.10
 - (iii) Licensing Applications Week Ending 5.12.2010

RECEIVED. It was noted that there were a number of applications for taxi licences and the increasing number of companies was noted. Concerns were raised by Members regarding the maintenance, storage and parking requirements, the criteria required to start such a business and also any waste recycling requirements. It was agreed to write seeking this information.

- (e) Corporate Improvement Plan – 2010/11 Review

RECEIVED

- (f) RE: Cattle Grid in Trefil, Believe the Cattle Grid will be replaced in the near future

RECEIVED

- (g) RE: Reserved Part Night lighting Documents – Amended Part Night Lighting Documents

RECEIVED – available for all members.

- (h) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Siting of barrier North of Trefil Tredegar. Do not know who is responsible for erecting the barrier; however the sign erected states that the road/bridleway is private so possibly erected by the land owner.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the barrier did not require planning permission because of its height.

- (i) Strategy and Procedures for disposal of surplus land and property

RECEIVED – available for all Members

- (j)
 - (i) Court Royal Bournemouth – Holidays 2011
 - (ii) Court Royal Convalescent home for the South Wales mining industry

RECEIVED – it was agreed to post this information on the Web-site.

Cllrs D. Rowberry and K. Hayden declared in interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

- (k) Legal Notices Licensing Application for Bedwellty House and Park

Members objected strongly to the proposed of the Council Chamber for weddings etc. since there had been no consultation with the Town Council at all and it was felt that there were more than enough rooms available for use throughout the House. It was unanimously agreed to write to BGCBC opposing the use of the Chamber.

- (1) Declaration of Vacancy on Tredegar Town Council Central & West Ward
– NO REQUEST FOR ELECTION MAY NOW CO-OPT.

RECEIVED

- 4) Fairtrade Wales Schools signed up to the Fairtrade scheme in your area

RECEIVED

- 5) Spinal Injuries Association

Asking for help to give support to Spinal injury patients and their families
– Giving a gift of £35

RECEIVED. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor had held a Fish and Chip supper to raise money for this cause earlier in the year and it was unanimously agreed to support this request in the sum of £35.

- 6) Wales Rural Observatory

Services Questionnaire – Supported by One Voice Wales

RECEIVED

- 7) Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Pharmacy within the Health Centre Park Row has agreed to give out
hearing aid batteries to patients.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to post this information onto the Web site.

- 8) Scope

Notification of Scope House to House collection dates

RECEIVED

- 9) Pontypool Community Council

Gwent Valley Meeting – Mrs. Bosson, Chief Exec of Gwent Police will be
attending on 25th January 2011 in Cwmbran

RECEIVED

- 10) G. Bartlett

RE; School Transport members considered message concerning School
Transport at full Council on Wednesday 24th November and agree
completely with the sentiments.

RECEIVED. It was noted that they were checking to see how the new arrangements would affect their own area and would stay in touch.

- 11) Caerphilly CBC

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act

RECEIVED

- 12) Local Councils for Wales

Annual return for the year ended 31st March 2010 – Annual Audit

RECEIVED – taken with Accounts earlier (see Minute 245)

- 13) Small Business Payroll Service

Christmas period closing times

RECEIVED

- 14) Concert for Wootton Bassett

- (a) J. McGuire- Unable to attend the concert for Wootton Bassett due to prior commitments.

- (b) Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir – Would certainly like to be involved in the concert for Wootton Bassett Spring 2011

RECEIVED. To be scheduled for a Meeting of the Events Committee in the new Year.

15) Heddllu Gwent Police

Continue support by sponsoring the Wings to Fly project drama performance in the local area

RECEIVED. It was noted that this was a worthwhile project which had been previously supported by Council. It was unanimously agreed to support in the sum of £100.

16) Coleg Gwent

Nick Wheeler confirming the hire cost of equipment hire from Coleg Gwent and details of his own events management company. No equipment cost hire but charges for operating engineers which have to be learners/staff of Coleg Gwent for insurance purposes, per engineer/operator ranges from £100 to £150 per day or £10 per hour.

RECEIVED and noted.

17) Ross Andrews

Manager of the Citadel, Mount Street Tredegar. Invite to Members to view the facility to see what opportunities and use the centre has to offer charitable/voluntary groups in Tredegar.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact directly.

18) Cllr J. Morgan

Photos of the Wellington Bomber Wreath Laying Service

RECEIVED. It was agreed to thank Cllr. Morgan for the photos and to send copies to all those who had taken part.

19) A. Tippings

Bomber Story in the Eastern Daily Press (Story attached)

RECEIVED – circulated to Members.

20) Local Council Update

December 2010 Issue 134 Relevant items copied for Members

RECEIVED

251) PUBLICATIONS

Road Works Report Weeks Ending 19.11.10-26.11.10; Road Works Report Weeks Ending 26/11/10 – 3/12/10; Ville d' Orvault No 120 issue December 2010; SMP Playgrounds 10% Discount; Glasdon Latest products for Local Councils; Road Work Reports Week Ending 3.12.10 – 10.12.10; Road works Report Week Period 10.12.2010 – 17.12.2010; Living Church Yards Issue 6 Autumn/ Winter **RECEIVED available for all Members. It was noted that Tredegar was the only Town that did not hold a Christmas Market and it was agreed to write to the Regeneration Division at Blaenau Gwent to find out the reason.**

252) AGENDA

Agendas for Meeting 1st December are available for viewing; Environment Scrutiny Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Thursday 16th December at 2.00pm; Executive Committee Meeting, Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale at 2.00pm on 15th December on Wednesday 15th December 2010; Notice to say the Executive Committee Meeting, Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale at 2.00pm on 15th December on Wednesday 15th December 2010 will now be held on Thursday 16th December 2010 at 11.30 am; Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw

Vale at 2.00pm on Monday 20th December 2010; Blaenau Gwent Heritage forum Meeting on Thursday 16th December 2010 at 9.30am at Tredegar Library.
RECEIVED available for all Members.

253) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/working Parties.

- i. Bedwellty Park Management Board – **NO REPORT**
- ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils– **NO REPORT**
- iii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales– **NO REPORT**
- iv. Tredegar Twinning– **NO REPORT**
- v. School Governing Bodies – **All Members reported on excellent Christmas Concerts held by their schools.**
- vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled - **NO REPORT**
- vii. Brecon Beacons Advisory Group – **having enquired as to the standing of the Town Council representative and being told that it is a non-speaking/voting role purely as a member of the public – it was agreed to withdraw our representative and to write informing them of the reason.**
- viii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – **a number of Members raised concerns about the lack of consultation with regard to recent redundancies and it was felt that the Board were not being allowed any chance to manage the Parc properly. Problems raised concerned the lack of service and user friendliness, with Members commenting on the latest introduction that after 2pm only disposable cups were available – because there was no dishwasher or staff available.**
- ix. Tredegar Youth Café – **a replacement representative was agreed.**
- x. Tredegar Development Trust - **NO REPORT**
- xi. Blaenau Gwent CAB – **comments were made about the lack of local representation and it was understood that this was to be reviewed. The services of the Speakeasy group were highly praised.**
- xii. **Communities First Board**
- xiii. Blaenau Gwent Joint Liaison Committee – **Charter was ongoing.**
- xiv. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel - **NO REPORT**
- xv. Tredegar Business Forum- **NO REPORT. It was noted by Members that no list of meeting dates had been received.**
- xvi. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum- **NO REPORT**
- xvii. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum- **NO REPORT**
- xviii. Blaenau Gwent HARPS Project - **NO REPORT**

254) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT –

2010/0338 Land at rear of Park Hill – renewal of outline planning permission 2007/0458 for 2 no dwellings - approved
2010/0290 Lawful development certificate application for residential flat - refused

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2010/0408	Mr. Len Kisby 39 Rhyd Terrace	Outline application for single dwelling on land adjacent to Vale Terrace Chapel
NO OBJECTION		
2010/0414	Mrs. Davies 11 St. James Way, Tredegar	Proposed conservatory to rear elevation
NO OBJECTION		

c) Other Planning Matters

None Received.

255) MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN (BY PRIOR NOTICE)

- 1) It was noted that the artist putting together the Sirhowy art work at the Spirit of Bevan studio was looking for items of local interest to be included on the piece. It was further agreed to commission her to produce a piece for the Twinning Associations anniversary.
- 2) A Member raised again the fact that a number of ledgers from the General Hospital were rumoured to be in Aneurin Bevan House – it was agreed to contact Cllr. Morgan to confirm.
- 3) Cllr. Morgan had previously sought permission to open the Clock to accommodate a visit as part of a Local Youth Festival being held (at February Half Term) in conjunction with Communities First, which featured the Bevan Trail. It was agreed that the Clock be opened – subject to weather conditions.
- 4) A Member raised once access to the VITCC Centre with parking of vehicles on the access road into town during the recent snowy weather. It was agreed to write to both Highways and Regeneration seeking a solution.
- 5) It was agreed to send congratulations to Owen Smith MP for Pontypridd who had recently been awarded “Member to Watch” at the ITV Wales Politician of the Year Awards.
- 6) Mayor’s Christmas Visits – in the absence of the Re-Liance Bus a fee of £35 was agreed for an alternative. Arrangements were detailed.
- 7) Mayor’s Appeal St. David’s Day Concert – this was agreed for Tuesday March 1st at Venue 1 – further details to be forthcoming.

The completion of a year away from Bedwellty House and Park was noted and the promise of a return in Spring warmly welcomed. Staff were thanked for their efforts throughout a busy and testing first year and the Mayor and Leader closed the Meeting by wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15PM

_____Chair