TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 2nd November 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors B Willis
A. Cotton
M Cross
A Tippings
H Trollope
T. Gregory
K. Hayden
J. Morgan
M. O'Sullivan (arrived late)
P. Prosser
S. Trollope
D. Rowberry

In attendance: Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk

139) Apologies: Cllrs H. Woolf, G. Bowen-Knight, G. Woolf and D. Howells

At the beginning of the Meeting the Mayor welcomed back Cllr. Tony Gregory after his long illness and also welcomed the safe arrival of Cllr. Cross's grandson.

140) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants.
Cllr. T. Gregory declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.
Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – a Grant of £200.00 was agreed.

Cllr. M. O'Sullivan joined the Meeting at 6.40pm

2167 Squadron (Tredegar) ATC – It was agreed by a majority of five to three to delegate the Mayor, Leader and their deputies to carry out a fact finding visit to the Squadron and to invite the Crime Prevention Officer to visit. A sum of £500 was agreed to be awarded to the Squadron by this majority vote.

To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137) – None received.

141) To receive the verbal report of the Events Committee.
Details of the events planned to commemorate the Armistice, T2520 Bomber and remembrance Sunday were conveyed to Members (for full details see Minutes 163-166)
It was agreed to approach Mr. Ken Price as a steward. The purchase of the Santa suit was agreed as was the hire of the bus for the Cairn walk and the Mayors Christmas visit.

Cllr. T. Gregory left the Meeting at 6.45pm

Cllr. D. Rowberry offered her apologies in advance for the Remembrance Services.

Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon – Cllr Cotton took over the Chair

142) Planning

a) To consider an Officer's Report

2011/0191 Shed, 2 ShopRow, Trefil – Recommending application is granted with conditions (approval relates to position on approved plans and does not give permission for the shed in its current position).

2011/0263 23/24 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar – Recommending that planning permission should be granted subject to conditions.

Appeals received and determined

Appeal 515355 Urgent works notice to listed building, Tredegar Co. Shop, Shop Row – Verbal update at Committee

List of Delegated items determined between 10th September 2011 and 19th October 2011.

2011/0270 Installation of external plant equipment, Unit 28a Former Aldi Store, Gwent Shopping Centre - Approved.
2011/0255 Alterations & extensions to garden centre to create covered storage/display area & Parking, Unit E Crown Business Park, Tredegar - Approved.
2011/0201 To demolish existing ground floor extension & construct proposed double storey extension & proposed car port in place of existing shed - Approved.
2011/0227 Residential development (2 plots), Arosfa, Maes Glas, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0234 Alterations/repair & recladding of existing commercial garage including single storey extensions for office & garage storage, Crown Garage, Merthyr Road, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0177 The proposal is to put CCTV cameras on the external walls of Bedwellty House, Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar – Approved.
The above were all noted. It was agreed to write to the Enforcement Officer to congratulate him and his department on their determination to pursue actions relating to the Tredegar Co Company shop. It was also agreed to approach the new Garden Centre to seek sponsorship of the Clock planting.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0319	Mr S Price Saron Congregational Church C/o. 3 Southend, Tredegar	Removal of existing slate, retention & reuse of salvaged slates on south elevation, replacement of existing slate with natural slate on north roof slope, treatment of ceiling structure & coving for dry rot, reinstatement of coved ceiling & cornice to east end of gallery, Saron Congregational Church

NO OBJECTIONS. It was noted by Members that this Church had been saved by the hard work of its congregation and should be congratulated.

c) To consider other planning matters.- **None Received**

Cllr. B. Willis then re-took the Chair.

143) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) Cllr K Hayden - Letter requesting the cutting back of the overgrown bushes that are encroaching from Southend and Vale View Allotments. The bushes are protruding through the wire fencing on to the pavement.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the secretaries.

(b) Re: Twinning Reception in Carriage House 14.4.11
(i) N. Deufel – D. Watkins has confirmed that this booking is chargeable & an invoice will be issued nearer the date.
(ii) L. Phillips – House pricing policy is a matter for the Local Authority.

RECEIVED. This caused great concern that the user rights of the Town Council were not being met. Members were informed of a Meeting to be held with Borough Officers to discuss these issues. It was agreed that should agreement not be reached with the Officers, the Town Council would pursue the matter through the legal system and engage a solicitor to act for us in this matter. It was noted at this time that a proposed meeting with the Twinning Association clashed with another meeting and it was agreed to contact them to change the time.

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

(b) A. Tippings Re: Funding for brown tourism signs. List of key sites under consideration for the brown tourism signs. If any possible sites have been omitted please let Alyson know by 31.10.11 or as soon as possible after that date.

(c) A. Tippings Re: Valleys Brochure. Requesting details of any keys events for next year to be sent to her by Monday 31.10.11 for inclusion in next year's Valleys Brochure.

Both Received. Members to contact directly.

2) One Voice Wales Details of Safety Partnership Grants available 1.4.2011 to 31.3.2012.

Received

3) Cllr H Woolf Asking whether Council would consider writing a Environmental/Sustainability Policy in light of forthcoming projects such as the proposed wind farm on Rhymney mountain.

Received. It was agreed that Cllr. H. Woolf should head a task and finish group to look at the Town Councils Sustainable Energy Policy with an unbiased approach.

4) GAVO Asking whether Council wishes to sponsor an award in the Voluntary Sector Achievements at £250 sponsor per award. In return for the sponsorship Council will receive the award of choice for one year with the Council's name on it and a complementary table for 10 at the event. This year, due to limited funding, it has been necessary to downsize the event which will now be held 3.12.11 at Llanhilleth Miners Institute, catering for 120 guests.

Received. It was agreed to sponsor the Special Achievement Award in the sum of £250.

5) Tredegar Twinning Association

Agreeing to meeting with Members of Council on Monday 7.11.11 to discuss the forthcoming French visit.

Received. Timing subject to change.

6) Torfaen CBC — Leaflets from the Local Government Employers concerning the ongoing consultation on the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Received

7) M. Evans — Poster from the Little Theatre advertising the "Ceri Dupree in The ladies I Love" show on Thursday 10.11.11 at 7.30pm All seats £10.00 – poster in notice board.

Received

144) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road Works Report week ending 4.11.11; Brecon Beacons National Park Confirmed Minutes of the Local Access Forum Meetings held 9.8.11.

145) AGENDA

Executive Meeting Wednesday 2nd November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 3rd November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Friday 4th November 2011 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Planning Committee Friday 4th November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

146) To select two new Members to represent Council on the Tredegar Business Forum

It was agreed that the link with the Forum was an important one but that there was confusion caused by having Councillors that sat on both the Borough and Town Council as our representatives. It was agreed that Cllrs. D. Howells and G. Woolf be nominated.
Clerk to contact.

147) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

Members queried the following:-

a) closing time of the Park, noting that there was a safety issue relating to Meeting nights.

b) the fountains – why weren't they on all the time?

c) ponds – the algae situation was causing concern amongst both Members and members of the public.

d) On a positive note the new fencing that had been erected around the Ice House was most effective.

e) Members of the public had been singing the praises of volunteers around the House and Park and this should be brought to the attention of the Management Committee at its next meeting.

148) Matters of Local Interest and concern

Members were reminded of the Twinning Association Christmas dinner and five Members and partners put their names forward. Cllr. O'Sullivan offered his apologies. It was agreed to contact absent Members too.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.50pm

_____ Chair