TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 21st March 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors B. Willis
A. Cotton
M. Cross
A. Tippings
D. Howells
K. Hayden
D. Rowberry
R. W. Thomas
P. Prosser
M. O'Sullivan

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

277) Apologies: Cllrs. H & S Trollope, J. Morgan, G. Woolf and T. Gregory.

278) Declarations of Interest
Members were reminded to make declarations of interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

279) Grants: To consider, recommend and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Thanks were noted

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**
Friends of Deighton Primary - **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**
Homemakers Community Recycling - **A grant of £100.00 was approved.**
Parc Bryn Bach - **A grant of £500.00 was approved.**
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club - **A grant of £150.00 was approved.**
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club Veteran Society - **A grant of £150.00 approved.**
Trefil Rugby Club - **A grant of £150.00 was approved.**
Trefil Rugby Club – SPECIAL GRANT - **A grant of £500.00 was approved.**
2167 Squadron (Tredegar) ATC – SPECIAL GRANT - **A grant of £500.00 was approved.**

Churches & Chapels (s.137) to recommend and to approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
St. James Church – **A grant of £200.00 was approved**
Bethania Congregational Church – **A grant of £200 was agreed on this occasion.**

280) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in March 2012.
The RFO pointed out that Bank reconciliations were available for Members to inspect.
It was noted that figures were well within budget limits and congratulations extended to the RFO.
The allotment situation was still to be resolved with additional discussions now taking place at

Milefield regarding status of trees on that allotment. However it had been agreed with the Arboricultural Officer of the Borough that TPO status was not necessary if both Town Council and he were approached before any major works were undertaken.

281) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

a) Minutes of the Events Committee held on 15th February 2012

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th February 2012

c) Minutes of the Finance & Staffing Sub Committee Meeting held on 7th March

d) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 7th March 2012

The minutes were received and approved as a true record.

282) Matters arising not on the Agenda

a) Events Committee

i) Minute No 246 – it was agreed to seek stewards for the Band Concerts post election.

b) Ordinary Meeting

i) Minute No 253 (iii) – relocation of the display cabinet was again urged. It was felt that the Miners Room did not offer a high enough profile.

ii) Minute No 254 (8) Walk for Life – Members asked that anyone not taking part in the Walk should support. The Clerk offered her apologies.

iii) Minute No 256 (iii) Tredegar Twinning – It was noted that the Association were still trying to place two single men.

c) Finance & Staffing

i) Minute No 260 – It was reported that the contractor selected had been on site that very day. He had been very helpful and had pointed out a number of issues not covered in the original quote and some ambiguities. He had agreed to issue a new quote for additional work that was required. Members noted that the tarmac around the War Memorial was in a poor state and was spongy and lifting in many places. It was agreed to contact the House Management to rectify. He also took a look at the Orvault Obelisk in front of the House and agreed to supply a quote for the cleaning and repair. He later was taken to Saron Chapel to provide a quote on the Ieuan Gwynedd plaque. He also agreed to put forward a quote for a maintenance contract over a 1, 3, 5 and 10 year term. It was agreed that a press release be sent out updating the situation letting people know that grants were being applied for and that much of the work would need to be carried out in the summer months but would take only 3/4 weeks dependent on the weather. Should this be a problem it was noted that the contractor had stated that the slabs could be removed and re-guilded off site.

All policies were agreed and it was agreed to add amendments to the Grants policy on churches and chapels and to progress Allotment policy.

d) Civic Committee

i) Minute No 272 (8) Bedwellty park Bowling Club – it was noted with delight that the monies for the Pavilion had finally been approved.

283) To put forward a replacement representative for Communities First

It was agreed to defer this appointment until after the local elections in May.

284) To put forward nominations for Civic Awards and agree Wednesday 4th April 2012 as the date of the Presentation evening

A number of names were put forward for Civic Awards and agreed and the date of Wednesday 4th April was set.

285) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) A. O'Leary Re: Boundary Commission for Wales March 2012 newsletter regarding the 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies.

RECEIVED

(b) Nicole Deufel - Response to press release regarding Band Concerts and Armed Forces Day.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to inform the House Manager that the event is ongoing and invites had been extended. It was agreed to invite all Mayors and to approach the Borough regarding hire costs. Also to contact the Lowland Rescue and Police Dog Handlers.

(c) L. Healy Re: LDP – agreeing that any future consultations on the LDP will be advertised as available at Town Council Offices for viewing.

RECEIVED

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

(d) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 2.3.12
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 9.3.12

RECEIVED

2) One Voice Wales Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Consultation Meeting with Community Councils – Clare Parsons of the Authority has contacted them in relation the this consultation and has advised them that it has not yet been confirmed that a representative of Council will be attend. This is an important opportunity for Councils on/adjoining the National Park to become fully involved in the Development/implementation of the Charter. Hopes Council will decide to send a representative and should notify Clare Parsons.

RECEIVED

3) War Memorials Trust Receipt of expression of interest. Warning that the Trust is not able to fund retrospectively and that work should not be started – also that there is a delay of up to 6 weeks in processing forms.

RECEIVED and welcomed.

4) Welsh Government A465 Dualling Section Brynmawr to Tredegar – Objectors' Alternative Proposals March 2012. W.G. does not support these proposals but have a duty to circulate them.

RECEIVED

5) Aneurin Bevan Health Board

B. Bolt Re: Tredegar General Hospital – Usable items have been transferred to Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan and she will find out where the piano and other usable items are now. She believes that one of the locals groups with Colin Philpotts identified items they would like to remain in Tredegar but she will find out the details of this too.

RECEIVED. Cllr. Prosser noted that he had been in touch with Mr. Philpotts some time ago and urged further contact.

6) Gwent Police From 1st July 2012 the number of Station Enquiry Offices that provide counter service will reduce. Existing services will be maintained at Abergavenny, Blackwood, Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale and Newport Central.

RECEIVED. **It was agreed to write expressing the disappointment of the Members of council on behalf of the people of Tredegar. This item to be discussed at the next meeting of the JCLC.**

7) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
Kayleigh Edwards - Seeking information on payments made to Councillors.

RECEIVED Clerk completed

8) Attic Web Email Can amend banner to say "supported by" but it will mean making the banner bigger or the text smaller both of which may have problems – ie larger banner will take up more of the screen for smaller monitors & smaller text may be unreadable.

Deferred

9) Bedwellty Park Bowling Club
Thank you for all the support shown to them in their attempts to have a new bowling pavilion, pleased to let us know that the funding is now in place for the work to commence in April.

RECEIVED with thanks. It was agreed to write to the Officers of the Borough congratulating them on securing the funds.

10) Newport Gwent Dragons
Unable to support the Walk for Life event with players due to other commitments but can provide a raffle prize of two tickets to a game – the prize is a voucher which winner can redeem for any match.

RECEIVED It was suggested that a raffle might be held at the Walk for Life.

11) Superact Bandstand Marathon 9th September 2012 1pm to 5pm – live music events being held in bandstands on the same day, the event is now in its 5th year and aim to run over 500 events at the same time on the same day. Offering various packages for Local Authorities to participate.

RECEIVED. It was noted that the Town council would readily support this Marathon subject to events being planned by the Management of Bedwellty House and Park.

286) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Press Cutting February 2012; BGCBC Road works report week ending 16.3.12; Flagmakers Catalogue 2012/13; BGCBC Road works report week ending 23.3.12; HOV road closures Tues/Wed 20/21st between 8pm-6am from Brynmawr to Ebbw Vale; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No.133 Mars 2012; Noah's Ark Appeal Newsletter Issue 27 Spring 2012
Available for all Members

287) AGENDA

Special Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 19th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale: Ordinary Meeting Thursday 22nd March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber Ebbw Vale & Minutes Jan-March 2012; Executive Committee Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 27th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale. **Available for all Members**

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

288) Planning:
a) To consider an Officer's Report – none received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2012/0050	Mr R Jenkins, BGCBC Baldwin House Victoria Business Park, Ebbw Vale	Retention of change of use from Registry Office to an Educational Building for Special Educational Needs, Old Tredegar Registry Office, Church Street.

NO OBJECTIONS

2012/0060	Mr A Reeves Tredegar Tyre & Exhaust Centre The Promenade, Tredegar	Part change of use of existing tyre & exhaust retail outlet to also include/retain undertaking MOTs, servicing and repairs of vehicles, car sales & valeting, Tredegar Tyre & Exhaust Centre, The Promenade.

NO OBJECTIONS

2012/0061	Mr H Jones DPP Consulting Ltd 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff	Installation of 1 window, Tesco Express, Gwent Shopping Centre.

NO OBJECTIONS

2012/0063	Mr H Jones DPP Consulting Ltd 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff Shopping Centre	Installation & display of 1 advertisement, Tesco Express, Gwent

NO OBJECTIONS

2012/0064	Mrs E Wilcox 20 Vale View, Tredegar	Double storey & single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters
2011/0105 plot 24 (plot 4) Maes Morgan, Tredegar – Council raised concerns about the possibility of flooding which BGCBC were similarly concerned about. Therefore the land drainage officer suggested a solution which have now been submitted by the applicant and BGCBC have approved the revised scheme - **It was agreed to send our thanks.**

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

i. **Bedwellty Park Management Board – Parking problems were highlighted once more. A debate regarding the name of the Miners Room had taken place and there was news that the owners of the Cambrian would be naming rooms after local people of historical importance such as Gooch. Lack of advertising and marketing were**

highlighted. It was later noted that the Town Centre manager was to liaise with the park manager with regard to advertising. A Member asked whether the Salisbury Street gates were to be refurbished, it was agreed to write to the Borough and ask.

ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils – meeting between the JCLC and the Borough had taken place with still no representative from the Local Health Board or response regarding the pharmacy queries. It was agreed to write to Mr. Alun Davies AM seeking his help and also to ask the JCLC to contact him for his support. He also reported on discussions about the centralisation of junior schools and Members felt that it was important to keep community schools to serve the community in which the children lived. A possible Welsh medium junior school had been hinted at, but not named. The closure of police stations had been discussed and the future of the fire station in Tredegar following upgrading in Ebbw Vale had brought further doubts about the station in Tredegar.

iii. Tredegar Twinning – Following the AGM all Officers had been re-elected and the tea party theme re-iterated for the forthcoming visit.

iv. School Governing Bodies – It was reported that Glanhowy are to have a web site, Georgetown have a Youth Council and will shortly be receiving lap tops.

v. Communities First Board – a presentation evening had taken place with the Mayor presenting awards.

vi. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – it was noted that the local crime prevention officer was leaving after 30 years service and would probably not be replaced.

vii. Tredegar Business Forum – following meetings with Regeneration a car rally and antiques fair were mentioned – defer to Events Committee

viii. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – as above

ix. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – it was noted that as previously mentioned the owner of the re-vamped Cambrian was to name rooms etc after notable citizens.

x. Tredegar Heritage Steering Group – some Members complained about not being notified of meetings, but it was noted that they had applied to HLF for lottery funding

290) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) A Member agreed to make contact with the RFU regarding the recent trophies and their availability for display.

2) It was noted that the Credit Union was active again in Tredegar and looking for a site in the Town Centre.

3) The closure of Peacocks had caused much disquiet and it was agreed to write to Edinburgh Woollen Mills to see if they would consider bringing a store to Tredegar.

The Mayor displayed to all a medal he had been given by French rugby supporters who had recently visited Tredegar Orpheus at their Hall.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

_____ Chair