TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 5th October 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors H Trollope
A. Cotton
B Willis
D. Howells
R. Thomas
H. Woolf
K. Hayden
J. Morgan
P. Prosser
S. Trollope
G. Woolf

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

139) Apologies: Cllrs M. Cross, G. Bowen-Knight, T. Gregory, M. O'Sullivan and A. Tippings

140) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants, including the new applications received by the Civic Sub Committee earlier.

Details of the new applications were given verbally by the RFO:-

a) Georgetown Community Centre – a grant of £200 had been recommended – this was agreed unanimously.
b) The Oak Football Club – a grant of £150 had been recommended – this was agreed unanimously.
c) Tredegar Heritage Trust – it was noted that Cllrs. Morgan and Howells were members of the Trust and they took no part in the discussions or voting – it was further noted that this group qualified for a start-up grant of £500 and this was agreed unanimously.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru – a grant of £50.00 was agreed
Shopmobility Newport – It was agreed to request a meeting with this group.
Tredegar Ironsides RFC – a grant of £150.00 was agreed.
Tredegar Round Table – a grant of £200.00 was agreed.
Portage Service – It was agreed to request a meeting.

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

Mrs A. Jones left the Meeting at 6.45 pm.

Cllrs H. Trollope and B. Willis declared an interest in the following matters and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. **Cllr A. Cotton took the Chair.**

141) Planning

a) OFFICERS REPORT –
2011/0245 Retention of a stable block, land near Cefn Golau, Tredegar – Recommending approval.
2008/0094 Residential development (maximum of five units), land at Nantybwch – Recommending the outline application be granted. – **a Member raised the ongoing questions regarding the safety of children accessing Bryn Bach Primary School and how this might affect any possible alternative routes.**

Appeals received and determined
Appeal 515355 Urgent works notice to listed building, Tredegar Co. Shop, Shop Row – JR's on hold

List of Delegated items determined between 19th August 2011 and 9th September 2011.
2011/0220 Single storey side extension for use as a utility area, 6 Rhymney Row, Trefil - Approved.
2011/0225 Single storey extension to rear elevation to include three bedrooms, Longleat, Twyn Star, Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0031 Two storey side extension, 30 Oliver Jones Crescent – Refused.

b) APPLICATIONS –

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0283	Jaylea Services Ltd 2 Trident Court Ocean Park, Cardiff	Four detached dwellings and associated access, land adjacent to Fulford, Ashville Tredegar

Members queried access to the main road and agreed that materials used to rebuild the retaining wall should be in keeping with the current materials used.

2011/0289	Tesco Stores Ltd Mr H Jones, DDP 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff	Installation of new shop front & external alterations, Unit 28a Former Aldi Store Gwent Shopping Centre

No Objections

2011/0292	Tesco Stores Ltd Mr H Jones, DDP 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff	Installation of an ATM.

No Objections

c) Other Planning Matters
None received.

Cllr. Willis then re-took the Chair.

Cllr. R. Thomas declared an interest in the following matters and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon

142) To offer, or otherwise, Council support for the proposals for the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road.

Members had been impressed by many features of the recent exhibitions including the innovative illustrations like the computer generated fly through of the route and the Wii controlled exhibit and were keen to congratulate the Wales Government and consultants involved. The levels of community engagement, especially in the Waundeg area of town had brought about design changes to the Tredegar roundabout and the consultants received praise. The confirmation that no graves would be disturbed at Dukestown Cemetery, that the road level would drop rather than increase and the purchase of land in front of the Ambay Service Station for a footpath were all warmly welcomed. However it was noted with disappointment that access to the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate was not featured but the continued negotiations for a second access/drop off point through the playground of Bryn Bach Primary was welcomed. The clauses for the use of local labour were welcomed by all. Some items such as pollution from street lights, year round maintenance of landscaping and the need to make sure that Tredegar was mentioned on all the signs and the lessons learned from the Works regarding local employment issues were highlighted to be raised directly with the Welsh Government, whilst supporting the proposals as a whole.

143) Correspondence

2) BGCBC (a) TEN Notice and receipt for payment

Received.

(b) F. Olding Re:War Memorial – Urging the Council to get a full condition appraisal by a specialist prior to any cleaning work and a list of such specialists. This work may require LBC.

Received. Members were disappointed that despite reassurances in the past that money would be available and having waited as requested by the Borough until the refurbishment was complete, such funding had not materialised. A complaint had been made by Borough Members but had received no response. It was agreed to contact contractors for tenders to visit. Members were very disappointed to note that this work could not now be completed before this years Remembrance Parade.

(c) <u>The Ice House</u>

(i) N. Deufel - This has only been open for a week and so far no issues have arisen and she has not heard children ringing the bell. However she does feel this is a good way to get children to connect with the traditions associated with their Park as long as nothing is damaged. No health & safety issues were identified during the assessment of the Ice House a few weeks ago. Will monitor the situation and address any issues immediately. Please feel free to put this issue on the agenda for the next Management Board meeting.

(ii) L. Phillips - Agrees this could be an item on the agenda for the next Management Board meeting if any issues materialise.

Received. Members agreed that the Ice House had been opened as part of the Heritage Days scheme, when it was properly stewarded. It was felt that a grid or mesh should be used inside the door to allow viewing but prevent access.

(b) N. Deufel Re: Victorian Christmas – may be holding the event for schools only, they will be doing two performances of “The Snow Queen” on 16.12.11 and Santa’s Grotto on 22.12.11.

Received.

(c) A. Tippings Re: News from Visit Wales September 2011. Newsletter – tourism announced as one of the three new priority sectors.

Received.

(f) B. Cartwright – A possible funding opportunity for the AFD.

Received and noted.

Cllrs H. Trollope and B. Willis declared an interest in the following matters and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(g) List of Licensing Applications week ending 25.9.11

Received.

(h) Copy of signed Charter between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the four Town Councils.

Received. Disappointment was expressed at the copy of the document which had been received. It had been hoped to display this important document in the House and this would not be possible in its present format. It was agreed to agenda this for a meeting of the JCLC.

3) One Voice Wales

(a) Village SOS Active Big Lottery Fund, closing date for applications is 5pm 20.10.11 – forwarded to R. James, Heritage Group.

Received.

(b) One Voice Wales Annual Conference and AGM 8th October 2011, motions for debate at the conference.

Received.

(c) The Voice magazine x 2.

Received.

4) Welsh Government

(a) Re: Release of speed cameras information in England. The information quested by Mike Penning MP relates only to English local highways thorities and a similar request as not yet been made to cover the permanent fixed camera sites in Wales. Currently reviewing available information and will make a decision in due course on whether they need to undertake a similar exercise.

Received and Noted.

(b) A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling Section 3 Brynmawr to Tredegar – Copy of Draft Orders, public notices, associated plans and environmental statement.NB. Comments with regards to the dualling have been submitted to be raised by Council.

Received. It was agreed to respond as Minute 142.

5) Insp. Green Re: Cars on Sale on Sirhowy Hill – Will raise the issues with his NPT Sgt with regards to any Road Traffic offences are concerned. However other matters will need to be looked at too by the local authority re: trading on highways.

Received. Members expressed disappointment that this matter was again being passed from the Borough Council to the Police and back again. A Member expressed concern that a bona

fide business on the Hill might be affected by the continued use of the lay by. It was agreed to write to Trading Standards to see what they could do.

6) Gala Lights (i) Seeking clarification of number of lamp posts being used for motifs.
Received. Reply to be sent.

(ii) Unable to put rope lights along edge of Shopping Centre because they are too low – will be able to highlight the triangles. Also suggesting the bespoke motif be attached to the wall beside the underpass rather than directly over for safety reasons.
Received. Both were agreed.

7) Cllr Tippings Energy from Waste Generating facility at Brig y Cwm – has received details of the venues of Open Floor and Issue Specific hearings – asking why there are none in Tredegar.
Received. It was agreed to write seeking clarification.

8) Tredegar Business Forum
Letter explaining the circumstances for their refusal of the In Bloom Awards and apportioning blame incorrectly to the Town Council for failures attributable to the Borough.
Received. Members, especially Cllr. H. Trollope were greatly disappointed at the content of this letter having spoken at length to the writer about the responsibilities of the Borough. Many of the statements made in the letter were totally untrue and Members were outraged and the suggestion of a lack of co-operation with the Forum, especially in view of the amount of very physical work that Tredegar Town Council Members had put in to Christmas Events held by the Forum. It was agreed to write back correcting the inaccuracies and pointing out the Council's support – both physical and via grants – in the past few years and to coy this letter to Ms. Bethan Cartwright, Town Centre Manager.

***Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest in the matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.* Cllr Cotton took the Chair**
9) Stuart Price Saron – request to supply/fund a flower display for their Harvest Festival this Sunday 9th October.
Received. It was agreed to support a display to the sum of 25 pounds.

Cllr. Willis took back the Chair.

10) Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct – annual subscription notice.
Received. It was agreed to renew the subscription.

11) Cllr. H. Trollope GAVO CAGS Grants scheme details.
Received. It was agreed to circulate to as many groups as possible.

144) PUBLICATIONS
BGCBC Road works report week ending 30.9.11; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings for July/August 2011; BGCBC Road works report week ending 7.10.11; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council News Bulletin September 2011; Communicorp Local Councils Update October 2011 Issue 144.
Available for all Members

145) AGENDA
Special Executive Committee Wednesday 28th September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, attached Outline Business Case for an Integrated Achievement Service; Audit Committee Tuesday 27th September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, reports for Item Nos. 8 & 9; Licensing Committee Tuesday 4th October 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Friday 7th October 2011 at 10.30am Council Chamber Ebbw Vale & Minutes June/September 2011 – **Available for all Members**

144) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park
a) Concerns regarding the daily opening of the Ice House
Already covered by Minute 143 (2) c
b) Two separate occasions when access to the computers in the Town Council Office has apparently been attempted outside office hours.
This item caused some concern and it was agreed to price CCTV coverage for the office.
c) Cars – **the parking of cars during a recent head teacher meeting at the House had caused much concern.**

145) Matters of Local Interest and concern.
1) A Member raised the condition of the old Greyhound Pub, which had been demolished but left in a poor state. It was agreed to write to the owner who had also recently purchased the NCB Club to see what could be done and also to bring to his attention the interest of the Heritage Trust in the future use of the NCB.
2) The Deputy Mayor advertised his Oxjam musical event being held at the Rhyd on the evening of the Mayor's Charity Golf Day, Saturday 15th October 2011, and urged Members to attend and take away the posters which had been provided. Last year's event had raised nearly five hundred pounds for the charity.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.35 P.M.

_____Chair