TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 21st September 2011 at 6.30 p.m. (to follow the Joint Finance and Events)

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

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

112) Apologies: **Cllrs G. Bowen-Knight, T. Gregory and G. Woolf**

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

114) Grants: To consider, recommend and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Thanks received from Tredegar Gardening Club and also from the Hospice of the Valleys for agreeing for them to use the grant offered for the Dusky Valleys Bike Ride (cancelled) for their Annual Santa Run instead.

Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19

Victim Support - **A grant for £200 was approved.**
Bedwellty Park Bowling Club - **A grant for £150 was approved.**
North Gwent Table Tennis Centre - **A grant for £150 was approved.**
Tredegar Business Forum - **A grant for £200 was approved.**
Sling Shot Street Band - **A grant for £200 was approved.**

Grants: Churches & Chapels (s.137) to recommend and to approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
Trinity Spiritual Church - **A grant for £200 was approved.**

115) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in July and August 2011 and for payment in September 2011.
A copy of the most recent Bank reconciliation was made available for all Members.
The cheques having been reconciled to the invoices and previously inspected by Members were approved.

116) To consider the exclusion of Press and Public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.
This was agreed unanimously.

117) To receive the verbal report and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Events Committee regarding the supply and contract for the Christmas Lights and computer renewal and then to re-open the Meeting to the public.
The report of the previous Meeting was given by the RFO and the reasons for the decision to accept option 2 were outlined. It was agreed that a Meeting be called with the approved contractor to clarify a couple of issues. All Members thanked the Officers for their efforts and the Clerk pointed out again that the RFO had been fastidious in her application to the task.
It was agreed unanimously to take up the offer supplied by option 2.
Borough Members also reminded Council that it would be timely to write seeking grant funding from all Tredegar Members. This was agreed. It was also suggested that the larger chain stores throughout town could be contacted to seek funding for the increased costs of Christmas Lighting.
The recommendations of the committee that the computers be renewed and that the staff select the best options for them, was agreed unanimously. Best wishes were given to the RFO.
The Meeting was then re-opened to members of the public.

118) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting of Council held on the 20th July 2011.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record

119) Matters arising not on the Agenda
There were none.

120) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 20th July 2011.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record

121) Matters arising not on the Agenda
1) Minute No 87 (2) Cllr. S. Trollope announced that the fund for her late colleagues daughter totalled £11500.
2) Minute No 87 (3) It was noted that the round Britain cycle ride had not been a success, but that another attempt was to be made.

122) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Events Committee of Council held on the 7th September 2011.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record

123) Matters arising not on the Agenda
1) Minute No 89 (2)
a) Members asked that a professional Santa be sourced.
b) The Sleigh from the Round Table be engaged from Bedwellty Park to the Town Clock
c) With no Valleys Idol competition this year that the group Now and Then be asked to perform songs from their 'Tredegar Trilogy'.

Cllr. S. Trollope left the Meeting at 7.10pm.

d) The marquee had been a success during the Clock open day and it was agreed to provisionally book 5 for the Lights Switch-On
e) To send out a press release giving advance notice of the Switch-On and inviting local groups, organisations and traders to contact us to join in.

At this point Members congratulated the Mayor on the success of his Civic Sunday Service and he displayed the Bible that had been presented to him. Cllr. Rowberry expressed her sincere regret at not being able to attend and this was accepted. The Mayor took this opportunity to thank the Chapel for their kind gift and the flowers that had been presented to his Consort. He advised Members that the Mayor's Appeal had benefited to the sum of £160 as well as an additional £20 that had been donated and that the Chapel had also received £160. The Leader of Council congratulated the Mayor and commented that the whole family had excelled themselves throughout the term of Office. The intention to have a Civic Sunday as an annual event was put forward and favoured by Members, however it was agreed to review the costs incurred for the Inauguration and any future Civic Sunday. It was agreed that this matter should be agendaed for a future date and included with any future budget review.
The Mayor thanked all those who had helped steward the opening of the Clock for the ATC and put forward special thanks to Mr. Ken Price who had volunteered his assistance. It was agreed to write and thank him. Stewards for the final Band Concert on Sunday 25th September put their names forward and it was noted that the Carriage Room could be used if too wet.

124) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Civic Committee of Council held on the 7th September 2011.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record

125) Matters arising not on the Agenda
1) Minute No 94 (8) It was noted that the concert for Matt Sandercock had raised £2500.
2) Minute No 94 (17b) It was agreed to contact Mr. Malcolm Higgs to clarify the start date for this years Quiz Wizards Competition.

126) To receive and adopt the Minutes of Joint Meeting of the Finance and Events Committees of Council held on the 14th September 2011.
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record

127) Matters arising not on the Agenda
There were none.

128) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) P J Miles Re: The Grove & Former Registry Office – Registry Office is currently being utilised by a Department of the Council for the foreseeable future. The Grove is presently unoccupied and was the subject of an arson attack/vandalism. Both will be offered for sale on the open market when the Registry Office becomes vacant.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to write to Mr. Frank Olding, the Borough Heritage Officer, to seek progress on a list of key buildings at risk. It was noted that the Grove was a fine building on a key route into town and had been the former home of Dr. Davies of the Medical Aid Society.

(b) C. Engel Re: Incident at Bedwellty Park on 29.6.11 – Driver of the vehicle has been identified and admitted that the account of the incident given is accurate. The driver regrets and apologises for his manner when he was approached by the Councillor and his wife. During the course of the investigation the driver was certified as unfit for work and has subsequently retired from the Council's employment which prevents them from pursuing the matter any further. The Regeneration Projects Team will be reviewing their LAMs Code of Conduct for communicating with Members of the public.

RECEIVED. The apology was accepted by Cllr. Morgan.

(c) Consultation Town/Community Councils meeting – copy of briefing from Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

RECEIVED.

(d) Steve Smith Re: Free Printer from Planning. Needs to know by this Friday if we wish to have a printer.

RECEIVED. This was agreed, it was suggested that the laptop could be connected to the projector in the Council Chamber for Members to better view the plans – to be investigated.

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

(e) A. Tippings Re: Community Tourism Conference on Monday 17th October 2011 at Llanhilleth Institute. Register for the event by 30.9.11.

RECEIVED

(f) REGAIN Conference 6th October 2011 at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale. Booking form.

RECEIVED

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

(g) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 2.9.11.
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 18.9.11

RECEIVED

Cllr. Willis re-took the Chair.

2) Welsh Government

(a) A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling Section 3 Brynmawr to Tredegar – Public exhibitions of the draft Orders for a new trunk road scheme are being held between 28th & 30th September 2011. Council are invited to

attend at 6.15pm (for refreshments) on Tuesday 27th September 2011 at the Energy Academy, British Gas Building, Innova 1 Tredegar. A short presentation on the proposals will start at 6.30pm.

RECEIVED. Members were urged to attend and to look at the documentation.

(b) Formal notice of intention of the issuing of a certificate in respect of "Proposed Compulsory Acquisition of Land & Rights over Common Land known as Mynydd Llangattock – Beaufort (BCL017) & Mynydd Llangattwg (BCL018), North of Beaufort & Brynmawr"

RECEIVED

3) Stones Craft Ltd Quotation for work on War Memorial.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that this information should be passed to the War Memorials and Heritage Officer of the Borough as a matter of urgency in an attempt to have the work carried out before the Remembrance Sunday Service.

4) L. Price, Twinning Wishes to discuss with members of Council next year's visit by the French. Two forthcoming events for Twinning, all welcome Halloween Night 29th October 2011 Georgetown Community Centre, bring your own food/drink, artist is Chris Kane, tickets £5; Christmas Buffet & Cabaret 10th December 2011 Orpheus Hall, artist Ian Scott, tickets £10.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Mayor and Deputy and the Leader and Deputy as well as the delegates to the Association should meet with the Twinning Association. It was also agreed to replace the Camelia and Members were urged to support the Twinning fund raisers.

5) Cllr Trollope Copy of the Volunteer nomination form submitted.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to put forward names of individuals.

6) Nick Smith MP Surgery by Nick Smith MP being held in Tredegar Library on Friday 23rd September 2011 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Included a casework report for June-September 2011.

RECEIVED

7) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP4: Trees & Development and LDP10: Buildings in the Countryside. Six week consultation with draft copies of SPG documents available on the planning pages of the Council website. All presentations to be made in writing by 25.10.11.

RECEIVED

8) Communicorp Local Councils Update September 2011 Issue 143

RECEIVED

129) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 16.9.11; BGCBC Road works report week ending 23.9.11; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 127 September 2011.

Available to all Members

130) AGENDA

Special Executive Wednesday 21st September 2011 immediately following the meeting of the Executive at 11am, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 14th September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 21st September 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Planning Committee site meeting Thursday 22nd September 2011 at 11.30am 2 Shop Row, Trefil – Copied to Sirhowy Members; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 22nd September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 21st September 2011 at 11am in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Report for item No. 7.01; Special Executive Committee Wednesday 21st September 2011 immediately following the Executive scheduled at 11am; Ordinary Meeting rescheduled to Friday 7th October 2011 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Wednesday 28th September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 27th September 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee at 2pm Monday 26th September 2011 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee at 2pm Monday 26th September 2011 – additional item No. 19

Available to all Members. It was noted by those attending the Crime& Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 20th September 2011, that tickets for dog fouling had only been issued by PCSO's when in the presence of the Dog Warden – none were issued without their presence.

Cllr. D. Rowberry left the Meeting at 7.45pm

131) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report – None Received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0270	Tesco Stores Ltd Mr H Jones, DPP 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff	Installation of external plant equipment Unit 28a Former Aldi Unit, Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar.

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0273	Mr A Hoskins "Cedar Lodge" St Lukes Road, Tredegar	Change part constructed hot food takeaway to general store and existing general store to hot food takeaway, land at Ysgurbowen, Tredegar

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0275	Tesco Stores Ltd Mr H Jones, DPP 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff	External advertisements, Unit 28a Former Aldi Unit, Gwent Shopping Centre, Tredegar

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0277	Mr K Rogers 35 Park Hill, Tredegar	Proposed detached garage and store area.

NO OBJECTIONS

c) Other Planning Matters
None received.

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

i. **Bedwellty Park Management Board** – The passing of Mr. Ron Jenkins had been marked. The Chair had been agreed as Mrs. Gaynor James and Vice-Chair as Mr. Peter Morgan Jones. Continuing problems regarding security and parking were being looked into. Future plans for events featuring exhibitions on local historical events and the play the Snow Queen. The fountains, which still weren't working were being looked at and new pumps sourced. Problems relating to the wall near the new development were highlighted, as well as a possible association with local schools for a bulb planting initiative. The Heritage Open School was to be held at Bedwellty House but would clash with the Mayors Golf Day. Members noted that the Park opening times were not very clear and members of the public had been locked in the Park at 6.30 pm on a Friday night. It was suggested that the bell in the Ice House be used once again to signal the closing of the Park and it was agreed to write to the Manager regarding signage. An interesting discussion took place regarding the 'curation' of the Miners Room. It was suggested that Cllr. Morgan, a trained tour guide, offer his services to speak to the members of staff at Bedwellty House to better inform them of its history.
ii. **Joint Committee of Local Councils –** It was noted by Members that the Charter with the Borough Council would be signed on Wednesday 5th October at 12.30pm. It was agreed that the Mayor should sign and Cllr. Cross gave his apologies for missing this significant step forward.
iii. **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No Report
iv. **Tredegar Twinning** – Meeting dates had been advised.
v. **School Governing Bodies** – Congratulations were expressed to the winner of the Aneurin Bevan Award
vi. **Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled -** No Report
vii. **Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee -** No Report
viii. **Tredegar Youth Café -** No Report
ix. **Blaenau Gwent CAB –** It was agreed to check the Council's representative.
x. **Communities First Board –** Future proposals were highlighted which could mean that Tredegar could stand alone, although the figures for deprivation in the area were still disappointing there had been an improvement in the last 12 months. Representatives from Tredegar were being sought.
xi. **Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel -** No Report
xii. **Tredegar Business Forum -** No Report
xiii. **Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum -** No Report
xiv. **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum -** No Report
xv. **Blaenau Gwent HARPS Project -** No Report

xvi. **Tredegar Heritage Steering Group** - No Report, Members queried the delay in setting up the group and were informed that there had been a hiccup with the Bank mandate.

133) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) It was agreed to write to the community of Cilybebyll site of the Gleision Mine and express our sympathy.

2) Upcoming tax on plastic bags – a Member suggested that the 5p charge for plastic bags could be collected by local shopkeepers and donated to the Mayor's Appeal as an ongoing way of donating and agreed to put together a letter on the Mayor's behalf.

3) Blaenau Gwent in Bloom – it was agreed to send letters of congratulation to all winners in Tredegar. A Member further noted that the Business Forum had declined their award because of the weeds etc throughout the Town and that we, as a Town Council should support their decision. It was, however pointed out that a new cleaning and weeding regime had just been introduced that should alleviate the problems.

4) Miners from Oakdale 35th Anniversary re-union.

5) A well known member of the public had asked for a memento that he could give to his son to feature at his local in London, called the "Lord Tredegar" – this was agreed.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

_____ Chair