TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Committee Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 20th July 2011 at 6.15 p.m to follow the Performance Review.

Present:	**Councillor**	**B. Willis** **A. Cotton** **H. Trollope** **D. Howells** **J Morgan (arrived later)** **P. Prosser** **D. Rowberry** **M. O'Sullivan** **R. Thomas (arrived later)** **H. Woolf**
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk** **Mrs. A. Jones – RFO**
69) Apologies:		**M. Cross; K. Hayden; T. Gregory; G. Woolf** **A. Tippings; G. Bowen-Knight**

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

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

Shelter Cymru - A grant for £100 was approved
Tredegar Twinning Association - A grant for £500 was approved.
Tredegar Ladies Circle – it had previously been agreed to replace the lost cheque in the sum of £200**.**

Grants: Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
There were none.

Discussion turned to Presentation Evenings Members pointing out how nice it had been for organisations throughout the town to mix and meet each other. It was agreed that one should be held before Christmas.

72) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in June 2011 and for payment in July 2011.
Adjustments had been made for the Walk for Life and Tredegar Ladies Circle. Copies of the Accounts and bank reconciliation had been circulated to all Members. The planned withdrawal of cheques had been itself withdrawn and this news was welcomed by all. The accounts having previously been reconciled and the cheques and invoices inspected by Members, were approved.

73) To receive the verbal recommendations of the Performance Review Committee
The recommendations were:

a) to replace the cheque for the Tredegar Ladies Circle
b) to continue the current contract with Attic Web Design.

This was agreed unanimously.

74) Matters arising not on the Agenda
There were none

The RFO was thanked for her work on the Accounts and withdrew at 6.35pm.

75) To welcome Insp. Green to respond to questions posed by the Members (copies supplied)
Once again Insp. Green had sent his apologies and Sgt. Robert Petrie was welcomed by Members.
Questions supplied by Members in advance were as follows:
The Inspectors answers (copied to all Members) are in italics.
Cllrs. Thomas and Morgan arrived shortly after Sgt. Petrie.

I have had an opportunity to review your questions. There are some which I am unable to answer, this is due to the way in which we record our data and also because some of the information that you have asked for is not possible to quantify.

1) What measures have been put in place for the policing of the Park.

1) Bedwellty park has and always will be policed by my Neighbourhood team, subject to their many other patrols. I know that Ps Petrie has been in consultation with the board and has advised on what and how we can patrol the park especially ' Outside' of park opening hours. I am aware that the Bedwellty park board have been advised to secure private security patrols and that CCTV has also been or is being fitted, but I am not sure what the coverage of this is. I have today arranged for my CADRO Pc Whittaker to make contact with the board representative responsible for security at the park, to provide his expert advice on Crime Prevention and to prepare a Crime Prevention Survey based on his visit.

Members highlighted the upcoming school holidays and were assured by the Sgt that there would be a period where the guidelines would be set and known hotspots targeted. The protocol for the Park was to be put in place and Members asked for a report when it was in place so that they would better know who to put their questions to in the future.
Sgt. Petrie stated that he did not have keys for the gates to Bedwellty Park and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Manager first thing.

2) How many people have been arrested and convicted as a result of anti-social behaviour this year

a) In Bedwellty Park
b) In Tredegar

How many people have been arrested and convicted for ASB this year:-

The Category for ASB is broken down into three categories that cover:- Environmental, Personal, and Nuisance. These are then broken down into further sub categories under each heading.

The information is very difficult to provide due to the number of ways in which we can deal with any crime / incident relating to ASB. Officers can arrest and charge - arrest and Summons - Provide fixed penalty tickets -Caution - reprimand.

What I can provide is details of crime / ASB detections and reductions in Tredegar as a

result of police and multi agency partnership work.

For the current fiscal year (April 2011 to April 2012) Tredegar has seen a reduction of 25% in ASB . Crime has seen a reduction of 2.4% and the current detection rate stands at 20.3%. So this means that in total there have been 153 less victims of crime and ASB against the same period of April 2010 to April 2011.

Members were not happy with the response and requested that more details be recorded. A newsletter to be produced by the Council later in the year would feature the costs to the public of vandalism in the Park and the need for a breakdown of ASB and arrests within the Park would be needed to show people what <u>is</u> being done. Sgt Petrie agreed to produce quarterly figures.

3) Members have voiced concerns over ongoing vandalism and damage to the Aneurin Bevan Stones and request what measures you have implemented to prevent further instances.

Aneurin Bevan Stones - I was aware that there has been some damage done to the area and as a result my Neighbourhood Policing Team increased their patrols in the area. I also instigated a meeting between my Supt, MP and my Crime and Disorder reduction officer. It was clear from the meeting that the area is in a state of disrepair and that there certain measures that the BGCBC can take to enhance the security and reduce the vulnerability and further incidents of damage. At the time of the visit there were uncut weeds (two feet high or more), various quantities of litter, the grass was unkempt. The lighting in the area is poor, there is no CCTV coverage. It is somewhat isolated from the road and thus youths or others can frequent the area without easily being seen by road users or residents living close by. A copy of this Crime Prevention Survey has been provided to the BGCBC to consider the implementation of any recommendations. In the meantime my officers and PCSo's will continue to patrol the area as often as possible and have also encouraged local residents to report any suspicious activity in the vicinity at the earliest opportunity.

It was agreed that the situation would continue to be monitored and a possible covert camera operation put in place if there were any signs that vandalism/ASB was on the increase.

4) As Councillors, Members have been approached by members of the public seeking to have a police presence, on foot, throughout Tredegar. Members strongly support this proposition and feel that it would help officers gain local knowledge and intelligence. We welcome your views.

Neighbourhood Policing has been in place at Tredegar for many years now. The main duties of the team is to provide High Visibility foot patrols and as such they do not have ready access to a vehicle. Their prime role is foot patrol in all three wards in Tredegar, which they do DAILY between 0800hrs and 0100hrs. Obviously each team member has rest days and annual leave and as such cannot be present every day. Neighbourhood policing will continue.

Local Neighbourhood officers were to be equipped with bicycles and had been instructed to patrol areas outside the Town centre singly, not in pairs. Again Members stressed the need for Police to be gathering intelligence on what was going on in the area. The differences between Neighbourhood Teams and Response teams arose on a number of occasions, unfortunately Sgt Petrie could not answer questions raised about teams other than his Neighbourhood Team. The absence of Insp. Green was felt during this period. Sgt Petrie was unable to answer questions regarding the policing of agricultural areas of Tredegar and responses to recent robberies. He did state, however the officers were now being pushed more towards crime than community involvement. Members noted that it was important to let the Police know if their systems were not working. Intense discussion followed centring on the theme that the Inspector should not have sent a representative who was unable to answer questions across the board.

5) Members have requested a break down of "man hours" of officers on active duty in Tredegar.

I cannot provide you with the information that you require here. The number of officers on duty in Tredegar varies each day and within each 24hrs due to the variety of rota patterns. I have stated above Tredegar is not only the base for the Neighbourhood policing team, but is also the base for Response and Neighbourhood Support officers who cover all four stations of the Local Policing Unit.

With a number of officers on light duty due to injury and pregnancy an officer was being drafted in from Ebbw Vale to cover. Members recounted an incident which had occurred in the centre of town at a building of historical interest and the subsequent lack of contact by police. A further lack of response was noted to calls to 101 made the previous Monday by Members in a meeting at Bedwellty House

Cllr. M. O'Sullivan arrived at 6.50 pm

A Councillor pressed the point that the public perception was that ringing 101 was a waste of time, he was urged by the Sergeant to always ask for an incident Log No. which could be followed up.

6) The number of convictions there have been as a result of crime – this year.

I do not have access to the number of CONVICTIONS for crime in Tredegar this year. This is information that you will need to seek from the Magistrates and Crown Court clerks. Once we have charged or Summoned individuals, the matter is then in the hands of the judicial system.

7) Ongoing anti-social behaviour at Ystrad Deri – Members would like to know what measures you are implementing to prevent or deter further instances.

Ystrad Deri has not featured as an issue for ASB for many months. There were some issues specific to one family that were being affected, and that was dealt with very quickly through a multi agency partnership approach. My team identified one or two local youths who were responsible for some ASB and quickly dealt with those. Ystrad Deri has not featured as an ASB hotspot through PACT or via our police incident management systems. Ps Petrie will be able to provide you with an enhanced update here but will also be receptive to any information that you can provide on this matter

The Sergeant stated that the situation in Ystrad Deri was being investigated and certain actions were underway involving Tai Calon. It was confirmed too that Shepherd's Close was a hot spot.

8) Recently a mass invasion of the Milefield allotments area by youngsters caused damage. Are police aware of any future mass gatherings? If so what plans do you have in place to police them.

The incident at Milefield was on the day of the GCSE school results when youths went to the location plied with alcohol and caused some localised ASB. This matter was dealt with very quickly by the Neighbourhood team and Response officers and lead to the arrest of a number of individuals for pubic order and the confiscation of a quantity of alcohol. There is no information to suggest that such a similar gathering is likely to take place. The area is regularly patrolled by Pc 1405 Maguire - NPT officer for Georgetown.

I hope that the above is of assistance to you and the Town council members and once again I apologise for not being available to attend, as I normally would.

The Sergeant noted that 5 arrests had been made for violent behaviour and alcohol, left behind once the Police arrived, had been confiscated. The Sergeant outlined the instances that alcohol could and could not be confiscated. The challenges of policing in the "facebook" age were highlighted. Again a number of problems were highlighted with Members noting a marked lack of response or ongoing communication. Sgt. Petrie was asked to take back the points, views and concerns of the Members, which he agreed to. He was thanked for attending a very lively Meeting and then asked to quickly patrol the Park. He agreed to do this and left the Meeting at 7.35pm.

Much discussion followed during which it was agreed that Superintendent Mark Warrender should be invited to a Meeting of Council to answer Members concerns.

76) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Events Committee of Council held on the 15th June 2011.
The Minutes were received and adopted as a true record.

77) Matters arising not on the Agenda
a) Thanks were expressed to all those who participated in Armed Forces Day which took place in, at times, atrocious weather conditions. Thanks were given once again to the Clerks partner Mike who had done a tremendous job both at this event and both Concerts and the re-dedication.
b) Queries arose over the restricted parking at the House and the fact that Members and staff would be walking through the Park in the dark and late at night were highlighted as concerns. It was noted that a meeting had been scheduled for the following day with the Manager and Borough representatives as well as users of the House, it was agreed that the Leader would attend with the Clerk. A number of items were highlighted for inclusion and it was further noted that the disabled lift was not working properly.

78) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 15th June 2011.
The Minutes were received and adopted as a true record.

79) Matters arising not on the Agenda
1) Minute No 42 (7) It was agreed to contact the House Manager to see if it would be possible to hold another concert in September.

80) To receive and adopt the Minutes of a combined Events and Heritage Committees of Council held on the 6th July 2011.
The Minutes were received. It was noted that Cllr. A. Cotton had been present and with this amendment they were adopted as a true record.

81) Matters arising not on the Agenda
1) Minute No. 51 Switch-On Event (7) It was noted that Mr. Gary Dann would not be available. ***Cllr. A. Cotton declared an interest and took no further part.*** A Member suggested that his brother might consider handling the staging set up, with PA system etc and music for the sum of £150. Another Member suggested than an MC for the event might be found at the Orpheus Choir and he would make enquiries.
It was agreed unanimously that Mr. Cotton be engaged for the event and that the MC from the Orpheus be engaged too. Clerk was instructed to contact.

82) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Civic Committee of Council held on the 6th July 2011.
The Minutes were received and adopted as a true record.

83) Matters arising not on the Agenda

1) Minute No 59 (1c) Members noted that it was the Labour Member of the Borough who had sent the donation and instructed that the Minutes should reflect this. This was agreed. A letter of thanks to be sent to all those who contributed and advertised on the web-site.

2) Minute No. 62 (4) Cllr. Morgan stated that he had met with Mr. Chris Engels who was in charge of the project that the person belonged to. Both he and his wife had made statements and the matter was being treated very seriously and fully investigated.

3) Minute No. 64 (1) It was agreed to contact the House Manager.

84) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) Re: Accident – Fall by Mrs Fox

(i) K. Hale – For members of the public there is no accident book but they will need to complete an accident form. An accident book is necessary for members of the staff and one is currently being arranged. There is no requirement for qualified first aid staff however it is seen as good practice and staff will be attending a course shortly.

(ii) J. Thomas - All accident forms are forwarded to the Health & Safety section who record them on a database and report them to HSE if applicable.

RECEIVED. Thanks were expressed to Town Council staff for caring for Mrs. Fox and also to Robert for helping her to the House. A number of points raised regarding safety in general and queries whether the House had been passed by the Fire Service. Clerk to query.

(b) K. Hale Re: Complaint of Wednesday 29th June 2011. The vehicle in question belongs to Regeneration Division, LAMMS team and he will forward our email onto the relevant officer in that department.

RECEIVED and noted.

(c) Re: Bedwellty House Contents

(i) D. John - Confirming the artefacts in Bedwellty House are the responsibility of the Town Council and we are to ensure there is adequate insurance cover.

(ii) D. Watkins - Forwarded email he has received from D. John which is the same email received by Council on 13.7.11

(iii) D. Watkins - Mr Olding will be securing the items next Monday & Tuesday.

ALL RECEIVED. It was noted that a number of promised dates to secure the pictures had not been met and the Clerk re-iterated the need and the duty of Council to ensure their safety. Plenary powers were granted to the Clerk to deal with the situation, should the need to remove the pictures for safe-keeping arise.

(d) Corporate Improvement Plan Stage 1 2011/12. The plan sets out the Council's achievements over the past 12 months as well as its strategic priorities and Improvement Objectives for 2011/12.

RECEIVED. A number of items were highlighted and it was agreed to ask about Town Council representation on the Local Service Board at the next meeting of the JCLC.

(e) Re: LDP 2006-2021 Deposit Plan Consultation. Acknowledging receipt of Council's comments which will be entered into a database and reported to relevant committees of BGCBC. A report of the Deposit Plan consultation will be available to download from BGCBC website Autumn 2011 with a

newsletter summarising the report being sent out.

RECEIVED. Cllr. Morgan to supply further information requested.

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

(f) List of Licensing Applications week ending 8.7.11.

RECEIVED.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Confirming appointment of Paul Egan as Development & Training Officer for South Wales.

RECEIVED. Members commented on meeting Mr. Egan and a point that had been raised regarding a two tier system and the need to avoid that situation.

(b) Re: Gwent Police Authority "How would you spend it" Summer 2011 E-Survey. The results of this survey will be used as part of the annual policing priority process and will inform the 2012/13 Local Policing Plan. They will be made available via the police authority website during the Autumn of 2011.

RECEIVED. Forward to Cllr. Thomas.

3) Brecon Beacons National Park

(a) Re: Consultation on Local List Criteria. Consultation on the Draft list is from 5.7.11 to 14.10.11. Copy of Draft Local List Criteria attached.

(b) WAG is recruiting for members for the National Park Authority. Application form available from WAG website and closing date 25.7.11, flyer giving details is attached.

(c) Current consultation on LDP beginning on 13.7.11 and ending 24.8.11 at 4.30pm. Disk enclosed showing maps and representations.

ALL RECEIVED.

4) Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Bridie Samways, Child Development Officer Re: request for help with funding of purchasing specialist cups. This is the Portage Service which offers a home education service for children with developmental delay or recognised disabilities/syndromes. They make fortnightly home visits to the families and make an agreed target/activity plan with the family to promote the child's skills. Toys and specialised equipment is loaned to the family too.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the legal position be queried before responding.

5) D. Coughlin Alzheimers Soc. — Have emailed our request for a celebrity support at the Xmas Lights Switch On to their Head Office.

RECEIVED.

6) Jane Wilcox Spirit of Bevan — Re: Made in Tredegar – Film Releases. Made in Tredegar, a heritage funded lottery programme, has just released two films on You Tube. Both films have been made with young people in Tredegar. "What killed me?" death's guide to cholera follows a young victim of the 1849 epidemic and "How Tredegar improved my Health" a quirky look at Tredegar's role in the formation of the NHS.

RECEIVED. Members requested that the films be shown at a Meeting of Council after the recess also that the film about Bevan be shown too. Clerk to contact Manager.

7) Fthr Davis (i) Will be setting up a twitter account and tweeting as part of a documentary which has resulted from Bishop Gregory Cameron suggesting that clergy ought to make more of social networking sites. Would welcome thoughts on whether it's a good idea or not for clergy to be tweeting.
(ii) Name Fthr Davis is using on twitter "Tredegarvicar".

RECEIVED.

9) Annette Jones Request for sponsorship from individual Councillors, tandem skydive on Saturday 6th August 2011 in aid of The National Autistic Society.

RECEIVED. Members to sponsor on an individual basis.

10) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Meeting on Thursday 21st July 2011 at 9.30am in Tredegar Library.

RECEIVED.

11) C. Thomas Asking for a response to his previous email by 22.7.11, Re: Renewable Energy Policy in Wales.

RECEIVED.

85) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 15.7.11;Ville D'Orvault Orvault ma ville July-Sept 2011 Issue No. 49; BGCBC Road works report week ending 22.7.11; Glasdon Direct 2011

Available for all Members

86) AGENDA

Special Planning Committee Thursday 11th August 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 13th July 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 19th July 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee List of rescheduled meeting dates; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 18th July 2011 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 19th July 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Tuesday 19th July 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 21st July 2011 Council Chamber – Cancelled; Special Audit Committee Tuesday 26th July 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 25th July 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for all Members

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

It was agreed that, following the summer recess, an agenda item be put forward to re-instate the Planning Committee.

85) Planning:

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

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0199	Mrs N Jones 17 Arthur Street, Tredegar	Double storey extension to the rear.

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0201	Mr M Skinner Rhyd House, Tredegar	Demolish existing ground floor extension and construct proposed double storey extension, 22 James Street

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0207	Mr L Phillips	Retention of detached garage, 21 Rhyd Terrace

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0211	Mr P Sainsbury ACT, 24 Cynon View Bodwenarth Farm, Cilfynydd	Change of use from general industrial to a non-residential education & training centre, 19 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate

NO OBJECTIONS

c) To consider other planning matters
2011/0118 Partial change of use for mobile food outlet (A3), Parker Motors Promenade Garage, The Promenade, Tredegar – REFUSED on 8th July 2011.
Members were delighted to note that the van had been removed.

2011/0075 Retention of fence with a gate and new bridle way gate, land adjacent to Dorian House, Tynewydd, Tredegar – Copy of "Approval of Detail (Retention) Application". – **As requested previously by Members. It was noted by Members that the gate would have to be removed and signage installed.**

Cllr. Willis took back the Chair.

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

i. Bedwellty Park Management Board – **Members were concerned that there were no meetings scheduled especially with the opening event due.**
ii. Joint Committee of Local Councils – **No Report**
iii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – It was reported that representatives had met Mr. Burton's successor, Mr. Paul Egan and that Cllr. Cross had been elected as Vice-Chair. Congratulations were given to Cllr. Cross.
iv. Tredegar Twinning - **No Report**
v. School Governing Bodies – Following the Iestyn Report on the state of schools in Blaenau Gwent Members were eager to know what would happen next. They were informed that because of the timing no schools would have had a chance to discuss it as yet. It was noted too that failures in administration were a contributory factor.The importance of having

experienced Governors was raised and that party politics should not come into the equation.

vi. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled **– Thanks were given to Tredegar Town Council for their help and support. Further funding was being sought.**
vii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee **- No Report**
viii. Tredegar Youth Café **- No Report**
ix. Blaenau Gwent CAB **- No Report**
x. Communities First Board – **a youth event was planned at Parc Bryn Bach on 3rd August and they had been approached by Pathways to do work in Bedwellty Park.**
xi. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel **- No Report**
xii. Tredegar Business Forum – **No Report**
xiii. Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Forum – **A report was given regarding the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys and the decision to have a pelican crossing at Waundeg was highlighted. Graves at Dukestown Cemetery would not be disturbed. Members queried the lack of a pavement by the garage on the roundabout and it was agreed to write to Blaenau Gwent Highways Division to ask when one would be put in.**
xiv. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum - No Report
xv. Blaenau Gwent HARPS Project **- No Report**
xvi. Tredegar Heritage Steering Group **- No Report as such, but Members were eager to get the Group self financing and noted that the Clerk was still doing some clerical work for the Group.**

87) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) Cllr. S. Trollope thanked all those who had contributed to her fund-raising and informed Members that approx. £5500 had been raised so far.
2) Tredegar Guide – it was noted that there was a potential to sell this item on E-bay – moved to a Meeting of the Finance Committee.
3) Members noted that Mr. John Hopkins had embarked on a round Britain charity ride and it was suggested that the Mayor greet him on his return on August 8th 2011.
4) Members put forward a number of people for Civic Awards.
5) The success of Mark Colbourne, a para-cyclist who won a silver medal in the final round of the World Cup Series, was also highlighted and he too was nominated for a Civic Award.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM.

_____ Chair