TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 6th July 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:	**Councillor**	**B. Willis**
		A. Cotton
		M. Cross
		A. Tippings
		H. Trollope
		D. Howells
		K. Hayden
		J Morgan
		M O'Sullivan
		P. Prosser
		D. Rowberry
		R. Thomas
		G. Woolf
		G. Rowberry
		H. Woolf (arrived late)
In attendance:		**Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk**
		Mrs. A. Jones – RFO
By invitation		**Mr. Clive James – Internal Auditor**

Members were welcomed back to Bedwellty House and the Council Chamber for the first proper Meeting of Council since the refurbishments.

55) Apologies were received from Cllrs. T. Gregory, G. Bowen-Knight and S. Trollope and Cllr D. Rowberry was welcomed back after her operation.

56) To receive the Internal Auditors Report and approve the Annual Return prior to external Audit.

a) Key issues that were raised in the report were the under spends in the last year leading to a healthy, not excessive level of balance. The need to review policies and assets across the board was highlighted.

b) Clarification of the ownership of the Bandstand and the need to reconcile the assets register – RFO to enquire. Also the status of the War Memorial, situated within the grounds of the Park for which the Borough take responsibility - needed to be clarified.

c) The roles of Internal and External Audit and the statutory requirements were outlined to Members.

d) The additional risks associated with moving back to the House and the security of the artefact display was highlighted again.

e) Only one cheque was left uncashed – it was agreed to contact the Society involved.

f) Thanks were expressed to the RFO for her help.

g) The Annual Return was completed and approved by Tredegar Town Council in accordance with the Audit Regulations. Statements were read and agreed unanimously by Members.

The Internal auditor was thanked for his work and observations and then withdrew.

57) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants
Thanks were noted.

Shelter Cymru - A grant of £100.00 was recommended.

Tredegar Twinning Association – It was pointed out by the RFO that a grant for the annual camp in the sum of £500 was agreed in principle at the meeting of 13th October 2010 for Council to ratify at its next meeting 20th October 2010 – Minutes of 13.10.10 were received and approved only and there was no specific agreement to this grant. The grant for the annual camp in the sum of £500 was agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that the cheque should be presented at an event the Mayor was attending the following Saturday and it was agreed that Officers could sign the cheque if the specified signatories were not available.

To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137) – there were none.

The RFO was thanked for her work on the Annual Return and left the Meeting at 7.30pm.

58) To put forward questions to be put to Inspector Green at the Ordinary Meeting of 20th July 2011.
The following questions were put forward for submission to Inspector Green:

1) What measures have been put in place for the policing of the Park.
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
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.
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.
5) Members have requested a break down of "man hours" of officers on active duty in Tredegar.
6) The number of convictions there have been as a result of crime – this year.
7) Ongoing anti-social behaviour at Ystrad Deri – Members would like to know what measures you are implementing to prevent or deter further instances.
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.

59) Correspondence
1) BGCBC (a) Mr B Jones, Learning Services Manager. Re: Schools library service. This will cease this year. Our letter has been forwarded to Mr Richard Parsons, Assistant Director, Education Dept. who are responsible for the service.

RECEIVED

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

(b) A. Tippings Re: Centenary of Anti Semitic Riots this year. Asking if there are any plans to commemorate them or whether we have any artefacts/records linked to the Jewish Community.

RECEIVED. It was noted that a Member of Council, also a member of the Heritage Forum, had a tape of a conversation with a lady recalling the riots. Another Member mentioned that a tour group from Newport were expected and suggested a display at Bedwellty House with the tape being played.

(c) (i) £2000 grant cheque from Tredegar Labour Members for Christmas Lighting.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to check whether another grant would be available later in the year. It was also agreed to write to the Labour Members of the Borough Council: Cllrs B. Willis; A. Hobbs; S. Thomas; H. Trollope; K. Hayden; D. Rowberry and D. Owen with our thanks

(ii) £75 grant cheque from Cllr J Owen for Christmas Lighting.

RECEIVED. A letter of thanks to be sent. It was suggested that the amounts received be listed on the website.

(d) Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Partnership Board Agenda Friday 15th July 2011 at 10am ViTCC, Tredegar. Includes previous meetings' minutes and also associated documents for this meeting. Confirmation that Carillion will be making a presentation on the next Phase of the A465 dualling – forwarded to Cllr Morgan.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Council representative should bring up again the pedestrian crossing and access to the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate.

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

(e) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 27.5.11/3.6.11 and 10.6.11

(ii) List of Licensing List week ending 17.6.11.

A Member brought to the attention of Council an appeal that had recently been put forward to Crown Court where an independent Tredegar Member had written in support of someone, not a constituent, who had had their license revoked by the Borough. The Judge had made strong remarks regarding the conflict, and found in favour of the appellant at a cost of some £3000 to the Borough in legal fees.

2) One Voice Wales Domestic Abuse fact sheet and a request to forward it on to local groups and any interested parties in the area.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to circulate.

3) Cllr S Trollope Request for sponsor of Charity Canal Walk in aid of "Connie's Trust Fund" 9th July 2011

RECEIVED. The Trust Fund was explained to Members and in the absence of Cllr. S. Trollope all Members were urged to support this worthwhile cause.

4) Rubicon Beverages Unable to sponsor Clock flowerbeds this years as all funding already committed.

RECEIVED

5) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

Draft minutes of the JCLC meeting 30th June 2011.

RECEIVED

6) Civic Trust For Wales Open Doors event form to be completed for the Town Clock.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to open the Clock on Saturday 10th September 2011. It was further agreed to open the Clock as a special thank you to the ATC and to present their grant cheque at the same time. (dates and times to be agreed with ATC)

7) Kidney Wales Foundation

Thank you for supporting Walk for Life and the funds raised.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to ask for the official photo of the event and to publicise this widely.

8) L. Evans

(i) Pictures of the cover for their forthcoming CD "The Tredegar Trilogy". They are holding a charity fundraiser at Tredegar RFC on 30.7.11 for the Neo Natal Baby Unit, Heath Hospital and they will be giving away the CDs in return for a donation to the appeal. Will also make copies available for Town Council and are willing to perform free of charge at any Council function in Bedwellty House or Bandstand as part of the Summer concerts.
(ii) Lyndon Evans Email Finished their CD Tredegar Trilogy and would like to provide all Councillors with a copy of the CD, needs to know how many is required asap. Also have approached Owen Money, BBC Radio Wales, about doing an outside broadcast from Bedwellty Park on August Bank Holiday to promote Tredegar as a STARTOWN, they are prepared to play all three tracks at this broadcast if it goes ahead.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to support all their efforts and to approach Mr. P.Watkins-Hughes about making a film too.

9) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Re: Community Council Charter & Action Plan. Feedback from the cluster meetings and will write at a later with dates for the autumn round of cluster liaison meetings.

RECEIVED.

10) South Wales Argus

Buy local Campaign launching in the paper on 4th July. Aim of campaign is to encourage people to use local businesses in their community. Would like someone to voice their support for the campaign, ideally they would like 150-200 words on why it is important to support local shops and how important they are to the economy.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that Cllr. Tippings would supply an article directly.

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

11) Steve Evans

Advertising rooms for hire at the Enterprise Centre, Catapult, Tredegar.

RECEIVED.

12) Christopher Thomas A full time student at University of Glamorgan who is studying Policy & Legislation Aspects of Renewable Energy in Wales. Asking if Council would oblige by completing the attached questionnaire.

RECEIVED. This item highlighted the need for a policy review to oppose the waste incinerator and any wind farms at the Dukes Table in Trefil. Also new opportunities for micro energy from hydro electrical power were highlighted – further information to be sought.

13) Ombudsman Annual Report 2010/11.

RECEIVED.

60) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 17.6.11; BGCBC Road works report week ending 24.6.11; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 126 June 2011; BGCBC Road works report week ending 1.7.11; J. Parker's Wholesale Catalogue Autumn 2011; BGCBC Road works report week ending 8.7.11; Play Innovation Ltd Street Snooker details; Clerks & Councils Direct July 2011 Issue 76; Local Councils Update July 2011 Issue 141.

Available for all Members

61) AGENDA

Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 15th June 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 23rd June 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Executive Committee Wednesday 6th July 2011 at 1om Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 28th June 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 28th June 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Item No. 6 Report; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 7th July 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Wednesday 6th July 2011 at 1pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 6th July 2011 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 5th July 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Meeting Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 5.30pm the Miner's Institute, Llanhilleth, Abertillery; GAVO Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday 19th June 2011 at 10.30am Newtown Community Centre.

Available for all Members

62) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

1) Following the return of the Town Council to Bedwellty House the accommodation provided was criticised by many Members. It was noted that instead of the two rooms which Council had previously we had been shoe horned into just one – with no storage space at all. The promised "shared office" with the Registrar had not materialised with just the safe being stored there. Access to the safe outside the Registrars working hours means that a Member of House management has to open the door. Conditions that the staff are working in were heavily criticised, with the extreme heat and lack of ventilation being highlighted. The need for a key to the window in the office which could be used as a fire escape in the event of an emergency was also highlighted. Although a key had been found and used by staff it had been confiscated. The initial idea put forward by House Management to use the "Servery" for canteen facilities had not been at all practical – the room is simply too hot and is not designed for this purpose. The danger of carrying hot drinks up and down stairs were highlighted too.

Members were extremely disappointed at the way the Town Council had been treated, and the way an Officer of the Borough Council had spoken to the Clerk and Mayor on site was completely unacceptable. It was noted that a meeting had been called by the County Borough with the Town Council and the Registrar with reference to the shared use of the House. It was agreed that all complaints and concerns would be noted and held pending this meeting. However if the result was still unsatisfactory the Council would not hesitate to call upon the services of a solicitor used by other Town Councils who had faced similar problems.

2) Complaints had been received about the condition of the Children's playing area and Mr. Ian Morgan who had opened the Park gates was commended for carrying out a litter pick which was outside his normal duties. Members were informed that Borough Members from the Central and West wards had already approached the Borough for a daily litter pick prior to the opening of the Park to the public. It was agreed to support this request. It was further noted that there were nettles in the play area.

3) The lack of notices banning bicycles was highlighted as were the plastic bins that were dotted around the Park – Members queried where the cast iron bind had gone.

4) Cllr. Morgan related an incident of abuse against him and his wife by a Borough worker which had taken place at the children's play area. A driver had caused unnecessary damage to the grass and had been addressed by Cllr. Morgan who was then subjected to verbal abuse, as was his wife, within earshot of their grandchildren. The registration number of the van had been noted and the incident reported to Mr. D. Watkins and the Bedwellty Park Management. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of complaint as a matter of urgency.

5) Members requested that the deeds to the House, or a copy, should be deposited at the House.

6) There were many complaints about the carpets throughout, the fact that they were in some areas at all gave cause for concern because they were not in keeping with the building.

Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon – the Chair was taken over by Cllr. Cotton.

63) Planning

a) To consider an Officer's Report

The Officers report was received and noted.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0174	Mrs J Warwick 3 Park Place, Tredegar	Single storey rear extension to main house.

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0176	Miss S Teague Austin-Smith Lord One Dunleavy Drive, Cardiff	CCTV cameras on the external walls, Bedwellty House

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0177	Miss S Teague Austin-Smith Lord One Dunleavy Drive, Cardiff	CCTV cameras on the external walls, Bedwellty House,

NO OBJECTIONS. However questions were raised by a member regarding the use of CCTV cameras in the Chamber when items that required the exclusion of press and public were on

the agenda. Clerk to seek clarification. The late application was to be brought up by the Member on the Management Board.

2011/0180	Mr M Jones 5A Morgan Street, Tredegar	New shop front and external renovations with security shutters at ground floor

NO OBJECTIONS

2011/0189	Mr S Edwards 13 Richmond Terrace, Tredegar	Residential development (3 houses) Glyn Baptist Chapel, Glyn Terrace

Council were minded to object to object on the grounds of visibility, location close to the lane and over crowding.

2011/0193	Mr G Williams 10 Westville, Abertysswg	Installation of security roller shutter screens to three west elevation windows, Former CAB Queen Victoria Street

Council were minded to object on the grounds that security shutters other than on commercial property should not be encouraged.

2011/0191	Mr & Mrs Thomas 2 Shop Row, Trefil	Garden shed, 2 Shop Row Trefil

NO OBJECTIONS

c) To consider other planning matters

2011/0075 Retention of fence with a gate and new bridle gate, land adjacent to Dorian House, Tynewydd, Nantybwch, Tredegar – GRANTED 16.6.11

It was agreed to seek further information and clarification following a site meeting.

The Leader of Council spoke to the lateness of the meeting and the haste with which the Planning matters had been dealt with which he thought was not appropriate and requested that in future Planning be dealt with earlier on the agenda. This was agreed.

64) Matters of Local Interest and concern

1) A Member had been approached by a local police dog handler who used the Grove and Parc Bryn Bach for training purposes and wanted to know if it would be possible to use Bedwellty House and Park for the same purpose. Since he would be on duty and it would be outside normal opening hours it would be an additional security measure for the House and Park. It was agreed to write to the Park Manager to put forward the suggestion.

2) It was noted that Mrs Steed 28 Stockton Way would be 102 years old on August 3rd 2011.

3) Woodfield Rd – it was noted that residents of the unit would not only be people suffering from abuse but would also have problems with mental illness. An independent local Councillor had claimed that there would also be good tenants because he had helped advise them.

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

_____ Chair