# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Committee of Council held in the Council Chambers, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 6.30p.m.**

**Present: Councillors B. Willis**
**A. Cotton**
**M. Cross**
**A. Tippings**
**D. Howells**
**H. Woolf**
**G. Woolf**
**G. Bowen-Knight**
**K. Hayden**
**M. O'Sullivan**
**P. Prosser**
**S. Trollope**

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

**263) Apologies: Cllr. D. Rowberry, R. Thomas and T. Gregory**

**264) To consider the exclusion of the Press and Public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12a and the Data Protection Act 1998.**
**This was agreed.**

**265) To consider the recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee and to approve and appoint a contractor to carry out the renovation works (as specified) to the War Memorial. The contractor to be notified and engaged with immediate effect.**
**The recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee were agreed and approved and a contractor appointed.**

**266) To consider the recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee and to approve amendments and additions to:-**

a) Standing Orders – **a vote was called to agree the amendments relating to mobile phone use and texting and tweeting during Meetings and was carried by a show of hands 10 for and two against.**

b) Financial Regulations

c) Internal Financial Controls

d) Grants

**Following the vote on Standing Orders, the recommendations of the Civic Committee were agreed and approved.**

**267) To consider the Clerk's report to Council regarding a new Allotment Policy.**
The Clerks report was received and noted by Members. It was further noted that an annual meeting between allotment Officers and Council should take place. It was agreed to encourage applications for allotment sites from the other Wards and to approach Tai Calon to see if they would also be interested in setting up allotments on the many green spaces that had. It was agreed to check how many allotment plots were available on each site and agree a rate accordingly.

**268) To re-open the Meeting to members of the public – this was agreed.**

**269) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants**
Thanks were noted from Tredegar Twinning Association, Bedwellty Park Bowling Club and the Punch House Amateur Boxing Club.Wales Air Ambulance Certificate of thanks for the grant.

Friends of Bedwellty Park Society - a grant of **£200.00 was recommended**
Friends of Deighton Primary – a grant of £**200.00 was recommended**
Homemakers Community Recycling – a grant of **£100.00 was recommended**
Parc Bryn Bach – a grant of **£500.00 was recommended**

***Cllrs O' Sullivan and Cross declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon***
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club – a grant of £**150.00 was recommended**
***Cllrs O' Sullivan and Cross declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon***
Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club VETERANS SOCIETY – a grant of **£150.00 was recommended**
***Cllrs Prosser and Tippings declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon***
Trefil Rugby Club – a grant of **£150.00 was recommended**
Trefil Rugby Club – a special grant of **£500.00 for repairs to the roof was recommended**

2167 Squadron (Tredegar) ATC – **A special grant of £500.00 towards increased security systems was recommended**

**270) To receive and consider applications for Grants to Churches & Chapels (S.137)**
Bethania Congregational Church – A grant for **£200.00 was provisionally agreed pending the result of a report from the RFO.**

***Cllr. Hayden declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon***
St. James Church – a grant of **£200.00 was recommended**

**Mrs. Jones left the Meeting at this point.**

***Cllr. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon and the Chair was taken over by Cllr. Cotton.***

**271) Planning**

**a) to consider an Officer's Report:-**

**Appeals update**
Appeal 515355 Urgent works notice to listed building, Tredegar Co. Shop, Shop Row – Verbal update at Committee.

**List of Delegated items determined between 19th January 2012 and 10th February 2012.**
2011/0373 Garden land for residential use, renewal of current approval C/2009/0106, land adjacent to the Plymouth Arms, Merthyr Road – Approved.
2011/0357 Retention of raised patio area to the rear, with steps down to the garden and installation of French doors to the rear elevation, The Old Crown Inn, Ashvale – Approved.
**The report was received.**

**b) to consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations**

| App No | Applicant | Proposal |
|---|---|---|
| 2012/0041 | Mrs T Ham<br>114 Heol Llanishen Fach<br>Cardiff | Detached 4 bedroom dwelling, garden of Kismet, The Rhyd |

**NO OBJECTIONS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2012/0044 | Mr P Reese<br>108 Charles Street, Tredegar | Replace single storey rear extension with a two storey extension and single storey conservatory |

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**c) to consider other planning matters – None Received**

**272) Correspondence**

1) BGCBC (a) A. Holland Re: Pre-election activities for Elections to County Borough Council & Community Councils. Guidelines for staff, Councillors & Candidates – copied for all Members.

**RECEIVED.**
**Items (b) and (g) were taken together:**

(b) N. Deufel Re: Use of Mayor's Parlour by brides – as agreed prior to restoration, they will offer the use of the Mayor's Parlour to brides wishing to withdraw. They will be hanging a full length mirror and provide chairs in the Parlour.

(g) D. Watkins Re: Letter dated 6.2.12 refurbishment of the Mayor's Parlour – Assumed Frank had responded to this when he advised us that the benches had been found. Unfortunately this matter was not included on the forthcoming Management Board agenda but it can be raised under any other business.

**RECEIVED. Members again voiced concerns relating to the delay in replacing artefacts and reinstatement of the Mayor's Parlour. Shared use of the Parlour was agreed but the refurbishment needed to be prioritised. Other concerns were raised concerning the Vase display and the fact that the Assembly Room door was always closed and not inviting people in. It was suggested that the matter be referred to the Chief Executive and copied to the AM and MP.**

(c) Y. Tovey Re: Item for Consultation with Town/Community Councils Meeting 15.3.12 – response from Lynda Healy with regards to the

LDP "Statement of Focus Changes" display.

**RECEIVED.**

(d) Local Development Plan Examination Notice of Pre-hearing Meeting Tuesday 24th April 2012 at 2pm, The Works – invite to Cllr Tippings & Cllr Morgan (submitted the comments on behalf of Council) but invites can be used for any Council representative – Response required by 17.4.12

**RECEIVED.**

(e) Cllr K. Hayden - Copy of letter to Mr W. Jervis, Engineer for BGCBC detailing problems with the drainage system to the rear of Ashville requesting a site meeting. Also mentioning that some of the Milefield Allotment holders have taken down part of the fence to put in a gate, driving over the drainage system to access the allotments and querying whether this might have caused some of the problem.

**RECEIVED. A report of the meeting with the Clerk, Officers of the Borough and Allotment and the resident was received. It was noted that there had been a favourable outcome with the Allotment Association agreeing to change a gate and the Borough agreeing to block access with boulders.**

(f) Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy First Revised Draft – forwarded to Cllr Morgan.

**RECEIVED. It was agreed to check areas of concern and to ask for Cllr. Morgan to bring a report on the draft report back to Council.**

2) Heads of the Valley Dualling

(a) Welsh Government:-
(i) Public Inquiry Tuesday 20.3.12 at 10am The General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale – Copies of the Welsh Government's Proof of Evidence & the Expert Witnesses' Proofs of Evidence.
(ii) Copy of the WG04/A – Appendix to Construction Proof of Evidence of Mike Cummine.
(iii) Details of provision of a new footpath and realignment at Ambay Service Station.

**RECEIVED. The correspondence was favourably received**

(b) Carillion Re: A465 Section 3, Ambay Service Station - Request to consider the content of the response from Welsh Government to Council's letter dated 24.10.11 and for a written statement of support for the scheme.

**RECEIVED. The correspondence was favourably received and support was agreed.**

3) One Voice Wales

(a) Link to website giving clarification of dates following the May 2012 elections.

**RECEIVED**

(b) Strong Roots Project – published five completed case studies and preparing publication of another five. Any Council that believes that the sustainable development work they undertake deserves wider recognition should contact Rhodri Thomas at the Strong Roots Project.

**RECEIVED**

(c) Plan to run a training event in association with SLCC incorporating new legislation and decentralisation of services – seeking opinion of the planned format etc via a survey. NB for the whole Council not just the Clerk.

**RECEIVED. It was suggested that they be contacted after the elections.**

(d) Hydro Power Development on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate – Forestry Commission Wales is keen to promote the development of hydro power and to ensure that it is carried out in a sustainable way, complementing other programmes & activities in the woodlands. Complete the attached forms "Expression of Interest in developing a hydro power scheme" for a project to be considered

**RECEIVED – St James's Reservoir was suggested.**

(e) Spaces still available on the training for Module 5 The Council Meeting at Bedwas, Caerphilly on Tuesday 27.3.12.

**RECEIVED**

4) Gala Lights

(a) Paul Hussey ideas for placement of lights and colour schemes for 2012.

**RECEIVED – agreed to defer to Events**

(b) Christmas Lights Contract.

**RECEIVED**

5) SLCC Details of upcoming courses and Conference For Wales being held Wednesday 18th July 2012 in Swansea.

**RECEIVED – Clerk to attend.**

6) JCLC Affiliation fees for 2011/12 - £100 to 31st March 2012 then £200 per Financial year thereafter.

**RECEIVED – it was agreed unanimously to pay the fees.**

7) Tredegar Town Band

(a) M. Ruel, Bandmaster Ltd - Copy of email he sent to Tredegar Town Band confirming Town Council banner now working on their site. – Test banner to be used by successful grant applicants.

**Members to access and put forward any suggested amendments.**

(b) Request to be added to our website with a link to theirs – possibly a page similar to that set up for the Twinning/Orvault.

**RECEIVED – It was agreed to set up a page.**

8) Bedwellty Park Bowling Club

Thank you to Council for the support shown in their on-going attempts to have a pavilion built at the green.

**RECEIVED**

9) Punch House Amateur Boxing Club

Meet every evening - except Wednesdays – from 5pm to 7.30pm, basement at the Punch House flats. – NB. Preferred night & names of Members who will be attending to view the club, as per grant specification, with the Mayor who will present the grant cheque.

**RECEIVED – interested Members to contact the Clerk**

10) Lynne Price Tredegar Twinning – Asking if the Clock can be opened for the visitors from Orvault. Detailing the number of people expected at any proposed Clock opening as 75/80.

**RECEIVED – it was requested that the price of wine for the reception be costed.**

11) Cllr Tippings Suggesting contacting the Dragons to attend the Walk For Life Event – email sent to Sara Davies (contact for Xmas Lights) at Rodney Parade 5.3.12

**RECEIVED - all Members to receive sponsorship forms.**

12) D. Coughlin Thank you from the Alzheimer's Society for all the hard work that has gone nto the fundraising achieved, it was heart warming to see so many had come forward to help and had been so generous.

**RECEIVED the Mayor announced that the raffle had raised £1500 and thanked everyone for their generosity – details to be put on web and advertised via the media. It was noted that the Alzheimers Society were so impressed with facilities at the Park that they were looking into the idea f using it as a base for a Memory Café. It was noted that Mr. Skinner had also suggested more sponsorship options to them.**

**Cllr. H. Trollope and Morgan returned at this point.**

13) Ralph Cousins Postcards of the Town Clock have been added to flickr, offering free use of them from the website – copy attached.

**RECEIVED**

14) Sustainable Energy Partnership
"Corruption of Governance?" – Following the Parliamentary launch event, they are calling on 2 Parliamentary Committees to reopen the issue of the political decision making process which has been corrupted. Requesting we write to our local MP and the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee & Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee.

**RECEIVED**

15) Fields in Trust Email Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – the creation of a nationwide network of protected green spaces to enhance local facilities and be used in conjunction with the Jubilee Celebration.

**RECEIVED It was agreed to write to the Borough and suggest the Deighton Primary School field.**

**273) PUBLICATIONS**

James Cocker & Sons Roses availability list; BGCBC Road works report week ending 24.2.12; SET Office Supplies Catalogue 2012; BGCBC road works report week ending 2.3.12; Ashwood Price guide & catalogue; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 132 February 2012; BGCBC Road works report week ending 9.3.12.
Available for Members

**274) AGENDA**

Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Advance notice of meeting Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 23rd February 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 29th February 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice for Special Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 19th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 5th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic

Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 12 noon Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – TIME CHANGE; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 8th March 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 15th March 2012 at 9.30am Tredegar Library.

**Available for Members**

**275) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park**

**It was noted that there was a meeting of the Management Board next week and discussion regarding the renaming of the Miners Room would be taking place. It was agreed that this should be strongly contested since the history of the people was equally as important as the history of the House.**

**276) Matters of Local Interest and concern**

**It was brought to the attention of Council that Mr Arthur and Mrs Hazel Jones of Park View were due to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 22nd March – it was agreed that the Mayor would present them with a bouquet of flowers.**

**There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.35 pm**

**_____ Chair**