TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ordinary Committee of Council held in the Council Chambers, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 15th February 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors B. Willis
A. Cotton
M. Cross
A. Tippings
H. Trollope
G. Bowen-Knight
K. Hayden
J.C. Morgan
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
R. W. Thomas
S. Trollope

In attendance: Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk

248) Apologies Cllrs. H. Woolf, D. Howells, M. O'Sullivan, G. Woolf and T. Gregory

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

250) Grants: To consider, recommend and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Wales Air Ambulance – **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**
Tredegar St John Ambulance – **A grant of £500.00 was approved.**
6th Tredegar Scout Group - **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**
Kidz'R'Us Ltd - **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**
Tredegar RFC - **A grant of £150.00 was approved.**
The Punch House Amateur Boxing Club - **A grant of £150.00 was approved.**
Conditions as previously detailed to be advised.

Churches & Chapels (s.137) to recommend and to approve grants to Churches and Chapels – there were none.

251) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2012.
A copy of the bank reconciliation for the Business tracker Account as at 17th February 2012 was available for inspection by Members. Details of the spending as outlined by the RFO on the Christmas lighting was also detailed for Members. It was agreed that this be included with the Minutes.

Copy Follows:-

Notes to Christmas Lights Expenditure

The invoice has been received from Gala Lights and the breakdown is as follows:-

Lights, install/take down	£28,337.81
Additional infrastructure works	£1,165.00
VAT	£5,900.56
Total	£35,403.37

In reality the costs for 2011's Christmas Lights will only be:-

Total Charge (as above)	£35,403.37
VAT reclaimed	(£5900.56)
BGCBC grants	(£2050.00)
Revised total	£27,452.81

The budget, in this financial year, for Christmas Lights was set at £27000. Therefore the £452.81, with other incremental expenditure for the Christmas Lights such as TENS licence etc., will show contribute to an over spend in the Christmas Lights Budget heading.

It was at this point that a Member highlighted recent correspondence in the press concerning grants by Tredegar Members of the Borough Council towards the Xmas lighting. The Clerk clarified the point that the request to support the lighting was sent to all Tredegar Members by the RFO via the clerk at Member Services, who had confirmed that this had been received and duly circulated.
Cllr. J. Morgan arrived at this point.
It was re-iterated that the opportunity to grant fund the lighting had been given to all Tredegar Members via appropriate channels.
It was noted that the Allotment secretaries had been contacted regarding a meeting.
The Accounts, cheques having been reconciled to the invoices and previously inspected by Members, were approved.

252) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting held on 18th January 2012
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th January 2012
d) Minutes of the Civic Sub Committee Meeting held on 1st February 2012
e) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 1st February 2012

The Minutes were received and noted as a true record.

253) Matters arising not on the Agenda

a) Performance Review p.148 – to record Cllr. D. Rowberry as being present.

b) (i) Ordinary Meeting – Minute 215 (p150) It was noted that the visit to the windfarm had been delayed. The wind turbine which had appeared in Rassau was subject of debate.
(ii) Minute No 221 (1) b Oliver Jones Collection. A number of issues relating to the artefact were raised again and the fact that there had been no response from the Borough Council was again noted. It was suggested that the Assembly Member be approached for his intervention.
(iii) Minute No 221 (9) Lord Tredegar's Cup – it was felt by Members that the new casing should be returned to the Hallway and not left in the Miners Room.
(iv) Minute No 225 (i) Bedwellty Park Management Board – The suggestion that the Miners Room be renamed was most unwelcome. It was agreed to write to the Management Board urging them to preserve the current as well as the past heritage of the House.
(v) Minute No 225 (iii) Twinning – A Member had suggested a piece of artwork related to the 100th Anniversary of the Bandstand could be commissioned from the pupils at Tredegar Comprehensive.

c) Civic Committee

(i) – Minute No 234 – Ch. Insp. Budden and Insp. Russell Thomas – Members were pleased to hear that a number of arrests had already been made for anti social behaviour and that he was targeting "boy racers". It was agreed to write to both officers commending them for their efforts and offering our continued support.
(ii) 2167 Squadron ATC – it was noted that the site meeting had taken place and information would be presented at the next Civic Meeting under Grants.

254) Correspondence.

2) BGCBC (a) F. Olding Re Commemorative benches – reporting that they have finally been found at the main stores at the Central depot and he has inspected them.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to thank Mr. Olding for his due diligence. However, once again Members raised the ongoing issues surrounding the artefacts and the Oliver Jones collection. It was also noted that a number of items from the General Hospital had been seen at the

Llanfrechfa Grange and Royal Gwent Hospitals. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Health Board and also to check the location of the plaques and small dresser that were stored in the Borough lock-up on the Crown Avenue Industrial Estate. Members were reminded that when the House was being packed up for closure Town Council staff were not allowed to be involved in the move which was carried out by professionals. The continued wait for the plinth for Lord Tredegar's bust was again highlighted.

(b) Dylan John, Returning Officer – invitation to attend an Election Briefing about forthcoming elections on Tuesday 13th March 5pm in Committee Room 3 and 4 Civic Centre. Briefing about nomination process, postal voting and count. Also requesting the number of nomination packs required for the office.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend.

(c) Formal notice of the submission of the Local development plan to the Welsh Government on 3rd February 2012. A suitable date will be set for the Pre Hearing Meeting NB only those people that made representation seeking to change the Deposit LDP (Objectors) have the right to appear before and be heard by the Inspector at the Examination Hearing Sessions to follow.

RECEIVED.

(d) N. Deufel Re: Bandstand Centenary – Has been waiting for clarification from Town Council about the band concert arranged for that date and is eager to collaborate with Town Council. The only local organisation to have been approached about participating in the event are the Thespians and thinks that Council may be referring to the letter sent out inviting people to share information about the Bandstand with them.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to put together a list of ideas for presentation to the Manager

(e) Details of the Consultation with Town & Community Councils to be held on Thursday 15th March 2012 at 2.30pm – items for the agenda to be received by the Borough by noon on Friday 2nd March 2012

RECEIVED. It was agreed that items should be submitted to the Clerk.

(f) Regeneration Partnership Board -Agenda for meeting to be held Midday Friday 17th February at the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale. (Forwarded to Cllr. J. Morgan)

RECEIVED.

3) One Voice Wales (a) Link to the latest edition of The Ombudsman's Casebook, http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/en/publications.aspx

RECEIVED.

(b) Notice that Tredegar Town Council has successfully been selected to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Tuesday 29th May 2012.

RECEIVED. It was noted that this was the first time Tredegar had been selected for a number of years and the Mayor reported that he and his Consort, Kym were very much looking forward to the day. He was congratulated by all.

4) M. Manoeuvrier Engineering student from Orvault. Asking whether we would know of possible engineering companies who may be able to offer him a 15 week engineering internship – mostly interested in the fields of quality management manufacturing process management and logistics. Looking for financial support for accommodation and subsistence.(forwarded to Lyn Price, Twinning)

RECEIVED. It was agreed top forward the CV to the Borough Regeneration Officer and the Executive Officer for Regeneration.

5) Brecon Beacons Trust Newsletter February 2012 and asking if Council would forward their details on to local voluntary groups that may benefit from support given by this Trust.

RECEIVED. Available for all.

6) Welsh Govt. Neath to Abergavenny Trunk Road (A465) – Notes of the Pre-inquiry Meeting held 2.2.12 at General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale. Public Inquiry scheduled for Tuesday 20.3.12 at General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale at 10am Deadline for submission of proofs of evidence 28/2 – forms available from office.

RECEIVED.

7) GAVO a) Agenda for the BG Voluntary Sector Forum meeting at the Learning Action Centre Ebbw Vale on Wednesday 29th February at 9.30am.

RECEIVED. It was noted that GAVO had just been successful in a funding bid from the HLF and it was agreed to send our congratulations.

b) Notice of the Sirhowy Hill Woodland Funday on Friday 17th February 2012 from 11am – 3pm (events include willow weaving, bird box building, pottery, pole lathe, lantern making, arts & crafts and a chainsaw sculptor – all free)

RECEIVED. Members to support.

8) Kidney Wales Foundation

Posters and Leaflets for this year's Walk for Life

RECEIVED. Members were encouraged to take posters and show their support. Apologies in advance were given by Cllrs H & S Trollope who would not be able to attend.

9) SLCC Early notification of the next meeting in Usk on Friday 9th March 2012.

RECEIVED. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend.

10) JCLC Details of the pre meeting for the Consultation with Town & Community Councils to be held on Thursday 15th March 2012 at 2pm in Committee Room 3. (NB next meeting of the JCLC on Monday 20th February 2012 at 6.30pm in the Council Offices Abertillery)

RECEIVED.

11) Gala Lights a) Copy of letter sent to Mrs A. Powles of Susan's regarding the canopy damage, denying responsibility.

b) Response to queries on the contract – stating that queries relating to item 4 Delivery do not apply to us since they themselves would be delivering them directly. Also queries relating to item 8 Installation and the bespoke motif – this would be covered by the fact that they offer the installation/takedown service including maintenance. They also ask if we could arrange someone with an extendable ladder – they suggest Malcolm – to attach the sockets on Susan's shop to the tree bracket on their behalf with the understanding that there would be no comebacks on them should anything unforeseen happen at a later date.

BOTH RECEIVED. Members noted the response and agreed that all sockets and live tree installations should be checked in Spring. It was agreed that the Mayor should sign the contract with the Clerk as witness. It was not considered acceptable that we should attach sockets on their behalf and that they (Gala Lights) should include these works with the completion of installation in Spring.

12) Barclays Introducing Barclays Skillsbank – available to us as we have a Community Account - a free online network of volunteers who are willing to help. Must be solved entirely online, completed in a short amount of time 5 mins to a couple of hours and have a clear deliverable or result.

RECEIVED. It was suggested that we contact them to help with marketing the Walk for Life. It was also noted that the Manager of the Tredegar Branch of Barclays had confirmed that they would double the amount raised by the Quiz Wizards competition.

13) Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 147/8 January/February 2012. Items of interest relating to the Localism Act and Councils being given greater control over how their roads appear on maps and satnavs (additional copies available from the office for interested Members.)

RECEIVED.

14) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 10.2.12 &17/2/2012 Hafan Cymru Newsletter Issue 2; Countryside Council for Wales Funding Newsletter February –March 2012: Orvault Bordereau d'envoie January 2012:

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

15) AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting 9th February 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting 9th February 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – item No. 3 report. Agenda Executive Committee to be held in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale on Wednesday 15th February 2012 at 11am: Special Meeting of Executive Committee to be held on Wednesday 15th February at the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale - immediately following Executive Committee:Consultation with Town/Community Councils advance notice of meeting to be held on Thursday 15th March 2012 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale. Items for inclusion on the agenda to be received no later than 12 noon Friday 2nd March 2012: Consultation pre-meeting to be held in Room 3 at 2pm: Executive Meeting Wednesday 15th February – item 10 as a matter of urgency:Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday 20th February 2012 at 3pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Special Executive Committee meeting on Monday 20th February 2012 at 11am in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 21st February 2012 at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale.

AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Cllrs. Willis and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon. Cllr. Cotton took the Chair.

255) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report – none received

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2012/0022	Mr T Smith Lidl UK Gmbh, Waterton Ind. Estate off Cowbridge Road, Bridgend	Free standing billboard, Lidls Gelli Road, Tredegar

NO OBJECTIONS

2012/0023	Mr K Price 2 Woodfield Road, Tredegar	Retention of timber fence & gates, land off Woodfield Road

NO OBJECTIONS

2012/0027	Mr. Jonathan Cleaves 17 Whitworth Terrace	Erection of garage in rear garden

NO OBJECTIONS

c) To consider other planning matters – None received

Cllr Willis then re-took the Chair.

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

i. Joint Committee of Local Councils – **The representative reported that only 2 of the 4 Town/Community Councils had been present at the Budget Meeting and the details of the budget had been publicised in the press the day before. They were concerned, again, at the lack of consultation. A 2.6% increase in Council Tax by the Borough was reported.**
ii. **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – Meeting held nothing substantial to report**
iii. **Tredegar Twinning – The Association were looking for people to billet visitors from Orvault.**
iv. **School Governing Bodies**
Tredegar Comprehensive – it was reported that a new Head had been appointed – Ms. Carol Morgans who had been the strongest of twelve candidates. Members were pleased at the calibre of the candidates for the position.
St. Joseph's – It was noted that Fr. Gareth Jones had returned and was now Head of Governors and that following the intervention of Tredegar Borough Members salt bins had been placed by the School.
Parc Bryn Bach – Members were delighted to hear that Cllr. Cross had been appointed as a Governor.
v. **Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – The new tannoy system was highlighted as was a problem with signage relating to the new dog control measures. Increased security had seen a decrease in vandalism. The lake lining was being monitored and following the meeting with REG Windpower Tredegar Town council Members of the Board were able to give a report on the presentation that had been made. The need for new bicycles for disabled users was mentioned and the Parc were informed of grant funding available from the Town Council. It was noted that revenue from the hire of bicycles was returned to the Parc. A meeting with the anglers had been suggested and the reduced overspend was attributed largely to the staff that had been lost. Polytunnels being put into the Parc would be funded by Social Services. Despite many protests the dining room was still being**

closed at 3pm, even when there were a lot of people in the Parc. The proposed wind farm near the Parc was raised with the Manager looking at the possible funding it might bring to the Parc. Some Member queried whether anything had been done to enhance the Parc for some time.

vi. **Tredegar Youth Café – It was reported that this half term had been slower than normal and that they were looking at going out to local schools to advertise. The toddler group had won a bronze award and were hoping to expand with a soft play area and offer small birthday parties. Events were being planned for Easter with an adventure holiday also in the planning.**

vii. **Blaenau Gwent CAB – It was noted that we had written asking for information about meeting times and place in Tredegar and received no response. Council were informed that there was now a meeting in Catapult once a week. It was agreed that the Clerk should write again asking about dates of meetings for our delegate.**

viii. **Communities First Board – Members noted that the recent planning day had been well attended until after lunch when a lot of people left. It was agreed to seek a replacement for one delegate who was having problems attending meetings due to work commitments. It was agreed to agenda this for a future meeting of Council. Recent letters received by Board Members had raised concern.**

ix. **Tredegar Business Forum – the new representative asked for a list of dates of the meetings.**

x. **Tredegar Heritage Steering Group – It was noted that there had been meetings between the Steering group and representatives relating to the Hospital. Members were concerned that the Group may be acting outside its original remit and requested the Clerk to arrange a meeting between Officers and Members. It was also suggested that the AM Mr. Alun Davies be invited to see the outcome at Caerphilly Miners Hospital**

A Member raised an issue to be forwarded to the agenda for the Joint Meeting of the JCLC and the Borough Council – the Local Plan had been deposited with Communities First amongst others and the Borough had overlooked the Town Council, undermining its position in the Community.

257) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

Concerns were expressed regarding the signage relating to the opening times of the Park which stated that it was open dawn til dusk but in actual fact the gates were being locked at 4.30 pm and the House closed at 5pm. Members thought that the introduction of a tannoy or some sort of warning system, such as the old bell, should warn people of the impending closure of the Park. It was also thought that clear and definite times should be set.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM

_____Chair