TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ordinary Committee of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 21st December 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors B Willis
A. Cotton
A Tippings
T. Gregory
D. Rowberry
R. Thomas
D. Howells
G. Woolf
M. O'Sullivan
K. Hayden
H Trollope
H. Woolf

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

185) Apologies Cllrs M Cross, S. Trollope, G. Bowen-Knight, P. Prosser and G. Rowberry

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

187) Grants: To consider, recommend and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Thanks were received and noted.

The Portage Service - A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – A grant of £50.00 was approved.
Tredegar & District Floral Art Society – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Tredegar Town AFC Seniors – A grant of £150.00 was approved.
Tredegar Twinning Association – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Vale View Allotments – Deferred till meeting held with Allotments following review of Allotment policy early in the New Year.

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

188) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in November 2011 and for payment in December 2011.

The Accounts having previously been inspected by Members and invoices and cheques reconciled were approved. The Bank reconciliations were available for Members inspection on all Accounts and were received and approved.

A question was raised regarding the planting of the Clock and it was agreed to discuss Spring planting in January, to agenda sponsorship for September of 2012 and to approach the new garden centre in Tredegar in person.

The Annual Return had been received back from Mazars, the external auditors, without any comments or recommendations at all and the RFO was warmly congratulated by all Members for this excellent response. The RFO advised that it was now on display and available for members of the public.

Following a request by the RFO it was agreed that from January 2012 only the accounts for payment in that month would be presented to Council. The previous month would only be presented if there had been amendments made by Council.

The annual request by the Borough Council had been received for the Precept amount which they were requesting to be in their hands by 31st January 2012. The RFO would issue the estimates to Members on return after the holidays.

Members expressed their thanks to the RFO for the tight control that had led to such an excellent report from the external auditor.

189) To receive the reports of the RFO relating to Council Financial Policies.

The RFO outlined the need to update the following policies:-

a) Financial Regulations
b) Financial Controls
c) Grants

following the split of duties – the need to amend and update all policies was agreed.

Following discussion it was agreed that this matter should be placed before the Finance Committee in January 2012, together with discussion of the budget.

Mrs. Jones left the Meeting at 7pm.

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

a) Minutes of the Performance Review Meeting held on 16th November 2011

The Minutes were approved and accepted as a true record, there were no matters arising.

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th November 2011

The Minutes were approved and accepted as a true record.

i) Matters arising –

1) Minute No. 164 (8) – re Minute No 146 previously, Cllr G. Woolf was not available to take a place on the Business Forum and it was agreed to re-agenda for January 2012.

2) Minute No 165 – There was much consternation at the suggestion that Council had made threats towards the Officers, especially since the Officer had made much that the House needed to be self-supporting or would close – Members questioned whether this too was a threat in a light hearted manner. Everyone had accepted that the House and Park needed to be financially viable for its long term future. The question of the artefacts was raised again and with a meeting of the Management Board having been held recently, it was agreed to contact House Management in the New Year. A Council representative on the Management Board had expressed concerns that she found it difficult to attend at times. It was noted that Cllr. Cross had

expressed an interest in sitting on the Board and it was agreed to ask him to take her place with Cllr. R. Thomas as reserve.
3) Minute No. 167 (5) Gala Lights – Members relayed a meeting held with Mr. Paul Hussey of Gala Lights during which the concerns and disappointment of the Council were fully discussed. Members had been advised that additional costs had been incurred as a result of problems with the infrastructure in Commercial Street. A number of key areas of concern had been raised such as the NCB and the lack of lighting around In Trim, also the missing tree lights near Harrison's and the Church were highlighted. Having visited the lock up at the recreation Ground it was agreed that it would be suitable for storing the artificial trees and the bespoke greeting with a relevant reduction in costs.

Cllr. D. Rowberry left the Meeting at 7.30pm

c) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting held on 7th December 2011
The Minutes were approved and accepted as a true record – there were no matters arising.

d) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 7th December 2011
The Minutes were approved and accepted as a true record.
i) Matters arising- War Memorial – thanks were expressed to all Members for the way the situation had been dealt with and for speaking to various individuals to clarify the position of Council and to help to set the record straight.

e) Verbal Report on the Events Committee Meeting held on 21st December 2011.
A verbal report was given outlining the positive reactions that had been received, the need for more stalls including craft stalls, the time of the Switch-On to remain as 6pm allowing for the ages of people attending and possible weather conditions, the event to be about an hour in total with the Switch-on as the finale. It was noted that thanks had already been sent. Thanks were given to all those who had helped. There were no matters arising.

191) Correspondence.
1) BGCBC (a) Grants
(i)Christmas Lighting Grant £2000. From Tredegar Labour Members & £50 from Cllr J Owen – acknowledgement & thank you letters sent.
(ii) Armed Forces Day 2011 Grant £300 from Tredegar Labour Members –acknowledgement & thank you letter sent.
(iii) Armed Forces Day 2011 Grant £50 from Cllr J Owen - acknowledgement & thank you letter sent.
RECEIVED with thanks. It was agreed to list on the Council web-site all those Tredegar Members who had made a contribution.
(b) Mr Griffin Re: Introduction of Dog Control Orders within Blaenau Gwent. Three types of dog control orders being introduced from 3.1.12 – The Fouling of Land by Dogs; Dog Exclusion; Dogs on a Lead. A fixed penalty notice of £75 and failure to pay the fixed penalty notice may result in legal action and the maximum fine of up to £1000. Further information and site location plans are available at http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/environmental/16932.asp
RECEIVED and noted.
(c) D. Ware Re: HOV Education Programme Stakeholder Engagement Event.Invite to the event on 30.1.12 at Bedwellty House 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Places to be booked.
RECEIVED

(d) War Memorial

(i) F. Olding – Will need to look at the colours and texture samples mentioned in 5.8 of the report for the hydraulic lime and dependant on these listed building consent may **not** be required. Once the contract has been let it would be a good idea to arrange a meeting between Frank, TTC & the contractor to monitor progress.

(ii) F. Olding – Yes have been in touch with Mossfords & may become approved contractors.

RECEIVED

3) Mossfords Re: War Memorial – appears that Mr Olding is happy for them to be included in any tenders as there does not appear to be an approved contractors list.

RECEIVED

4) One Voice Wales

(a) Strong Roots Project – Green Futures Training Programme, training dates for Spring 2012, booking essential, nominal charge of £10 per person.

RECEIVED. Interested Members to contact they Clerk

(b) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties Invitation 22nd & 29th May 2012. Invitation is to the current (outgoing) Chairperson and guest, nomination form to be submitted by 31.1.12.

RECEIVED, it was agreed to nominate the outgoing Mayor as usual.

(c) Consultation exercise opening 7.12.11 in connection with proposed procedural changes relating to advertising Traffic Regulation Orders. Consultation documents available at http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/trafficorders/?lang=en

RECEIVED, available for Members.

5) National Assembly for Wales

Consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill.

RECEIVED

6) Tredegar Youth Café Thank you for letting them participate in this Xmas Lights event which they thoroughly enjoyed being part of and feel was a successful event.

RECEIVED, with thanks.

7) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Annual Report December 2011.

RECEIVED – available for all Members.

8) M. Higgs Quiz Wizard poster – copied for all Members

RECEIVED – to be displayed.

192) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings November 2011; Connect Winter 2011 magazine x 2; BGCBC road works report week ending 23.12.11; Communities 1st Central & West and Sirhowy Winter Newsletter x 3 copies; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Planning Advice Centres 2012. Available for all Members

193) AGENDA
Special Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 13th December 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 14th December 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting 15th December 2011 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Environment Scrutiny Committee Thursday 15th December 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Thursday 5th January 2012 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 4th January 2012 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for all Members

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

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0299	Mr B Jones 9 Ladysmith Georgetown	4 bedroom detached dwelling, land adjoining Vale Terrace Chapel, Vale Terrace
2011/0357	Mrs S Ruddock The "Old Crown Inn" Merthyr Road, Tredegar	To erect a raised patio area to the rear of the property with steps down to the garden, to install french doors to rear elevation in utility room (retention of),

c) Other Planning Matters
None received.

195) 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 – a report was received of a recent meeting at which it was suggested that precept levels be evened out. It was pointed out at the time that some Councils are more active than others and that this would not be feasible. However Members invited other Councils to step up to the same level of activity.**
ii. **Tredegar Twinning – The Xmas dinner had been a great success and it was noted that the Chair of the Association had thanked the Town Council for continued support and that everyone had had a great reception.**
iii. **School Governing Bodies – concerns were raised regarding the way schools were graded and the criteria used and at the way that data could be manipulated.**
iv. **Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled- Xmas Dinner had been held with raffle prizes being donated and everyone having a good time.**
v. **Blaenau Gwent CAB – It was agreed to check the delegate from Tredegar Town Council and to enquire when they held surgeries in Tredegar.**
vi. **Communities First Board – It was noted once again that the Tredegar Communities 1st team were going to be standing alone.**
vii. **Tredegar Business Forum – Their Christmas event had been a success with the inclusion of Christians Together and the Cwm Salvation Army Band - to write with congratulations.**

196) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) It was noted that some nameplates on the Tredegar Urban District Board had bowed and needed to be fixed, Clerk to contact House Management.

2) Following the first Presentation night at the House, Members commented on how stark the room was and thought the Assembly room might be better for functions despite the lack of bar.

3) Cllr. T. Gregory thanked everyone present for their support throughout the year.

4) Members were informed that the talk on Nye Bevan being held at the Moose Hall on 13th February 2012 was currently by invitation only.

Members were reminded of the Mayor's Christmas visits being held on Christmas Eve and there being no other business and with greetings for the coming Festive Season, the Meeting closed at 8.30pm

_____ Chair