TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 18th April 2012

Present: Councillors **B Willis**
A. Cotton
M Cross
A Tippings
H Trollope
D. Howells
G. Woolf
G. Bowen-Knight
S. Trollope
J. Morgan
M. O'Sullivan
G.D. Woolf
D. Rowberry

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

305) Apologies: **Cllrs Gregory, Hayden, Prosser, Thomas, H. Woolf and G. Rowberry**

306) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a.
This was agreed.

307) To receive the report and any recommendations of the Performance Review Sub- Committee held prior to this Meeting.
The unanimous agreement of all Members to accept the financial report and also the recommendations to change to a payment and receipts option was recorded, together with the agreement to purchase medals, 2 banners and a flag for the additional items.

The Meeting was then re-opened to the public.

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

Tredegar Amateur Boxing Club - **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**
Tredegar Angling Club - **A grant of £200.00 was approved.**

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

It was noted that Victoria was about to leave St Johns Church and also to be married. Council sent their best wishes for the event and their thanks for the four years that she had served the parish.

309) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in April 2012.

The Accounts having previously been inspected by Members and invoices and cheques reconciled were approved. Queries relating to a number of items were answered by the RFO.

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

a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March 2012

b) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 4th April 2012

The Minutes were approved as a true record

311) Matters arising not on the Agenda

1) Minute No. 289 (iii) Twinning – It was reported that the visit of our Twin town of Orvault had been very well received by visitors and hosts. Special mention was made of the harpist Caitlin Prowle and the Welsh Folk Dance Group from Bryn Bach Primary School. The farewell evening at Kidz R'Us had been a great success. The visit had however raised once again the problems relating to the display of Town Council artefacts and Civic gifts. The Clerk was thanked for her efforts to display the Twinning Artefacts and the assistance of Cllr. Willis had been much appreciated. It was further noted that instructions to remove the artefacts were received from the House Manager first thing on the following Monday – this was contrasted with the way the management of the Metropole was handled. It was noted withy disappointment that even the beautiful handmade ship – a gift from Orvault – could not be left on display despite the way it enhanced the Miners Room and indeed the Manager had e-mailed the Clerk noting that it was still in place and insisting it be removed. It was agreed to write to the Management Board and the Chief Executive.

It was also noted that the Twinning Association had only high praise for the Town Council following this visit and also that the membership of the Association had increased.

2) Minute No 292 – Sporting Grants – concerns had been raised regarding the multiple requests by sporting clubs for grant funding and a vote was taken on the proposal that if clubs running more than one section should apply there should be a maximum of two grants allocated. This was agreed with two abstentions.

3) Minute No 298 (1) War Memorial – it was agreed to chase up information relating to the grant application, but to put in place a definite starting date so that the works would definitely be completed before Remembrance Sunday.

4) Minute No 299 – It was agreed to invite Mrs. Bobby Bolt to a Meeting of Council to address issues relating to Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in Ebbw Vale surrounding the layout of the hospital, distance from the main car park to the entrance, the fact that although wheelchairs were available many of those visiting elderly patients were elderly themselves and unable to use them. Further questions relating to docking facilities and out of hours pharmacy services were also mentioned.

312) Correspondence.

2) BGCBC (a) D. John Re: Notices of Uncontested Elections – statements confirming

Councillors standing in each Ward.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to convey Members thanks for the friendly and amenable way that the Officers had dealt with the recent elections.

(b) M. Jones Re: Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – unable to consider the request for the Deighton Primary School field to be considered for inclusion as the nominations have already been made by BGCBC at its meeting on 25.1.12.

RECEIVED. It was noted by Members that the nominations made had largely been in one area of the Borough and that this should be pointed out.

(c) Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan Pre-hearing Meeting Tuesday 24th April 2pm – Agenda and guidance notes for the meeting.

RECEIVED. Concerns relating to the Trefil area were highlighted.

(d) Bedwellty House:-

(i) Re: Your Voice, Your Identity Project – Bedwellty House & Park has been awarded £25k by the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project with young people which aims to increase young people's awareness of their local heritage and their confidence to share that heritage with others. The project will run for approximately a year starting in May 2012. Would like to arrange a meeting with former Mayors for 31st May 2012 from 4.15pm to 5.45pm in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House to give the young people the opportunity to speak to former Mayors of Tredegar.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to forward details of past Mayors and those who were present at the Meeting who had all volunteered to take part.

(ii) Re: Parking in the Courtyard – Internal reminder that all those taking part in meetings at Bedwellty House are requested not to park in the courtyard (other than disabled) and certainly not to park in front of fire exits.

RECEIVED.

(iii) Re: Catering – unable to offer community rates to Town Council.

RECEIVED. This was noted with disappointment – the fact that the Town Council is only supported by rate support grant and is non-profitable had not made any difference. Further the fact that we only cater to promote the Town Council and Bedwellty House was not taken into consideration.

(e) A. Tippings Re: New post charges – copy of new post rates from the Post Office.

RECEIVED.

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

(f) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 30.3.12.
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 6.4.12.

RECEIVED.

3) One Voice Wales Re: Model Concerns & Complaints Policy and Guidance – On 29.7.11 the Welsh Government issued the Model Concerns & Complaints Policy and Guidance. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales urges public service providers to adopt the policy & guidance within their organisation. A link is supplied for the document.

RECEIVED.

4) Chief Inspector Mick Moyles

Requesting to meet with Council as soon as possible – preferably in May – to demonstrate the new road show that will be going around the Borough. The aim of the road show is to demonstrate to the public how they will be able to contact Gwent Police once the Front Enquiry Office at Tredegar Police Station closes.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to meet with the Inspector on Wednesday 23rd May 2012

5) Gala Lights

Still waiting to hear from Centregreat with regards to the hanging wire etc. Gala's engineers will be calling to dress the last tree and address the tidying of cables in early/mid May.

RECEIVED.

6) L. Downer Email

Next Meeting of the Joint Committee of Local Councils has been rescheduled from 21st May 2012 to 18th June 2012 at 6.30pm Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Offices.

RECEIVED.

7) Welsh Government

Welsh Government Research – Delivery of Planning Services in Statutory Designated Landscapes. Undertaking a study to evaluate how planning services are delivered in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales. As part of the study they are writing to community councils that lie partially or wholly within a Welsh National Park/AONM to gather feedback. Questionnaire enclosed for completion and submission by 4.5.12.

RECEIVED.

8) Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel

P. Whittaker – Asking if Council would recognise Mr Glyn Williams for his services to the Panel.

RECEIVED. The nomination was agreed and Members commended Mr. Williams as an outstanding person to recognise.

9) Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership

Go Wild 2012 event being held at Parc Bryn Bach on Saturday 16th June 2012 from 11am to 4pm – request to display poster/advertise this free event. – Put on website & in TC noticeboard.

RECEIVED.

10) Kidney Wales Foundation

Opt For Life Campaign Organ Donation in Wales – asking for people to read the information supplied in the pack and submit their response letter to support the programme. – response letter copied for all Members.

RECEIVED. A Member put forward a query about being registered in Wales and dying in England and it was pointed out that each hospital now has an organ donation nurse who will contact relatives of patients with a life threatening condition or illness.

11) <u>Armed Forces Day</u>

(i) A & J Leisure - Asking whether Council would consider hiring their inflatable slides etc for the Armed Forces Day.

(ii) Tredegar Ironsides RFC - Offering their support at the Armed Forces Day

event, will contact us shortly with details of what they will be able to offer.

RECEIVED. Discussions followed it was agreed to contact the press seeking support and also to schedule an Events Committee meeting.

12) Local Works — Re: Empowering Town & Parish Councils, please help end Government delays – The Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Act of 2010 requires the Government to make regulations that will create a new legal right for Town/Parish Councils to drive the actions and assistance Government takes to create and protect thriving local communities. These required regulations have now been delayed for over nine months. Asking Council, as a whole, and individual Members of Council to write to the local MP asking them to help end the delay by writing to Communities Minister Greg Clark.

RECEIVED. It was agreed to support as previously.

313) PUBLICATIONS

Play for Wales Issue 36 Spring 2012; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique Avril 2012 Issue 134 and Orvault ma Ville Avril-Juin 2012 Issue 52; Glasdon brochures for Local Councils products; BGCBC road works report week ending 13.4.12; BGCBC road works report week ending 20.4.12; Communicorp Local Councils Update April 2012 Issue 150; Tredegar Heritage Forum Minutes of the Meeting 29.3.12.
Available for all Members

314) AGENDA

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Thursday 19th April 2012 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Executive Committee Wednesday 11th April 2012 additional agenda item 9.01 for consideration.
Available for all Members

315) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report – NONE RECEIVED

b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations - NONE RECEIVED

c) To consider other planning matters - NONE RECEIVED

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

i. Tredegar Twinning – Meetings with the French very friendly and constructive, details of youth exchanges and involvement from Bryn Bach Primary in an exchange scheme.
ii. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee - it was noted that pedaloes were available to hire at a cost of £5 per half hour, carefully supervised by wardens and a rescue boat on the lake. It was noted that this now gives a use for the lake by all people and not just anglers. The fixed penalty scheme for dog fouling had made an impression in the Park, however it was noted that those who did not pay the fine weren't being chased up by the Borough. The increased security had paid for itself in decreased vandalism. It was also noted that the new summer hours were most welcome.

iii. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – it was noted that the Bobby Scheme was due to end and no-one knew what was going to replace it. This was met 2w2ith disappointment since this had been a good scheme and was still needed in the area.

iv. Tredegar Heritage Steering Group – there had been a positive meeting and the Group had been re-titled – Tredegar Heritage.

317) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)
1) A member brought to Councils attention an article in Wales on Sunday featuring Cameron and Aaron Hudd, demonstrating how Aaron had joined his brothers wheelchair basketball team.
2) A reminder was given about a young man who had helped save a life for the next series of Civic Awards – noted.

At the close of the Meeting the Leader, Cllr. Malcolm Cross thanked the retiring Members of Council Cllr Gerald Woolf and Cllr. Keith Hayden for their staunch support of the Council and its events over the years.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm

_____Chair.