TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ordinary Committee of Council held in the Council Chambers, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors B. Willis
M. Cross
D. Howells
G. Woolf
G. Bowen-Knight
R. Thomas
A. Tippings
S. Trollope
K. Hayden
D. Rowberry
J. Morgan
M. O'Sullivan

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

215) Apologies: Cllrs. Cotton, H. Woolf, T. Gregory.

Members welcomed Mr Sergio Zappulo from REG Windpower and Nick Webb and Neelam Sheemar from Meeting Place communications who then made a presentation regarding the proposed windfarm at Pen Bryn Oer, near Bryn Bach Park.
It was noted that Cllrs Willis and H. Trollope were Members of the Unitary Authority Planning Committee and were present only to listen and observe.

Cllr. M. O'Sullivan arrived 6.05pm
Mr. Sergio Zappulo of Reg Windpower gave an interesting presentation detailing the exhibitions that had been arranged and the 7500 leaflets that had been delivered throughout Rhymney and Tredegar. He informed the Meeting that another exhibition was being arranged at Bedwellty House, and also that Councillors had been approached to view a windfarm outside Neath. Many had taken up the offer.
The site would hold 3 turbines 110m high with blades of 40/45m, with technology advancing at such a pace he could not guarantee the model that would be in situ. Questions regarding the disruption caused by setting up the turbines and resulted in the news that it would take some 4/6 months for foundations and approx. 15 abnormal loads would be delivered. Traffic management plans would need to be put in place. Access to the site would be via the bottom gate used when the one way system is implemented for events. Questions about how much power would be produced and who would benefit brought forward the information that it would be enough to power a minimum of 2300 homes with a maximum output of treble that. The power would feed into the National Grid.
Cllr. Morgan joined at 6.15pm.
The financial benefits to the Community were outlined. Both communities of Rhymney and Tredegar would benefit from an income from the developers. This could take a number of forms the minimum requirement being £1000 per kilowatt – meaning that options could be for £18000 p/a to be split or with a front loaded figure of £65000 with a lower figure of £6000 p/a. Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the money would go directly to a local management

group. The requirement for this funding would be part of the planning application. This funding would nor phase out, but would be index linked. The time limit for consent of 25 years was noted, with either the turbines being replaced with a more modern version or removed and the land re-instated. The way the power would be transported from site to join the National Grid would be by wooden poles, not pylons, and would generally follow the road/highways routes.
Cllr. Prosser arrived at 6.30pm
It was noted by Members that this application was for 3 turbines, the representative from Reg Windpower could not guarantee that another company might not also submit applications for further turbines at any time.
The fact that the Welsh landscape in general was still in recovery after the closure of the mining and other heavy industry was highlighted, with Members commenting that this might be another blot on the landscape.
The Members from Sirhowy queried what security would be in place to protect them from vandalism, pointing out that Parc Bryn Bach had suffered greatly. The response was that there were no specific plans but that they could be incorporated into the planning process. She queried the impact on Parc Bryn Bach and that the turbines would dominate the view from the Visitor Centre – asking how such impact was evaluated and what response had come from the people of Tafarnaubach who would be closest. The response was that the change to the landscape would be significan and as such it would be part of the environmental study and that a landscape architect would assess the changes taking into account the sensitivity of the Parc and users.
Members thanked the team for their presentation and they withdrew at 6.45pm leaving behind information packs on the project and with the promise of a future exhibition at Bedwellty House.

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

217) Grants: To consider, recommend and approve grants to sporting and cultural organisations.
Thanks were received and it was agreed to meet with Tredegar RFC at a Civic Sub Committee to be held in February.

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

218) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in January 2012.
It was noted that Bank reconciliations were available for Members inspection.
The accounts having previously been reconciled and the cheques and invoices inspected by Members, were approved.

219) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
It was agreed to take item (e) first –
e) Verbal Report on the Performance Review Meeting held on 18th January 2012 and to receive and agree recommendations to Council
The RFO gave a verbal report on the Performance Review Meeting with queries being answered as to the level of reserves, possible expenditure relating to the War Memorial, Mayors Parlour, allotments and the Cwtch being covered.
(Cllr. R Thomas had left the room during this discussion)

A proposal was put forward by Cllr G. Woolf that there be a 10% reduction in the budget, this was seconded by Cllr. Hayden – a vote was taken with two for and eleven against (Cllr Thomas abstained having missed the discussion)
The recommendation of the Performance Review Committee to agree a standstill budget was put to all Members and a vote taken – with two against and one abstention the motion was carried by eleven votes. It was therefore agreed that the budget this year would remain at a standstill.
Once again the RFO sought approval for the Internal Auditor to be her mentor during her studies and it was agreed with the conditions outlined in Performance Review. She was thanked for her work on the Estimates and Budget and then then left the Meeting at 7.05pm.

a) Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 21st December 2011
The Minutes were approved as a true record – there were no matters arising.

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st December 2011
The Minutes were approved as a true record

Matters arising – 1) Minute no 191 (b) it was noted that fines for fouling had been issued and it was hoped that it would have an impact not only in parks, but together with the litter fines, across the town.

c) Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 4th January 2012
The Minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters arising – 1) Minute No 198 – a Member asked why they had been asked to meet Council and it was explained that it was purely for clarification regarding the name of the club. 2) Minute no 200 (4) – Further explanation was requested as to why Town Council had not been represented at the meeting with the Heritage Minister, despite the input of Council Members who had supplied information and expertise to the Heritage Group. Members were further informed that the Heritage Group had had no choice over the representation at the meeting. It was agreed to write to the Minister expressing our delight that such a meeting has taken place but querying the lack of representation by the Town Council and seeking such representation in future. Members of the Heritage Group were asked to seek clarification at their next meeting. 3) Minute No 206 (3) It was noted that the smaller speed bumps were being replaced but that the Governors were still trying to get a times weight restriction on the road. 4) Minute No 206 (4) It was noted that tenders for the repair of the wall had been issued.

(This item was not taken at this Meeting and will deferred to the next Meeting of the Civic Committee.
d) Minutes of the Staffing & Finance Sub Committee held on 9th January 2012)

220) To elect a replacement representative for the Business Forum
It was agreed that a draw take place to select the second representative

221) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) Sylvia Lindoe, Director of Education & leisure Services Re: Speed bumps, Bryn Bach School – Council's letter has been forwarded to the Highways Dept. asking them to investigate and respond in due course.
Received. It was noted that Ms. Lindoe had missed the point of the question, which was that school governors were not being kept up to date with developments. It was agreed to write

again. It was further noted that there had been no response to the request for a timed weight limit on the road, and a Member recounted that such a sign was placed near a school in Brecon. He is to bring a photo.

(b) F. Olding Re: Oliver Jones Collection – meeting with Nicole on 23.1.12 to discuss the collection.

Received. It was suggested that we offer the expertise of Members of the Town Council and reiterate that it is a "collection" of pictures relative to the heritage of the town.

(c) List of Licensing Applications Week ending 1.2.12

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Proposals to alter the date of Local Government Elections in Wales by one year from May 2016 to May 2017 – Responses to be returned to Dr Del Morgan by 5.3.12 (Proposal also received from Welsh Government).

Received. It was noted that this matter had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Gwent Valleys OVW Group recently. It was agreed at that meeting, following a suggestion by one of the Tredegar Members, to synchronise the elections with others every five years – the Group was to write in support. It was further agreed that Tredegar Town Council also write in supporting this suggestion.

(b) BBC Documentary Participants required – making a documentary Called New Nation and would like to follow families/individual migrant people living in Wales. Any parties interested please contact Tel: 07891 583270.

Received. It was agreed that Members could nominate individually.

(c) Larger Local Councils Meeting Monday 30th January 2012 at 10.30am Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells – Copied to Cllr Cross

Received.

(d) Details of modules, venues and dates of upcoming training events.

Received.

(e) December 2011/January 2012 Funding Newsletter.

Received.

3) <u>Consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill</u>

(i) National Assembly for Wales – welcomes views on the enclosed questions and any written evidence to assist in the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill. Submissions to be made by 2.2.12

(ii) One Voice Wales's response to the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill.

Received. Available for Members.

4) Welsh Government Public Inquiry, named Draft Orders Neath to Abergavenny Trunk Road (A465) – Outline Statement of the Welsh Government's Principal Submissions to put forward at the Public Local Inquiry.

Received.

5) Firebrake The All Wales Joint Arson Group (JAG) is consulting on the Wales Arson Reduction Strategy 2012-15, available on Firebrake website and consultation closes 12.12.12.

Received.

6) Gala Lights Email Unable to contact Centre Great to arrange collection of motif. Will collect it from them when he comes down for the meeting with Council, suggests

either taking it back with him or storing it in our lock-up.

Received. It was noted that a sum had been added to the budget for the insurance costs of storage at our facility, and that this sum should be included in negotiations with Gala Lights.

7) Blaenau Gwent Local Policing Unit

As of 3.1.12, due to a reorganisation of the roles & responsibilities of the Inspectors in the Blaenau Gwent Policing Unit, inspector Green ceases to be the Inspector responsible for providing neighbourhood policing in Tredegar, this role has now been taken over by Inspector Russell Thomas.

Received.

8) Moose International, Tredegar Lodge

It has been necessary to postpone the talk on Aneurin Bevan, will inform Council of the new date once known.

Received.

9) T. Hopkins

Valuation of Lord Tredegar's Cup is currently £11,000. Next year the big final will be at Bedwellty Park when he will be President of the Monmouthshire County and in 2013 there will be a few games to celebrate his Presidency.

Received. It was agreed to seek the replacement value of the cup.

10) Tred. Business Fm.

Thank you to the Councillors who attended the Business Forum Christmas Event, it was much appreciated and also congratulations for the Christmas lights this year "they were awesome" and that's not just the opinion of Tredegar Business Forum but all the customers of the Europa. Next Business Forum Meeting is 16.1.12 at Europa Café 5.30pm.

Received, with thanks.

11) Ann Ingram

Thank you for the recent Clock presentation from Council. Thrilled with the new presentation gift which is now hanging in her hallway.

Received, with thanks.

12) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Offer of two complimentary tickets and booking form.

Received. It was agreed to forward to the incoming Mayor, this year Cllr. Cotton, as normal.

13) Christine Keane

Offer of two 2-seater red leather settees for sale, suggested use is in the Mayor's Parlour, brand new.

Received. It was agreed to contact Messrs Olding and Watkins to find out what had happened to the furniture previously located in the Mayors Parlour.

14) Alzheimer's Society

(i) Asking for people to show their support by voting for the Alzheimer's Society through the Poundland website (currently supporting Alzheimer's Society) – http://www.poundland.co.uk/charity

Received. It was agreed for individuals to show their support.

(ii) Cllr Willis - Poster advertising Mayor's Appeal Concert at Moose Hall, Saturday 10.3.12 by the Mimics, £3 per person.

Received. Members noted that tickets for this event are likely to be snapped up and it was suggested that a table be set aside for Councillors who were Attending, Mayor to arrange.

15) Kidney Wales Foundation

(i) Opt for Life Campaign and information pack on "Changing the law on organ donation".

It was agreed that as a Town Council we should show our support especially in light of our on going support of the annual Walk for Life.

(ii) Walk for Life Sunday 25th March 2012 – asking for people to participate.

It was agreed that we would participate once again this year and that the location would be Parc Bryn Bach.

Cllr. G. Woolf left the Meeting at 8.25 pm

16) Martin Preece Offering a water colouring painting of the Town Clock at £100.

It was agreed that we had no need for such an item at the moment and to decline the offer.

222) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road Works report week ending 13.1.12; J Parkers Wholesale Spring 2012 catalogue; BGCBC Road Works report week ending 20.1.12

Available for all Members

223) AGENDA

Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Friday 3rd February 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Monday 20th February 2012 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Councils Friday 10th February 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Distributed to relevant Members; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 19th January 2012 at 9.30am Gwent Archives, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 19th January 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 23rd January 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 24th January 2012 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for all Members

Cllrs Willis and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and Cllr. Cross took over the Chair

224) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report - None received.

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2012/0006	Mr D Lippiatt D&S Property Developments Gregory House, Kelvedon Street Newport	Conversion of existing dwelling on first & second floor levels into two self-contained apartments including minor external alterations, 105 Commercial Street, Tredegar

No Objections

2012/0011	Mr P Russell 67 James Street, Tredegar	Single storey side & rear extension to provide new kitchen/dining room and internal refurbishment, 3 Lindsay Gardens

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters – None

Cllr. Willis re-took the Chair

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

i. Bedwellty Park Management Board – **The representative spoke at some length about the recent meeting having been queried about the War Memorial he had had to point out the need for the regulations related to its stature as a Listed Building which needed to be complied with. He reported that the chandeliers would not be replaced due to lack of funding. The possibility of renaming the Miners Room was also raised and that this would be a sensitive issue. Any items that were to be re-hung would have to be done by the Borough.**
ii. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales **– this had previously been reported.**
iii. Tredegar Twinning – **With the visit of the French in April Members were looking for suggestions for a Civic gift.**
iv. School Governing Bodies **– It was reported that St. Josephs would be looking for a new Chair of Governors because the local priest was leaving, and that there were concerns over traffic entering by the main gate at Glanhowy Primary. The new headteachers for Deighton Primary and the Senior Comprehensive would be appointed in February. Also there were continued concerns over the transport to the new campus on the Works site and general concerns were voiced about the lack of public transport in the area.**
v. Tredegar Youth Café **(this meeting had clashed with this Council meeting)**
vi. Blaenau Gwent CAB – **It was reported that they were to re-open in Catapult.**
vii. Communities First Board **– once again it was re-iterated that Tredegar would stand alone.**
viii. Tredegar Business Forum **– the new representative requested the dates of the meetings.**
ix. Tredegar Heritage Steering Group **– this had already been reported.**

226) Matters of Local Interest or Concern
1) A Member suggested that both Karl Martin and David Jones receive Civic recognition for the work that they had carried out on the Cairn site at Trefil
2) It was reported to Council that 5 year old Richard Langley had helped to save his younger brothers life by giving details to the ambulance service over the phone.

3) It was reported that the AM was to hold surgeries in Sirhowy on the 20th and requested that the areas Town Councillors should be available at the same time. Members to co-ordinate with Cllr D. Rowberry.
4) It was reported that Cllr. Hobbs was to organise a concert at St. Georges with the Patrick Sheen singers from Cwm in aid of the Mayors Appeal.

The Meeting Closed at 9pm.

_____ Chair