TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Committee Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

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

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

157) Apologies: **Cllr T. Gregory, G. Woolf and M. O'Sullivan**

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

159) Approval of the Annual Return for 2010/2011, following External Audit.
Mrs. Jones read the report of the external auditor on the Annual Return which had been Received from Mazars. There were no recommendations made and all items were in compliance with regulation. Following the previous statements on the Annual return, the statements were read by the RFO and approved unanimously. The Annual Return was signed by the Mayor.
Members commended the RFO for receiving such an excellent report from the Auditors.

160) Terms of reference of the Internal Auditor 2011/2012
The RFO detailed certain changes to the accounts regulations which were due to be made in the coming year and highlighted the need for the Council regulations to be updated. It was agreed that she should review and then produce a report for all Members of Council. The need to specify the terms of reference of the internal auditor and to specify the scope of work was, once again, detailed by the RFO. This was in accordance with the guidelines detailed in the Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales Practitioners Guide 2011 – issued jointly by the SLCC and One Voice Wales. It was agreed that this be specified and agreed unanimously.

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

Cllrs. K. Hayden and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the voting or discussion thereon.
Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – A grant of £200.00 was approved.

Grants: Churches & Chapels (s.137) and to approve grants to Churches and Chapels.
None received.

162) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in October 2011 and for payment in November 2011.
The cheques having been reconciled to the invoices and previously inspected by Members were approved, with the addition of the cheque for GAVO having just received the details of the name of the award being sponsored by Town Council as the "Barriers Achievement Award".

The RFO was thanked once again and left the Meeting at 6.35pm.

163) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26th October 2011
b) Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2011
c) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2011
d) Minutes of the Joint Finance and Events Committee Meeting held on 9th November 2011.
The minutes were agreed and approved as a true record.

164) Matters arising not on the Agenda
1) Minute No 152) War Memorial – Members noted the comments that had been received from the Royal British Legion following the Remembrance Sunday Parade and their thanks. The inclusion of Mr. Clarry Jones in the ceremony at the War Memorial on his 90th birthday had received much public approval. The previous Friday a number of people had ventured up to the Cairn site above Trefil and the Clerk was thanked for booking the mini-bus. Members noted that the turnout this year and the number of people at the Services both in town and at St. Johns had increased considerably.
2) Minute No 156 (1) Quiz Wizards – It was note that this would commence in January this year – the Mayor went on to thank the Willows Social Club which was a previous winner and had recently donated £200 from their own quiz night to his Mayors Appeal.
3) Minute No 156 (2) Twinning – the forthcoming Christmas Buffet was again highlighted – with interested Members to contact the Clerk with payment for the tickets.
4) Minute No 157 (3) Xmas Lights – Members hoped that all the lights would be switched on at the same time, not as previously with just the Clock and Circle being switched on.
5) Minute No 157 (12) REG Windpower – Cllr. H. Woolf agreed to look at the policy on windfarms for the Council and to supply a balanced view – Clerk to supply full details.
6) Minute No 161 (4) Armistice, Cairn, Remembrance Sunday – Members noted with delight the increased turnout at all these events. Thanks to Fr. John, ATC, Police, Town Band and the Royal British Legion Tredegar Branch. A Member had been asked whether gates could be constructed directly on to the War Memorial and was informed that this question had arisen on a number of occasions and would not be entertained by the Borough. Another Member had noted that the parking area closest to the gates from the Promenade had been locked on Sunday, making parking most

difficult. It was noted that the Park Manager had the keys – although the signage had to be clarified. It was agreed to write to the Park Manager to make sure that this would be open for next year.
7) Minute No 163. It was agreed that following the success of the bus for the Cairn visit the same be used for the Mayors Christmas Visits – it was agreed to check the number of Bandspeople and members of the Youth Café attending in case a bigger bus or indeed two mini-buses should be required.
8) Minute No 146 – Cllr D. Howells was unable to commit to representing the Town Council on the Business Forum and Cllr. G. Bowen-Knight volunteered to take his place. It was therefore agreed that Cllrs Bowen-Knight and G. Woolf represent the Town Council.
9) Minute No 153(1) the picture was confirmed as that of a Wellington Bomber.
10) Minute No 153 (4) Mr Hayle unavailable to play Santa – others to be contacted.

165) To receive the notes of a Meeting with Officers from the Borough of Blaenau Gwent. The notes are appended:

Notes of a Meeting with Mr D. Watkins and Cllr. J. Owen at the Cwr, Bedwellty House on Thursday 3rd November 2011 at 4.30pm.

Present were Cllrs Willis, Cross and H. Trollope, together with the Clerk.

The Meeting had been called following the response to the booking of the Carriage Room for the Mayor's Civic Reception of the Twinning Association planned for Saturday 14th April 2012. The response of the House Manager was that this would incur a charge of £140.
The Meeting began will Cllr. Cross detailing the Charter Agreement that had recently been signed and the aim to "work together … for the benefit of local communities"

He went on to outline the Civic duty of the Town Council to receive the French delegation in April 2012. Mr. Watkins pointed out that in previous discussion Town Council had agreed that some costs would need to be budgeted for – this was agreed by Members present. He then went on to state the business case for the House.

The previous use of the House by Town Council was outlined with the rights as user not having changed. At this point Cllr. Trollope informed the Borough representatives that if a satisfactory outcome was not achieved we would go through legal process to maintain our user rights. This was perceived as a "threat" by Mr. Watkins, but Cllr. Trollope made it clear that it was not a threat then re-iterated that the Town Council had a mandate to make progress on this matter, if necessary via a legal route.
Cllr. Willis pointed out that the building would not have survived were it not for our presence. He agreed that the previous practice was to book the rooms as required, something that we still did. The Clerk outlined the Civic duties performed by the Council, the presentation of grants to organisations and to people who had made a contribution to the Community – pointing out to Mr. Watkins that he himself had received such an award for his work on the refurbishment project. Mr. Watkins stated that if the House did not work as a business then it would close. The Inauguration was agreed as part of the function of the Council but that the catering could not be sourced outside.
Cllr. Cross explained again the benefits of the presentation nights with groups and people who might not meet or come to the House having a chance not only to meet each other but also to see what was on offer at the House. He outlined the history of the Twinning Association. The use of the Council Chamber for the forthcoming meeting of the JCLC was agreed. However Mr. Watkins then described the Civic Events of Council as "jollies" the Clerk took exception to this remark as did the Members of Council.

The War Memorial was discussed and it was pointed out that progress had been delayed whilst waiting for a decision from the Borough Council pending information on a possible underspend on the project given previously by Mr. Watkins. He again informed the meeting that he had not "bottomed out costs" and that there may be funds available. He would have the information in a month. We detailed the survey that we had been asked to undertake and that this was ongoing.

Other matters that were raised were:-
a) The fountains – the meeting was informed that there had been a design flaw and this was in hand.
b) The artefacts – their delayed return had caused much anxiety. There was thought to be storage space in the cellar, as had previously been mentioned by Mr. Olding. The glass cabinets currently stored in the Borough lock-up would be moved to the Library for Museum use.
c) Chandeliers – Members were informed that 2 replacements had been ordered by the Architect.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the Clerk would detail the Civic events to the Leisure section (4 per year and the Inauguration), that we would wait one month to hear from Mr. Watkins if there was any surplus money from the refurbishment that could be spent on the War Memorial or the possibility of grant funding being available, the Clerk would contact Dionne to arrange a meeting at the Borough lock-up the following week to discuss the movement of artefacts and other Town Council items, that catering costs would be further considered.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm. Ms C.M. Keane Town Clerk 15/11/2011

It was moved that this be accepted as a true record of the Meeting and that certain comments made by Officers of the Borough were inappropriate.

Following this a discussion took place concerning the current exhibit in the corridor and the poor lighting which made it difficult to read and hazardous with the base being very prominent in places. Members felt that the exhibit was out of context with the House and did not give a good setting for Weddings and other ceremonies. It was agreed to agenda this and the fact that people were unable to read the inscriptions on the pictures in the Assembly Room because the chairs were permanently set up and it was difficult to get to the walls, for the next meting of the Management Board and to enquire when that meeting was due to take place.

166) To receive the notes of a Meeting with the Twinning Association.
The notes are appended:

Notes of a Meeting with the Twinning Association held on Monday 7th November 2011 at 5.15pm in the Cwtch, Bedwellty House.

Present were Cllrs. H. Trollope, Cross and Tippings and Mr and Mrs Price representing the Twinning Association. The Clerk was also present.

The meeting had been requested by the Twinning Association to review arrangements for the visit of the French Association in April 2012, the 33rd Anniversary. They were informed of the initial decision by the County Borough to levy a charge for the use of the Carriage Room for the Civic reception held by the Mayor. Buffet and corkage costs were discussed and caused much concern. The members from Orvault had been kept up to date with events in and around the town throughout the year by the Clerk and articles had appeared in their newsletter. Mrs. Price agreed to copy these to Council so that they could be used to prove that links were maintained and that the House and Town were widely publicised in Orvault.

Ideas for the Civic Reception were discussed and the idea of a Welsh themed morning – with Victorian tea and Welsh cakes was agreed upon.

Members of the Association were assured that the Camelia had been transplanted back to the House and was doing well. However the memorial oak tree had been removed during the renovations and the Management of the House had been approached for an alternative to either be planted or re-dedicated to the Twinning Association in time for their visit.

It was suggested that the visitors might enjoy the film on Bevan being shown in the Council Chamber and it was suggested that subtitles might be added (Clerk to contact House Manager). It was further suggested that the Welsh Folk Dancing group at Bryn Bach Primary School might be engaged to dance for the visitors during their visit on the Saturday morning. There was also a Welsh harpist locally who might be engaged to play for the visitors.

Members mentioned that there was sometimes a clash of meetings and apologised for their absence on these occasions. Members of the Twinning Association asked for their December meeting to be moved back one day to Tuesday (Clerk to contact House Manager)

Members of the Association were informed that a number of Councillors would be attending their Christmas Dinner in December.

Thanks were exchanged on both sides and the Meeting closed at 6.05pm
C.M. Keane Town Clerk 15/11/2011

Members noted that it had been a very productive meeting and that the idea of a Welsh themed morning with Victorian tea and Welsh cakes had been agreed. The harpist had since agreed to play and would sell CD's of her music with some monies going to the Mayor's Appeal. It was further noted that the Friends of Twinning had successfully been able to access grant funding and this was warmly welcomed.

167) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) Consultation with Town/Community Councils
(i) Meeting Thursday 8th December 2011 at 2.30pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – **Items for inclusion on the agenda to be submitted to Democratic Services Dept by 12 noon on Friday 25.11.11**
(ii) Notification of pre-meeting for Consultation with Town/Community Councils on Thursday 8th December 2011 at 1.45pm in Committee Room 5 prior to the main meeting in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm.

Received. It was agreed to agenda the following two items:-
1) Slow response of Borough officers to correspondence from the Clerk
2) Former Gas works site – LDP amendments suggested by Tredegar Town Council for development as a car park – has this been considered by the Borough and if so is there an outcome?

(b) (i) L. Phillips Re: Commemorative Tree – requesting Dave Watkins to respond about the removal of the tree planted for the 25th Anniversary of the Twinning and a possible replacement.

Received.

(c) L. Phillips – Confirming that at this present moment in time Bedwellty House will be closed if the strike goes ahead.

Received and noted. It was agreed to ask staff if they wanted to work.

(d) L. Gurmain Re: Residential development at Peacehaven – Suggested streets names are Larch Lane/Copper Beech Drive/Laurel Grove/Walnut Close. Comments to be received by 18.11.11

Received, Members thought that the names suggested were not appropriate they did not reflect trees within the Park or the locality.

Cllr. Tippings declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(e) A. Tippings - Events have been added to The Valleys website, please search the What's On pages for Tredegar and if there is anything to change/update please send the information through to Irvin.

Received

(f) Cheque reimbursement of £500 for the two cancelled concerts.

Received

(g) Copy of Corporate Improvement Plan Stage 2 2011/2012 which was approved by full BGCB Council 27.10.11

Received

Cllrs. Willis, D. Rowberry, Hayden and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(h) List of Licensing Applications week ending 6.11.11.

Received

3) One Voice Wales

(a) Letter to Council raising questions regarding Training Issues.

Received

(b) European Antibiotics Awareness Day 18.11.11 – asking for support for the Awareness Day which aims to emphasise the importance of using antibiotics responsibly.

Received

Cllr. Tippings declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

4) Cllr Tippings Information regarding the proposed Pen Bryn Oer Windfarm development located between Rhymney & Tredegar.

Received. It was agreed that the policy on Windfarms and Sustainable Energy should be reviewed promptly.

5) Gala Lights

(a) Confirming costings for the project by incorporating the infrastructure costs in the 1st year. Also will endeavour to accommodate the change of colours of the motifs but suggests we wait for the feedback on this year's lighting before making a decision.

(b) Anticipating starting the lights on 21.11.11 & work complete in maximum of 3 days.

Received. Members pointed out that previous correspondence had stated that the colours of the lights could be changed next year to the scheme proposed initially without charge.

6) Tai Calon Environmental Improvement Fund – A fund available to Tai Calon residents for small projects that will bring about lasting, sustainable improvements to local communities. Maximum available per project is £3000.00p.

Received to be copied to each Member. It was agreed to invite the Chief Executive of Tai Calon to meet with Council.

7) Mr P Ambrose His wife Joyce was an evacuee who was looked after with her brother and sister by Mr & Mrs Evans at 42 Park Hill. In appreciation of all those families who were so good to look after the many evacuees they wish to offer an exhibit – copy enclosed – hung in a proper frame to be hung in the Council Offices as a way of saying thanks.

Received. It was agreed to thank them for their kind offer but to scan the document sent and put on website due to lack of available space. As a result it was put forward that project could be forthcoming on evacuees who had stayed in the area or kept in touch.

8) Tredegar Twinning French journals showing events held in Tredegar.

Received. It was agreed to pass copies to the House Manager to highlight our involvement with Orvault and the Twinning Association in preparation for their visit next April.

168) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 14.10.11; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 129 Novenbre 2011; BGCBC Road works report week ending 11.11.11; Amberol Leaflet on planters; Shelter Cymru new advice/support services contact number 0845 075 5005 – poster in notice board.
Available for all Members

169) AGENDA

Special Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Thursday 10th November 2011 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Tuesday 15th November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting **Friday 2nd December 2011 at 4pm** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale not on Monday 19th December 2011; Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Friday 25th November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Tuesday 15th November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional item No. 5 Education Matters; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 17th November 2011 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Special Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Advance notice; Ordinary Meeting **Friday 2nd December 2011 at 10am** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale not on Monday 19th December 2011; Ordinary Meeting Thursday 17th November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.
Available for all Members

Cllrs. Willis and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon

170) Planning:

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

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0326	Mr G Williams 10 Westville, Abertwsswg	To install security roller shutter screens on three west elevation wiindows (reapplication with improved design) ex CAB, Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar

It was agreed to object as previously on the grounds that it would be visually intrusive and that the use of shutters on domestic properties should not be encouraged.

2011/0331	Mr W David Infinite Energy (UK) Ltd Haywood House Dumfries Place, Cardiff	Erection of single 500kw wind turbine & associated transformer enclosure, Waldron Commercials Unit 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate

It was noted that the turbine would be 74m tall, outside the fence on a brown field site and may set a precedence. Following a vote it was agreed to object on those grounds (vote 2 for 7 against 1 abstension)

c) To consider other planning matters – **it was noted by Members that a number of retrospective applications had been made recently often for minor changes and it was agreed to monitor this situation.**

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

i. Tredegar Twinning **– it was noted by delegates that this meeting clashed with another and that they could only attend on alternate months.**
ii. School Governing Bodies **– Deighton Primary –Members were informed that the Head would be retiring in the New Year.**
Tredegar Comprehensive – Members were informed that the Head would be leaving at the end of the school year.
iii. Blaenau Gwent Council for the Disabled – it was noted that a new bus was being purchased and the old one was being donated to the local Training Centre for youngsters to work on and that the Secretary Hilda Barwell would have completed 30 years service next year. It was agreed to nominate her for a Civic Award.
iv. Tredegar Youth Café **– a report of the AGM was given with all Officers being re-elected, the financial report had been well received and it was noted that the Café was involved in events with Mothers and toddlers as well as delivering OCN classes in cooking and having classes for "Silver Surfers"**
v. Communities First Board **– it was reported that the Pathways project had to become self sustaining but meetings to facilitate this had been poorly attended – Members were encourage to contact Communities 1st or Cllr Tippings if interested in supporting this move.**
vi. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – a report was received that the Panel had been very active and would be attending the Lights Switch-on to give out information packs. It was noted that the OWL scheme (an internet neighbourhood watch scheme) was very successful.
vii. Tredegar Heritage Steering Group **– reports of a lively meeting were received with information that the Business & Action Plan drawn up by Members was being looked at and that the main aims of the Group needed to be kept in focus.**

172) Matters of Local Interest or Concern
1) It was noted that Bryn Bach Primary were highlighted as the best practice model for attendance strategy. It was agreed to write and congratulate them.
2) It was noted that a meeting with Borough Officers and the Bush public house was pending with regard to the roller shutters.
3) A Member suggested that Christmas cards be sent from the Town Council to soldiers serving overseas – Clerk to issue a press release for information.
4) A Member noted that 2014 would be the 100th Anniversary of World War I and that this would give time to plan ahead. It was noted that this year was the first Remembrance Day with no surviving veterans on World War I.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.15pm

_____ Chair