TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 26th October 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

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

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

150) Apologies: **Cllrs H. Woolf, G. Woolf, S. Trollope, K. Hayden, M. O'Sullivan, G. Rowberry and T. Gregory.**

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

152) Urgent Item - To consider the exclusion of press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12a
This was agreed unanimously.
(Cllr. J. Morgan left the Meeting to attend at Peacehaven)
War Memorial –
Prior to any restoration work being carried out on the War Memorial there is a requirement for a "Condition Survey & Conservation Report" to be compiled first to establish whether Listed Building Consent is required for such works.
A list was supplied to Town Council by the Memorials Officer of suitable contractors who have been duly contacted to offer a tender for the site visit and "Condition Survey & Conservation Report".
Members discussed at length the need for work to be carried out on the Memorial and also recalled the fact that they had been led to believe that this was included in original schedule of refurbishment works on the Park. It was agreed that the bronze statue of the soldier should not be touched in any way. The tenders were examined and the lowest tender accepted unanimously.

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

Urdd Gobaith Cymru – A grant of £50.00 was approved.
Tredegar Ironsides RFC – A grant of £150.00 was approved.
Tredegar Round Table – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Georgetown Community Centre – A grant of £200.00 was approved.
Cllr. A. Cotton had declared an interest in the following Club and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon
The Oak Football Club – A grant of £150.00 was approved.
Tredegar Heritage Trust – A start up grant of £500.00 was approved following a show of hands by a majority of 8 for and 2 against.

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

154) Accounts: To Consider a Schedule of Accounts paid in September 2011 and for payment in October 2011.
Bank reconciliations were available for all Members inspection.
The accounts having previously been reconciled and the cheques and invoices inspected by Members, were approved.

a)It was further agreed unanimously that the monies received from the Old Peoples Committee should be put to the present Mayor's Appeal for the Alzheimers Society.

Mrs. Jones then thanked all Members for their kind thoughts and support during her recent bereavement and left at 6.50pm.

b) It was advised at this point that a new garden centre was opening in Tredegar and it was agreed that they be contacted to sponsor the Clock bedding. Members were advised that the 10 plants which had survived last years planting had been successfully re-potted and were in good condition ready to be returned to the Clock.

c) Members were further informed that the Camelia received from Orvault had been transplanted to the Kitchen Garden at Bedwellty House under the supervision of Mr. Munn.

155) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:
a) Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Events Committees of Council held on 21st September 2011
b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 21st September 2011
c) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee of Council held on 5th October 2011
d) Minutes of the Civic Committee of Council held on 5th October 2011
e) Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting of Council held on 17th October 2011
The Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

156) Matters arising.
1) Minute No. 125 (2) Quiz Wizards – it was agreed to contact concerning this year's quiz.
2) Minute No. 128 (4) Twinning – Members were urged to attend the Halloween Night on the 29th and also to use the Christmas Buffet and Cabaret on 10th December 2011 at the Orpheus Hall as the official Christmas get together of the Council. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.
3) Minute No. 132 – Delegates – it was agreed that those outside bodies or sub-committees that had not met would be omitted from the list of Delegates reports.

4) Minute No. 132 (i) Much discussion ensued regarding the relationship between the Borough and Town Council and it was agreed that much was to be discussed at an impending meeting between senior Members and representatives of the Borough.
5) Minute No. 142 Heads of the Valleys Dualling – Members spoke highly of the interaction between the contractors and the community and it was noted that they were in regular contact, particularly with Bryn Bach primary School. The letter of support that had been sent to the Wales Government had been e-mailed to Carillion and received with thanks by them.
6) Minute No 143 (7) Energy from Waste Generating Facility – the news that the application had been with drawn was welcomed and it was agreed to write to United Valleys Action Group to congratulate them.
7) Minute No 145 (2) Oxjam – the Deputy Mayor advised that £758 had been raised at the Oxjam event – he was congratulated by all.

157) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC (a) Walter Syrett, Education & Leisure Facilities Mgr. Re Nantybwch Footway and our request for a site meeting informing us that Alun Evans the Engineering Services & Transportation Strategy Manager for BGCBC will co-ordinate a meeting in the near future. Walter will then contact us.

Received. It was agreed to go ahead with this meeting despite recent developments regarding compulsory purchase of land by the developers.

(b) Clerk plus 4 guests from Council are invited to attend a Civic Dinner at Mayor's Dining Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale Thursday 24.11.11 at 7.30pm. RSVP by 17.11.11.

Received. It was agreed that the Clerk plus Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader should attend.

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

(c) (i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 9.10.11.
(ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 16.10.11.

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Notice of training courses in Nov and Dec which are undersubscribed and in order to avoid any of them being cancelled they urgently need to know if any Councils wish to nominate members to attend.

Received.

(b) Training – Module 1 The Council, Thursday 10.11.11 Cwmbran.
Training – Module 2 The Councillor, Wednesday 16.11.11 Cwmbran.
Training – Module 6 Local Government Finance, Thursday 24th November 2011 Cwmbran.
Training – Module 2 The Councillor, Friday 25.11.11 Barry.

Received. Interested Members to contact the Clerk.

(c) Details of the Big Lottery Funding Programme in Wales.

Received. Available for Members.

(d) Important message for all septic tank owners

Received. To be put on Web site and in Notice Board.

3) Christmas Lights

(a) Gala Lights – Colour scheme we requested through Town, not available for this year Morgan street OK.

(b) Gala Lights - Costings for the lighting scheme.

Received. Members were brought up to date with recent events, the availability of colours and the colours for the bespoke design. Problems which had arisen regarding certification were explained and the need for an urgent Meeting with the Events Committee was highlighted. Interested parties were noted and the Youth Services playbus was to be engaged if possible (Cllr. Tippings to contact).

4) Chief Inspector Budden

Introducing himself as the new Head of Neighbourhood Policing having taken over from Supt. Mark Warrender. – Copied to all Members.

Received. It was agreed to write to the Chief Inspector and invite him to meet with Council.

5) J.C.L.C. Confirming our item is on the agenda for the next meeting – to be held in Tredegar on 21st November 2011 at 6.30pm. (Booking form completed)

It was noted that confirmation of the booking had not yet been received and much discussion ensued regarding the previous use of the facilities at Bedwellty House with the previous custom and practice being that rooms were readily available to the Town Council.

6) SLCC Details of the Final Accounts Timetable Procedure.

Received.

Cllr. Morgan rejoined the Meeting at 7.30pm.

7) Carillion Howard Allbrook – Thank you to Council for the letter of support and a formal acknowledgement from Welsh Government and a response to items raised by Members in due course.

Received. It was noted by Members that the plans for the next section had been revealed and that many good aspects of the route had been maintained.

8) Tredegar Twinning Association

Requesting details of the meeting that had been agreed to discuss the visit of the French in April 2012, expressing their preference that Bedwellty House be the venue for the Mayor's reception and the Inter Committee Meeting.

Received. It was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy, Leader and Deputy meet with Twinning as soon as possible.

9) Michael Williams Letter expressing concerns about the post refurbishment use of Bedwellty House (copied to Manager & TTC Members of the Management Board).

Received. It was agreed to respond to Mr. Williams and advise that comments would be re-directed to the House Management.

10) Keep Wales Tidy Details of the 2011 awards which are now open to groups and individuals. (Copied to Anthony Davies at Comm 1st)

Received. Available for all.

11) Peter Davies BG Care & Repair

Seeking letter of support to assist in CAGS Grant application.

Received. It was agreed to write in support.

12) REG Windpower Investigating the possibility of building a wind energy development name Pen Bryn Oer on land between Rhymney & Tredegar. Plans are in the early stages with the proposal currently being discussed with Caerphilly County Borough Council & Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Also seeking the views of local people and plans will be available for viewing at a drop in session being held Thursday 3.11.10 10am to 7pm at St David's Community Centre, High Street, Rhymney.

Received. It was agreed that Members should make an effort to attend and that Council should take a balanced view.

13) Tredegar Thespian Players

Christmas Dinner being held on Saturday 10th December 2011 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall, cost is £17.50 and menu available from Mary Evans.

Received. It was noted with regret that Members already had a prior engagement but wished the Thespian Players every success.

14) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

Queens Diamond Jubilee 2012 Guide to taking part in the Beacons celebration planned for 4th June 2012.

Received. It was agreed to forward this item to Fr. John Davis, the ATC and Scouts

15) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

(a) Invitation to attend a charter meeting with other local councils on 14th November in Brynmawr.

(b) Joint Scrutiny Review on Rights of Way – Consultation has been extended to 18.11.11 to give Councils more time to respond. Letter giving details of the questions to respond is included.

(c) Notice of Submission of a LDP to the Welsh Government & advertisement of the Proposed Focused changes. Notice of Consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Policy 13: Affordable Housing Contributions, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority LDP

Above all received. Together with the notice of REG Windpower it was agreed to approach a Member to see if he could draft a balanced approach to sustainable energy production on behalf of the Town Council.

157) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks Report week ending 14.10.11; Bobath Annual review 2009/10 and details of the Societys work; Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 128 October 2011 & Orvault Ma Ville Oct-Dec 2011; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 21.10.11; Poster for Clown Theatre in Little Theatre – displayed; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 28.10.11; Play for Wales Issue 35 Autumn 2011; Onetti Vehicle Signs; Ashwood Winter clearance brochure & new lines/best sellers brochure.

158) AGENDA

Executive Committee Wednesday 12th October 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of Council Friday 14th October at 10.30am Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee 27th October 2011 rescheduled to Friday 4th November at

10.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 17th October 2011 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 18th October 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council BG Area Committee Meeting Wednesday 19th October at Raglan House, Llantarnam Business Park Cwmbran at 5.30pm; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee 17.10.11 deferral of Items 6 & 8 plus report for Item 11; Special Meeting of Council Thursday 20th October 2011 at 12 noon Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 22.10.11 at 9.30am Tredegar Library; Special Meeting of Council Thursday 27th October 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 26th October 2011 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive, advance notice of meeting Tuesday 15th November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale instead of original date 9th November 2011; Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 31st October 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 1sat November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; B.G. Voluntary Sector Health & Social care Forum meeting Tuesday 1st November at 10am Newtown Community Centre Ebbw Vale.

Cllrs. H. Trollope and B. Willis declared an interest in the following matter and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

159) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report – **None Received**

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2011/0314	Mr J Jones Poplar Heights, Gladstone Place, Tredegar	Inset roof terrace with associated balustrade.

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters – **None Received**

160) 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 given on the recent briefing by Cynnal Cymru and the work they were doing to embed Sustainable Development as a core principle. Also a presentation on training by Mr. Paul Egan.**
ii. Tredegar Twinning – **As well as the Meeting with Council outlined in Minute No 157 (8) it was noted meetings had been amalgamated. A request had been made for the bi-annual meeting with the Twinning Associations French counterparts to be held in Bedwellty House and that since it was early in the day soft refreshments might be an option. The Association was going really well and building support.**
iii. School Governing Bodies – **Bryn Bach Primary – It was noted that Cllr. Tippings had successfully been elected as Chair of Governors. This followed many problems with her eligibility to stand being questioned, incorrectly. It was agreed to write to the Education Department seeking clarification on this matter.**

St. Joseph's – It was reported that the school had had reserves over and above those permitted in law – through good stewardship – but had been forced to spend the money rather than lose it. The Borough Member for Sirhowy agreed to put forward a request for a salt bin.

iv. Parc Bryn Bach Management Committee – **a report was made concerning the inclusion of the Lake in the LDP.**

v. Tredegar Youth Café – **It was reported that the Café had had a good summer, however there had been some instances of cyber-bullying which were being monitored, Cllr. H. Trollope extended his thanks to the Café for the use of their computers by a group from Cefn Golau.**

vi. Communities First Board – **It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Anthony Davies who had left.**

vii. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel **– A details of the crime statistics for Tredegar had been made available and this had been brought back and made available to all Members. To be further discussed.**

viii. Tredegar Business Forum – **Many items had been discussed following correspondence from the Forum and Town Council response. There had been much discussion regarding the cleaning and weeding works to the town. Both representatives asked to be replaced on the Forum – as both Town and Borough Councillors they felt that the Town Council would be best represented by a non-Borough Councillor, since this would cause less confusion to the Forum members. It was agreed to agenda this for the next Meeting of Council. The recent spate of fines for littering was also discussed.**

ix. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – **The Day School had been very successful. Questions regarding plaques were brought forward and it was again pointed out that the information regarding this subject had been passed to the Tredegar Heritage Trust who were better able to raise funds for such a project.**

x. Tredegar Heritage Trust – **A number of items were discussed relating to a future meeting.**

161) Matters of Local Interest or Concern

1) **Congratulations were given to the Mayor for the success of the recent Golf Day which had raised over £1500. He in turn expressed thanks, in particular to Cllr. M. Cross for his help and support. It was agreed that this was now an established event and that it would be good to hold a fund-raising event there such as horse racing.**
2) **It was agreed to write to Royal Wootton Basset and congratulate them on their new status.**
3) **It was further agreed to congratulate Lidl's on their refurbishment. It had been a loss to the town whilst it was closed. It was also noted that people most disturbed by the works had received vouchers from the store as a thank you.**
4) **Arrangements for the Service on Armistice Day, Friday 11th November at 11am in the Shopping Centre were given. It was further agreed to meet at Top House in the Trefil afterwards for the trip to the T2520 Cairn and to engage a mini-bus. (Apologies from Cllr. D. Rowberry). Also the Service of Remembrance was to be held at St. James at 10.15am on Sunday 13th November 2011, followed by a parade to the War Memorial and the laying of wreaths.**
5) **A Member noted that people living in flats such as Peacehaven and St. Georges Court had recently received Garden recycling bags from the Borough – despite the fact that they had no gardens.**
6) **The final total for Claire's Day in support of the Hospice of the Valleys was £4875.**
7) **Ms. Lauren Woolf had recently become the Kickboxing World Champion – it was agreed to write and congratulate her.**

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

_____Chair.