TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday 7th December 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors B Willis
M Cross
A Tippings
H Trollope
R W Thomas
K. Hayden
D. Howells
P. Prosser
G. Woolf
G. Bowen-Knight
H. Woolf
A. Cotton (arrived late)
J. Morgan (arrived late)
M. O'Sullivan (arrived late)

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

Cllr. Cross took the Chair in the absence of the Mayor.

173) Apologies: Cllr D. Rowberry, T. Gregory and S Trollope

174) **To receive a verbal report of the Civic Sub Committee Meeting held prior to this.**
The verbal report was given by Cllr. Cross who had chaired the Meeting. He detailed as above the need for and use of the Portage Service, the fact that some toys could be used for many children but others couldn't and that they would accept toys by donation. The recommendation of the Civic Sub Committee to approve a grant for £200 was put forward and seconded, and with one abstention agreed unanimously.

175) To receive applications for Cultural/Sporting Grants

1) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2012 - a grant in the sum of **£50.00 was agreed.**
2) Tredegar & District Floral Art Society – A grant in the sum of **£200.00 was agreed.**
3) Tredegar Town AFC Seniors – A grant in the sum of **150.00 was agreed.**
4) Tredegar Twinning Association - A grant in the sum of **£200.00 was agreed.**
5) Vale View Allotments **Deferred until after the Allotments Policy of Council has been revised.**

Cllr. A. Cotton arrived at 6.10pm.

There were no applications from Churches or Chapels.

Cllr. J. Morgan arrived at 6.15pm

Mrs. A. Jones RFO left the Meeting at 6.15pm.

Cllrs B. Willis and H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon. Cllr. Cotton took over the Chair.

176) PLANNING

a) OFFICERS REPORT –
2011/0267 Detached dwelling & garage (outline), plot of land at Heathfield – Recommending permission is refused. Victoria Street – Recommending permission is granted.

2011/0324 First floor 2011/0326 To install security roller shutter screens on three west elevation windows, ExCAB Queen extension, 11 Arnold Place – Recommending permission is granted.

Appeals update:-
Appeal 515355 Urgent works notice to listed building, Tredegar Co. Shop, Shop Row – Verbal update at Committee

List of Delegated items determined between 20th October 2011 and 18th November 2011.
2011/0289 Installation of new shop front and external alterations, Unit 28a Former Aldi Store, Gwent Shopping Centre - Approved.
2011/0275 Advertisements, Unit 28a Former Aldi Store, Gwent Shopping Centre - Approved.
2011/0292 Installation of an ATM, Unit 28a Former Aldi Store, Gwent Shopping Centre - Approved.
2011/0246 Proposed construction of new shared route (forming part of national cycle network route 46), land to South of A465 between Crown Business Park & Rassau Road – Approved.
2011/0277 Proposed detached garage & store area, 35 Park Hill Tredegar – Approved.
2011/0191 Garden shed (relocation of existing shed), 2 Shop Row Trefil – Approved.

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

APPLICATIONS –

App No	**Applicant**	**Proposal**
2011/0339	Mr & Mrs G Thomas 4 Glanhowy Street, Tredegar	New raised roof, rear extension, front dormer & domestic garage

No Objections

2011/0345	Mr A Hunt Highlands Bungalow New Road, Tredegar	Proposed outbuilding for recreational and storage purposes

Council were reluctant to encourage ribbon development and because of the substantial size of the building would not agree to future use as a dwelling.

2011/0347	Mr R Gunter 26 Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar	Retention of domestic garage & store area building,

No Objections

2011/0350 Mr G Williams Proposed new shop front & external renovations
15 Commercial Street

No Objections

c) To consider other planning matters.

2011/0105 Retaining wall & boundary fence (retention), 24 (plot 4) Maes Morgan, Nantybwch, Tredegar – Revised details have been submitted to BGCBC which includes measures to address the long standing drainage issue. The revised details have been submitted as a result of negotiations with the Council's Land Drainage Officer.
Noted

177) Correspondence

1) BGCBC (a) K. Weeks Re: Programming of control boxes for Xmas Lights – asking for switch on date, switch off date and timings for duration of lights – Christine replied.

(b) K. Weeks – Requesting a contact number for the Christmas Lighting Contractor for the Contact Centre in case of an emergency – 25.11.11 Christine emailed Paul Hussey's number.

Both Received. The actions of the Clerk to have a motif which was had come loose and was causing a health and safety hazard outside the TA were praised by Members. However it was pointed out that a large amount of the Clerk's time had been spent on the project and that although the overall appearance of the lighting had received much approval – the aftercare and finish by Gala Lights was disappointing. It was agreed that a further meeting be held with the contractor prior to completion and that renegotiation would need to take place. With regard to the Switch-On it was agreed to write to Mr. Morris and thank him for his readiness to play Santa – it was noted that thanks had already been sent to all those who had taken part. It was agreed to write to Sgt Petrie to thank the Police for responding so rapidly to the incident. It was noted that the Grotto in the Youth Café had had 120 tickets and that the Santa – supplied by Tredegar Town Council – had been very good.

(c) S. Smith Re: EIA Scoping Opinion Consultation on a major development proposal, Rassau Ebbw Vale – Proposal is for "an international centre of excellence for motor technologies based around a motor racing track". Scoping report attached and views or likely significant environmental effects are to be submitted by 14.12.11.

Members noted that that such an investment was very welcome with multiple benefits to the community. However its close proximity to Nantybwch and Tynewydd did not seem to be accurately reflected in the maps supplied. Members raised a number of issues regarding proposed race track though some of these issues may be covered in the brief but being lay people may have been missed. What was thought to be important though was that any report should be easily understood therefore mapping noise levels and usage rather than listing them would make it more visual and easy to understand.

a. **Noise levels – compare and map activities/operations with regards to different zones of the site.**
b. **Operational usage - frequency, days, times– compare and map with regards to different areas of the site.**
c. **Site layout – can there be changes to**
    i. **Prevent destruction of Scheduled Ancient Monument**
    ii. **Relocate noisier activities away from residential areas to houses**

d. **Anti social behaviour – off road bikes already a problem in this area are there any studies to show the impact of such facilities in areas where a problem already exists.**
e. **The site seems to lie wholly within the BGCBC boundary. Can the land to the north and east of the site (inside BBNP) be part of this study to evaluate it against some of the land within the development site to protect sensitive areas.**

These items to be sent forward to Mr. Smith.

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

(d) List of Licensing Applications week ending 11.11.11

Received.

2) One Voice Wales

(a) Summary of responses to Welsh Government Walker Review Consultation is available at http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/walkerreview/?lang=en

(b) Ordnance Survey Local Councils Survey – Online survey on how Councils might use digital maps.

Clerk to complete

(c) Welsh Government EmailConsultation on the Fire & Rescue National Framework 2012 onwards available at http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housingcommunity/frsframework12/?lang=en#

All Received and available for Members.

3) SLCC 2012 Membership renewal notice.

Received. It was agreed to renew the Membership.

4) Meeting Place Communications

Asking for dates to meet with Council to discuss the REG Windpower proposal to develop three wind turbines between Rhymney & Tredegar

Received. A representative of this organisation was present and having briefly addressed the Meeting it was agreed that a meeting be agreed for Wednesday 18th January at 6pm.

5) Welsh Government

(a) Heads of the Valleys Trunk Road (A465) Draft Orders & Compulsory Purchase Order – Notice that a Public Local Inquiry will be held for an Inspector to hear objections and representations. Further details will be supplied and any "Statement of Evidence" to be heard at the Inquiry must be submitted 3 weeks prior to the commencement date.

(b) Neath to Abergavenny Trunk Road (A465) (Abergavenny to Hirwaun Dualling & Slip Roads) and East of Abercynon to East of Dowlais Trunk Road (A4060) and Cardiff to Glan Conwy Trunk Road (A470) (Connecting Roads) Order 1999, (Brynmawr to Tredegar) (Amendment) Order 201. The Pre-Inquiry Meeting will be held Tuesday 2.2.12 at The General Offices, Ebbw Vale at 10am.

Received. To be copied to all Members

6) <u>Christmas Lights Event</u>

(a) L. Evans - Congratulations on the excellent Xmas Lights event. Will support the Mayor this year by doing a similar event as last year but

Mayor needs to contact Royston at Rhyd Hall to arrange – Copied to Bernard

(b) (i) Youth Café - Asking had we managed to find contact details for the Santa used at the Xmas Lights switch on – Christine replied with details.
(ii) Thought Xmas lights event was a great success.

Comments received with thanks.

7) Kidney Wales Foundation
Invite to Reflections Concert, The City Parish of St John The Baptist, The Hayes, Cardiff 7pm Thursday 8th December 2011. RSPV to Tristan Williams – Cllr Willis unable to attend.

Received – interested Members to contact directly.

8) Mr M Higgs Asking if Council wishes to sponsor the Quiz Wizards which will commence Mid January 2012.

Received – it was readily agreed to continue the sponsorship.

9) J. Wilcox Made in Tredegar – 3 new community made films now available on You Tube, "Tred News 1882", "Bedwellty Pits", "1911"

Received. Members commented on the quality of the films made by this group and noted that there was to be a premiere event on Thursday 12th January 2012 at Venue One.

10) Moose International Tredegar No. 1 Lodge
Invite to all Members to a talk on the Life of Aneurin Bevan at the Lodge Monday 13th February 2012 at 7pm. Numbers attending to be confirmed by 16.1.12 – copied for all Members.

Received. Members queried if this was to be open to members of the public – Clerk to check.

11) BG Arthritis Care Instead of sending Xmas cards this year they have pooled together a donation of £30 to H4H which has been left with TTC.

Received with thanks.

12) Help for Heroes Thank you for the £185 raised for the appeal.

Received with thanks.
It was noted that with the above two donations the total for the event this year was £676.25p.

13) Christian Lewis Trust
A Kids Cancer Charity established since 1989 to help families cope with the distressing experience of childhood cancer. Requesting if Mayor Elect would consider them as the Year of Office Charity.

Received.

178) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 25.11.11; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council News Bulletin November 2011; Ville D'Orvault Press cuttings September & October 2011; BGCBC Road works report week ending 2.12.11; Ville D'Orvault Le Cens Pratique No. 130 December 2011; Local Councils Update December 2011 Issue 146; Local Councils Update November 2011 Issue 145; Hospice of the Valleys 25th Annual Report 2010-2011; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Social Inclusion Strategy & Action Plan Consultation.

Available for all Members

179) AGENDA

Audit Committee Tuesday 22nd November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Friday 25th November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 11am – Additional item for discussion; Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Monday 28th November 2011 at 3pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Finance, Improvement & Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 29th November 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Thursday 5th January 2012 at 10am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council **Friday 2nd December 2011 at 10am (NB. new date & time)** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration & Housing Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 7th December 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Licensing Committee Tuesday 6th December 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee Thursday 8th December 2011 at 11am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday 8th December 2011 at 2.30pm (3 copies); Crime & Disorder & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday 12th December 2011 at 2pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting Wednesday 14.12.11 at 2pm ViTCC for an update on BG LDP consultation – forwarded to Cllr Morgan.

Available for all Members

180) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park

Members expressed concern about recent press coverage regarding the War Memorial. This led to discussions of a recent meeting with Leisure Services when it was agreed that Council should have the free use of a function room for three Presentation evenings throughout the year as well as the Mayor's Inauguration. Catering would still only be allowed by in house staff, but this would be open to negotiation.

It was agreed to post a statement on the Council website with regard to the War Memorial and to submit the following items for the agenda of the Management Board meeting:

a) Placement of the remaining artefacts
b) Ongoing problems with the fountains
c) Continuing presence of algae on the ponds
d) To praise the work of the volunteers on the gardens and at events.

It was further agreed to comment on the exhibition that was in situ, noting that it was not conducive to the environment and detracted from the venue as a location for weddings etc. Members also noted that the chandeliers had still not been replaced and a Member queried the location of the benches that had previously been in the hallway, some of which were donated by local organisations. It was agreed to contact the Monmouthshire Bowls Club to ascertain the size of the cup which had been donated by Lord Tredegar and which they had previously requested that we put on display here at the House.

181) Matters of Local Interest and concern – there were none.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.15PM AND MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CARRIAGE ROOM FOR THE PRESENTATION EVENING WHICH FOLLOWED.

_____ Chair