

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Bevan - Chairman

Councillors:

J.E. Fussell, M.H. Newman

Also Present: Councillor L. Whittle (By invitation of the Chairman)

Together with:

M. Howland (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), D. Earey (Principal Engineer), D. Nutt (Tourism Officer), J. Elliott (Policy Officer), D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer)

Also Present:

J. Stephens (CADW), M. Evans (Caerphilly Town Council), PC. C. Thomas (Gwent Police), Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) and P. Ford (GAVO)

APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from Mr J. Couzens (Centre Manager, Castle Court).

CT44 TOMMY COOPER SOCIETY

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tudor Jones (Secretary) and Mr James Done (Committee Member & Sculptor) to the meeting of the Management Group. They were attending the meeting to outline the aims and objectives of the recently formed Tommy Cooper Society.

Mr Jones explained that the society was formally constituted in May 2003 and a constitution drawn up. The society is hoping to achieve charitable status.

The comedian Tommy Cooper was born in Caerphilly in 1921 and the society are keen to promote wider recognition of his birthplace and to encourage involvement by young people in the interest of performance arts. An annual 'Festival' and a concert is also planned by them for the future. The society is also working with CELP (Caerphilly Entertainment & Leisure Project) to campaign for a theatre in the Town.

Mr Jones then outlined a proposal for a statue of Tommy Cooper in the Town Centre and Mr Done unveiled a 'Marquette' modelled of clay. The finished statue would be approximately 9 foot high and made of bronze. The suggested location was an elevated platform at Twyn Square where a tree is presently sited. Vicky Cooper, the daughter of Tommy Cooper, has been contacted and has given her support to the proposals. Funding for this project is currently being investigated.

The Management Group supported and endorsed the proposals of the society and it was agreed that a report be presented to Cabinet and the appropriate Scrutiny Committee outlining details of the proposed statue and addressing the various issues associated with it.

CT45 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the chairman.

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 24th September 2003 (minute nos CT33 - CT43).

MATTERS ARISING

CT46 Park Lane Development (minute no 34)

Members again expressed concern at the lack of information regarding the proposed Park Lane Development. It was reported that although a feasibility study had been completed there would still be a long timescale before any work would commence.

The uncertainty of tenants in this area was discussed and the need to consult them. A list of users at Nauadd-y-Parc Hall was submitted to officers and Mr Ford indicated that he would supplement the list with more names from his associations with GAVO.

A member raised a question in regard to funding for the scheme and was informed that a number of possibilities would be considered when appropriate e.g. Welsh Development Agency or Private Sector.

CT47 Caerphilly Castle (minute no CT36)

It was noted that 4 local schools are involved in workshops for the 'Way Marking' project around the castle.

CT48 Dafydd Williams Park - Lighting Scheme (minute no CT37)

It was reported that the Caerphilly Town Council had confirmed their finance commitment to pay 50% towards the cost of the lighting scheme and the work should be completed before April.

PC Thomas would make further enquiries with Inspector Flynn on any possible funding from the Police on this scheme.

CT49 Skateboarding (minute no CT39)

It was reported that the skateboarding byelaw was brought into force on 5th November 2003 and the Police would shortly be able to enforce the byelaw. The Police representative raised a question regarding the publicity on this matter and it was suggested that Inspector Flynn could liaise with the legal Officer (Geoff Gordon) on details regarding this byelaw.

CT50 Provision of Skateboarding Facilities (CT41)

Concern was expressed regarding the accessibility of the indoor skateboarding facility at Pentrebane Street. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged as soon as possible with the Chairman of the Management Group and all parties who had been involved with this project (GAVO, KICK, Town Council and a Leisure Officer from the Council). The minutes of the meeting would then be reported to the next meeting of the Management Group.

CT51 FINANCIAL ALLOCATION OF CAERPHILLY AREA FORUM BUDGET 2003/04

Mr Howland explained to members that a fund of £14,416 had been allocated to the Town Centre Management Group from the Area Forum Budget 2003/04.

It was noted that the funds could be allocated to a variety of schemes to improve the Town Centre providing there are no on-going revenue/maintenance implications.

A list of small projects and indicative costs were listed for guidance and it was agreed that members contact Mr Howland with their suggestions.

CT52 CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL

It was noted that item 1 had been discussed earlier in the meeting and Mr Howland reported that there was nothing to report on item 2.

CT53 Twyn Car Park

It was reported that the retaining boards at the shrub area in the Twyn car park need replacing and officers indicated that this matter would be investigated and new boards fitted if necessary.

The flow of water down the steps at the east side of the car park following heavy rain was discussed and the possibility of erecting a ridge to intercept the water was suggested. It was agreed that officers would investigate this matter further when bad weather produced water problems in this area.

CT54 Crescent Road

The ground problems associated with the heavy machinery driving over the grass during the bad weather during the Big Cheese weekend was reported.

Officers reported that although a temporary re-instatement of the ground would shortly be carried out a more permanent solution using grasscrete would be considered for the future.

Mr Earey confirmed that the directional sign leaving the Crescent Road car park would shortly be replaced.

CT55 Castle - Scaffolding

Mr Stephens, the representative from CADW, confirmed that the scaffolding was erected on the south tower to re-point and remove plants from the stonework. He expected the scaffolding to be removed early next year.

CT56 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 11th March 2004 at Tredomen.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN