

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 11TH MARCH 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Bevan - Chairman

Councillors:

J.E. Fussell, M.H. Newman and K.R. Snell

Together with:

M. Howland (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), P. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure), J. Elliott (Policy Officer), J. Ridgewell (Business Manager – Development Parks), T. White (Refuse and Cleansing Officer), R. Hurn (Technician - Traffic Management and Regulations) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

J. Stephens (CADW), M. Evans (Caerphilly Town Council), Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), P. Ford (GAVO), J. Couzens (Centre Manager, Castle Court) and Community Police Support Officer - N. Davies (Gwent Police)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs K. Gwynne and Inspector S. Flynn.

CT57 MINUTES

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 4th December 2004 (minute nos CT44-CT56, page nos 1-4).

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group Sub-Committee held on 15th December 2004.

MATTERS ARISING

CT58 Tommy Cooper Society (minute no CT44)

Mr Howland reported that a report would be presented to the Technical Scrutiny Committee on 27th April outlining details of the proposed Tommy Cooper statue and addressing various issues associated with it.

CT59 Park lane Development (minute no CT46)

Mr Howland reported that an officer meeting would shortly be held to discuss the proposed Park Lane development. If the scheme proceeds a public consultation and meetings with all the tenants of Park Lane will take place.

Members discussed alternative venues for the tenants and one suggestion was the Boys Brigade Hall near Virginia Park.

Members of the group agreed that a development in this area would be an unique opportunity for the town but that, if successful, adequate public consultation be held and suitable accommodation be found for the users of the buildings at Park Lane.

CT60 Caerphilly Castle (minute no CT47)

It was reported that Mr Michael Johnson had recently been appointed as the artist responsible for co-ordinating work with the four schools involved in the 'Way Marking' project.

CT61 Dafydd Williams Park – Lighting Scheme (minute no CT48)

It was noted that work would shortly commence on the lighting scheme at the park and 14 new lamp standards would be erected.

CT62 Financial Assistance of Caerphilly Area Forum Budget 2003/04

At the last meeting it was confirmed that a budget of £14,416 had been allocated to the group from the Area Forum Budget 2003/04. Members had been requested to contact Mr Howland with suggestions for allocating this budget and a list of suggestions from Caerphilly Town Council were circulated and discussed at the meeting.

Members gave further suggestions (such as signage for the new skateboarding laws) but requested that more time be given for submitting suggestions. It was confirmed that the allocation could be used in the next financial year and therefore suggestions could still be submitted to Mr Howland.

CT63 Twyn Car Park (minute no CT53)

An officer reported that a plastic retaining board would be used to replace the wooden boards at the shrub area in the Twyn car park.

CT64 Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group Sub-Committee held on 15th December 2004

Mr Gomer, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, outlined to members the funding problems currently being experienced by the organisation KICK (Kids in Caerphilly Krazee) and the effect their financial situation is having on the developments at the indoor skateboarding facility at the former market, Pentreban Street.

A meeting will be convened shortly between the Sports Council For Wales, Caerphilly County Borough Council and representatives of KICK to discuss various issues including the purchase of equipment.

A Sports Council for Wales grant will be administered by Caerphilly County Borough Council to purchase skateboarding equipment for the facility on the understanding that should the indoor facility finish, the equipment would be relocated to an outdoor venue (possibly in the same electoral ward).

Mr Gomer confirmed that a progress report on this issue would be presented to the next Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee.

CT65 CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL

It was noted that item 1 had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

CT66 Top of Town Development

Mr Howland reported that no formal approach had been made by a developer regarding a proposed redevelopment for the top of town.

CT67 Proposed Traffic Orders Throughout the Town

It was noted that the proposed traffic orders for the town are at a consultation stage and a number of representations have been made. It was agreed officers be requested to consider a public consultation exercise before any of the orders are implemented.

CT68 Reinstatement of Grass Banking – Castle Street

It was reported that the grass banking at Castle Street had been disturbed by Western Power Distribution to connect power to a cable point. They will be required to reinstate the land to a satisfactory standard and are expected to commence work on the banking very shortly.

CT69 Traffic Calming Measures – Twyn Car Park

It was suggested that traffic-calming measures could be positioned near the entrance and exit of the Twyn car park to avoid cars speeding at this area during the evenings. It was also suggested that this measure could be financed from the area forum town centre budget.

CT70 Replacement of Bins – Dafydd Williams Park

Mr White, Refuse and Cleansing Officer, reported that a number of rubbish bins from the park had been vandalised and thrown into the moat. Due to the weight of the concrete attached to the bins they will need to be removed by a machine and it is hoped that they may then be able to be re-used.

CT71 Replacement of Damaged Fencing – Cenotaph

It was reported that the specialised parts to repair the damaged fencing at the cenotaph had been received and the fence will be repaired shortly.

CT72 Brook's Yard – North View Terrace

The Town Clerk expressed his concern at the condition of the site at the former Brook's Yard, North View Terrace. He reported that a large mound of concrete had been moved to one side of the site and the fencing damaged. The proximity of a school was a concern as children may be tempted to play on the site. Officers reported that the area is private land but that they would notify the Environmental Health and Development Control departments of the situation.

Any Other Business

CT73 Wheel Clamping

The Chairman reported that the Tourism Department had received a complaint from an overseas visitor who was recently wheel clamped outside Blockbusters and Dominos Pizza near Piccadilly Square. The gentleman suggested that the signage warning of wheel clamping was inadequate.

Mr Couzens, Manager-Castle Court Centre reported that he uses the same company for wheel clamping and that the same warning signs are displayed at the centre. He reported that new regulations on wheel clamping would shortly be introduced and new requirements on signage may be included.

CT74 Wales in Bloom

Mr Ridgewell, Business Manager – Development Parks, outlined to members the preparations for this years Wales in Bloom competition. Support has been promised from the Caerphilly Garden Centre and many businesses throughout the Town Centre. It was hoped that the Town would again be successful in this competition and it was noted that the winning cup from last year would be displayed at the Tourist Information Centre.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN