

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 20th April 2016
at 6.30 p.m.**

Present:	Councillors	G. Meredith (CHAIR)
		J. Thomas
		T. Smith
		A.E. Tippings
		D.W.A. Howells
		J.C. Morgan
		O. Price
		P. Prosser
		D. Rowberry
		H. Trollope
		S. Trollope
		B. Willis

In Attendance: Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price
RFO – Ms. A. Jones

383) Apologies. Councillors S. Baker, G. Bowen-Knight, M.Cross, R.W. Thomas and R. Watkins

As a mark of respect, Members observed a minute silence to Councillor Malcolm Cross on the recent passing of his mother.

The Deputy Leader thereupon expressed condolences to Councillor Cross' mother, who had lived well into her nineties, was a well-liked character within Sirhowy living life to the full; Mrs. Cross had been a life-long Church member.

384) Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

385) To receive the verbal recommendations of the Performance Review meeting held immediately prior to this meeting.

Budget against Actual figures to the 31st March, 2016 – it was noted the recommendations of 20th January, 2016 were approved at that meeting; virements had been undertaken immediately following approval. It was agreed that outstanding seasonal planting be discussed with the groundsmen accordingly.

31st March, 2016 End of Year Accounts – figures to be presented to the next appropriate Council Meeting.

Recommendations to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 20th January 2016:

- Budget against Actual figures to the 31st March, 2016 were to be approved.

386) Grants:

- a) **To consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.**
 Bedwellty Park Bowls Club – approved a Grant of £200.00;
 Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls Club – approved a Grant of £200.00;
 Tredegar Angling Club – approved a Grant of £200.00;

Southend Allotment Association – approved a Grant of £200.00; and
St. James’ Mothers Union – approved a Grant of £200.00.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137).

None received – noted.

Councillors T. Smith, J.C. Morgan, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope and B. Willis joined the meeting at this juncture (arriving 6.30 p.m.).

387) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in April 2016.

- Additional payments made in March were noted.
- The Schedule of Accounts, submitted to Council 20th April, 2016, was approved.
- Non-domestic Rates – Toilets (BGCBC). It was agreed that payment of the non-domestic rates be deferred until such time the proposed charitable incorporated organisation had been established.

There being no queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items were approved for payment, with the exclusion of the NNDR to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

388) Update – Town Clock: to receive.

The RFO thereupon provided an update in respect of the repair and painting works being undertaken to the Town Clock. Work had commenced on Monday, 18th April, 2016 and was progressing well. When restoration work had been undertaken to the Town Clock in 2008, painting costs had been included in the scheme for removal of paint and cleaning; this had been in the sum of £1,920 excluding VAT. Members should be mindful that scaffolding and use of cherry pickers had already been in place at this time.

It was agreed that the RFO proceed with a specification for the works and this information be an agendaed item at a later date, acquiring quotations rather than tenders as the preferred option. Should Members be aware of any other work required whilst scaffolding was in place, e.g. such as Christmas lighting provision, etc. this should be identified to be attached to the scheme.

The RFO sought clarity whether Members were referring to a change to Standing Orders in respect of acquiring quotations rather than tenders. It was highlighted that Standing Orders was an agendaed item for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the Council.

389) “Tony Gregory Award”: to review criteria.

The Leader said that the criteria needed to be reviewed and the following suggestions were raised for consideration:

- Eligibility – removal of the stipulation for the maximum age of twenty-five years;
- Bursary – this to be for the value of £100.00.

This was agreed accordingly.

It was noted that the Headteacher / Chair of Governing Body of each school should be aware of the Award in order to submit an application for nominees.

A nomination was received for Cameron Hudd, a pupil of Deighton Primary School, to receive the Tony Gregory Award for 2016, which was agreed accordingly (to be presented at the next scheduled presentation evening following the Annual General Meeting of Council).

The Deputy Leader drew the attention of Council to a potential nominee for the Award – a pupil named Chloe who had undertaken a tremendous amount of good work in respect of a school project relating to food banks. The Member would endeavour to ascertain full details in order for an application to be submitted for consideration the following year.

390) Deighton Playing Fields: to receive verbal update following meeting with GAVO.

Following a successful meeting with the Community Asset Transfer Support Consultant (GAVO), Mr. Richard Davies, progress was being made in establishing a charitable incorporated organisation “Tredegar Public Facilities” to enable access to grant funding in providing public services. Hopefully, the public conveniences in Tredegar could be incorporated within this project.

The charitable incorporated organisation would be represented by four external organisations and five Town Council Members. This would be a non-profit organisation and any charges levied for usage of facilities had to be reinvested to enhance the facility/service. An offer had currently been made by the Authority for a lease of seven years; however, the Town Council was currently pursuing a twenty-five year lease at the minimum, with the preferred option of acquiring a ninety-nine year lease. Members were instructed to contact the Town Clerk to express an interest.

It was requested that the RFO, Annette Jones, be approached to take the lead from a financial aspect; which was agreed accordingly.

391) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

a) Minutes of the Civic Sub-Committee Meeting 16th March, 2016.

b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 16th March, 2016.

c) Minutes of the Staffing and Finance Meeting 23rd March, 2016 (available at meeting).

d) Minutes of the Civic Meeting 6th April, 2016 (to follow).

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record, with any matters arising to follow.

392) Matters arising from the Minutes.

Civic Sub-Committee - 16th March, 2016 – a typing error was noted to the amount awarded; this should read £220.00, and not £200.00 as recorded in the Minutes.

Ordinary Meeting - 16th March, 2016 –

Consultation with Town / Community Councils: a request had been made to BGCBC to provide the Town Council with a list of assets disposed of / intended for disposal within the Tredegar area; also, a request for three Items for inclusion on the agenda – fly tipping, civic amenity sites and recycling (requesting that recycling figures be made available to all Town / Community Councils within Blaenau Gwent);

Maes-y-Dderwen 25th Anniversary: the Mayor had thoroughly enjoyed the visit, meeting with new members of staff following his work with the care industry; Stopping Up and Diversion Order: clarification had been sought following a query regarding surfacing of the new path. The bridleway had been diverted as part of the work to the Heads of the Valleys, which was not through the farm / Trefil railroad diversion; Queen’s 90th Birthday Party at Bedwellty Park: invitations to be sent to the organisations listed, in addition, the Tenants and Residents’ Associations for Cefn Golau, Peacehaven and Waundeg.

Staffing and Finance Sub-Committee - 23rd March, 2016 – it was agreed that this Item be removed from consideration within Minutes and deemed as ‘notes’ with the Chair of Staffing to provide a verbal report. Due to the nature of the recommendations for consideration being pertinent to individual staffing issues, the Chair of Staffing proposed that the item be considered as Exempt Information, which was agreed accordingly.

392(i) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12A.

Moved, the meeting was closed to the public.

The Chair of Staffing outlined the recommendations from the Sub-Committee to full Council, highlighting that information requested was still awaited from One Voice Wales. It was therefore agreed that recommendations 1 – 5 recorded in the notes be approved, with No. 6 being considered at the next

appropriate meeting of Council.

A Member emphasised that she had not voted with the majority of the Sub-Committee in respect of recommendation 2.

392(ii) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.

Moved, the meeting was re-opened to the public.

Civic Meeting - 6th April, 2016 – a Member requested that any information received from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board be circulated to all Members at the earliest opportunity; C/2016/0038 4-5 The Circle Tredegar – a Member had attended the meeting of Planning Committee (BGCBC), as a Ward Member, to speak against this planning application. The developer had asked to meet with the Ward Member on site, which he had deemed inappropriate. A brief discussion ensued in respect of this application – access, parking, transport, designated use, etc. The developer had been presented with possible options, in order to proceed with the proposed development, that he had been unwilling to consider; following subsequent discussion, the application had been refused. Members congratulated the Member on the excellent manner in which he had presented his views on this planning application.

Commemorative Benches: Members proposed to meet on site with Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Officers to discuss the location and provide an explanation to encourage the use of the Commemorative bench within the design, as part of the scheme within the planning application.

R J Plant and Construction: a Member had spoken with the contractors who had commended the interest of the local community and he expressed his appreciation to the contractors who had taken the time to explain the works to members of the public that had enquired.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Plaque: this needed to be agendaed for the next appropriate meeting of Council for further discussion for points of accuracy.

A brief discussion ensued when Members clarified the decision of the Events Sub-Committee, that it had been agreed that Council bear the financial burden of a planning application, and the decision at the Civic Meeting in April 2016 to clarify which organisation had agreed to meet the planning application fee. Members were informed of the reason for the greater cost to be incurred for the planning permission than anticipated. In response to a question raised, clarification was provided on the Sub-Committee Members in attendance on making the decision.

It was thereupon resolved that Tredegar Town Council meet associated costs incurred in relation to the planning application for the siting of the plaque to be located in Bedwellty Park.

Tredegar Twinning: the Deputy Leader wished to congratulate the Town Council on another successful Orvault visit and proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to The Moose Ladies Circle on the reception. The cheques would be presented by the Mayor once received from the RFO.

Councillor J. Morgan left the meeting at this juncture.

Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel: Members were informed this Panel had established a Facebook account and the Mayor asked that Members join. The Mayor said the Cadro Officer had proposed that these two areas merge Panels, as each shared similar crimes, and confirmed that he would be meeting with the appropriate Officer of Gwent Police to discuss issues, such as anti-social behaviour / off-road vehicles.

Climate Change Adaptation Programme: the Deputy Leader provided a brief update in respect of the Tredegar Live Project following a meeting with Professor Rhodri Thomas of Cardiff University, who had highlighted that the Cardiff Region Project had funding available of up to £5,000 to work with community groups on projects. Discussion had ensued in respect of different design proposals to further develop the micro-regeneration project of Tredegar Town Council. This had proven a productive meeting, allowing opportunities to extend working with students from Cardiff University, which was welcome.

393) Chair to sign Minutes.

Minutes not available at meeting.

394) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC

- a) D. Assinder Re: Trees on Commercial Street – Lights were damaged during the tree feeling process. If we furnish them with them with similar he will ensure they are replaced.

Received – ascertain of Officer if replacement trees ornamental.

- b) Agenda Preparation Meeting – Consultation with Town/Community Councils Thursday, 21st April, 2016 at 11.30 a.m. Leader's Office, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – forwarded to Cllr Smith.

Received – Items submitted for consideration.

- c) THI/VVP Advisory Board – Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 – need to confirm preferred language for communications.

Received – confirmation that language preference be recorded as 'English'.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) OVW/SLCC Joint Event 22nd June, 2016 – wishes to encourage Councils to have representatives attend this conference.

Received – two places proposed; ascertain interest which Members wish to attend.

- b) Motions for 2016 Annual General Meeting – maximum of two motions per member Council can be proposed for debate at the AGM Saturday, 1st October, 2016, motions must be submitted no later than noon Friday, 1st July, 2016.

Received – to be considered at the Council meeting of 1st June, 2016.

- c) May dates/venues for Chaining skills training and details of Bridgend training Chaining skills.

Received.

- d) i) New model Financial Regulations.
ii) Update on Model Financial Regulations.

Received – ascertain of RFO if Financial Regulations need to be amended in line with documentation.

- e) Future Wellbeing of Internal Audit Shared Learning Seminar at Cardiff 11th May, 2016.

Received.

- f) Larger Councils Conference 6th July, 2016 Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, B. Wells.

Received.

- g) New Pensions Legislation and Responsibilities Seminar – 18th May, 2016 Greenmeadow Golf and Country Club, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran.

Received.

3) PS Partnership

Paul Shackson wishes to attend 18th May, 2016 meeting to give update on the Circuit of Wales.

This was agreed accordingly.

4) Cllr Smith

- a) Re: Classic Car show – Date is Saturday, 27th August, 2016, request from Business Forum for Council to undertake organising/providing the road closures again this year.

Received – meeting to be arranged with Business Forum to discuss, and assign, responsibilities during the event.

- b) Re: Walkway – copy of email sent regarding questions raised about the planting of the walkway and completion of the works to date – Cllr Smith requesting copy of Minutes supporting Council's intentions.

Received – meeting to be arranged for Leader and Deputy Leader, and any interested Member, to discuss planting of the walkway in order to reinstate the project.

5) Tredegar
Thespians

Thanks for the special grant and two complimentary tickets to the premiere film show on Friday, 22nd April, given to Mayor. Have also received support from commercial businesses in Tredegar as well now; schedule of activities will now be two major films twice to four times a month with weekly children's shows on Saturdays & midweek shows for the Historical Society.

The Mayor was attending the event and would be presenting the grant allocation by Tredegar Town Council; Councillor Oriel Price would also be attending.

6) Mrs Lewis

Complaints regarding the lack of information on actions in the town such as the changes to the green space by the shopping centre.

Received – to be forwarded to BGCBC for attention.

7) Hafal

Invite to any Town Council representatives to the Carers Engagement Event Thursday, 28th April, 2016 between 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. at Tredegar Library – number of attendees to be confirmed.

Received – Councillor H. Trollope attending; he asked that other Members visit during the drop-in times and introduce themselves as a Tredegar Town Councillor.

8) Gavo

Membership offer for Blaenau Gwent – voluntary take up of membership,

full membership offers more benefits than associate membership. First year of membership will be free but renewal fee due thereafter depending on number of employees and type of organisation.

Received.

9) R. Trimm

Tredegar Forum meeting 22nd April, 2016 Moose Hall.

Members wishing to attend to inform the Space Saviours Project Officer accordingly.

10) R. Taylor-
Davies

Valleys that Changed the World – Visit Wales Industry Roadshow on 12th May, 2016 at Bryn Meadows Golf Club. Looking for people to staff a stand at this event to promote tourism.

Received.

11) M Goldthorpe

“The Bold Balladiers” performs as part of the Night Out Scheme – Victorian and Edwardian popular traditional music.

Received – to be agendaed for consideration by the Events Sub-Committee.

12) BG Heritage
Forum

Revised agenda for meeting to be held 21st April, 2016.

Noted.

13) Brecon Beacons
National Park

- a) Informing Community / Town Councils of the procedural change coming into effect from 1st May, 2016.
- b) Planning, Access & Rights of Way meeting Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. – forwarded to Cllr Price.
- c) Next Scrutiny study is on Partnerships - forwarded to Cllr Price.

Received.

14) Publications

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 15.4.16. and 22.4.16;
Communicorp Local Councils Update April 2016 Issue 194.

Received.

15) Agenda

Special Education, Active Living and Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 at 3.30 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale and information; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Thursday, 19th May, 2016 at 9.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 21st April, 2016 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale and reports for item Nos. 3 and 4.

Received.

Councillors D. Rowberry and B Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

395) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received).

None received.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

None received.

c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations.

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2016/0107	Mr. K. Thomas The Sun Shop 99 Commercial Street Tredegar	Change of use of 1 st floor space from A1 retail to sui generis for beauty treatments such as nail painting, eyebrow waxing and pedicures (retention), The Sun Shop, 99 Commercial Street.

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters.

None received.

396) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice).

- An invitation be sent to BGCBC Regeneration Department to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to provide an update on the regeneration of the town centre.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

_____ Chair