

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 6th April 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: **Councillors** **J. Thomas**
 A.E. Tippings
 D.W.A. Howells
 J.C. Morgan (Arrived 6.45 p.m.)
 O. Price
 P. Prosser
 R.W. Thomas
 H. Trollope
 S. Trollope
 M. Turner
 B. Willis

In Attendance: **Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price**

Also Present: **Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Mr. Julian Hayman**

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor Councillor J. Thomas took the Chair for the meeting.

365) Apologies. **Councillors** **G. Meredith, S. Baker, M. Cross, G. Bowen-Knight, D. Rowberry, T. Smith and R. Watkins**

The Deputy Leader welcomed Councillor Mark Turner to his first meeting; she was aware of his experience with this Town Council, as he had been very helpful as husband to the Deputy Mayor, and now formally on board could utilise his skills to the full. The Deputy Leader hoped he would have a long, enjoyable stay with the Council.

366) Declarations of Interest.

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

367) To receive a presentation from Mr. Julian Hayman on the Health Board Engagement Team.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr. Julian Hayman, who thanked Members for the opportunity to introduce himself and outlined the following:

□ The Engagement Team was set up by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in September 2015, to regain local input following the formation of the larger Health Board in 2009; There were three in the Team engaging with approximately 600,000 people; Public engagement was undertaken every week on rotation throughout the five towns in the County Borough - that was the commitment of the Team - containing open ended discussion regarding the Health Service and GP access, and providing information regarding Clinical Futures over the next three years.

□ Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was waiting for the announcement on the Specialist Critical Care Centre business case currently with the Welsh Assembly; the new Hospital was anticipated between 2019-2021; This would cater for the most serious cases, i.e. serious trauma, 'blue lights', heart attacks, serious stroke, and intensive care would be centralised there. Intensive care would no longer be housed in the Nevill Hall and Royal Gwent hospitals, both would provide more routine care;

The main focus was to keep people independent in their own home and avoid hospital admissions, as the frail/vulnerable could be at risk due to infection; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board had invested in community services; An invite was extended for a further presentation, should an expert in a particular field be required to attend e.g. infection critical. A District Nursing Team was formed February 2015, providing 24/7 care.

□ Obesity problems across Wales had been recognised and ABUHB had invested in an Obesity Team Community Service; Living Well/Longer Programme - treating conditions relating to cardio vascular/diabetes; 470 assessments had been undertaken in the communities, identifying those people at risk later in life; 32% of the 7,200 seen, not diagnosed previously, referred back to GP; Screening Campaign - to encourage those people not routinely seeing their GP to visit in order for early detection of a condition; The new Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan had met with 17,270 outpatient appointments; 9.6% resulted in “did not attend”; text reminders were now sent to remind patients in order to reduce that figure.

□ Mental Health sector – care in central community venues: proving extremely popular, as the audience was not one on one, enabling those to cope with stress; individuals discussing this avenue with their GP found it very helpful with subsequent referral on to Mental Health; Residential homes up to required standard and training for care home staff; Clinical Futures – how to manage NHS services/critical services.

The Health representative thereupon responded to comments/questions raised in relation to the following:

A Member referred to a recent incident in Nevill Hall Hospital, that he had been made aware of, enquiring how falls were reported if experienced in hospital; was a risk assessment undertaken?; and, was ABUHB aware of more falls than expected in Ebbw Vale? The Health representative acknowledged that such issues had been raised in respect of the individual rooms provided at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan.

In response to a question raised in relation to the introduction of the new Specialist Critical Care Centre, the Health representative clarified there would be no intensive care provision at Nevill Hall nor the Royal Gwent; all patients would be admitted to the Specialist Critical Care Centre, e.g. should a patient need to be induced into a coma following a serious car accident and require surgery, this would be undertaken in the Care Centre however the patient could be transferred for routine recuperation at Nevill Hall or Royal Gwent Hospital.

A Member sought confirmation on the future of Tredegar General Hospital: the Health representative was unaware of the proposals for this building but would pursue the query and respond accordingly.

Another Member expressed concern in respect of GP access and referred to previous plans to establish a primary health care centre in the Tredegar area. The Health representative said that a meeting had been held recently to discuss issues in respect of GPs throughout the Aneurin Bevan Health Authority. The representative said that it was not a cause for concern, however the resolution of that discussion was that Tredegar was ‘in crisis’. The Member highlighted that there were five full-time GPs and one GP intended to retire imminently. There were approximately 12,000 patients covered by two surgeries and enquired if it was the intention of the Health Authority to encourage a GP to practice within the Tredegar area.

The Health representative explained that GPs were independent contractors, and were not employed by the ABUHB, and said that GP recruitment was a problem encountered across the UK. However, this would not prove a concern as the Health Authority would pay a GP to manage a practice until an independent contractor was in place and would not prove detrimental to the local population.

Problems were being experienced in respect of the time of patients waiting for appointments and many contacted the Out of Hours Service. The Engagement Team had discussed these issues with the Out of Hours GP, as there was a major demand on this Service.

A success story for the NHS was that people were living longer but unfortunately this impacted upon the complexity of ailments now being treated in the elderly. The Health representative would forward an email to the Town Council outlining how the Health Authority intended managing this area.

A Member referred to previous proposals to amalgamate both surgeries in Tredegar and enquired of any progress. He also expressed concern that a number of Wards had been closed in the brand new hospital at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan recently, which had been provided to cater for the needs within this area. The Health representative said the stroke ward at the Royal Gwent was currently caring for these patients. The Member said that stroke patients were presently taken immediately to the Royal Gwent for specialist treatment and expressed concern at the additional travel time that would be taken in ambulances transporting patients to the Specialist Critical Care Centre to Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran, which could have a detrimental impact on the level of recovery for that person. He highlighted there was an excellent Stroke Centre facility available in Merthyr Tydfil to cope with after-care and the car parking issues at the Royal Gwent Hospital proved a deterrent. Finally, in respect of patients being cared for in their own home, the Member enquired if these individuals were being cared for by suitably qualified staff.

The Health representative confirmed patients cared for at home were the remit of the currently fully operational District Nursing Team. He explained that the stroke patients had been moved from the wards at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, as there had been a need to utilise these beds for medical emergencies; there was the ability at this hospital to reduce the number of beds or increase to meet any overflow (representative to provide details). The Royal Gwent Hospital was performing well in meeting the needs of stroke patients within a few hours, which had a positive impact in reducing the effects of that condition. It was recognised that the distance travelled could impact on the patient; however, there was not the level of specialised care available in Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in Ebbw Vale.

In response to a question raised, the Health representative clarified that the Accident and Emergency Departments would change when the Care Centre opened - a Doctor would be available at both the Royal Gwent and Nevill Hall Hospitals to treat illness and undertake GP referrals, however all 'blue light' cases would be catered for by the Specialist Critical Care Centre.

The Member enquired of the need in Blaenau Gwent for the provision of 24/7 care by the District Nursing Team, as there should not be a need throughout the night while patients were asleep. The Health representative said there could be staff on call to provide cover during the night for emergency cases.

The Chair expressed concern in respect of the infrastructure in place for transport, as patients/visitors would not have access via a bus service. The Health representative said that information had been received that a bus transport group was being set up; should the Town Council require this information for their website, the representative would be happy to forward these details.

A Member referred to the current X4 service used by the public to access Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, which currently undertook a circular route and dropped passengers approximately half-a-mile from the Hospital. This resulted in a cost to constituents who had to use taxis for this journey; she therefore asked that this issue be pursued and a response provided as to how this problem could be resolved.

Thanks were thereupon extended to Mr. Hayman for an excellent presentation and Members awaited the written information promised by the representative to be shared on the Town Council website. The Deputy Leader thanked the representative for his frank, honest presentation, which was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Hayman thereupon left the meeting at this juncture.

368) 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.

369) To receive a verbal report following on from the meeting held with the Leader of BGCBC, Tuesday 22nd March 2016 regarding the public conveniences.

The Chair of Staffing said that a meeting had taken place with Town Council representatives and the Leader BGCBC and the Executive Member Environment, who had expressed their appreciation to the Town

Council for the opportunity to discuss this issue. He wished to thank the Leader, Councillor Smith, and the RFO for the hard work undertaken in respect of identifying discrepancies in monies allocated to various towns throughout the County Borough for public conveniences. The Deputy Leader, Councillor McIlwee, had taken on board the concerns of the Town Council and he would be meeting with the Chief Finance Officer BGCBC to ascertain a way to resolve this issue, possibly by deferring the business rates levied.

A Member thereupon briefly clarified the support provided by Blaenau Gwent in Abertillery, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale in operating public conveniences. In light of this, she considered that Tredegar Town Council may still not be receiving the same level of support by deferring the business rates; however, should the Leader consider this the best solution available to the Town Council she would accept the proposal.

Members therefore supported the proposal to seek the deferring of business rates to support the operational costs of the toilets. Another Member suggested that the Town Council also needed to consider if support could be provided in meeting the annual running costs.

It was agreed that the proposal to defer the business rates for the public conveniences in the town centre be pursued and supported accordingly.

370) To receive a report from the Staffing & Finance meeting held Wednesday 23rd March 2016.

It was agreed that this Item be DEFERRED.

371) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.

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

372) Grants:

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations.

Bedwellty Park Bowls Club – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls Club – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

Tredegar Angling Club – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

Southend Allotment Association – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

St. James' Mothers Union – Grant of £200.00 recommended.

It was noted one financial assistance request related to 'hosting an event' and a Member suggested that grants were best utilised for the purpose of meeting running costs throughout the year for the benefit of that club/society.

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

None received – noted.

Cllr Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

373) Planning:

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

List of Delegated Items determined between 18th February and 18th March, 2016

2016/0018 New double garage to back of bungalow, existing garage to be converted to games room, Sunny View, Gelli Road, Tredegar – Approved.

2015/0429 Proposed replan of plots 30-34 and 39-46 of the residential development at Peacehaven, Tredegar – Approved.

C/2015/0309 Mr. Andrew Crossman, Waterton Park, Bridgend Erection of 2 No. 250kw wind turbines and associated infrastructure – Eurocaps Ltd., Crown Business Park, Dukestown, Tredegar

A Member suggested the proposed development could prove contentious; a brief discussion thereupon ensued regarding the proposed location of the wind turbines, particularly in relation to nearby residential properties.

C/2016/0038 Mr. Marek Koperski 4-5 The Circle, Tredegar. Proposed change of use of first and second floors from three to four self-contained flats and replacement shopfront to ground floor and proposed change of use and conversion (including raising of roof to create an additional floor) of tyre fitting depot to one self-contained – 4-5 The Circle, Tredegar

Members expressed concern in respect of the following:

- ☐ Work was being undertaken prior to receiving planning permission;
- ☐ Obstruction on the pavement – pedestrians forced to leave footpath and enter the highway (one young mother had to retreat due to being unable to get the pushchair past);
- ☐ Congestion caused by the flats at rear;
- ☐ Car parking issue at Upper Salisbury Street.

The blocking of the pavement had been reported to Officers on six occasions; a Member considered that Officers at Blaenau Gwent were not fulfilling their obligations in situations such as this, as there were legalities in regard to blocking the pavement and developers had to abide by these Regulations.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any.

None received – noted.

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2016/0096	Mr. J. Greenway 91a Charles Street, Tredegar	Proposed garage – 91a Charles Street
No objections		

C/2016/0101	Mr. K. Lewis Welsh Assembly Government	Two detached dwellings and garages land at Coed Hirgan Fach Farm, Dukestown, Tredegar
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It was noted that the Welsh Assembly Government had realigned the entry road.

No objections (unless outside the Local Development Plan area)

C/2016/0103	Mr. T. Smith Tredegar Town Council	Commemorative bench, Community Garden, Beaufort Road, Tredegar
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No objections

d) To consider other planning matters.

Confirmation was received that the Town Council's planning application for the commemorative bench at the community garden, Beaufort Road, had been registered – decision to be taken by 31st May, 2016 – noted.

374) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC Consultation with Town and Community Councils, 28th April, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. – confirmation of pre-meeting to be held 2.00 p.m. in Council Chamber, not Committee Room 2 at 2.30 p.m., as previously advised.

Received. Members requested that an Item be placed on the agenda in respect of The Charter, to provide a briefing to ensure Members were up to speed.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Larger Local Councils Committee meeting – Wednesday, 13th April, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., Main Conference Centre, Newtown

Received – apologies to be extended for non-attendance.

b) Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6 – consultation ends 31st June, 2016 and relevant documentation available at <http://gov.wales/consultations/planning/proposed-changes-to-planning-wales-chapter-6-the-historic-environment/?lang=en>

Received.

c) Community Asset Transfer Guide – Revised Edition, available at <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/community-asset-transfer/best-practice-guide/?lang=en>

The Chair of Staffing confirmed that a meeting had taken place in respect of acquiring Deighton playing fields. The Town Council had been informed that, as a public body, this could not be undertaken as a community asset transfer but as a lease.

It was therefore agreed that this information be forwarded to Mr. Paul Egan of One Voice Wales, as he had information of such transfers by other councils and had offered to provide advice to the Town Council as to how best proceed.

An appropriate business plan in relation to Deighton playing fields would need to be agendaed for a future meeting for consideration.

d) Finance Committee report: consideration of the consultation on the Draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill – report and summary available at <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-1d10644/cr-1d10644-e.pdf> and <https://slate.adobe.com/cp/Y5PgT/>

Received.

e) Launch of Public Health Outcomes Framework for Wales, the Public Health Outcomes Framework is available at <http://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/reports/public-health-framework?lang=en>

Received.

3) Cllr Tippings

a) List of Tredegar clubs and groups for the Tea in the Park Event
Information to be circulated to all Members to identify any admissions. Agreed that the list be updated to include the three Tenant and Resident Associations – Sirhowy, Peacehaven and Cefn Golau. Congratulations were extended to the Deputy Leader on the hard work undertaken.

b) Update from Gwent Police on Off Road exercise 3rd April, 2016
The Town Clerk provided an update on the results of the operation, i.e. five Section 59 warnings had been issued; one vehicle seized; and, approximately eighteen quads and bikes had been deterred on sight of police in the village.
Members extended the thanks of the Town Council to PC Jamie Witcombe for his continued diligence. A Member said that PC Dave Smith had also confirmed that two vehicles had been confiscated in the Cefn Golau area.
A brief discussion ensued regarding the ongoing anti-social behaviour exhibited by a 4x4 driver in the town centre at night.

4) R J Plant and Construction

Email: seeking confirmation when work to commence on Town Clock?
It was agreed that: the 'surround and finish' and the painting of the Town Clock be undertaken as two separate projects. A Member sought information on costings for previous work undertaken to be used as a comparison; and the RFO to instruct the contractor to commence work on the Town Clock.

5) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

a) Meeting on 21st April, 2016 at 9.30 a.m., Tredegar Library
Received.

- b) BG Heritage Forum Plaque: F. Olding – confirming advertising consent required with planning fee of £380.00

Advice had been sought on the location of the plaque and the Town Council informed that advertising consent would be required, as the proposed location was between two Listed Buildings. Clarification was needed in respect of which organisation had agreed to meet the planning application fee.

6) Wales & West Utilities

Invitation to attend WWU's Annual Stakeholder Workshop with lunch – series of workshops April 2016

Received – information to be circulated to all Members.

7) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Request for feedback on the Improvement Plan 2016/17 – available at http://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/English/home/Documents/Improvement%20Plan%202016%20-%202017_english.pdf

Received – Town Clerk to scrutinise to ascertain any impact on the Tredegar area.

8) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

- a) i) Agenda for National Park Authority, Friday, 8th April, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., Plas y Ffynnon, Brecon;
ii) supplemental assessment for above meeting

Received.

- b) Rights of Way – Tuesday, 12th April, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., Plas y Ffynnon, Brecon

Received.

13) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 8th April, 2016.

Available for Members.

14) AGENDA

General Licensing Committee Tuesday, 5th April, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. – CANCELLED; Education, Active Living and Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 12th April, 2016 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; advance notice – Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee 'Business Support and Procurement' Tuesday, 26th April, 2016 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Agenda Item 9 report; Executive Committee Wednesday, 6th April, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Wednesday, 13th April, 2016 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for Members.

375) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park—any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally.

A concern was raised in respect of security and lighting in the Park at night; a Member confirmed that he had raised this concern previously and security officers had approached individuals in respect of anti-social behaviour.

376) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/Working Parties.

a) Joint Committee of Local Councils – no meeting held.

b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – meeting held 5th April, 2016.

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – apologies to be extended for meeting to be held 13th April, 2016.

d) Tredegar Twinning – Members were invited to join Twinning representatives for refreshments from 12.00 noon on Saturday, 9th April, 2016 at The Moose Lodge.

e) School Governing Bodies – Members provided a brief update in respect of Deighton Primary School, Bryn Bach Primary School and Georgetown Primary School.

f) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – these meetings to be deferred to a Friday.

g) Tredegar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – No report.

h) Tredegar Business Forum – no meeting held.

i) VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative – it was proposed that the Leader write to the Heritage Forum, as Members had visited and the garden and archway had been left in a deplorable condition – the plants were dead and there was missing bricks to the steps and archway. A Member suggested that the Town Council should withdraw from maintaining this area if transferred in its current condition.

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

- The work undertaken in front of the Post Office related to the felling of two trees. Christmas lighting in the ownership of the Town Council had not been returned and a Member proposed that compensation was needed in this respect.
- Circuit of Wales – no official decision had been announced. However, a Member was aware of negotiations ongoing between the Welsh Assembly and Aviva.
- Fly Tipping – a Member had reported an issue of fly tipping at St. James Pond, the Local Authority had visited and a name/address had been found that could identify the culprit. The Local Authority was dealing with this matter.
- Concerns in relation to the discarding of syringes at the rear of Sirhowy Garage had been passed to PC Jamie Witcombe. Environmental Health had visited the site to undertake a removal as appropriate however the items had already been removed. If Members found such items, contact should always be made with Environmental Health to remove possibly contaminated paraphernalia.
- Christmas Lights – the RFO had advised the Town Council to defer this matter as additional information was awaited.
- Climate Change and Adaptations Sub-Committee – a meeting was sought either 8.30 a.m. or 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 19th April, 2016.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

_____ Chair