

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 3rd October, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)**
 E. Jones
 T. Smith
 A.E. Tippings
 M. Cross
 G. James
 A. Jones
 D. Jones
 P. Prosser
 S. Rees
 D. Rowberry
 S. Trollope
 M. Turner
 P. Waldron
 B.G. Willis

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

192) Apologies: Councillors D.W.A. Howells, J. Thomas

A warm welcome to Tredegar Angling Club representatives, who had been invited to receive their grant, as approved by Town Council; the Mayor extended thanks to the Club who had always been very supportive of Tredegar Town Council.

Welcome extended to Councillor Sean Rees, who was attending his first meeting of Council following co-option.

193) Declarations of Interest

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

194) Invitation extended to Inspector Amanda Thomas to discuss main issues of concern in relation to anti-social behaviour and increased drug-related activity

The Chair extended a welcome to Police representatives – Inspector Amanda Thomas, Sergeant Neil Pigeon and PC Nik Thomas. The Inspector outlined statistics over the past three months received through various avenues, e.g. concerns reported on Twitter, passed by Councillors or the local Member of Parliament, etc. and provided a brief update.

- ASB calls had been low, although she acknowledged this may be conveyed differently from constituents, showing a reduction from the same period the previous year;
- ASB Orders – CADRO had issued seventeen referrals over the last quarter with one injunction and hot spots targeted within the town centre;
- Working with United Welsh Housing Association regarding tenancies, when undertaking site visits;
- Fortnightly Tasking meetings with partners (Ward Managers, Sergeants, Community Safety Officers BGCBC).

Councillor M. Cross joined the meeting at this juncture (6.08 p.m.)

- A Business Case had been submitted seeking resources, as the Area Support Unit covered both east and west of the county and focussed currently on the Newport area. Additional resources had been used over the weekend, which had worked well, however it should be noted these additional vehicles could be called to attend an incident;
- Off-road vehicles – fifty vehicles reported in October 2016, opposed to ten in September 2018. A Member said there was an issue with boys riding through the town centre on bikes, which was not classed as a priority when reporting the complaint, i.e. 101 calls, not 999, which unfortunately resulted in residents experiencing difficulty getting through. There was an urgent need therefore in addressing ongoing issues in relation to 101 calls – the Inspector confirmed that more staff had been taken on to respond to 101 calls;
- Crime – 456 reported in the last three months – these were mainly focussed on the town centre, e.g. shoplifting and criminal damages. Although understanding the lack of resources, a Member expressed his concern that residents felt it a waste of their time to telephone in respect of crime, such as anti-social behaviour, due to the time taken to receive a response, as the culprits had moved on elsewhere.
- Licensed Premises – there was increased drug activity with individuals openly taking drugs and a number of people subjected to physical attacks. The Inspector said there was limited intelligence on licensed premises – substantial intelligence was required and had to be corroborated before approaching the Magistrates to undertake a covert process.
More warrants had been executed over the last twelve months than previously, including Class A Warrants. The Inspector thereupon briefly explained the process when acting upon intelligence in conjunction with working with licensees. Also, working with Environmental Health BGCBC to ascertain noise levels.
- Supply of drugs – Members were aware of drug dealing frequently undertaken at private premises and enquired what type of intelligence was required for the Police to take action. The Inspector said the tenant could be evicted from a privately rented property, however intelligence had to be more specific but the source of such information was never disclosed.
- CCTV – the Inspector hoped funding could be secured to operate CCTV in Blaenau Gwent; the Police were liaising with appropriate parties with discussions undertaken with the local A.M. and M.P., Chief Constable, and the Chief Executive BGCBC. In response to a question raised, the Inspector explained that the Police could not submit a request for use of the covert surveillance mobile unit, however Members could target a certain area, e.g. car park identified as a hot spot for ‘boy racers’. Patrols could be allocated to target the area at the same time undertaking breath tests, drug sweeps, etc. A brief discussion ensued regarding deterrents, such as relocating/removal of benches which attracted youths congregating in an area.
- Tenants and Residents Associations – a Member suggested improved communication

was needed between the Police and these associations. He also referred to a recent incident whereby motorists had been playing loud music from cars parked at St. James' pond, but when police had arrived had turned down the volume. The Inspector clarified that Officers could only take action in line with legislation and an individual would have to commit a crime or traffic offence to request sight of a driver's licence.

- A Member was aware of the success of five raids undertaken recently and commended the Police on the action undertaken in such a professional manner.
- Publications – a Member suggested that a poster could be placed in strategic locations, such as the library, on a quarterly basis outlining the work undertaken/ongoing, as not all constituents had access to Facebook and Twitter.
- Police Surgery – a concern was raised that no Officers had turned up for the Police surgery scheduled at the STAR Centre, which was run by volunteers.

The Chair extended thanks to the Officers for a most comprehensive presentation and responding to questions raised.

Councillor M. Cross left the meeting at this juncture (7.00 p.m.)

195) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

A number of sporting groups were training on the Deighton playing field; it was great to see this facility being used as it should be by children really enjoying these activities. It had been a great pleasure to join the Head of Gateway Club on their 30th anniversary; an outstanding group of adults with learning difficulties who enjoyed themselves; the Mayor believed this Council was there for all aspects of the community and referred to the Corral's raffle that had raised nearly £500.00, for children with cancer; finally, again recognising the support of Tredegar Angling Club.

196) To receive any verbal recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting

- No current recommendations, with actions ongoing.

197) Grants:

Councillor H. Trollope declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

2167 (Tredegar) RAF Air Cadets – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase archery netting and trophies.

2017/18 Dec'17 CQ No. 740 £200.00: Approved.

Councillor M. Cross declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Gwent Area Association of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase high viz jackets for show stewards and trophies for the young handlers.

2017/18 Sept'17 CQ No. 673 £200.00: Approved.

Councillors P. Prosser and P. Waldron declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Tredeggar History and Archive Society – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase a new printer/scanner and consumables.

2017/18 July'17 CQ No. 638 £200.00: Approved.

Tredeggar Town AFC (Seniors) – Any financial assistance received would be used to assist with the costs of running the club such as the affiliation fees, referee fees and ground rent.

2017/18 Dec'17 CQ No. 740 £200.00: Approved.

Future Now Tred Fest – Any financial assistance received would be used to assist with the costs of staging Tredfest 2018 music festival at Kidz'R'Us on Saturday, 6th October, 2018. A Member referred to the afore-mentioned event and urged Members to attend, as she had thoroughly enjoyed these events previously.

2017/18 Dec'17 CQ No. 740 £200.00: Approved.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) Grants as of 01.04.2017 now max £300.00

Ebenezer Congregational Chapel – Any financial assistance received would be used for internal painting of rooms such as the vestries. Building utilised by the community i.e. Mother & Toddler group, clothes bank.

2017/18 Dec'17 CQ No. 740 £200.00: Approved £300.00.

198) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) K. Hale Re: Deep Clean, Tredeggar Town Centre. Respond to the complaints made.
- b) H. Jones Re: Alcohol Free/No Drinking Zones. Feedback from the Community Safety Officer regarding the concerns raised.
- c) P. Amos Re: Paperless Agendas
 - i) confirming as of 01.10.2018 paperless agendas only, accessible from BGCBC website.
 - ii) Link to Council's agendas, reports, minutes and schedule of meetings.
 - Noted.
- d) A. O'Leary Re: Second Consultation, Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent. Notice to be displayed and all comments/representations are to be made direct to the Commission at ldbc.wales@gov.wales by 10.12.2018 – **displayed in noticeboard**
 - Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

Councillors T. Smith and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

- e) List of Licence applications week ending 28.09.2018.

i) Tredegar Arts Ltd., Little Theatre – variation of premises licence.

ii) D. Davies – personal licence.

- Noted.

f) D. Watkins Re: Toilet grant scheme. Response to query.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

a) P. Egan:

i) Response to query raised regarding Determination 44 Members Payment £150.00 and advice on treatment.

ii) Clarifying recommendation to make no payment of Determination 44 for this financial year.

- Noted; a Member expressed disappointment in respect of the recommendation whereupon, the Clerk highlighted this was advice only and it was the decision of each individual Member whether to follow the guidance.

b) Unadopted roads in Wales: Consultation to collect data to assess the extent of unadopted roads.

- Noted.

3) Aneurin Leisure

Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park.

- Noted.

4) Cllr Tippings

One Voice Wales Conference report – ***copied for all Members.***

- Councillor Tippings spoke to her report; providing a brief update on the following:

Bespoke lighting; recycling/refuse bins; four local authorities were not signed up to the Charter; IRPW – not generally considered that effectively liaised with town and community councils, e.g. meeting with A.M. to discuss anticipated increase in services provided by town and community councils; and, promote, e.g. 'stand' in town centre and producing an Annual Report.

The Mayor thanked Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings for attending to represent Council, and particularly for the in-depth report to Members.

The aforementioned Councillors thereupon responded to questions raised:

Co-option – if the system was altered, town and community councils would have to be mindful of the impact on the budget in running an election;

The chairing of the meeting had been appalling, as the Chair had made a derogatory statement – it was agreed that the Leader and Deputy Leader draft a letter to OVW outlining the dismay of Town Council in respect of the OVW Chair.

- 5) L. Price
- a) Request to Council asking if Council would write a letter to all the Headteachers asking for permission for some of their staff to be allowed to take Friday, 24th May off to accompany Twinning to Orvault to celebrate the 40th Anniversary.
 - On consideration; following a vote being undertaken, the majority of Members felt that it would not be Council's position to write such a letter to the Headteachers.
 - b) Asking for any Members of Council wishing to participate in the 40th Anniversary visit to Orvault next year to attend a meeting being held in Bedwellty House at 7.15 p.m. Wednesday, 10th October, 2018.
 - Noted.
- 6) J. Cotton
- Confirming fee for Remembrance Sunday and raising question about whether extra speakers are required.
- Noted.
- 7) D. Roach
- Asking whether Council would consider support the girls' football festival again being held 10th October, 2018 at Tredegar Leisure Centre.
- It was agreed that TTC would support the event again this year in providing refreshments, i.e. bottled water and fruit, for participants.
- 8) Tredegar Business Forum
- Letter enquiring as to whether Council would be interested in working on a joint project with them to replace the street planters.
- It was noted the Forum were considering making an application for some form of funding

to undertake a special project to further enhance the appearance of the town centre.

It was agreed that Members would need to meet with the Business Forum and discuss the possibility of working on a joint planting project.

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

9) C. Rundle a) Invitation to all Members to the RAFA Wings Appeal Fundraising evening at the Little Theatre on Saturday, 6th October, 2018, doors open 5.30 p.m. with film "The DAM Busters" starting at 6.30 p.m. Entry fee is £4.50 per person but £3.50 per person for groups of more than two – **added to website**

- Noted.

10) Planning Aid Wales Introduction to Planning Enforcement training at Brynmawr Town Council Offices on 17th October, 2018 at 5.30 p.m. booking available online.

- Noted.

11) Welsh Government Workshop slides from Maximising the regional potential.

- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.

12) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 27.09.2018 & 05.10.2018 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

13) AGENDA

None received.

Councillor B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

199) Planning:

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

List of Delegated Items determined between 20th August 2018 and 14th September 2018:

C/2018/0125 Construction of dormer bungalow, building plot 2 rear of Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar – *Approved*.

C/2018/0222 Discharge of conditions: 5 – boundary treatments, 17 – retaining wall details of planning permission C/2016/0231, Cartref Aneurin Bevan, Ashvale, Tredegar – *Condition discharge*.

C/2018/0202 Erection of white PVCu conservatory to rear of property, 10 Walnut Close, Tredegar – *Approved*.

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 37
- b) List of planning applications received in week 38
- c) List of planning applications received in week 39

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/2018/0268	Mr. C. Williams 42 Copper Beech Drive Tredegar	Conversion of garage to a new room and extension of existing car parking area, 42 Copper Beech Drive.

No objections

C/2018/0269	Mr. J. Leddington 3 Rhoslan Tredegar	Construction of a detached house and detached garage, land between Willows Social Club and 2 Willows Grove, Church Street.
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Observations:

Concerns expressed in respect of parking, should there be further development. TTC enquired if Planning Officer was satisfied there was sufficient parking, as the development would reduce on-street parking to the front of the property.

C/2018/0270	Mr. B. Miah Hillcrest Farm Whitebrook Lane Newport	Retrospective planning application for the erection of close boarded timber fencing with gate opening and construction of new rendered concrete blockwork wall with piers and close boarded timber infill frames, The Inn Place, 33 Market Street.
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No objections

Councillor G. James left the meeting at this juncture (7.50 p.m.).

C/2018/0271	Mr. H. Bowes c/o LRJ Planning Ltd. Pen-y-Rhiw Redbrook Road Newport	Change of use of a 4-bedroom dwelling (C3 use) to a 5-bedroom house of multiple occupation (C4 use) 18 Morgan Street.
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Observations:

- This development is a terraced property on a very busy road – in an area of special interest – and could be detrimental to the quality of life for local residents. Including vulnerable residents of Bedwellty Nursing home opposite – Members feel this property was never designed for this activity, but as a family home.

C/2018/0272

BGCBC
Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale

s73 Application to vary time condition for submission of reserved matters at Circuit of Wales motorsport facility (comprising: high performance circuit; motocross circuit; karting circuit; four-wheel drive circuit; riding academy; innovation centre; hotels; retail showrooms; ancillary retail; industrial and business uses; driver training area; solar park; camping; parking; landscaping and associated uses), land to North of Rassau Industrial Estate.

**No objections,
welcomed**

d) To consider other planning matters – None received

200) Consultation on the revision of Statement of Policy on the Gambling Act 2005 - copy previously circulated to Members, as per decision of Council – Item no longer required.

201) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally

- Members highlighted that seven of the lamps in the main lighting fixture in the Council Chamber were not working; therefore, only five remained.

202) 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 – this had been the first meeting in eight months, with no room booked for pre-meeting, only sat in Council Chamber. Members explained their dissatisfaction to the clerk on her arrival, as they had been unable to discuss matters privately, as there was a guest sat in the public gallery.

The Leader concurred with comments and offered to postpone the meeting for half an hour to hold a pre-meeting, however this was declined. When a Member had enquired why there had been no meetings, the Leader said there had been insufficient items received from town and community councils for discussion.

A discussion ensued regarding the request for Home to School Transport being considered an agenda Item, whereupon the Chair of the Education Scrutiny Committee had pointed out that the Members had not been given an opportunity to express their views by the Executive; the response being that Members should present any complaints to the Officers. A query had also been levied should not all sporting assets be transferred by next April, would these facilities be closed. A County Borough Member had followed the 'call in' process to consider this again but had not received the required numbers for support.

b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – no meeting

c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – no meeting

d) Tredegar Twinning – Members were encouraged to attend the meeting, if aware of anyone accompanying Twinning on the visit to France.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – deadline for applications that week

f) School Governing Bodies – *Tredegar Comprehensive School* had appointed a new Headteacher, who would be starting prior to the Christmas period (four applications received, three applicants shortlisted)

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – no Heritage Day to be held in Tredegar; to be held in Six Bells on 20th October, 2018. A photo had been secured for the Peter Morgan Jones Award. Also, a trip was being pursued to the Morgan Car factory.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – no meeting

i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – meeting to be held at the end of the month

j) Tredegar Business Forum – the Forum was considering investment in respect of the town centre planters, as these fixtures were coming to the end of their life span. The Forum would be contacting the Council, therefore, in respect of a joint venture to seek funding to replace the planters with a more durable material, e.g. plastic. The Forum paid Bedwellty House per annum to maintain the hanging baskets and planters.

k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – 4/5 The Circle, ongoing; John Morgan was going ahead with the development; NCB / town hall was eligible for granting funding from the THI but unfortunately the owner wished to continue with the workingmen's club (reference had been made to a duty of care in respect of maintenance, as the legal owner). A BG Officer had said that a meeting was scheduled for Monday; the Member had attempted contact but was awaiting a response. Owner of the Old County, although receiving no grant funding, had shown an interest in regeneration.

203) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)

- Phoenix Domestic Abuse Services, Blaina - an innovative charity working with all members of a family affected by domestic abuse and also the perpetrator in respect of reform
- Power Up! – a Member had referred the service to a constituent, who had achieved savings of £40.00 per month on water rates
- Truck Shop - a Member provided an update on the current situation; at the moment the issue was in the hands of the Welsh Assembly and Local Authority to ascertain a way forward; pursuing to delist part of the building and demolish to make safe.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.

_____ Chair