

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present: Councillors E. Jones (Chair)**

**D. Jones  
T. Smith  
A.E. Tippings  
M. Cross  
D.W.A. Howells  
G. James  
K. Phillips  
P. Prosser  
D. Rowberry  
J. Thomas  
H. Trollope  
S. Trollope  
M. Turner  
B. Willis  
I. Woods**

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

**By invitation: Blaenau Gwent CBC Officers:  
Early Years, Childcare & Play Manager, Claire Smith  
Play Sufficiency Officer, Sharon Gapper**

**048) Apologies: Councillors A. Jones and S. Rees**

**049) Declarations of Interest**

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

**050) Invitation extended to the Play Sufficiency Officer, Sharon Gapper, and Early Years, Childcare & Play Manager, Claire Smith, to provide feedback on play sufficiency activity**

The Chair introduced the Early Years, Childcare & Play Manager, Claire Smith and Play Sufficiency Officer, Sharon Gapper; the Officers thanked the Council for the invitation to provide feedback on activities and outlining the background on play / play sufficiency and play opportunities.

The Play Sufficiency Officer engaged with children, seeking reflection on play self-experiences, to ascertain how and why children played, to see how much this had changed

and what impacted upon play in order to break down barriers, e.g. weather, strangers and traffic. It was important for children, as part of recreational activities, to play together to support emotional skills and mental activity. Article 31 stated that it was the right of all children to play in the way they wanted, and the Local Authority was keen to ensure that the child play was self-directed.

The Early Years, Childcare & Play Manager said that Welsh Government had placed a statutory measure on local authorities to assess the level of play opportunities in order to try and secure play opportunities for all children living in an area. As part of that measure, there was a duty on the Local Authority to undertake a play sufficiency assessment every three years, which was submitted at the end of March, resulting in a significant amount of work being undertaken.

Councillor S. Trollope joined the meeting at this juncture (6.10 p.m.)

The Manager thereupon outlined the criteria, categories and how the Authority considered a wide range of aspects and said that Blaenau Gwent CBC was relatively successful in this respect. She thereupon briefly outlined the statistics in respect of feedback on the various aspects and said the Action Plan in place was monitored on a quarterly basis to assess progress. The Manager informed Council of the play activity programme being undertaken across the six schools in the Tredegar area and those run by volunteers, e.g. Parents & Toddler group, Bedwellty House.

The BG Officers thereupon responded to observations / questions raised:

- “How could Town Council help?” – by promoting play in the community, speaking to residents regarding opportunities, signposting people and volunteers to the Play Sufficiency Team. If Members were aware of a group in a particular area, Officers would be happy to work with them and Daily Play provided an opportunity to organisations to fund sessions; Officers could provide the details of that programme.
- National Play Day – these had proven an amazing success, engaging with hundreds of families and children, consulting with children and young people on the mental and physical impact of play.
- Members welcomed this fresh approach, which Council was happy to support, and enquired of intergenerational work being undertaken? – the Intergenerational Community Engagement Programme encouraged childcare and play providers to visit residential and care homes, however progress was ongoing, e.g. in partnership with the Youth Service (targeting ten-fourteen year-olds). A review of all Blaenau Gwent play areas had been undertaken with recommendations relating to access, equipment and surfaces, environment and visibility, e.g. impacted upon due to overgrown foliage. This information had been shared with social landlords to ensure they were aware of issues identified and funding was being sought from Welsh Government to improve play areas. It was noted that play areas on some housing estates had been there many years and were poorly maintained and subject to vandalism. The Manager confirmed there were a number of options for consideration following a review being undertaken.
- Grounds maintenance / grass cutting – Members said there were a number of play areas in Tredegar where children / young people could play football, e.g. Upper Dukestown, if appropriately maintained.
- ‘Parc Bryn Bach’ all play equipment items were damaged and in need of renewing – there was no budget held by the Local Authority in respect of this area, being the

responsibility of the Aneurin Leisure Trust. A bid had been submitted to the All Wales Play Opportunity Grant in the last year, Aneurin Leisure Trust may not have considered this area a priority; however, opportunities could be considered for the next year, whereby if there was a need identified, parties could work together to bring this area up to standard. The Local Authority was only able to promote / advocate such work but was not in a position to influence The Trust.

- Play area, rear of Bryn Bach Street / Ashvale – the Play Team were aware of this area.
- Funding – a significant piece of work had been undertaken to look at the budget for play areas to identify shortcomings across Blaenau Gwent in order to secure investment to make major improvements.
- Sirhowy Ironworks – this was overgrown with brambles and, if cleared, could make a big play area. The Manager would be happy to pass on this information. A Member also referred to the imbalance in Tredegar as there was currently no outdoor play area for children in the Sirhowy area.
- Play Friendly Programme – currently five schools across the County Borough were involved and was due to be rolled out in the Waundeg area; the Manager suggested the School Governors could raise this with their respective school.
- Deighton playing field and Sirhowy community garden – the Council had assumed responsibility from the Local Authority for these play areas, provided free of charge to the community, undertaking grass cutting, as appropriate.

A Member enquired if the schools conveyed the access to platforms that schools may have; the Manager said that fund-raising had been carried out through PTAs to purchase play equipment for the pupils of those schools and would not wish the school-ground to be opened up for public use, as the equipment could become damaged. It was suggested that supervised open access sessions, through the Sufficiency Play Team, could be considered.

Members welcomed the excellent work being undertaken, whereupon the Chair extended the thanks of Council to the Officers for attending and sharing this information, which was greatly appreciated.

The Early Years, Childcare & Play Manager and Play Sufficiency Officer thereupon left the meeting.

#### **051) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

- The Mayor has attended the inauguration evening of the Mayor of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, which had proven a great networking evening;
- the Mayor and other Members had represented Town Council on the trip to Orvault and had signed the Charter – the visit by Orvault the following year would be their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The telephone donated by Council was now being used as a library and Orvault has their own Nye Bev Stones in their park; the weathervane would be placed over the next few months, to be located in the area of the existing commemorative bench. A Member said the Twinning French counterpart had made a short film, showing what Orvault looks like and this could be placed on the Town Council website;
- the Mayor thereupon thanked the Deputy Mayor who had stepped in during her absence to attend the Tredegar Horse Show.

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

The Chair of the Events Sub-Committee provided a brief update in respect of the Armed Forces Day and the Bevan Festival, which were both progressing well; he extended thanks of Council to the Clerk for all the hard work undertaken.

The following proposals / expenditure were thereupon recommended to Council for approval:

- Clerk to contact J. Cotton Audio to check availability and, if appropriate, to liaise with 'Top 4' for approval of expenditure.
- Recipient Charity – the Clerk said that Help for Heroes had expressed an interest; however, following a brief discussion Members wanted to support the Royal British Legion, if able to nominate the Tredegar Branch, alternatively a D-Day based organisation.
- Banner parade, vehicle front and back - Clerk to ask Acute Medics to participate
- Theatre Adhoc – offered to perform an extract of the Nye and Jennie play – approved in principal, with Top 4 to ratify, once cost was determined.

A Member supported the thanks of the Chair, also extending thanks to the Chair himself and also the Deputy Leader in respect of the Bevan Festival.

## **053) Grants:**

Thanks from Llangollen International Eisteddfod and Tredegar Horse Show.

### **a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations**

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

2167 (Tredegar) RAF Air Cadets – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase portable radios for the cadets to use for training and when participating in events.  
**2018/19 Oct'18 CQ No. 974 £200.00: Approved accordingly.**

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the costs of their twice-yearly journal and monthly talks held at Bedwellty House.  
**2018/19 May'18 CQ No. 860 £200.00: Approved accordingly.**

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre – Any financial assistance received would be used for them to continue to offer the specialist physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech/language therapy to improve the quality of life of children in Wales.  
**2018/19 April'18 CQ No. 848 £100.00: Approved accordingly.**

Gwent Defibbers – Any financial assistance received would be used to continue to offer basic life support/CPR/Defib training to local schools and organisations.  
**2017/18 Feb'18 CQ No. 811 £200.00: Approved accordingly.**

A Member referred to a scheme that placed defibrillators in telephone boxes in rural areas and suggested this could be a project for future consideration.

Parchment Class – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase supplies and towards the room hire at Tredegar Library.

**2018/19 June'18 CQ No. 885 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.***

Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group – Any financial assistance received would go towards the annual insurance cost for their three buses.

**2018/19 May'18 CQ No. 862 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.***

Tredegar & District Floral Art Society – Any financial assistance received would go towards the workshop they hold in December: tutor and room hire costs

**2011/12 Dec'11 CQ No. 332 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.***

Tredegar Quilting – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase supplies which is used to make baby matinee coats and hats sent to Nevill Hall Hospital. All make decorated muffs for people with dementia and recently started making dog coats for a rescue centre.

**2018/19 June'18 CQ No. 884 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.***

Tredegar RFC Minis and Juniors – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase supplies such as kits / first aid equipment and match fees.

**2018/19 May'18 CQ No. 869 £300.00:**

*Defer – further consideration at a meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee.*

Tredegar St. George's & St. James Mothers' Union – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase stationary supplies, printing etc. and costs incurred to attend festivals in other towns.

**2016/17 April'16 CQ No. 372 £200.00 (St. James Mothers' Union): *Approved accordingly.***

**b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 1.4.17 now max £300.00 (before awarding a grant Council must be satisfied the grant is being given for non-religious purposes with the building being for community use)**

Tredegar Methodist Church – Any financial assistance received would be towards the cost of a new vestry roof and electrical survey.

**2018/19 May'18 CQ No. 866 £300.00: *Approved accordingly.***

Councillor M. Turner left the meeting at this juncture (7.16 p.m.)

## **054) Correspondence**

1) BGCBC

a) A. Tippings: Armed Forces Covenant Newsletter Summer 2019.

- An advertisement that Tredegar Town Council would again be organising Armed Forces Day in Bedwellty Park was outlined on page 2 of the newsletter.

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

- b) i) List of General Licences Applications week ending 17.05.2019.
  - 1) Jai's Pizza – Transfer of a premises licence.
- ii) List of Licencing Applications week ending 24.05.2019
  - 1) Red Lion – Variation of designated premises supervisor.
  - 2) R. Mills – New personal Licence.
- iii) List of General Licences Applications week ending 31.05.2019.
  - 1) L. Morgan – Personal Licence.
  - 2) The Queen Vic (formerly The Loft) – transfer of premise licence.
  - 3) The Queen Vic (formerly The Loft) – Vary designated premises supervisor.
- c) i) Cllr Moore: Email sent to Licensing querying what sort of establishment the Queen Vic will be.
- ii) Licensing: Response to Cllr Moore's query – a change of licence holder only.

- Clarification was needed in respect of information that suggested the venue would be a family centre. Concerns were raised in respect of running this premises on the basis of temporary event notice applications. Members understood the business would be closed for a period of time and it had been suggested the building was to be transferred back to the previous owner.

- 2) One Voice Wales
  - a) Innovative Practice Conference 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 Hafod A Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground. £50.00 per delegate.
    - Clerk to book two places.
  - b) Model Informal Resolution Protocol and survey – in conjunction with Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – to better understand the level of adoption and use of the protocol.
    - Noted.
  - c) Basic on-line learning modules for Councillors to supplement the face to face training they offer.
    - A Member suggested that a future consideration could be to include a Members' page on the TTC website.

- 3) Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
- Proposed motion for OVW conference, asking Council to be the seconder for this proposal.
- Upon a vote being undertaken, whereupon one Member abstained; it was agreed that Tredegar Town Council would second the proposal.
- 4) Armed Forces Covenant Fund
- Confirming application – WWI plaques and War Memorial cleaning - was unsuccessful on this occasion.
- Clerk provided an update accordingly.
- 5) Invoices for approval for payment:
- a) War Memorial Restoration Company: Invoice for completed works and annual service contract.
  - b) Roman Builders: Invoice for completed works.
- The expenditure was ratified and approved accordingly.
- A Member said that she had seen the gold-leafing being undertaken and expressed concern of gold speckling around the letters and suggested this needed monitoring in line with any guarantee attached to this contract.
- 6) R. Sheppard
- Response to Council's reply regarding parking in the Town – ***Forwarded to Cllr Smith***
- It was agreed that the response of the Clerk had been appropriate and the information accurate; therefore, no further response was required in respect of the remarks. Any further correspondence to be passed directly to the Leader.
- 7) Breast Test Wales
- E. Davies Re: Public Toilets. Acknowledging and thanking Council for the response to their complaint.
- Noted.
- 8) B. Peek
- Information on Wales & VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
- To be placed on the agenda of a future Events Sub-Committee, for consideration.
- 9) Brynmawr Town Council
- Confirming details of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- Noted.

- 10) S. Davies                      Nominating a local resident for a community award.
- This item had been removed, as instructed by the Leader.
- 11) RAF Association              Search for volunteers in Gwent and asking for Council's views on how to promote these opportunities on a local level.
- Noted; welcome to attend Armed Forces Day to promote their Association.
- 12) R. Taylor-Davies              TVTCTW meeting with Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism:  
Asking for visitor numbers and also to complete a survey for Visit Wales.
- Noted; Clerk to provide visitor numbers relating to the opening of the Town Clock.

### 13) PUBLICATIONS

BCBC Roadworks report week ending 24.05.2019, 31.05.2019 & 07.06.2019; GAVO Voluntary Voice Spring 2019 Edition – **added to website**; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Your Local Health News April 2019 – **added to website**; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 229 June 2019 – **distributed to Members**: Received.

### 14) AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Council Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – **available for Members**: received.

Councillor G. James left the meeting at this juncture (7.47 p.m.)

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

### 055) Planning:

**a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** None received.

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 19.
- b) List of planning applications received in week 20.
- c) List of planning applications received in week 21.

**b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any** None received.

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



<b>App No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2019/0106	Mr. A. Shinton Natural Resources Forestry Natural Resources Wales	A new road to facilitate the first thinning of spruce, East of woodland, Georgetown.

**No objections**

C/2019/0107	S.A. Brain and Co. Ltd c/o L Slator, Boyer 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Park House Cardiff CF10 3AF	Various works, including crown lift and / or removal of lower branches, deadwood and / or epicormic and basal growth, to 18 trees covered by TPO No. BG26, The Railway Tavern, Dukestown Road, Tredegar.
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**No objections:** however, Council requested that works were monitored to ensure the TPO covering 18 trees was complied with.

C/2019/0110	Mr. P. Jones Hirgan Farm, Penmark, Tredegar	Agricultural farm buildings, Hirgan Farm, Penmark. Tredegar.
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**No objections**

C/2019/0113	Mr. A. Rahman Former Job Centre Coronation Street Tredegar	Change of use from offices to 8-room bed and breakfast, 3-bed residential unit with associated parking provision, internal and external alterations and decking, Former Job Centre.
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**No objections:** Members expressed concerns in respect of the end use, suggesting clarity was needed as H.M.O. required a higher specification. It was highlighted the dining room and kitchen appeared small and therefore did not consider the design / layout of good enough specification.

C/2019/0116	Mr. A. Jenkins Rhyd Developments School House Llanellen	Construction of highway soakaway facility comprising concrete ring chambers buried in clean stone below local ground level and connected by 225mm diameter pipework between chambers and externally fed from adjoining site / highway construction, Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road.
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**No objections**

C/2019/0125	Mr. & Mrs. H. Davies 16 Railway View Tredegar	Reserved Matters: Condition 5 appearance / layout / scale, Plot 7 Pochin Works, Newport Road, Tredegar.
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**No objections**

C/2019/0126	Ms. L. Bennett 33 Dan-y-Darren Llanbradach	Reserved Matters: Condition 5, appearance / layout / scale, Plot 6 Pochin Works, Newport Road, Tredegar.
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***No objections***

C/2019/0127	Mr. & Mrs. P. Skinner Ron Skinner & Sons Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate Tredegar	Construction of new detached dwelling comprising basement level, ground, first and roof space levels as well as detached garage and utility link including new access from highway, parking/turning on plot, landscaping and services, plot adjoining Ty Croeso, Whitworth Terrace.
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***No objections***

**d) To consider other planning matters** – Councillor T. Smith said that he would no longer be able to fulfil the role of Reserve Member for Planning due to Local Authority commitments.

**056) One Voice Wales: Motions for 2019 Annual General Meeting**

**To propose a maximum of two motions - for debate on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 (to be submitted *no later than 12.00 noon on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2019*)**

No motions to be presented on this occasion.

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

- Members noted the fountain was now working, which was excellent;
- A lamp had come loose from the wall in the Council Chamber.

**058) 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** – the Leader provided the following update: Town and Community Council Charter to be re-written; Members of that Committee had liaised with appropriate BG Officers, who had come forward with a number of recommendations, which had been rejected and the document had to be revised, e.g. budget-setting process; Member attendance at site meetings and Planning Committee. Unfortunately, the Officers instructed to undertake this work may not have the best understanding of town and community council processes, however Members would continue to work with the Officers. Future Generations would be introduced into the Charter and, while town and community councils would support these objectives, were not bound by that Act at this stage. Members again reiterated the Charter should be deemed a legal document and adhered to accordingly.

**b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting

**c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting

**d) Tredegar Twinning** – a list of outstanding actions had been noted; a presentation from Bryn Bach Primary, wishing to twin with a French school, had been well-received; work was needed with community groups to encourage involvement with Twining, e.g. golf / football tournament.

**e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – decision to be reached through appropriate process; an application had been submitted in relation to Stocktonville Senior Citizen's hall

**f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary School: extensive work being undertaken to School / grounds; Deighton Primary School: a special assembly had been held on the departure of the former Head, which had been moving, and Lynsey Wangiel would undertake the role of Acting Head.

**g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – work continuing on archive.

**h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting

**i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – No meeting

**j) Tredegar Business Forum** – an emergency meeting had been called, unfortunately, Members had been unable to attend due to a clash of commitments.

**k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – the TA would hopefully open toward the end of the summer; a meeting was scheduled in respect of the top end of Tredegar (Blue lake / Aneurin Bevan stones) in the hope of funding to raise the profile of the area.

#### **059) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Visitors to Tredegar Museum had included the niece of the New Zealand Officer remembered at the T2520 bomber crash memorial, who had been delighted with the way her family had been welcomed by Tredegar Town Council and with the CDs provided by Kevin Phillips.
- A Member provided a brief update in respect of the proposed Indoor Market, with expressions of interest in respect of six / eight stalls; help and guidance was being given by the appropriate Blaenau Gwent Officer in respect of grants, etc.; he had suggested that the Town Mayor could undertake the opening and advised a written invitation should be sent to the Clerk.
- A Member expressed concern at the loss of the Accident & Emergency service at Nevill Hall Hospital, on being transferred to Cwmbran, which would only entail a consultation service Monday to Friday.
- The Lodge, Bedwellty Park – a Member proposed that a Working Party could be established to look at the feasibility of Town Council taking on responsibility of the Lodge and move progress.
- Merchant Navy Day – to be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Events Sub-Committee (Pierre Cornlouer had expressed an interest in leading the service).

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair