

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 6th November, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors D. Jones (Chair)

**T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
G. James
A. Jones
K. Phillips
P. Prosser
H. Trollope
S. Trollope**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Price

230) Apologies. Councillors E. Jones, S. Rees, D. Rowberry J. Thomas, M. Turner and B. Willis

231) Declarations of Interest

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

232) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had attended the presentation evening at Tredegar Comprehensive School and said it was amazing how well pupils were performing, adding 'some of own grandchildren received awards'.

The Mayor had opened the Bee Initiative shop; organised an auction for the Mayoral Appeal, and also held a Golf Day; attended a National Gala Award; attended a Civic Sunday for Nantyglo and Blaina, and suggested perhaps Council should consider holding this event, as it brought the community together. She had visited the Little Theatre to present the grant cheque to Cymru Creations; and also Kidney Wales, who had expressed their thanks for the work undertaken.

The Mayor had presented a grant cheque to the Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir, and had been invited to a coffee morning at Maes-y-Dderwen, Charles Street, adding there were amazing people in the caring industry. The Deputy Mayor had presented the grant cheque for the flower show.

The Mayor had attended the GAVO Awards; the Mayor expressed concern that the other Mayors present had not been in the same position as herself, being seated on a table at the

back of the room; everyone else was at the front, and when the Mayor had needed to get to the stage, she could not.

A Member thought this was deplorable, particularly as TTC sponsored one of the Awards, and a letter should be sent to GAVO requesting an explanation. In response to a comment made, Councillor Tippings, clarified she had been called up as TTC representative on the judging panel; Alyson confirmed she had sat on the judge's table. The Mayor said a representative from Tredegar/County Borough Council had also sat with the lead organiser.

Councillor Tippings clarified that, unfortunately, the event had needed to be taken over 'at the last minute' due to personal circumstances of the lead organiser.

233) Alun Davies, A.M. - to provide an update on the work he is undertaking and inviting any questions of Members

Unfortunately, the Assembly Member had needed to extend his apologies, as he had been delayed at the Senedd.

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations, presented to the Civic Meeting of Council, be approved accordingly:

- No apologies had been received from Mr. N. Jones or reason for absence; therefore, Members considered it would not be appropriate to extend an invite to a future meeting of the Events Sub-Committee, as he had been unable to attend on three separate occasions.
- Saturday, Cairn walk and 11.00 a.m. at Princetown; Sunday, St. George's Service 9.45 for 10.00 a.m., Members had reserved seating at front of Church to the right; Monday 11.00 a.m. shopping centre, followed by commemorative benches 11.30 a.m. / 12.00 noon / 12.30 p.m. Following expressions to tender being sought – expenditure of £90.00 was approved for the transport provision (Cairn walk).
- Christmas Lights – approval of expenditure for the hire of eight gazebos for stallholders.
- Wales and V.E. Day 75 – defer, agenda for next meeting.

235) Vacancy - Georgetown Ward: nomination for consideration

The Clerk confirmed that no request had been received for an election in the Georgetown Ward of Tredegar Town Council and the vacancy could therefore be filled via a co-option. On progressing in accordance with the approved process, one expression of interest had been received from Gerran Walters, who had been selected by the Ward.

A Member thereupon recommended Gerran Walters be approved as the nominated Town Council representative for the Georgetown Ward; upon a vote being undertaken, this was agreed unanimously.

236) Grants:

Thanks received from Ebenezer Independent Chapel, Tredegar Horse Show and Tredegar

Orpheus Choir.

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

Blaenau Gwent Otters Swimming Club for Disabled – Any financial assistance received would be used for the hire of the swimming pool, specialized transport and training courses for the volunteers.

2016/17 Oct'16 CQ No. 463 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.*

Hospice of the Valleys – Any financial assistance received would be used to sponsor their Six Mile Race in April 2020, Bronze Level Sponsorship is £250.00.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 773 £250.00: *Approved accordingly.*

Tredegar RFC (Sports & Social Club) – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase first aid supplies and shorts/socks for the senior players.

2011/12 Feb'12 CQ No. 359 £150.00: *Approved £200.00 accordingly.*

Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

Trefil Rugby Welfare Club – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase a new fridge freezer and redecorating.

2018/19 Sept'18 CQ No. 951 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.*

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

Stocktonville Senior Citizens' Welfare Association – Any financial assistance received would be used for the renewal of taps and pipework in the toilet facilities.

2018/19 Jan'19 CQ No. 032 £200.00: *Approved accordingly.*

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 01.04.2017 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)* – None received.

Council agreed to undertake a review of the grants made to Churches and Chapels; it was therefore agreed that a meeting of the Policy Sub-Committee be convened.

237) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) L. Horner Re: Proposed Integrated Health & Wellbeing Hub. Update on impact on Bedwellty Park.

- Noted.

b) D. Arnold Re: IRP Draft Annual Report 2020/21. Reminder that responses on the consultation need to be submitted by 10.12.2019.

- Noted; agendaed for discussion (Item No. 10).

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

- c) i) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 11.10.2019
 - 1) M J Meats, Dukestown Club – Temporary Street Trading Consent.
 - ii) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 18.10.2019
 - 1) Home Bargains – Variation of a designated premises supervisor.
 - 2) G. McGill – New Personal Licence.
 - iii) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 25.10.2019
 - 1) The Bush Hotel – Temporary event notice 02.11.2019.
 - 2) Top House, Trefil – New Premises Licence.
 - 3) Tredegar Arms – Variation of Designated Premises Supervisor.
 - 4) Railway Tavern - Variation of Designated Premises Supervisor.
 - 5) The Mountain Air – Transfer Premises Licence.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Beyond Cities: resilient local economies and communities 28.11.2019 Merthyr Tydfil conference. **Cost is £79 per person.**
 - Clerk had been asked to ascertain cost. Planning representatives: this could become pertinent in respect of Deighton playing field and Sirhowy village green.
 - b) Welsh Government Guidance Re: Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - **copied for Members**; and
 - c) Planning Consultations: Three consultations released, various closing dates. – **copied for Planning Committee Members.**
 - Noted.
 - d) Everyday Ageism Campaign launching 22.10.2019.
 - Noted; invite to future meeting of Council.
 - e) Chief Planning Officer letter Re: Guidance on securing biodiversity enhancements in development proposals.

- Considered appropriate to Planning authorities; noted accordingly.

f) Presentation to Larger Councils Committee: Deliberative Democracy – **forwarded to representatives & copied for other Members**

- Noted.

3) Xmas Lights:

a) LITE: Costings for the replacement 20 sets of mini LEDs for trees.

- Council approved and ratified the expenditure accordingly.

b) Cllr Smith: Asking LITE for more information as to which trees and highlighting previous year's fault.

- Noted.

4) Cllr Tippings

i) Copy of email sent to Nick Thomas, Gwent Police Re: Trefil. Outlines points raised at Police HQ last Friday.

ii) Copy of email sent to Nick Thomas, Gwent Police Re: off roading in Trefil.

- A Member had joined Chartist walkers over the weekend, and referred to issues with motorcyclists / off-road vehicles. Levels of erosion had vastly increased, partially due to quarry testing works, and the mountain had become churned up. Due to the underlying limestone, the mountainside was rutted. She suggested an urgent meeting was needed with the National Park Authority, BG Countryside / Planning, National Resources Wales, and Council could ask PC Nick Thomas to keep Members updated on any issues. The Member had taken photos of the individuals on the motorcycles.

5) A. Jenkins

Tredegar Gardeners will be disbanding in December 2019.

- Write, extending thanks for the continued support to Council.

6) Tredegar Horse Show

Letter asking for advice about booking of the Recreation Ground. – **forwarded to BGCBC M. Howland.**

- Notify Mr. Walters this was under the remit of BGCBC, cc: Dave Watkins / Executive Member into response. The issue of concern was in relation to an event held in April, as judges would have to be appointed. Members recognised there had been complications however a decision was needed, and Council felt long-term standing commitments should be honoured, as the Horse Show raised the profile of Tredegar.

7) D. Sainsbury

Thanks for grant and asking for advice on where they may be able to access larger amount grants.

- Noted; signpost to GAVO, Huw Lewis.

8) Blaenau Gwent
Heritage Forum

Poster for "The Turn of the Wheel" talk on 14.11.2019 at Bedwellty House – **added to website.**

- A Member highlighted that talks were being poorly attended; therefore, any support would be welcome.

9) South Wales Fire
and
Rescue Service

Email Consultation on proposal for their 2020-21 Plan. Closing date for responses 13.12.2019, link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PRBTKDV>
CLICK TO COMPLETE- **copied for Members**

- Noted.

10) GAVO

Email Integrated Well-being Networks newsletter: September 2019, volume 1, issue 1 – **added to website.**

- Noted.

11) Aneurin Bevan
University
Health Board

Your local health news, November 2019 – **added to website.**

- Noted.

12) S. Seaward

Re: Fireworks display. Thanks to Town Council for their support at last night's event.

- Letter to Mr. Seaward, the event had been well-attended and well organised, and the group should be congratulated; Council wished to thank him personally.

11) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 25.10.2019, 31.10.2019 and 08.11.2019; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 234 November 2019; GAVO Funding News October 2019 – **added to website**
– **distributed to Members:** Received.

12) AGENDA

None received.

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

238) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 41.
b) List of planning applications received in week 42.

b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any**

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2019/0282	Mr A Walker Aneurin Bevan University Health Board c/o Agent RPS Planning & Development Suite 1-2 Park House, Greyfriars Rd, Cardiff	Construction of permanent bat house as part of bat mitigation strategy associated with demolition of existing former Tredegar General Hospital (LPA Ref: 2019/0237).

No objections

The following observations were made: a Member had spoken with Friends of Bedwellty who were unhappy that the toilets were not used, and being converted for bats, as this was a good building. Members recognised, however, that planning conditions insisted the Health Board provide a building for bats in the area, as instructed by the Environment Agency.

C/2019/0291	Mr & Mrs Hayman 5 Vale View Tredegar	Proposed garage, 5 Vale View.
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No objections

C/2019/0288	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board c/o Agent RPS Planning & Development Mr. A. Walker Park House Greyfriars Road	Prior notification of intention to remove a sycamore tree and a group of trees (including fruit tree, sycamore, whitebeam and ash) within a conservation area, land to the rear of Tredegar General Hospital.
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No objections

d) **To consider other planning matters** - None received.

239) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Annual Report February 2020

To receive any comments of Members in respect of the draft report (Section 13: Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils)

The Clerk spoke to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, highlighting any significant changes and salient points for consideration / requiring approval:

Section 13. Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils

- Tredegar Town Council remained in Group B - Income of Expenditure in 2019 / 2020 of £30,000 - £199,999
- 13.4 highlighted 'It is important to note that a person who follows this path is in a different position to those in other forms of activity, for example such as volunteering or charitable work, ...'
- 13.8 Council was reminded that 'An individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual matter. A community or town council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer to do so.' The Clerk said that the RFO had devised a proforma, which was circulated to all elected Members, which merely required a signature if anyone wished to waive payment.
- 13.10 'It is inappropriate for councils or councillors to create a climate, or otherwise pressurise others, in order to prevent persons accessing any monies to which they are entitled...'

Determination 42: All Community and Town Councils must make available a payment to each of their Members of £150.00 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

- 13.13 'The Panel continues to mandate a payment of £150 as a contribution to costs...'
13.14 'Receipts are not required for these payments.'

Determination 44: Community and Town Councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £500.00 each to up to five Members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment for costs and expenses –

Council noted the option to agree up to five Members, but approved payment to the Leader only within Tredegar Town Council, at this time. However, it was emphasised that senior roles and allowances were agendaed on an annual basis for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of Council.

Determination 45: Community and Town Councils can make payments to each of their Members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances.

Determination 46: If a Community or Town Council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its Members at the maximum rates set out on the basis of receipted claims.

Determination 47: Community and Town Councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their Members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties.

Determination 48: All Community and Town Councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403.00 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by Members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

Determination 49: Community and Town Councils can provide a payment to the Mayor or Chair of the Council up to a maximum of £1,500.00. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment for costs and expenses and the £500.00 senior salary if these are claimed.

Determination 50: Community and Town Councils can provide a payment to the Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair of the Council up to a maximum of £500.00. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment for costs and expenses and the £500.00 senior salary if these are claimed.

Town Council noted and agreed the Determinations (No. 42, 44, 45-50 inclusive), to be considered at the Annual General Meeting for approval of requirements pertinent to Tredegar Town Council as an individual community / town council.

The Clerk highlighted the following points, which explained why the IRPW wished a decision to be made whilst the report was under consideration:

- 13.32 'Where a decision is required by the Council, this should be done at the first meeting following receipt of the Annual Report.'
- 13.33 'A Council can adopt any, or all, of the non-mandated determinations but if it does make such a decision, it must apply to all its' Members.'

Following the Annual General Meeting of Council, Members would make an individual decision in respect of: 'All Members are eligible to be paid the £150.00 as set out in Determination 42 from the start of the financial year...'

The Clerk explained that the RFO had previously presented a report in respect of the following (highlighted by IRPW in point 13.38):

- When the payment is actually made to the Member;
- How many payments the total amount payable is broken into;
- Whether and how to recover any payments made to a Member who leaves their role during the financial year.

Determination 51: Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any Community or Town Council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care.

The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales was thereupon noted, and the appropriate Determinations agreed accordingly.

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

- Council highlighted how well Council and Aneurin Leisure staff worked together, staff were very generous in offering their time to help Council.
- Clerk to liaise with Dave Watkins (BGCBC), re: mats to prevent slipping, for the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.

241) 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
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – meeting of 18th November cancelled
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – not allowed to disclose information at this time; Council could be informed in due course
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Council was informed of the retirement of the caretaker, who would receive a long-term service Award; it was suggested that Mr. Woolley could be invited to the next presentation evening of Council
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Wednesdays, Tredegar Library
- h) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting
- i) **Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – No meeting
- j) **Tredegar Business Forum** – TTC representatives had attended the Forum meeting and received a presentation from Dave Ware, BGCBC, who provided positive feedback that, if Brexit was delayed, BG could submit a bid to European Funding for Tredegar by 31st October, 2019. The proposal would be to provide free Wi-Fi throughout the town centre for three years. Other concerns outlined; disabled parking, Precinct – markings faded; supported by the Valleys Fight Back Group, and suggested a Joint Facebook site to come together with the Business Forum, possibly forming a Chamber of Trade; the stance of street lighting in the town centre - shopkeepers complained of how dark the main street was, referring to a robbery last week. A Member had contacted the Head of Service for street lighting and could confirm the Local Authority were placing all new LED lighting throughout Castle Street, as it was noted that Precinct was in darkness before shops had closed – letter to BG.
- k) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – it was pleasing to note that, one of the funding recipients, the owners of the T.A. property had signed off the work; Members of Town Council had been invited to the official opening and said the refurbishment was exceptional. Members felt this raised the profile of the town centre and expressed their pride; celebrities and local businesses had also attended. One challenge in respect of the grant, when looking at funding, the group had wanted money to be invested well and Members considered that monies had been well spent and congratulated the standard of

workmanship, which enhanced the town centre profile.

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

- Unauthorised stationing of a caravan at the rear of the Museum / Library at The Circle, Tredegar: the windows were now smashed, BG Environmental Health asked to pursue, the Leader had spoken to BGCBC asking could it be moved; however, the appropriate Officer was currently on holiday, and also spoken to the Legal Officer to see if the caravan could be removed.
- Cllr Kevin Phillips thanked all Members who had attended the film Premier 'Stationary Bike, which had been a successful, well-attended event, with dignitaries such as the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff in attendance, and there had been a waiting list for seats. This was only the second such production in the UK, and was already up for Awards. A Member commended the group and said she felt it was wonderful, how the young people have come on.
- Tredegar had received enough money to establish a 3G pitch by the Comprehensive School, working with Aneurin Leisure and Blaenau Gwent; with a view to a 4G pitch by 2022. Council considered, to meet required criteria, there was a need for dug-outs and a Stand was required; a Member confirmed it was proposed for provision of a 100-seater for the playing of both football and hockey.
- Council was informed of the sad news, that former Officer of BGCBC, Phil Hackling, had passed away.
- Remembrance Parade: Clerk to liaise with Dave Watkins, BGCBC, expressing disappointment with non-attendance, Also, as the RBL would not have capacity, if the Local Authority was not undertaking organising Remembrance event then who would be taking up responsibility, as was the case for Ebbw Vale events. Council said this could be presented as an Item Agenda for discussion at a meeting of the Joint Councils. The Leader clarified that some of the town/community councils considered this a 'Civic event', and therefore should be subject for discussion by all town and community councils.
- Glanhwy Block: A Member informed Council that the yard had been extended, and expressed thanks to everyone for helping the children.
- Tredegar Quiz Wizards: Clerk to enquire if a poster was available to promote these events.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

_____ Chair