

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 5th February, 2020 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Price**

349) Apologies. **Councillor D.W.A. Howells**

350) Declarations of Interest

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

351) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had attended the following events: Kidz R Us production of 'Body Love' at Venue 1, which addressed issues in respect of body dysmorphia, that had been a great success; the Mayor had won a number of raffle prizes and performed well in the quiz, and won at bingo – the prizes would be re-raffed for her Mayoral Appeal; she had attended the official opening of the Sirhowy Community Centre.

352) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party held prior to this meeting

It was agreed that the following Calendar of Events be approved and ongoing actions accepted accordingly.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Monday	9 March 2020	Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth	Council Chamber, Bedwellty House
Friday – Sunday	8 – 10 May 2020	Wales and V.E. Day 75 Celebrations	Various
Sunday	31 May 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	7 June 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	14 June 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	21 June 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	28 June 2020	Armed Forces Day	Bedwellty Park
	28 June - 5 July 2020	The Bevan Festival	Various
	5 July 2020	Aneurin Bevan Day	Bedwellty Park
	12 July 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	19 July 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	26 July 2019	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
	2 August 2020	Summer Band Concert	Bedwellty Park
Thursday	3 September 2020	Merchant Navy Day 'Fly the Red Ensign'	Bedwellty Park
Saturday	5 September 2020	Open Doors event: Opening of Town Clock	The Circle, Tredegar
Saturday	7 November 2020	Cairn Walk, Trefil	Bomber crash site, Trefil
Sunday	8 November 2020	Remembrance Sunday	Service, St. George's Church Followed by parade to War Memorial, Bedwellty Park; and, Burma Shrine service
Wednesday	11 November 2020	WWI Memorial Benches	Commercial Street, Peacehaven and Sirhowy Community Garden
Friday	27 November 2020	Christmas Lights Switch-on	Town Clock, The Circle
Wednesday	9 & 10 December 2020	80 th Anniversary celebrations: Service and commemorative walk	T2520 Memorial site, Trefil
Thursday	24 December 2020	Mayor's Christmas visits	Residential / Care Homes

353) Grants:

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

Tredegar Community Band – **Requesting consideration as a Special Grant**

Any financial assistance received would be used for the repair / refurbishment of the 30+ instruments donated to them by Abertysswg Band who have disbanded.

2018/19 Dec'18 CQ No. 5017 £350.00 (Includes Special Grant of £200): Following due consideration, it was agreed that a Special Grant of £500.00 be approved accordingly.

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

(Remains a grey area with regards to legality of financial support to religious buildings / activities.)

Church of Immaculate Conception – Any financial assistance received would be towards the maintenance and general upkeep.

2018/19 March'19 CQ No. 777 £300.00: Approved accordingly, on the proviso that any funding awarded be used for non-religious activities.

354) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) D. Watkins Re: Tredegar Horse Show. Will chase up with club and advise accordingly.

- Noted; if no response received, Clerk to follow-up with Officer.

b) A.E. Tippings, Blaenau Gwent Reach: free workshops at Aberbeeg Community Centre. Open invite to 2nd launch on Saturday, 8th February, 2020, 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

- Noted; forward to Councillors E. Jones and M. Turner.

c) M. Perry Re: Station Road, Nantybwhch: Confirming, in response to the complaint received via T.T. Council's Facebook page, there will be a gang attending today.

- Noted; the Leader said this matter was for information only, as he had liaised with the appropriate Officer, who he thanked for the quick response.

2) One Voice Wales

Gwent Valleys Area Committee: Copy of presentation from meeting 21.01.2020 and other contact details.

- Noted; to be forwarded to those Members expressing an interest (i.e. EJ/SR/MT/KP/TS/JT).

- 3) Wales Audit Office Press Release: Accounts qualified at a third of Town & Community Councils. Financial Management and Governance – Community and Town Councils 2018-2019 report – ***Thematic Review: 2019-2020 Records of Meetings***
- Noted.
- 4) Cllr T. Smith Reporting fault on Clock again – ***Reported to Smith of Derby 05.02.2020.***
- Noted.
- 5) Deighton Primary Request for a class visit to the Clock week commencing 24.02.2020.
- Noted; Members would be happy to support a School visit, on the proviso that the required number of staff, in ratio to pupils, attended. Also, it should be pointed out that the School staff / volunteers would need to lift the children in and out of the Clock doorway, not elected Members.
- 6) C. Rundle Contact details for the RBL Band of Wales.
- Noted; Council was happy to support the Royal British Legion and instructed the Clerk to liaise to ascertain the details for any upcoming performances.

7) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 31.01.2020 & 07.02.2020; Communicorp Local Councils update Issue 236, January / February 2020 – ***distributed to Members:*** Received.

8) AGENDA

None received.

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

355) Planning:

- a) i) **To consider an Officer's Report (if received):** None received.
 - ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 02.
 - b) List of planning applications received in week 03.
- b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any**
- c) **To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations**

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2020/0016	Mr. C. Jaynes Fulford Ashville	Install flexible cable brace to lime tree (T1 on plan / T5 on TPO BG121), reduce its crown by up to 5 metres (30%), and re-pollard - 2x horse chestnut trees at previous point of pollard (T4 and T5 on plan / T1 and T6 on TPO BG121), Fulford House, Ashville.

No objections

C/2020/0019	Mrs. K. Waldron Waldron Commercials Ltd. 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate Tredegar	Change of use from haulage yard to light vehicle garage (car repairs), Glyn Garage, Glyn Terrace.
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Observations: Members raised the following concerns: when the landowner had vacated the site, he had received compensation to relocate to better premises. Therefore, applications should no longer be considered for commercial enterprise in this location. Council therefore sought clarity as to the legality in respect of this, as former landowner(s) (possibly two) had been compensated to vacate and relocate, and issues had previously been raised on a monthly basis, with residents objecting to development; therefore, how could this land be used for such a purpose. Also, a Member pointed out that the Authority were trying to occupy vacant units on industrial estates in Blaenau Gwent.

Finally, this would be an ideal location for residential development and Members were aware that a former Councillor had acquired permission for a housing development on this land.

It was noted that, although the site was not currently in use, an application for 'change of use' would be needed, prior to any alternative form of development.

C/2020/0028	Mr. T. Jukes 32 Maes-y-Garreg Ebbw Vale	Side and rear extension and external alterations, 25 Meadow Crescent, Tredegar.
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No objections

C/2020/0031	Mr. & Mrs. M. Lewis Rosedale 12 Glanhowy Street Tredegar	Two-storey side extension with single storey rear extension and covered front canopy porch area, Rosedale, 12 Glanhowy Street.
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No objections

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

C/2020/0033	Pci Pharma Services Ltd. c/o Mr. E. Lewis Scitech Tuscan House Ground Floor	Three-storey lab block, external stairs, associated canopies and link to the existing building, 23-24 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar.
	Beck Court Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff	

Observations:

Members expressed concern in respect of parking provision to the premises, as works were currently being undertaken to the rear. A Member referred to a similar application that had been submitted several years ago, which had extended the building to vast proportions, without apparent consideration to appropriate parking facilities. This then created other problems, with 70% of the traffic through the Waundeg area, which should be travelling through the Industrial Estate, and also vehicles parking along the length of road. As part of any such development, parking should be taken into consideration when extending the premises and undertaken in a sympathetic manner.

d) To consider other planning matters. Members referred to a café in The Circle, whose owners had been advised that a planning application was needed to change the use of the premises back to a café. As this has always been used as a café historically, Members instructed the Clerk to seek clarification on the situation as to when this use of the building had ceased to exist.

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

A Member said that he had raised at a previous meeting for Parc Bryn Bach to be included under this agenda heading, as Council should be able to discuss maintenance issues at this location that impacted upon the Sirhowy Ward, e.g. flooding to Ashvale. Another Member said that he had been given to understand this had been caused due to a grid issue, which had now been ordered and therefore, hopefully, the matter had now been resolved.

357) 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 – Councillors T. Smith and D. Howells had attended but had found the meeting disappointing, as the Chief Finance Officer had appeared reluctant to comment, at that time, on questions raised in respect of the budget.

b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – No meeting.

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

d) Tredegar Twinning – the Mayor had attended whereupon discussion had ensued regarding the Intercontinental meeting. The ladies had offered to take on responsibility for providing a ‘finger’ buffet at the Moose following the meeting and had made a request

for funding of £500.00 to undertake this. A Member suggested that, in the interest of fairness and transparency, the Association could therefore submit the appropriate grant application form for consideration.

Following due consideration, and taking into consideration funds awarded over previous years for the Mayor's Reception, Council would recommend to award £300.00 to cover expenses.

A request had also been made for the opening of the Town Clock for visitors, prior to the reception at The Moose; however, this would be dependent upon the scheduled works to the Town Clock, which were due to commence late March.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – the next deadline was March.

f) School Governing Bodies – Categorisation for all Schools based in Blaenau Gwent 'Tredegar' cluster: Deighton Primary had gone from Green to Yellow, however this could be due to a slight period of transition whilst welcoming a new Deputy Head. Bryn Bach Governors had received an interesting presentation regarding ALM and had been re-categorised from Amber to Yellow. Glanhwy Primary had been categorised as Green for the third year and had been recognised for the highest attendance in Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar Comprehensive was awarded Green for the fourth year.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – ten lectures to be undertaken relating to towns and villages throughout Blaenau Gwent – one in Bedwellty House on Thursday; a trip had been arranged for Llancaiach Fawr, St. Henydd and Gelli Gaer; publications were selling really well, with the next one due very soon; the Forum had established a new Facebook page.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting.

i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – Tredegar County Borough Members were to meet with the Inspector on Tuesday and would again advise that Town Council delegates were not being involved in the Panel.

j) Tredegar Business Forum – the last meeting had been held at the Little Theatre; thanks were offered to Kevin Phillips for opening the premises, and the Forum hoped to hold the next meeting at Seren Café, as it had been agreed to rotate the meetings at various venues. There appeared to be a slight segregation in the group with a separation by those located at the bottom end of the town. The Deputy Mayor and a few other Members had attended the opening of a new business in Market Street – if any business had matters relating to HR, this new business owner could undertake them. It was thereupon suggested that the RFO could undertake a review of the current payroll provider to evidence best value.

k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – official opening of the TA and Sirhowy Community Centre; update on the NCB, which was progressing well and also 10 The Circle. Officers continued to consider a plan for the northern end, i.e. the shopping precinct and redeveloping Commercial Street; a bid was being submitted for further projects, e.g. old Punch House, the bank at Morgan Street and next door to Martin's, with further plans to refurbish under the THI, such as Cymru Creations and BR Codes Heritage Centre.

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

- Discussion ensued regarding the extremely poor condition of the public noticeboards throughout Tredegar town; only two of the five were currently useable (opposite the town centre walkway and the one adjacent to Fresh Active located in the shopping precinct). The noticeboard at the bus stop, Lidl's, was unlocked / unsecure and Members expressed concern this could prove a risk to pedestrians, particularly children, as the front window panel could cause injury. Members again stressed the importance of properly maintaining these noticeboards, which were regularly used to promote local businesses and events within Tredegar. Councillor A.E. Tippings had been pursuing this issue within her Local

Authority role; however, it was agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to Blaenau Gwent CBC supporting the need for action in refurbishing the notice boards. It was suggested that TTC could take over responsibility for the noticeboards and invite local businesses to provide sponsorship for the maintenance; however, Councillor Tippings advised that the Local Authority currently maintained a Blaenau Gwent network of noticeboards and, therefore, perhaps Tredegar's were not deemed a priority and she provided a brief outline of conditions in each town.

A Member suggested that TTC could place their own noticeboards in better locations or request an asset transfer for those owned by Blaenau Gwent. It was therefore suggested this matter be referred to the appropriate Sub-Committee for consideration.

- THIS-IS Film – the nominated Member had liaised with the gentleman and confirmed the fee was negotiable and town / community councils had funded their own project in different ways, e.g. request to Members' Halfpenny Rate, partial funding by local shops and businesses, etc. Therefore, the Blaenau Gwent Film Academy may be able to contribute a percentage towards the cost by operating workshops.
- Concerns were raised in respect of a variety of highway issues – walls knocked down and signs damaged to roundabouts, lampposts damaged and not replaced, with Blaenau Gwent not pursuing individuals for reimbursement of damages caused.
Information had been passed to the Police in respect of two serious incidents, however the Member had been disappointed by the response, having provided photographic and video evidence of 4x4 vehicles in the Trefil area.
- It was with deep sadness that Council was informed of the passing of Reverend Alan Watkins of Bethel Baptist Church – condolences were extended to his family.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

_____ Chair