

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 17th February, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: **Councillors T. Smith (Chair)**
 A.E. Tippings
 D.W.A. Howells
 G. James
 K. Phillips
 J. Thomas
 M. Turner
 G. Walters
 B. Willis

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Price**
 RFO – Ms. A. Edwards

190) Apologies. Councillors E. Jones, D. Jones, M. Cross, A. Jones, P. Prosser, S. Rees, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope and S. Trollope

191) Declarations of Interest

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

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

It was agreed that the following recommendation of the Policy Sub-Committee be approved:

- The review of all policies placed before the Policy Sub-Committee, as reported by Officers, be unanimously recommended for approval to the next full meeting of Council, subject to the agreed amendments, i.e.
 - Convene a Civic Sub-Committee to develop a Policy, with appropriate criteria, in respect of grants to individuals
 - Approve updated grant application form for churches and chapels
 - Agreed to stipulate a three-year period in respect of agreed transfer of monies
 - Remove contractors names in respect of public conveniences
 - Approve addition of preferred supplier in respect of stationery

193) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2021

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view on request.

- **Grounds Maintenance SLA** – the Clerk confirmed that the Local Authority had applied a discount for the reduced amount of grass-cutting undertaken, due to the restrictions imposed over the past year.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. The RFO asked that the four signatories liaise in respect of signing of the cheques for payment and the transfer of funds, as approved by Council, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member (remotely) and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

194) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 6th January, 2021**
- b) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 13th January, 2021**
- c) **Civic Meeting of Council - 13th January, 2021**
- d) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 20th January, 2021**
- e) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20th January, 2021**

** Welsh-medium Primary School; contact Corporate Director of Education to ascertain if feedback at meeting could be used as Town Council's formal response to the Consultation*

It was agreed that, for points of accuracy only, all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

195) Chair to sign Minutes - at earliest opportunity in accordance with WG Legislation and Guidance

To be duly signed by the Chair, adhering to safety regulations and relevant restrictions, at the earliest opportunity – Chair to liaise accordingly.

196) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) K. Williams Re: Covid grant application for the public conveniences – need approval to apply as Council will need to part-fund if application successful.
 - RFO to liaise with BG Officer to clarify eligible items; Members suggested toilet seats, stainless steel dispensers and push top / lever-type taps.

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

- b) List of Licensing Applications, week ending 05.02.2021.
 - Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Review of the Remuneration Framework for

Community and Town Councils. Looking for expressions of interests from Councils to participate in the process of review, response required by 1st March, 2021.

- Noted; RFO to seek clarity and liaise with Senior Members.

b) Keep Wales Safe Campaign: Contact details for campaign materials.

- Noted; add to TTC website.

c) My Constructive Conversations course in March aimed at school governors, scrutiny councillors, independent members of housing and health boards and anyone in a non-executive role for a charity or public body. Academi Wales will fund places for those who are interested. Register interest by 22.02.2021.

- Noted; forward to Councillors T. Smith, A.E. Tippings and J. Thomas.

3) Aneurin Bevan
University
Health Board

a) S. Squire Re: Health & Wellbeing Centre, Tredegar. Response from Judith Paget to concerns raised by Members.

- A Member said that only residents of Park Row had been notified, not Market Street.

Another Member raised concern in respect of ongoing issues with the Highways Division, and numerous requests for a site meeting to be convened, having been told his attitude was considered abrasive. He asked that those Members in their dual role as County Borough Councillors raise the concerns with the Local Authority in respect of traffic calming measures.

A Member responded that he would liaise with the lead Officer for Highways; however, this was a one-way street and he could not see how any vehicular access could be prevented on such a public highway, as long as there were no weight limit restrictions in place.

b) V. Price Re: Tredegar Health and Wellbeing Centre Residents' Group. Asking for topics and confirmation of one of their proposed meeting dates.

- Noted; either date was suitable for Members and it was suggested that the issues in respect of highways / traffic calming be proposed, providing an opportunity to enquire of changes to the development without consultation and also a general update as to whether the development remained on course.

A Member had been informed by a BG Officer that demolition works were near completion and the time capsule, as previously discussed in Council, had been found. The capsule had not been opened but was being stored with ABUHB; the Member would relay this information to Councillor Phillip Prosser accordingly.

4) G. Adams
Construction

Tredegar Town Clock: Case study and documents provided by Damon Delaney, who is the Crown Paints Key Account for the area. Clock Lights: can inspect these this week, will need access so asking for this to be arranged please.

- Noted; agreed Leader and Deputy Leader.

The Leader thereupon provided an update on the meeting with the Contractor, attended by Councillor D. Jones and himself, in respect of the points raised by Council, i.e.

- 5% increase; this was due to substantial increased costs in respect of materials and cost levied by sub-contractors.
- Experience of work on Listed Buildings; various examples provided.
- Explored possibility of utilising industrial paint; no details available in respect of cost of paint – Contractor to report back.
- Assurance of Member-involvement in respect of specialist advice received.
- Unable to make full assessment of what would be required in reinstating Rooster until scaffolding in place.

- Electrician to inspect lighting provision to ascertain in replacement lighting was needed or able to repair existing.
- Scheduled to commence 21st March, 2021.

It had proven a productive meeting in clearing up the points Members had raised.

The Deputy Leader asked the Clerk to check information on file to provide any documents in respect of the colour / finish of paints used on the previous repainting.

The Clerk thereupon referred to the 5% increase in respect of the overall contract sum, which was unanimously agreed by Council.

5) Integrated Wellbeing Network

- a) BG tackling digital exclusion projects. Asking if there are any projects looking to tackle digital exclusion?
 - Noted; forward to Councillor K. Phillips.
- b) K. Cross: Community wellbeing taking things forward. Looking for members who will participate in an online discussion regarding impact of Covid and concerns on returning to some sort of normality (March session).
 - Noted; forward via email to Members.

6) **PUBLICATIONS**

IWN Community food and nutrition course and bilingual calendar celebrating LGBTQ+ history; One Voice Wales Eden Project Virtual Community Camp March 2021; BGCBC, D. Arnold Re: BG Age Friendly Consultation event 22.02.2021 flyer – added to website and Twitter; ABUHB Future of Primary Healthcare in Wales survey - added to Twitter; RFCA Women into Employment, Officers Association: Online event 10.03.2021 aimed at addressing the challenges faced by female Service leavers; IWN Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Friends Newsletter: Deadline for articles 1st April; ABUHB Vaccination Update, issue 5 – added to website and Twitter
 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

7) **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.

197) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 05.

b) List of planning applications received in week 06.

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/2021/0024	Ms. M. Rowson-Woods Coalfields Regeneration Trust Aneurin Bevan House 40 Castle Street Tredegar	Hand-painted fascia signage and swing sign, 10 The Circle
No objections		
C/2021/0025	H. & P. Bevan 2 Maes Morgan Tredegar	Renewal of planning permission C/2010/0292 to construct a five-bedroom detached house with integral garage at land formerly 4 Pit Houses, off Thomas Ellis Way, Tredegar.
No objections		

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

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

- Vandalism – Members referred to the reckless vandalism throughout Tredegar by a vehicle of green spaces, roundabouts and the mountainside. There had been reports of two boys leaving the area to avoid apprehension however the vehicle had been recovered and confiscated by Police.
- Open Section of Good Practice – a Member referred to a positive scheme reported under 'good practice; at a recent meeting of the Larger Councils; Clerk to pursue to ascertain further information.
- Clerk to send card on behalf of Mayor and Members extending best wishes of Council to Councillor Haydn Trollope.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chair