

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 6th July, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors **G. Evans (Chair)**
K. Phillips
A.E. Tippings
M. Turner
G. Badham
A. Davies
A. Jones
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
C. Walters
G. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne
RFO – Ms. A. Edwards

**086) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.
(Chain of Office and Consort's Chain to be handed over.)**

The Chain of Office was presented to the Mayor, and flowers and the Consort's Chain to the incoming Mayoress: Mayor received the acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

**087) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2023.
(Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.)**

A Member proposed that Councillor Kevin Phillips be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor; this nomination was duly seconded.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Kevin Phillips was unanimously elected to the role of Deputy Mayor: Deputy Mayor received the Chain and acceptance of Office, which was duly signed in the presence of Council.

088) Apologies. Councillors P. Cornlouer, E. Jones, B. Rees and K. Waldron

089) Declarations of Interest

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

090) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor welcomed everyone to his inauguration; it was an honour and a privilege to be elected to the role as Mayor of Tredegar town, he extended thanks to his wife for being Lady Mayoress: he promised to carry out the role to the best of his ability with due diligence. He thanked all fellow Councillors for being elected and special thanks to his friend, Jacqueline Thomas. Jacquee told him where to go and when, as the Member had done it all before, and he would have looked like a 'lost sheep', but Jacquee pointed the Mayor in the right direction. Two other ladies he wished to thank, the Town Clerk - Clare and Finance Officer – Annette, without their help and information / advice, he would not be able to do the job Council expected him to do.

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

It was agreed the following recommendations be approved accordingly.

▪ Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 29th June, 2022

- Blachere Illuminations be approved as the successful contractor to undertake the Christmas lighting display on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.
- The success of the Kickstart Placement Scheme was noted; it was agreed that Council support the Local Authority in expressing an interest to participate in any apprenticeship programme undertaken.
- It was agreed that
the extension of hours of the RFO, currently at twenty-two hours per week, be maintained and the Contract of Employment be amended accordingly;
the staffing appraisal would be undertaken with staff; and
a review of the existing Contracts of Employment be undertaken: appropriate Members to sit down with staff / Union representation initially to commence negotiations; report back to the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee for deliberation, and a formal recommendation to Council.

092) Grants:

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

(under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

St. John Ambulance Cymru – Any financial assistance received would be used towards purchasing tools for the maintenance of the grounds at Tredegar Division and used towards associated costs of offering first aid in the community.

2019/20 March'20 CQ No. 997 £500.00 (cheque remained uncashed and was written back in following financial year)

- £500.00 *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.

093) Correspondence

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

1) BGCBC

- a) S. Berry Re: Blaenau Gwent Standards Committee Nominations. Confirming appointment of Cllr Roger Clark as the Town Council Member.

- Noted.

- b) i) List of applications received, week ending 10.06.2022.

1. Temporary Event Notice, supply of alcohol 18th June 6.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. – Dukestown Workingmen's Club

2. Temporary Event Notice, supply of alcohol 17th June 6.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. – Dukestown Workingmen's Club

3. Temporary Event Notice, supply of alcohol 16th June 12.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. – Dukestown Workingmen's Club

- ii) List of applications received, week ending 17.06.2022.

1. Transfer premise licence – Cefn Golau Store, 95 Attlee Way.

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

2. Temporary street trading consent for Family Fun Day 25.06.2022 – land adjacent to Walter Conway Avenue.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) National Forest for Wales funding announcement, expressions of interest to be submitted by 15.07.2022 - **July meeting (fwd to all Members)**

- b) Launch of Assets Collaboration Programme Wales Phase 3 grant scheme.

- c) Introduction letter from the Local Places for Nature Officer, Rachel Carter.

- Noted; invite to be extended to the Local Places for Nature Officer to attend a future meeting of Council.

3) Finance & Governance Toolkit for Community and Town Councils.

- a) Welsh Government: Letter from the Minister for Finance & Local Government extending thanks to all groups who have worked on creating the toolkit.
- b) One Voice Wales: The Finance and Governance Toolkit for community and town councils - **forwarded to all Members**

- Noted; a Member asked the RFO to review the document and report back to Council.

4) Cllr K. Phillips

Asking if a condolence letter can be sent to Ryan Probert's mother.

- Ryan had been a long-term volunteer and an accomplished, skilful actor in his early thirties, and the loss of life was tragic; Ryan was a lovely lad and a letter to his mother would be greatly appreciated: agreed, Clerk to write.

5) War Memorial Restoration Co.

First visit completed 27.05.2022, next visit due July / August and again in October / early November.

- The Clerk provided a maintenance update, which was noted accordingly.

6) Threshold

G. Hughes Re: Free Summer events. Details of proposed Summer programme they hope to roll out, available to any organisations who have a venue where it can be held.

- Noted: Clerk to forward to Councillors K. Phillips, D. Rowberry and H. Trollope, to liaise with each community hub in their area.

7) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 24.06.2022; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting 20.06.2022 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; Age Matters quarterly newsletter, Summer 2022; J. Parkers Wholesale catalogue Autumn 2022; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 08.07.2022; Natural Resources Wales Resilient Communities Programme Grant open, closing date 19.09.2022; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 263: June 2022; ABCHC Patient's Voice News Bulletin Spring 2022, Issue 45 – **distributed to Members**: Received.

8) **AGENDA**

None received.

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

094) To agree a Mayor's Allowance, not exceeding £500.00, and authorise payment; and, Approve the Mayoral Civic budget of £815.00.

This was agreed unanimously: Mayor to liaise with the RFO in respect of payment arrangements.

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

095) To agree a Leader's Allowance, not exceeding £500.00, and authorise payment.

The Leader wished to decline payment, as she was in full-time employment and would not wish such a payment to cause any confusion; however, it was not her intention that this should impact on the decision of future Leaders, nor the Mayor whose role differed to that of the Leader, being mainly administrative.

This was agreed unanimously.

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

096) Planning:

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

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 24

b) List of planning applications received in week 25

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/2022/0171	Gryphonn Quarries Ltd. c/o. Boyer Third Floor, Park House Greyfriars Road Cardiff	Extension to Trefil Quarry for mineral working comprising limestone extraction and future restoration, open land north of existing Trefil Quarry.

Observations: A Member suggested that, as this was a substantial application, she would respectfully ask that a written report be compiled, to be fed back to next Council; it was agreed that the Leader undertake the report. Following discussion, it was proposed that the feedback arising from the report be forwarded not only to Blaenau Gwent CBC but the Brecon Beacons NPA, as the quarry and surrounding area was in their remit also.

A Member had attempted to view the planning application electronically but had been denied access to the site, which had been blocked: Clerk to clarify with the Local Authority as the application should be within the public domain. Also, in respect of concerns raised, it was agreed that Council ask the Local Authority to check that existing planning conditions relating to the Trefil Quarry were being adhered to.

C/2022/0177 Mr. Dallimore Two storey side extension and front & rear Dormers, 18 Bush Bach.
18 Bush Bach
No objections Tredegar

C/2022/0185 Mrs. S. Humphries Proposed terrace of three properties with associated car parking and external works, land between 12A Queen Victoria Street and Springfield Cottage.
24 McLaren Cottages
Abertysswg
Rhydney

Observations:

Visibility splays of 2.4m x 43m was noted under section 7.0 'Highways' – a Member sought clarity as to where that opening would be placed due to a safety aspect, with parking currently on one side, as introducing double yellow lines would make the situation worse with residents being unable to park.

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

097) 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, scheduled 12th July, 2022.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – French delegates would be visiting in October and the Association was looking for hosts to accommodate the visitors; it was suggested that the Twinning write to Members to ascertain interest, including former Members who had expressed an interest previously.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – No meeting.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: the School Governors' meeting was to be held the following week, the School had struggled due to a significant number of staff being absent due to Covid. Deighton Primary: staff and pupils had visited Scotland, all had a great time and the pupil behaviour had been commended. St. Joseph's Primary: the School had recently produced a brilliant report.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – working with the Museum to develop a book featuring chapels in Tredegar: ongoing.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting.
- i) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No meeting. A Member queried progress in respect of the Town Hall: a tender exercise had been undertaken and was going through the protocol, with a view to looking to start work as soon as possible. Initially, on being offered for tender, no interest had been forthcoming and the contract retendered, as unfortunately the original construction company had ceased trading.

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

There were no matters of interest or concern received.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.37 p.m.

Chair