

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 5th October, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors G. Evans (Chair)**
 K. Phillips
 A.E. Tippings
 E. Jones
 B. Rees
 D. Rowberry
 J. Thomas
 K. Waldron
 C. Walters
 G. Walters

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

141) Apologies. **Councillors M. Turner, G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, P. Prosser and
 H. Trollope**

142) Declarations of Interest

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

143) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had visited Horeb Chapel with Colleagues to join celebrations in respect of the Harvest Festival; this had been a very good service' proving very interesting and he had enjoyed it – he had also met a young gentleman, Cameron Hudd. He had the pleasure of meeting the participants of #3DadsWalking – unfortunately, the gentlemen had become lost on Trefil and arrived slightly later than anticipated at 6.00 p.m., this section from Talgarth had proven a long and arduous journey. This was a tremendous achievement by these gentlemen and the Mayor had very much welcomed their arrival.

The Leader extended thanks to everyone who had provided support at short notice – the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Leader, also Councillors Jacqueline Thomas and Bethan Rees – providing a really nice contingent of Town Councillors. Food and drink had been provided for the gentlemen in the Cambrian Inn and the staff had been outstanding in the level of hospitality shown, and at the Tredegar Arms Hotel also. The Leader briefly outlined the background to the charity, highlighting that Members were encouraged to sign the online petition and said that a petition was also being submitted to the Senydd; and she was sure that Tredegar Town Council would do all they could to support this cause as a council.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to both public houses and Council wanted to wish the 'Dads' well in their endeavours. Finally, at the conclusion of the walk, the local M.P. was making arrangements to meet the gentlemen on their arrival at Parliament.

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

It was agreed that the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee meetings held prior to Council be approved:

▪ **Events Sub-Committee - Wednesday, 5th October, 2021**

AFD - £200.00 to be awarded to 'Hounds for Heroes'

ABD - £100.00 to be awarded to the Mayor's Appeal

Expenditure approved in respect of the Remembrance events

Expenditure approved in respect of the Christmas Lights switch-on activities for services and licences / Orders.

Expenditure approved in respect of the Mayor's Christmas visits

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

a) **Civic Meeting of Council - 6th July, 2022**

b) **Defibrillator Working Party - 20th July, 2022**

c) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 20th July, 2022**

d) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20th July, 2022**

e) **Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 24th August, 2022**

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

146) 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)

Bedwellty Park Bowls Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of a glasses washer which will assist them as the demand for use of the pavilion for larger social events has increased.

2021/22 Oct'21 CQ No. 205 £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.*

147) Correspondence

*Councillors K. Phillips * and D. Rowberry declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

1) BGCBC

i) List of applications received, week ending 09.09.2022.

ii) List of applications received, week ending 16.09.2022.

iii) List of applications received, week ending 23.09.2022.

*1. Temporary Event Notice 30.09.2022 – Little Theatre **

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) The importance of Community & Town Councils in creating resilient spaces for nature, online 27.10.2022. Book a free place.
 - Noted; forward to Cllr A.E. Tippings.
 - b) SLCC & OVW Joint virtual conference 09.11.2022, £45.00 + VAT per delegate.
 - Noted; agreed, Clerk to book two places.
 - c) Welsh Government North & South Wales workshop events. Provisional date 7th December for South Wales, details to follow.
 - Noted.
 - d) Information on defibrillator purchases.
 - The Leader had participated in the OVW development group but had not received any recent information; therefore an update was needed.
 - e) Ramblers: Our paths our future campaign. Request for people to sign the pledge.
 - Noted; forward to all online Members.
- 3) Gwent Police
- i) Re: Police issues. Concerns have been passed to the Chief Constable who will respond directly to Council. Commissioner would like to attend a meeting to discuss general policing and well-being matters.
 - ii) Inspector M. Edwards Re: Police issues in Tredegar. Response to Members' concerns.
 - Noted; agreed that an invite be extended for the Chief Constable to attend together with the Commissioner.

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

- 4) Cllr A.E. Tippings
- Trefil Harvest and Flower Festival: Request for Council to consider sponsoring a £40.00 display, all proceeds will be split between Save the Children's Fund and Tredegar Mayor's Appeal.

Declared an interest in the above.

- It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £40.00 be awarded.

5) Boundaries
Commission for
Wales

Community Review Guidance.

- Noted; forward to all online Members.

6) Woodland Trust

Update on Tree Charter.

- Noted; forward to all online Members and to the Sirhowy Woodlands.

7) RFCA

Defence Silver Employer Recognition Scheme Award 2023 workshop.

- Noted.

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

8) S. Arnold

Wales In Bloom Outstanding Award for Sirhowy Woodlands.

- Noted; agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent.

9) Nantyglo & Blaina
Town Council

Poster for Wales and the Battle of Britain Historical Exhibition 10-14.10.2022 – **Twitter**

- Noted.

10) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 09.09.2022 and 23.09.2022; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting Monday, 10th October at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 07.10.2022; GAVO - Request from BGCBC for community assistance integrating Ukrainian families; IWN Talk Money week 7th – 11th November, 2022 and Anti-Slavery Day 18.10.2022; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 266 October 2022 – **distributed to Members**: Received.

11) AGENDA

None received.

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

148) Planning:

- i) To consider an Officer's Report (if received) None received.
- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 36

b) List of planning applications received in week 38

c) List of planning applications received in week 39

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/2022/0252	Mr. N. Kemp Jaxon Electrical Services Ltd. Ysguborwen	Proposed 'lean to' extension to house and existing steel container for storage in association with the business – Jaxon Electrical Services Ltd., Ysguborwen.
No objections.		
C/2022/0255	Mr. W. Walters Yr-Hen-Becws Merthyr Road Tredegar	TPO, larch x 3 - fell, sycamore - pollard, larch – crown - Hafod Wen, Merthyr Road, Tredegar.
No objections.		
C/2022/0257	Mrs. E. Hughes New House St. James Close Tredegar	TPO. Acer x 2, crown raise, crown reduction, crown clean and target pruning, New House, St. James Close.
No objections.		
C/2022/0259	Mrs. C. Nicholas 3 Salem Cottages Charles Street Tredegar	Two storey and single storey rear extension - 3 Salem Cottages.
No objections.		
C/2022/0263	Mr. P. Evans Matchflat Planning Abbey Farm Abbey Road, Ewenny	Detached dwelling and garage - land off Marian Close.
No objections; considered a significant development, adding to that area.		
C/2022/0265	Mr. I. Morris 1 Crossbrook Trefil	To retain the development of new house as built, renovation of existing outbuilding into garage with room above and replacement parking - 1 Crossbrook, Trefil.
No objections; would improve the area.		
C/2022/0275	Mr. D. Hughes Overlook House Georgetown	Reserved Matters Condition 4 Details of the siting, appearance and scale of all the individual

Tredegar

dwelling shall be submitted to / approve in writing by LPA before any works relating to the construction of such dwelling are commenced. All works subsequently implemented shall be completed in full in accordance with such details as may be approved before the dwellings to which they relate are occupied. Plot 8 Former Pochin Works Site, Newport Road.

No objections; benefit the area.

C/2022/0278 Mr. G. Shala New shop front, 42 Commercial
5 Laburnum Lane Street.
Trefechan
Merthyr Tydfil

No objections; however, noted the proposal changed the front elevation from traditional to all glass to ground-level.

C/2022/0281 Mr. O. Palo Change of use of ground floor to
Flat 3, 113 High Street takeaway(A3) and new windows
Merthyr Tydfil to front elevation, 44 Commercial
Street.

Observations; a number of Members considered this development would result in a saturation of this business type. Also, generally takeaway establishments opened during the evening and, therefore, the shutters would be down whilst other retail premises were open, thus detracting from the appearance of the town. It was acknowledged that a more diverse cross-section of business-type was needed to support vibrant retail, e.g. delicatessen, bakery, zero waste, etc. A Member highlighted, however, there was limited interest on what type of shops currently seemed to be attracted to the Tredegar area.

d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

149) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park / Parc Bryn Bach - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management / Aneurin Leisure personally

- None received.

150) 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** – Meeting to be held the following week
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – Meeting to be held Monday; extra visitors coming from France, who had to be accommodated in B&B accommodation, if any Members unable to host would like to take time during the day to escort the guests to take them to the evening soiree / TTC event, to get in touch with Kim (Twinning), Alyson or Ellen. The InterCommittee meeting would be at 10.30 a.m. in the Chamber on Saturday, 29th October, 2022, with the Mayor hosting an event immediately following, for our French friends, at 11.30 a.m.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Meeting to be held the following week
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: a Town Council representative was needed on the Governing Body, anyone interested should contact the Clerk. Georgetown Primary: inspection undertaken however the report would not be published until forty working days, the AGM had been cancelled and was reconvened for Monday.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – Meeting to be held Monday, previously cancelled
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting
- i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – No meeting
- j) Tredegar Business Forum** – No meeting
- k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – No meeting

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

- Recycling – the concern related to the Newvale site, however, this had now been resolved.
- Tredegar Gateway feature – the wall at this gateway feature on the Crown roundabout had been demolished for many years; the Town Council had previously reported this concern to the Local Authority on numerous occasions: Clerk to write and follow up; and, also propose as agenda item for the next meeting of Joint Councils.
- Town Centre walkway – the walkway was in disrepair; it was acknowledged that the Business Forum had provided and maintained planters and the TC contractual operative undertook a litterpick in this area. Clerk to write to BGCBC.
- Public Conveniences – the issue of additional named keyholders remained; Clerk to write to all Councillors.
- Queen’s Commemoration – Proclamation service – a Member expressed concern that the timing of the event had been arranged to accommodate the Assembly Member, rather than Tredegar Councillors; it was felt there would have been a better contingent of Town Members if the event had been held early evening and the Member expressed her disappointment. The Leader said the matter had been discussed with the Deputy Leader and Clerk and she had suggested there was a need for the Proclamation reading to be undertaken in Welsh; therefore the A.M. had been invited to undertake this. Councillors said there was other Welsh speakers residing in the Tredegar area that could have been invited to undertake the reading on behalf of Council and the commitments of Town Councillors should have been considered for Members to attend.
- Cattle – there was a large herd of Highland cows grazing in the river area at the lower end of Tredegar / Bedwellty Pits. Pedestrians / walkers were being forced to choose another route due to these animals blocking the pathway. The Member enquired if the owner could legally leave these animals to graze in this area, deterring users and leaving an absolute mess on the pathway. Following discussion, it was agreed that the

Clerk write to BGCBC.

- Awards Presentation Evenings – pre-Covid, Council generally held two ceremony evenings per year to recognise exceptional contribution in the community, achievements and Grants. It was agreed that the Clerk liaise with Aneurin Leisure to ascertain availability to proceed with arrangements accordingly.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.14 p.m.

_____ Chair