

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
Wednesday, 19th October, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors G. Evans (Chair)**
 K. Phillips
 A.E. Tippings
 M. Turner
 P. Cornlouer
 A. Jones
 E. Jones
 P. Prosser
 D. Rowberry

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

159) Apologies Councillors G. Badham, A. Davies, B. Rees, J. Thomas, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron, C. Walters and G. Walters

The Mayor informed Council of the loss of the wife of John Mantle, who had sadly passed away. A Member said it was with great sadness that she heard of the passing of John's wife, our gardener of the Town Clock for as long as she could remember, the Member was aware that John's wife had been seriously ill for about a year. Tim, Council's operative, and the Member had undertaken the planting of bulbs to the Town Clock surround due to John's commitments.

The thoughts of Council were with John and family at this time. It was agreed that the Clerk send a letter of condolence.

Also, the Member referred to the tragic passing of Chris Campbell; who had been known to Council over the past four / five years. Chris had been a member of WAWI, the group was originally from Midlands, as its main base, but had relocated to Cwmbran, becoming engaged with the community locally. Chris was a lead member of Race Equality for Wales, and a leading light in promoting 'Black history' and he had been passionate about Aneurin Bevan; his sudden passing had been a shock to all who knew him. Thoughts and prayers were with his family.

Another Member supported these comments; Chris had been a larger than life character, with an uplifting personality. He had formed a part of the Queen's Award Voluntary Service and was a very nice person. His passing was certainly tragic.

Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect.

160) Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

- **Performance Review Sub-Committee - Wednesday, 19th October, 2021**
To seek approval of the report in respect of the Budget against Actual to 30th September, 2022 and the Recommendation contained therein;
To amend Financial Regulations Public Conveniences Point 8.2; and
Mayor's Board Nameplate: Deputy Leader to liaise with supplier and feedback accordingly.

162) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in October 2022, with ratification of payments made in September 2022 (Schedule circulated to all Members)

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view upon request, which was noted accordingly.

- British Gas – this was fixed term for a three-year period; the RFO had undertaken an exercise to ascertain interest of alternative providers but there was an issue with the Clock being unmetered.
- Public toilets – there was an issue with the lights being on 24/7; it was agreed that the lighting be looked at to consider placing a motion sensor.
- Michael Foot / Aneurin Bevan / Peter Morgan-Jones Prizes – the pupils names were not in the public domain until being awarded.
- Blachere Illuminations – the third payment would be made on dismantling of the display.

The September Schedule was ratified accordingly and the Schedule of Accounts for October was approved for payment. The RFO requested that the designated signatories contact the office in respect of signing cheques for payment.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds, as approved by Council, would be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

163) To consider draft Annual Report - April 2021 to March 2022 and Training Plan

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Report - April 2021 to March 2022 and Training Plan; the Clerk sought the feedback of Members, whereupon the following observations were noted and accepted accordingly.

- *P2 Paragraph 3 – remove the four named groups in case any have been left out.*
- *P3 replace 'constituency' with community*
- *P7 Council aims – add new bullet point in respect of sustainability such as 'To deliver activities in a sustainable way and encourage sustainable practices throughout our community.'*

- *P8 Assets and services – adding Allotments here? Also, I think the Oliver Jones Photo collection should be added and the bust of Nye Bevan, bust and painting of Lord Tredegar and all the paintings / photos displayed in the Council Chamber?*
- *Training Plan – review in respect of consideration of cost*

It was agreed that the draft Annual Report and Training Plan be accepted with all Members' comments incorporated accordingly.

Council expressed appreciation to the Clerk for the work undertaken in producing the Annual Report, considering the document was to the point, not 'too wordy', and easily digestible.

164) School Governing Bodies

Members to contact the Clerk in respect of the current vacancy on the Governing Bodies of Bryn Bach Primary and St. Joseph RC Primary Schools. Councillors G. Badham, D. Rowberry and A.E. Tippings were already representatives on this School's Governing Body; therefore, a Town Council representative was needed.

The Chair had attended the Governors' meeting for St. Joseph's RC Primary School; at that meeting, the Governors had dealt with the advert in respect of the role of the Deputy Head, whereupon teaching / school staff representatives had been asked to leave the meeting. The Chair said that he had not considered the information being divulged as sub-judicial and therefore disagreed, as a member of that Governing Body, with this action. When representatives received the report, it was not marked private and / or confidential, but the Governors were then asked to hand the report back; County Borough Members present supported this request under the Data Protection Act.

The Chair had concerns as to how this process had been undertaken and had, therefore, stood down as a Governor on the School Governing Body; therefore, there was now a vacancy for a Town Council representative.

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

a) Civic Meeting of Council - 7th September, 2022

N.B. Ordinary Meeting of Council cancelled in recognition of mourning period and as a mark of respect of HM Queen Elizabeth II

It was agreed that the Minutes presented be moved as a true record.

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

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Chair in the presence of Council.

167) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) Quickstart Blaenau Gwent support job placements: seeking interest from businesses as to whether they would consider taking part.

- Further investigation was needed, Members considered an apprenticeship would prove more beneficial to Council, in order to providing training and retention of staff to ensure a continued level of experience.

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

- b) i) List of applications received, week ending 07.10.2022.
 - ii) List of applications received, week ending 14.10.2022.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper, consultation responses by 10.01.2023.
 - Noted; forward to all Members.
 - b) Well-being of Future Generations Stakeholder Forum: Report published at <https://gov.wales/wellbeing-wales-2022>
 - Noted; forward to all Members.
 - c) Sustainable Farming Scheme Outline Proposals for 2025, consultation closes 31.10.2022.
 - Noted.
- 3) Cllr C. Cuss
- Invite to Memorial Service at Princetown Memorial Garden, Saturday 12th November at 11.00 a.m.
- Noted; the Mayor, HT and PC to attend.
All Members were encouraged to make every effort to attend the Remembrance events as representatives of Tredegar Town Council.
- 4) Deighton Primary School
- L Hillman Re: Visit to Town Clock, asking if a visit / tour of the Clock could be arranged.
- Noted; agreed in principal on receipt of further information.
- 5) IWN
- Help us shape the Well-being Plan for Gwent, survey closes 31.12.2022.
- Noted; forward to all Members.

- 6) Cllr Turner Civic nomination forms
- Agreed: those nominees who had been previous recipients of an award from Council to be sent a letter of congratulations. The remaining nominees were agreed and an invitation would be extended to attend the next Award Presentation evening.
- 7) Gwent Police Re: Safer Streets. Offer of 100 free SmartWater Packs, needs address to send them to.
- Agreed.
- ** Urgent Correspondence Queen's Commemoration laying of flowers – letters of apology for removal of tributes.
- Noted.

8) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 21.10.2022; OVW, Royal British Legion's new grant scheme for veterans and their families; OVW, Local Government and Housing Committee has published its report on community assets, <https://senedd.wales/media/1w2fvmna/cr-ld15392-e.pdf>
 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

9) AGENDA

None received.

168) Planning:

a) i) To consider an Officer's Report: None received

ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 40

b) List of planning applications received in week 41

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2022/0280	Gryphonn Quarries Ltd. Trefil Quarry Trefil Road, Trefil	Proposed amendment of Conditions 2, 17 & 22 of Planning Permission 94/0369 to facilitate deepening of Trefil Quarry.

Defer; request sight of covering letter, if not received: agreed: due to the comprehensive volume of the application, consideration was deferred to the next meeting of Council to allow Members time to form the appropriate response

C/2022/0283	Mr. T. Williams 1 Highfield Close Tredegar.	Outline application for 1 dwelling with parking provision and vehicle access from road, Plot 6 Maes Morgan, Nantybawch.
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No objections

C/2022/0289	Mr. M. Stone BGCBC	Proposed ramp, Glanhowy Primary School
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No objections

d) To consider other planning matters - a Member said that residents wishing to view the documentation in respect of Twyn Glas Farm had to travel to Ebbw Vale and such consultation should be accessible in the Tredegar area. A Member confirmed that the documentation was available in Tredegar Library; it was noted this should be included on any publications.

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

- Light up Town Clock 'Purple' Domestic Abuse Day - Phoenix Domestic Abuse Services 20th anniversary of the organisation 21st / 22nd November: Agreed.
- Local Places for Nature – apply for an Orchard Package for the Deighton playing field.
- Milefield update: ongoing as an ‘Action arising’ – awaiting an update from the Deputy Leader.
- ‘Shades’ Tredegar; Open Day on Saturday, 26th November, 2022 starting 12.00 noon, when staff, ex-employees and customers have been invited to join her for a celebration with drinks and canapés.
- Children’s International Film Festival of Wales – thanks to everyone for supporting the Film Festival, approximately 100 children had participated in watching the films; the Mayor had attended and presented a prize; who said it had been a wonderful event.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

_____ Chair