

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 16th November, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors **G. Evans (Chair)**
K. Phillips
A.E. Tippings
M. Turner
G. Badham
P Cornlouer
A. Jones
E. Jones
B. Rees
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
K. Waldron
G. Walters

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

189) Apologies Councillors A. Davies, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, and C. Walters

190) Declarations of Interest

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

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

No Sub-Committee or Working Party meetings had been held prior to Council.

192) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2022

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 – estimated, as no invoice received to date, and could be reduced due to ongoing discussions with Government in relation to businesses. This could be received over the next few weeks and the RFO sought approval for payment to be delegated to Senior Members should an urgent payment be required.
- A B Technical Services – the works had been carried out and figure supplied by Leader at that meeting, as email issue.

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; the RFO requested that the designated signatories contact the office in respect of transfer for payment.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 5th October, 2022
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 5th October, 2022
- c) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 19th October, 2022
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th October, 2022

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

194) 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.

195) National Salary Award 2022 / 2023

(N.B. Agreed rates of pay applicable from 1st April, 2022)

Consideration was given to the National Association of Local Councils' new pay scales for 2022 / 2023; the Clerk referred to the proposed pay scales, to be implemented and backdated from 1st April, 2022, reporting on the information received from the NALC.

It was unanimously agreed that Council support the implementation of the new NALC pay scales, to be backdated to 1st April, 2022.

196) Public Conveniences

A Member suggested Council pursue the need for a contribution from Blaenau Gwent CBC for the public toilets, and also requested that County Borough Members raise the matter with the Local Authority, seeking a better settlement for amenities in Tredegar.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the appropriate Officer, and copy to the Leader of the Local Authority, and liaise with Senior Members to progress.

197) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) K. Williams Re: Town Centre walkway. No funding at present, awaiting on a funding application made to Welsh Government and if successful then this area will be considered.
 - Noted.
 - b) List of applications received, week ending 28.10.2022.
 - Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales Bullying and harassment in Councils: new guidance.
- Noted; Clerk to check if current policies required updating.
- 3) Torfaen County Borough Council Re: 2022 Actuarial Valuation results.
- 1) Employer Contributions for next three years commencing 01.04.2023, no annual surplus payment and minimum Employer Contribution rate, as decreased to 15.2%.
 - 2) Extending an offer to all town / community councils to join an alternative proposal being considered by the Pension Fund, "pooled rate" scheme. Employer Contribution will be provisionally set at 23% (assuming 100% take up by councils, will vary depending on take up) and could prove advantageous to the vast majority. Aim is to manage volatility in contribution rates between each triennial valuation exercise and to smooth out the effects of costly, but relatively rare, events such as ill-health or death in service.
 - 3) Funding Strategy Statement: Draft copy included, comments invited by 23.12.2022.
- Noted; seek advice of One Voice Wales and re-agenda for next meeting.
- 4) Welsh Government Re: Preparation & Publication of Statutory Financial Accounts for 2021-22. No amendments to Regulations in regard to changing statutory deadlines, should seek to achieve publication of final audited accounts by 31st January, 2023.
- Noted.
- 5) King Charles Thank you for Council's condolences.
- Noted.

- 6) War Memorial:
- a) War Memorial Restoration Co. Final maintenance visit completed for current contract: Offering a new annual contract £2,094.00.
 - b) Monday 14.11.2022 TTC staff noticed one of the marble strips has been knocked off and needs refixing. **Request approval to proceed with a repair, Council to express whether to contact the above company or seek local stone mason.**
 - Noted; request costings for one and three year contracts with a reduction to two visits per year, ascertain comparative costs of other companies and resubmit to next available meeting.

7) Cllr Tippings

Re: Town Clock, Request from Sean Seaward to place large banners for Wales in the World Cup on the Clock fence for a few days before they leave for Qatar.

- Noted; the Leader had received a request for the placing of banners on the Town Clock but this had been withdrawn; a Member said that he had concerns as to where the flags would have been placed, bearing in mind the Town Clock had 'Listed status' and Council had previously prevented things being stuck to the Town Clock and surrounding structure.

The Leader confirmed that she had purchased some Welsh flags, as previously agreed, for Town Council events.

8) GAVO

Invitation: GAVO annual general meeting 2021 / 2022 on Tuesday 22.11.2022 at Llanhilleth Miners Institute commencing 1.00 p.m., register by 18.11.2022.

- Noted.

10) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 11.11.2022; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct November 2022 Issue 144; War Memorials Trust Bulletin Number 95 November 2022; ABCHC Patient's Voice News Bulletin October 2022 issue 47; IWN "Get there together" app trial. National project support people living with dementia, creates and curates short films to help reduce anxiety and isolation. Looking for people/carers living with dementia to install and test the App on mobile devices – **distributed to Members**: Received.

10) AGENDA

None received.

198) Planning:

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

ii) **List of planning applications:**

a) List of planning applications received in week 44

b) List of planning applications received in week 45

b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any**

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2022/0308	Mrs. J. Newcombe Pen Ay Byd Trefil	Erect 4 bedroom detached property, Plot 3 Charles Street.
	No objections	
C/2022/0309	Mr. M. Worton Davies Homes 7 Gelliwastad Road Pontypridd	Residential development (approx. 77 properties) and associated works, land to the south of Fair View, Ashvale.

Observations: *this was a significant development in the region of Dizzy Kidz and, while Council would generally welcome such a development, it was agreed that the application be DEFERRED to allow Ward Members sufficient time to consider the application.*

C/2022/0314	Mr. T. Ward Ward Homes Ltd 62 Oakland Drive Ledbury	Change of use of first floor retail area and second floor store area into 3 flats, 95 Queen Victoria Street.
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No objections. Disappointing loss of another business in town centre; however, the Member was informed the change was to the upper floors only and the ground floor remained for retail use.

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

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

- Auxiliary aid – a Member referred to the incident at the Remembrance event when the Welsh Ambulance service had been called; he said a chair was needed for emergency use to transport the person to the emergency vehicle and a basic first aid kit for medical support. Another Member confirmed the House had an evac chair for public use in the event of an emergency. A Member thereupon provided a brief update in respect of the individual.
Following a brief discussion, as to why the paramedic car had been told to stand down, it

was agreed that the Clerk write seeking an explanation.

A Member referred to all the armistice events held, which had been well-attended, extending thanks to everyone who had joined Council, especially Reverend Matt Davis, the RBL and the Veterans' Group.

It was noted that the Princetown Memorial had been well-attended by the elected Members for Tredegar; however, there had only been one Councillor present in respect of the Caerphilly area.

- Awards Presentation Ceremony – Members to be seated at each table; providing an opportunity for all Members to be involved; each Councillor would come up with the recipient on being presented with an award. This would be a good way to promote local Councillors to the public for them to see what Council did on their behalf.
- Christmas lights, Town Clock – a Member expressed disappointment regarding the Christmas lighting at The Circle; suggesting that the canopy brought together the display, and was concerned that the lighting strings attached to the corners of the Clock could be damaged, as these were low enough for individuals to swing on.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

_____ Chair