

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)  
G. Evans  
A.E. Tippings  
M. Turner  
A. Jones  
D. Rowberry  
J. Thomas  
H. Trollope

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

**330) Apologies.** Councillors G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, E. Jones, P. Prosser, B. Rees, S. Trollope, K. Waldron, C. Walters and G. Walters

### **331) Declarations of Interest**

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

### **332) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

None received.

### **333) To receive the verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party held prior to this meeting of Council:**

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

- **King Charles III Coronation weekend**

TTC to provide 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes in respect of the window-dressing competition; If TTC were purchasing the bunting, it was agreed that £100.00 be split equitably to decorate the Clock with 'the Welsh flag', Union Jack and Coronation-themed bunting; A commemorative gift be purchased for each Primary School pupil: Clerk to investigate and liaise with Senior Members for approval of expenditure in order to progress.

- **Armed Forces Day**

Kidz R Us one-hour performance payment of £150.00: expenditure agreed accordingly; AFD Poster competition (Winner, Highly Commended and Commended): agreed to invite all schools - Primary and Comprehensive - to participate; St. John Ambulance – medical cover: expenditure approved.

- **The Bevan Festival / Aneurin Bevan Day**

St. John Ambulance – medical cover for Aneurin Bevan Day: expenditure approved;  
Proceeds from the stalls and displays to be given to the Mayor's Appeal 2023 / 2024.

### **334) 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)**

Tredegar Angling Club – Any financial assistance received would be used for the running of the Fishing Club.

**2022/23 June'22 CQ No.326 £200.00 – *Approved accordingly***

Tredegar Miners' Heritage Group – Any financial assistance received would be used for the ongoing project, restoration and siting of Memorial Gates with the purchase and fitting of memorial plaques.

**2019/20 March'20 CQ No.010 £100.00**

*Local groups had been invited to sponsor a plaque at a cost of £100.00; it was proposed that the full grant of £200.00 be awarded to include provision, however, of a plaque on behalf of Tredegar Town Council – **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)**

### **Agenda Item No. 5b – Churches & Chapels (s.137) to consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels**

Tredegar Methodist Church – Any financial assistance received would be used towards overall running costs, due to a need for urgent fundraising following the renewing of their boiler and associated works.

**2022/23 November'22 CQ No. 399 £300.00 – *Approved accordingly***

### **335) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report February 2023**

#### **To receive report to take effect during the financial year 2023 / 2024**

The Clerk spoke to the Final Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, highlighting any changes and salient points for consideration, to be agreed by town and community councils.

Council noted all options in relation to allowances / payment for Members; observing that Senior roles and allowances were agendaed on an annual basis for ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council.

The Clerk highlighted there were no further changes to the payments and benefits paid to Elected Members; therefore, all other Determinations from 2022 / 2023 remained and should be applied for 2023 / 2024.

Council noted and agreed:

- Determination 4: Contribution to costs and expenses of Members of Community and Town Councils, subject to ratification at the Annual Meeting for approval of requirements pertinent to Tredegar Town Council as an individual community / town council; and
- The level of payments, as set out in Table 2 'Payments to Community and Town Councils'.

### **336) Vacancy: Central & West Ward**

Council noted the vacancy in the Central & West Ward, whereupon:

It was agreed that the Clerk undertake the necessary process in contacting Blaenau Gwent to advise that there was a vacancy within the Council, with a view to either an election or co-option, as appropriate.

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk in dealing with the matter.

### 337) Correspondence

#### 1) BGCBC

- a) K. Rees Re: Highway concerns. Response to traffic issues throughout Tredegar.
- b) K. Rees Re: Parkville. Response to traffic issues and suggestion of a one-way system. **(Fwd to AET)**

- Members noted the responses, expressing concern however that relevant parties, such as the Local Authority and Police, appeared disinterested in parking enforcement and there were areas of serious concern, e.g. in the vicinity of the Surgery, top of Market Street and on the corner by Barclays Bank.

A Member confirmed that kerbside parking was a Police issue and a site meeting had been arranged to meet with the Inspector and Neighbourhood Team. Unfortunately, powers had been removed from PCSOs, who were now unable to issue parking tickets, with parking attendants visiting the area only once / twice per week. It was noted that when parking attendants were in the area, the issuing of tickets appeared selective, as not every offender of kerbside parking received a ticket.

A Member had spoken with the Warden in respect of kerbside parking and received an unsatisfactory response. She also said that, in respect of parking on footpaths, an email from Gwent Police confirmed this practice was not illegal if there was room for pedestrians to pass on either side of the vehicle.

The Chair supported this concern, as he had noted a number of vehicles parked in the bus bays at The Circle and the only individual booked was a Blue Badge holder.

It was therefore proposed that the appropriate BGCBC Highways Officer be invited to attend a meeting of Council to provide a brief explanation in order for Members to have a fuller understanding.

- c) A. Phillips Re: Easter Events, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. Asking if the toilets will be open on that date.
  - The Leader asked that staff check with Sparkle the allocation of Bank Holidays in respect of their employee. Clerk to respond to confirm the toilets would be open.

*Councillor D. Rowberry declared an interest in 'Licensing' and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

- d) List of applications received, week ending 17.03.2023.
  - b) List of applications received, week ending 24.03.2023.
  - i) Temporary Event Notice 08.04.2023 – A. Bendle, car park Gwent Shopping Centre
    - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Consultation: Penn Review response (Local Authority Ethical Standards Framework and Code of Conduct)
  - b) Written Statement on Electoral Reform
    - Noted; forward to all Members.
  - c) New Grants for Coedtiroedd Bach to create Tiny Forests.
    - Noted; forward to Cllr A.E. Tippings.
- 3) Tai Calon
- Re: Waundeg. Response to queries raised.
- A Member said this was a more positive response than that received when Local Authority Members had met with the Executive / Board. While Members welcomed the provision of housing, concerns had been raised in respect of parking in the vicinity along a busy road, whereby motorists did not adhere to the 20 mph speed limit.
- Noted; forward to Cllr D. Rowberry.
- 4) Donations requests:
- a) Ty Hafan: Thanks for donation.
    - Noted; a Member referred to their development and asked if Members were able to, please support the organisation.

b) MacMillian Cancer Support: Asking for consideration of a donation towards their services.

- Noted; a donation of £100.00 was unanimously approved.

c) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod: Asking Council to consider a donation towards this year's event.

- Noted; a donation of £100.00 was unanimously approved.

5) South Wales Fire & Rescue

Published Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

- Noted.

## 6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 24.03.2023 & 31.03.2023; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum, Agenda for Meeting Monday 20.03.2023 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 07.04.2023; IWN Poster for Parc Bryn Bach Work Hubs and Food & Climate event; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 271: April 2023 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

### 338) Planning:

a) 1) List of planning applications received in week 11.

2) List of planning applications received in week 12.

3) List of planning applications received in week 13.

b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations - None received

c) To consider other planning matters – a Member brought Members' attention to the Planning Application for the demolition of The Willows Club, Church Street, which was due for consideration by the BGCBC Planning Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, with a recommendation for approval.

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

- The wellbeing work hubs at Parc Bryn Bach were now available; one hub for the public to use free of charge and one utilised for meetings.

### **340) 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** – Physical meetings were now reintroduced, with the next at the Royal Welsh showground, Builth Wells; unfortunately, the Mayor would be unable to attend and had already submitted apologies.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – The visit to Orvault would be 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June; Bedwellty House had offered to make space outside the Council Chamber to place the sheep gifted to Town Council from Orvault, which was agreed accordingly.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Meeting in two weeks, the next deadline would be 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: in respect of the position of Headteacher, the School was hoping to have some permanency; the Leader highlighted that the current TTC representative had not yet attended meetings, with no apologies received, and she would therefore ascertain if the Member wished / was able to continue with the role of School Governor.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – The Forum provided talks on the second Thursday of each month.
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting.
- i) Tredegar Business Forum** – Discussion had taken place in respect of the following: floral beds, Tyron's retirement on 7<sup>th</sup> April, Forum to present a cake that was an amazing design (a 'pile of produce'); looking for volunteers to plant 'planters', ask that Tim undertake the watering, Top House was a sponsor and M. Cross offered to plant; Police were in attendance, with various discussions in respect of the town; Classic Car Show, seeking help with stewarding, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023, looking for support in respect of the Road Closure and for an ambulance to link up with NHS celebrations; discussion with Town Centre Manager in respect of bunting.  
In respect of weeding the planting boxes, a Member said there was an arrangement for volunteers to take the 'inners' to Sirhowy Woodlands to help with the planting, hopefully with a view to reducing the need for weeding.
- j) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – Now reconstituted as a new group, with no formal representation for Tredegar Town Council, it was noted that Members attended meetings outside the Town Council remit.

### **341) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- For information – the RFO would light the Town Clock 'blue' on behalf of Council on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 for World Parkinson's Day.
- Easter: it was agreed that the office be closed on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, with appropriate notification of closure displayed in the public domain.
- Annual Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023: a decision was needed to ascertain if Council wished to reinstate inviting guests and provide refreshments following the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair