

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
Wednesday, 17th May, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
A. Jones
E. Jones
B. Rees
D. Rowberry
K. Waldron
C. Walters
G. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

026) Apologies. Councillors G. Evans, G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, P. Prosser, J. Thomas, H. Trollope and S. Trollope

The Deputy Leader sadly reported the passing of the mother of Councillor Mark Turner: Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect. Sincere condolences were extended to the family and, if Council could help in any way through this difficult time, not to hesitate to ask.

027) Declarations of Interest

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

028) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council

No Sub-Committee or Working Party meetings had been held prior to Council; however, judging of the Armed Forces Day poster competition had taken place prior to Council and congratulations were extended to the winner – a pupil of Tredegar Comprehensive School.

029) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2023

The Clerk 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.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. No transfer of funds, as approved by Council, was required in respect of payment, as sufficient funds were available in the appropriate account.

030) Vacancy - Central & West Ward: nominations for consideration

As no request to call an election had been received; on progressing, in accordance with the approved co-option process, four expressions of interest had been received for the vacancy in the Central and West Ward.

Members with any knowledge of the candidates were invited to speak to Council accordingly.

Upon a secret ballot process being undertaken to vote for candidates, a majority decision resulted in the following nominee being approved:

- Ellie Griffin

Council formally declared a vacancy within the Sirhowy Ward following the resignation of Councillor Phillip Prosser; Clerk to commence the process to fill the vacancy.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee – 5th April, 2023**
- b) Civic Meeting of Council – 5th April, 2023**
- c) Performance Review Sub-Committee – 19th April, 2023**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 19th April, 2023**

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

032) 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.

033) Correspondence

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

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) List of applications received, week ending 28.04.2023.

- Noted.

‘The Jo Cox Commission on Civility’ relating to abuse and intimidation of elected political representatives

- Noted; Members fully endorsed the work this Committee was undertaking and looked forward to observing the results achieved.

A. Tippings: Registration WORK-it-OUT 2023 – 10th September, 2023

- Noted; this was an initiative to encourage music and dance being promoted to heritage organisations and Tredegar Town Council had been informed as the owners of the Town Clock.

2) One Voice Wales

- OVW CEO seeking support for student survey – Jules Owen undertaking BA Hons Degree in Community Governance, De Montfort University in conjunction with SLCC, conducting research into effective community engagement in local councils
 - Noted; Clerk to complete survey.
- Welsh Government Survey on Twinning - closing date of 16th June, 2023
 - Noted; the Clerk confirmed completion of the survey and invited Members to participate, from the perspective of Twinning representatives (to be forwarded to Councillors A.E. Tippings and E. Jones accordingly).
- Good Councillor’s Guide to Employment
 - Noted; forward to all Members.
- Save the Date – Innovative Practice Conference - Wednesday, 4th July, 2023
 - Noted.

3) St. John Ambulance Cymru

- Quote for medical cover: Armed Forces Day - £117.00 plus VAT
- Noted; expenditure unanimously approved.

4) Rentokil

- Michelle Norris: order to replace stolen nappy unit - £56.18 + VAT
- Noted; expenditure unanimously approved.

5) Gwent Police

- Tredegar Neighbourhood Policing Team: looking to hold a fun / education event for children of all ages on / around 12th August, asking to use Deighton playing field, for approx. four hours
- In respect of allowing parking of emergency vehicles on the playing field, concern was expressed in respect of the weight of the vehicles and damage to the surface; however, Members wished to support the event.

Following discussion, it was agreed therefore that Council would allow use of the Deighton playing field but the ‘emergency services’

vehicles to be parked on the tarmac drive alongside the field and pop-up stalls *only* to be allowed on the pitch itself.

Agreed; Clerk to respond and provide the criteria for appropriate use of the facility. i.e.

- Vehicular access was through the main gates.
- No vehicles to be driven or parked on any grass areas; vehicular movement was prohibited, as this could prove a danger to users.
- Access to the emergency services vehicles only and gates locked to prevent any further vehicles accessing the area.
- Any equipment / banners / promotional materials to be removed and litter collected at the close of the event.
- Gates securely locked once field vacated.
- Conditions were in place so that the area was kept in a good safe condition for the community groups currently using it.

6) Tred. Miners
Heritage Group

David Jervis pit, opened 1840 and shafts filled in 1897 – Ashvale, Tredegar

- It was agreed that, dependent on the amount of characters allowed, the wording be “Sponsored by Tredegar Town Council: proud town, proud heritage”.

7) Aneurin Bevan
UHB

Proposed Reconfiguration of Midwifery-led Services within ABUHB

- Noted.

8) Aneurin Leisure

Cath Hares: Community Notice Board, would TTC consider moving this from outside of the bin compound to the House wall near the first Disabled Parking Space

- Members said the noticeboard should be more noticeable and accessible to the public than its' current location. A brief discussion ensued regarding the refurbishment of the existing noticeboard, purchasing a new noticeboard, or undertaking both to provide two noticeboards – one at the relocation requested and another by the Park entrance.

It was agreed that appropriate Members assess the condition of the noticeboard for

refurbishment and costings for the purchase of a new noticeboard be considered accordingly.

- 9) MacMillan Cancer Support Thank you for donation of £100.00
- Noted.

10) PUBLICATIONS

Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 272: May 2023; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2023 Issue 147. BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 19.05.2023. ABUHB info. re. visits by the Communications and Engagement Team (including Sirhowy Community Centre). GAVO People's Health Trust's Active Communities funding programme; Community Foundation Wales, Our Communities Together – cost of living fund; People's Health Trust's Active Communities funding programme - data tool. SW Fire and Rescue Blaenau Gwent 999 Day in partnership with Aneurin Leisure –

Saturday, 10th June, 2023, 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m., Parc Bryn Bach. Newsletter@AFD.org.uk National event – Cornwall: update 'Show Your Support' 24.06.2023. Calon Hearts 'Muntra Musikanter' Male Voice Choir Spring Concert, Llandaff Cathedral - Saturday, 20th May, 2023, 7.00 p.m.

034) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 18
ii) List of planning applications received in week 19

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2023/0108	Mr. Shailesh Verma Ambay Service Station Willow Court Nantyburch Tredegar NP22 3SF	Proposed development at: Ambay Service Station, Willow Court, Nantyburch, Tredegar – Proposed alterations and extension to existing Texaco Petrol Service Station building to provide additional retail space at ground floor level and ancillary staff accommodation and storage facility at first floor level

Observations: Council expressed concern in respect of the length of time for this proposal to come forward after work had commenced and the manner in which this was being undertaken, e.g. the lintel being balanced on a brick, which could prove hazardous and was an issue of concern. Also, the car washing service provided on this site: the spray was all over the footpath, which was a safe route for school, and became icy during inclement weather; also, members of the public could be subjected to a blast of water. If the applicant was improving the building, the car wash should be looked at to raise the site to a desirable standard.

This was the entrance to the town, and a refuelling point on the Heads of the Valleys road – the roundabout was not maintained to a particularly high standard, the stone wall was damaged and partially demolished, and Council considered this represented a poor gateway for the area.

Members also referred to the reference to ‘staff accommodation’ and emphasised the importance of ensuring this was not in respect of sleeping accommodation but office provision only, as Council recognised the high risk due to flammable products.

Council welcomed the upgrade to the building and also the provision of the public facilities, which was needed for motorists during a journey.

C/2023/0111	Mr Darren Hillman Crown Garage Merthyr Road Tafarnaubach Tredegar NP22 3RX	Proposed development at: Crown Car Rental, Merthyr Road, Tafarnaubach, Tredegar – Proposed single storey garage constructed in confines of existing car garage compounds
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Deferred: due to lack of supporting information (as outlined within the application).

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

035) One Voice Wales: Motions for 2023 Annual General Meeting

To propose a maximum of two motions - for debate on 30th September, 2023 (to be submitted *no later than 12.00 noon on Friday, 23rd June, 2023*)

Discussion ensued regarding the disruption by illegal motor vehicles within town centres; the registration of such vehicles would allow the Police to confiscate if the owners were proven of breaking the law.

Approved – one motion: “To lobby Governments that all vehicles, i.e. quads and motorbikes, be registered with a Registered Vehicle Identity Number to arm the Police with sufficient information to identify the vehicle / rider on reporting and enable confiscation.”

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

- Line Management – the Leader had spoken with staff and confirmed that arrangements were now as follows: Clerk to line manage the RFO, gardener and cleaning operative; and, Leader to line manage the Clerk.
- Dilapidated state of repair; play area, top entrance to Bedwellty Park – a Member asked could Council make a request to Aneurin Leisure to consider upgrading / improving the play area. It was emphasised that this area was difficult to police as there was so many points of access and the area had been vandalised each time any damage was fixed.
- Stationary Bike – the Chair said that their counterpart film company in California were visiting and, in celebration of his life, Ryan Probert’s mother had requested a special showing of ‘Stationary Bike’. This was to be held at the Little Theatre on Saturday, 17th June, 2023 at 4.00 p.m. and Members were invited to attend; the Chair asked that

responses were forwarded direct to him in order to ascertain numbers in respect of refreshments.

- Band stewards – the Clerk reminded Members that stewards were needed to set up the equipment / transport the bottled water. At the request of a Member: it was agreed that the concert on Sunday, 9th July, 2023, proceed, in part, as a singing festival, as requested by Abergavenny Borough Band.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.

_____ Chair