

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 5th July, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors **G. Evans (Chair)**
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
E. Griffin
A. Jones
E. Jones
J. Thomas
C. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

075) Apologies Councillors **K. Phillips, G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, B. Rees, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron and G. Walters**

076) Declarations of Interest

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

077) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor wished to record his thanks to Councillor Katie Waldron for her support at the presentation night for the Junior Netball in Bedwellty Park, as the invite had been received at very short notice and Katie had stepped up to help on the night. He also thanked the Leader, Councillor Mark Turner, very much for accompanying him to an event in Newport for the naming ceremony of the Aneurin Bevan train.

The Mayor wished to record his thanks to all those stewards who had attended Armed Forces Day and the Aneurin Bevan Day, and to Aneurin Leisure staff, for the excellent job in the Park and throughout the town.

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

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

- **Trefil RFC Mini and Junior Under 9s** – It was unanimously agreed to recommend that the maximum grant of £200.00 be awarded, due to the positive works of the Club.
- **Tredegar HM Armed Forces Veterans' Group** - no contact had been made; it was therefore agreed to make contact again to extend an invite to attend another meeting, stipulating this would be the final opportunity to attend.

079) 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)

Gwent Defibbers – Any financial assistance received would be used to promote basic life support by delivering CPR and defibrillator training.

2022/23 Sept'22 CQ No. 365 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Tredegar Decoupage Group – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase supplies for the group to make 3D decoupage pictures and greeting cards.

2022/23 June'22 CQ No. 327 £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.

080) Vacancy - Sirhowy Ward: nominations for consideration

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

The Clerk said that nominations had been submitted, via email, by three Members submitting apologies and had responded that acceptance of these ballots would be the sole decision of Council; Members confirmed acceptance of the nominations.

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

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

- Andrew Evans

081) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) a) List of applications received, week ending 16.06.2023.

i) Transfer of Premises Licence - The Cambrian

A Member explained that the individual applying for the licence had now taken over the tenancy; since the tenancy had changed there were a number of issues and the Police had been called on three separate occasions when events were held.

Functions were being held in the area at the rear, near the 'Gents' toilets, subject to an entry fee, playing very loud music, which was inappropriate.

The Member and owner of The Tamarind Restaurant had spoken, when he had enquired what help Council could provide. The owner allowed a local care company to use the car park at his premises and would not wish to close the car park, but had lost business on three occasions due to visitors to The Cambrian using his car park. Music had been playing so loud that the glasses on the tables were vibrating and a birthday party of fifteen guests had immediately walked back out on arrival. The owner had informed the Member that he would be submitting a formal complaint to Blaenau Gwent CBC and, unless something was done to resolve the issues, may be forced to relocate his business elsewhere. This would be a great loss for Tredegar, as the restaurant had proven successful and brought visitors to the town, as people were willing to travel due to the good reputation of the business.

Following a brief discussion the following points were noted:

- BGCBC Environmental Health could undertake readings to investigate complaints of noise pollution in respect of outdoor/music, which was subject to enforcement after 10.00 p.m.
- serious concerns in relation to lack of I.D. verification and capacity numbers
- drug-taking
- urination, fighting and a window smashed

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Licensing Section of BGCBC, once again, reiterating the grave concerns of Council in respect of these issues.

b) List of applications received, week ending 23.06.2023.

c) List of applications received, week ending 30.06.2023.

- Noted.

2) Audit Wales

Annual Return 31.03.2022 unqualified (clear report). Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been

placed in the noticeboard and on Town Council's website.

- Noted; Council offered their thanks to the RFO for all the hard work; however, was disappointed at the delay in respect of outstanding audits with Audit Wales.

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

3) Aneurin Leisure Trust

C. Hares Re: Children's play area, Bedwellty Park. Update on the current status and what alternatives are offered to engage children / young people.

- Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and G. Walters.

4) IWN

Re: Children and family activities information gathering. Asking for details of any events focussing on physical activity or healthy eating, respond by 7th July, 2023.

- Noted; Members to forward details, if aware.

5) Donation Requests:

a) A. Latham Re: Friendship Club wheelchair. Asking if Council would consider purchasing a wheelchair to be left at Bedwellty House for the Friendship Club to use for its members. They have no bank account and are therefore unable to submit a grant request.

- Noted. Council supported this idea and wished to commend the applicant for the work undertaken with this group.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Council pursue the following avenues:

- Investigate sourcing funding through charitable institutions
- A Member said there was a possibility of two wheelchairs available, which were currently redundant in her workplace, and would seek permission to re-utilise
- Funding could be available through the Warm Hubs Community Fund, which supported community activities (Welsh Government funding made available to local authorities)
- Contact Kier, undertaking construction of the Tredegar Wellbeing Centre / to ascertain if any funding available

Clerk to ascertain cost and availability – the Clerk said that a foldable wheelchair was approximately £105.00 - and Council to purchase in the event the afore-mentioned avenues proving unsuccessful.

b) R. Dainty Re: Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) Newport lifeboat asking for donation.

- Noted; Clerk to respond that Council felt unable to support the request, due to restrictive monies available in their own community, and therefore declined to contribute.

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 30.06.2023; Communicorp Local Councils Update Issue 274 July 2023; Welsh Government, New Sustainable Drainage Feasibility Grant now available, closing date for applications is 25.09.2023 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

082) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 25
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 26

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2023/0137	Mr. G. Kember 4 Maes Morgan Nantybwch No objections	Remove existing garage roller door and replace with patio doors with side windows and retain space as existing for storage, 4 Maes Morgan.
C/2023/0145	Mr. M. Wild 15 Hillside No objections	Construction of one two bedroom bungalow with associated works at land off Dukestown Road.

c) To consider other planning matters –

Asbri Planning, ***Publicity and Consultation before applying for Planning Permission:*** Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 SCHEDULE 1 Article 4. (4) SCHEDULE 1B Articles 2C & 2D Full planning application for land reprofiling works through the importation of inert materials and the change of use from B2 (General Industrial) to Class B8 (storage) Unit 6 Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar, NP22 3AA.

083) 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 Leader extended the thanks of Council to the House staff for their hard work over the past two weekends.

084) 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** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – The last meeting had been cancelled as one of the members had been admitted to hospital; the next meeting would be Wednesday.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – All successful applicants had been informed and the next round of funding applications closed in September.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: inspection to be undertaken.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – The Forum provided talks on the second Thursday of each month; the next one being 'The Colliery Doctor'.
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting.
- i) Tredegar Business Forum** – Agreed that a letter be sent to the Business Forum, extending thanks for a successful Vintage Car Day; the Business Forum was to be applauded on their hard work. Well done to everyone involved, who had volunteered at the event – both the public and Members of Council.
- 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.

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

- Parking Enforcement Officers working in Tredegar – as a Council, there was a need to ask the Highways Department BGCBC to review the provision of yellow lines, which had been scheduled for the Local Authority to undertake prior to the pandemic, particularly in the areas of Castle Street, The Circle and Commercial Street, and ascertain whether provision was still relevant.

A Member said that traders had expressed concern in respect of a downturn in business since the traffic wardens had come into operation. He also referred to those visiting the town to pop into a store for five / ten minutes, who were then issued a ticket for £70.00 for a short stop.

The Member would ask, therefore, that Highways relook at the double yellow lines provision and enforcement, as there were concerns as to how this was affecting the town. For instance, cars parking in the bus bays around The Circle; the top of Market Street; Park Row, where parking was becoming dangerous for visitors to the Surgery and altercations between motorists was a regular occurrence; and, in the vicinity of Barclays Bank.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Highways Department BGCBC, requesting a meeting (*the following Members expressed an interest in attending AJ / EJ / JT / CW*).

- New Wellbeing Centre – concerns in respect of traffic congestion (outlined above). A Member said that she had been nominated as the point of contact with Kier to ensure

residents were kept updated in respect of the development of the Tredegar Wellbeing Centre. It was therefore agreed that a letter be sent inviting representatives to present an update to Council.

- Grass-cutting maintenance – a Member said that he had contacted the office relaying details of two operatives who would provide grass-cutting maintenance some 30% cheaper than the current provider. The Clerk confirmed this information had been placed on file for the following year; however, the Council was currently in a contract for grass-cutting maintenance scheduled for April to September / October.
- Tredegar Town Band - Sky Arts Award – the Band was the first Brass Band to be presented with such an Award, raising the profile of Tredegar in the musical circle; the Awards would be televised on Sky Arts that evening – Wednesday, 5th July, 2023 at 10.00 p.m.
- Mayor's Christmas visits – following a query raised with regard to participation, e.g. Members / Choir / Band, it was agreed this matter be deferred to a meeting of the Events Sub-Committee for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.

_____ Chair