

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 19th July, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

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

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

097) Apologies. Councillors **P. Cornlouer, E. Jones, B. Rees, K. Waldron and G. Walters**

098) Declarations of Interest

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

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

It was agreed the recommendations of the following Sub-Committees held prior to Council be approved accordingly.

Events Sub-Committee (5.00 p.m.) – 19th July, 2023

- **Armed Forces Day**
Designated charity 'Royal Naval Association – Merthyr Branch': it was agreed that a recommendation be presented to Council that this amount be 'rounded up' to £200.00.
- **The Bevan Festival / Aneurin Bevan Day**
Liaise with House Manager in organising an Artisan market as an alternative activity and ask Aneurin Leisure to arrange provision.
- **Merchant Navy Day**
Agreed the event be held at 1.00 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd September, 2023.

Performance Review Sub-Committee (5.45 p.m.) – 19th July, 2023

- To approve the report in respect of the Budget against Actual to 30th June, 2023,

including Town Clock: Insurance – virement of £5.00 from ‘Insurances’.

- Council to write to potential sponsor, Ron Skinner & Sons, to once again seek funding of the Town Clock garden surround.

100) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in July 2023, with approval for urgent payments to be made during August recess

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.

- The Schedule of Accounts related to items for payment in July and potential scheduled payments during August recess;
- August payments, other than direct payments, would not be paid until formal documentation was received;
- Revised August payments would be submitted at the next Ordinary meeting in September for ratification.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. The RFO asked that the designated signatories liaise in respect of the transfer of funds, as approved by Council, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

101) To seek approval for Senior Members to be delegated powers to address urgent matters during the August recess

The Clerk sought approval for Senior Members (Top 4) to be granted delegated powers for urgent payments during the August recess, with subsequent ratification by Council on receipt of the next Schedule of Accounts, which was agreed accordingly.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 7th June, 2023
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 7th June, 2023
- c) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21st June, 2023

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

103) 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.

104) Correspondence

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

- 1) BGCBC
List of applications received, week ending 07.07.2023.
List of applications received, week ending 14.07.2023.

Personal Licence – J.S. Hastings Dasent
Vary Designated Premises Supervisor – The Belle Vue
Temporary Event Notices for 11.08.2023 – Dukestown Club.

- Noted.

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

2) Cllr J. Thomas

Bedwellty Park Children's play area: Asking for this item to be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

- A Member considered the response was poor, as there was a duty of care to children in respect of the provision and use of equipment in Bedwellty Park.

Members expressed concern in respect of the disrepair, highlighting the lack of equipment and overgrown state of the play area. A Member enquired how Council could advise the public this was not a Town Council issue, as this should not reflect negatively on Tredegar Town Council.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Aneurin Leisure Trust requesting sight of a forward work programme to ascertain future intentions for this area, as only retrospective work had been undertaken for a number of years. A Member suggested that, if Council was aware of future plans within Bedwellty Park, possibly support could be offered.

Another Member said there should be a document in place outlining the agreement between Blaenau Gwent CBC and the Aneurin Leisure Trust that outlined responsibility as custodians, not only of Bedwellty House and Park but across the County Borough, in respect of spend on services.

3) Cllr P. Cornlauer

Request for 'Dispensation for Absence' – for a three-month period

- Council considered the circumstances of the Member in respect of the request for dispensation, whereupon the request was approved with a return to Council duties as at 1st November, 2023, onwards.

- 4) Groundworks Wales
Hywel Tanner-Jones introducing himself and asking whether Council would be interested in discussing possible partnership opportunities.
- Noted; it was agreed that an invitation be extended for the representative to meet with Senior Members.
- 5) Cumbria Clock Company Ltd.
Introducing themselves and offering their services.
- Noted; Council extended thanks for the information and agreed this be retained on file, should the services be needed in the future - however, Council was satisfied at the present time with their current maintenance provider of the Town Clock.

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 14.07.2023 & 21.07.2023; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting 17.07.2023; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct July 2023 Issue 148 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

A Member raised concern in respect of the reduction of copies provided of the Correspondence list; the Clerk said that this had arisen as a result of Members' feedback following the budget-setting process, whereby a reduction had been agreed in respect of the budget headings for 'Stationery' and 'Postage'. The number of Correspondence lists provided had been reduced by two-thirds, as these were not retained and immediately recycled following meetings, to achieve an annual saving over the year in relation to the two meetings held per month.

Another Member said that Council was aware of climate changes and the need to reduce their carbon footprint and would not wish Council to return to 'hard' copies, as Council should be leading the way for Tredegar / Blaenau Gwent.

Following discussion, Council was happy for the Member in question to have an individual Correspondence list to refer to in meetings.

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

105) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 27
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 28

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2023/0146	Mr. & Mrs. R. Seward 1 Siloam Close Tredegar	Alterations and single storey rear extension to existing detached dwelling to provide new kitchen and sitting accommodation, as well as landscaping and services, 1 Siloam Close.
No objections		
C/2023/0156	Redacted	Provision of 3 No. detached glamping pods, Land west of Ty Teulu, Trefil Road, Trefil, Tredegar NP22 4HG.
No objections		

c) To consider other planning matters – St. Margaret's Bungalow: a planning application was to be presented in respect of re-routing the Right of Way, whereupon Council would make observations at the appropriate time.

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

- Traffic Lights A465 Heads of the Valleys – there had almost been an accident involving an elderly person due to a motorist not stopping for the 'red' light and it was only a matter of time before there would be an issue. The Local Authority needed to look at provision in this area – perhaps with a view to the lights being triggered by pedestrians, and a sufficient deterrent imposed for motorists to prevent this practice.

It was agreed that Council write to the Highways Department of BGCBC requesting that a site meeting be held with ward Members to discuss a way forward.

A Member suggested this was a police matter and, as a safe route to school, should be brought to their attention.

- Complaint re. Town Clock chimes – further to a query, passed to the Town Council cleaning operative and referred by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, in respect of the Town Clock striking throughout the night, which was disturbing the sleep of visitors of The Tredegar Arms, The Circle, Tredegar.

On consideration, Members raised the following observations:

- Council appreciated that guests may open windows during intemperate weather but, while sympathising, suggested air conditioning may be a solution.
- Tredegar Town Clock had a long history since being founded and was a historic monument dominating The Circle.
- Members considered the Town Clock as a valued attraction, which epitomised the heritage of Tredegar.
- It was common practice for town clocks - e.g. Big Ben, Chester town clock, etc., to chime throughout the night.

Therefore, Council was unaware if a timer could be installed - at a cost to Council and the community as a whole - considered this as 'a part of our heritage, and should remain our heritage'.

Council was therefore unable to accommodate the request on this occasion.

- Meet and Greet with the Mayor, 9th - 16th August, 2023 - former Rugby International, Mark Jones – as a result of a request to meet the Mayor of Tredegar, arrangements were being made for the former Rugby International to attend the Council Chamber on Friday, 11th August, 2023 at 7.00 p.m. for an informal meet and greet. Therefore, the Mayor suggested this would be an ideal opportunity to present the cheque approved for the Trefil RFC Mini and Junior Under 9s and provide good publicity for Town Council.

It was agreed that a contingent of the Rugby Club be invited to attend the meet and greet between Council and former Rugby International, Mark Jones – Mayor to present a TTC Clock and Aneurin Bevan plate to Mark Jones; Mark to present cheque and certificate to Trefil RFC Mini and Junior Under 9s.

Clerk to liaise with Aneurin Leisure in respect of availability and proceed with arrangements.

- Mayor's Appeal – a charity show, featuring a number of artists, would be held on Friday, 27th October, 2023, at the Ashvale Social Club, at a cost of £8.00 per ticket.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.26 p.m.

_____ Chair