

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

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

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

150) Apologies. Councillors **K. Phillips A.E. Tippings, P. Cornlouer, K. Waldron, and. C Walters**

151) Declarations of Interest

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

152) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings 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 - 6th September, 2023**

Open Doors and Merchant Navy Day

No recommendations arising; however, ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly

Remembrance events

Service would be the same as last year, two booklets - a full one for church and one for the cenotaph (300 and 500 respectively)

Lamppost Poppies: Clerk to order twenty replacements

Agreed, to book J. Cotton Audio

- **Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee - 13th September 2023**

Sparkle Cleaning Contract

Arrange a meeting with Sparkle representatives and the Mayor / Leader

Memorabilia

Sports water bottles – Qty 100; Customised pens – Qty 200; Engraved clocks – Qty 30; Welsh slate coasters – Qty 50 / 100

Twinning Contribution

Agreed: £230.00 – Clerk to liaise with Twinning to determine who had borne the costs and reimburse accordingly

- **Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 13th September 2023**

The amended hours of opening were agreed, i.e:

GMT Summer 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., winter 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

- **Appeals Sub-Committee - 13th September 2023**

Inquorate (did not proceed)

- **Heritage Sub-Committee - 18th September 2023**

Inquorate; continued on an informal basis: No recommendations arising

- **Community Youth International Sub-Committee - 18th September 2023**

Inquorate (did not proceed)

- **OVW Climate Change Adaptation Programme - 18th September 2023**

Inquorate; continued on an informal basis: No recommendations arising

- **Civic Sub-Committee - 19th September 2023**

Inquorate; continued on an informal basis: No recommendations arising

- **Policy Sub-Committee - 20th September 2023**

Policies approved, en bloc, subject to the following:

Allowances and Expenses Policy – agreed amendments

Gifts & Hospitality Policy – agreed de minimis

CCTV Code of Practice Policy – implement actions within Policy

153) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2023 and ratify any amendments to payments made in August 2023

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view, which was noted accordingly. The Officer highlighted the additional / urgent payments made during the August recess, and approved by the senior officers for ratification under delegated powers, as agreed by Council.

- Ace Essential Supplies – in response to a question raised, the RFO explained the supplies purchased for the public conveniences were to meet a specific fitting of the toilet roll holders. If the holders were replaced in the future, which had been discussed previously, it was recognised that there could be better alternatives available.

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.

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

- a) Civic Sub-Committee - 5th July, 2023
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 5th July, 2023
- c) Events Sub-Committee - 19th July, 2023
- d) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 19th July, 2023
- e) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th July, 2023
- f) Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 31st July, 2023

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

155) 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.

156) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) Re: Decision notice on the proposal to improve provision and build capacity for Additional Learning Needs.
 - Noted.
 - b) I. Cole Re: Traffic Lights A465 Heads of the Valleys. Update from contractor.
 - Noted.

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

- c) List of applications received, week ending 08.09.2023.
 - i) Temporary Street Trading Consent September 2023 – Parc Bryn Bach.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) The Welsh Ombudsman's public consultation: Our Equality Plan 2023-2026. Requesting responses to the consultation to be sent to OVW by 02.10.2023 for their formal response to be submitted by 16.10.2023.
 - Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner.
 - b) Motions for One Voice Wales AGM 30.09.2023 – **forwarded to Cllrs Turner and Thomas**
 - Noted.

3) ABUHB

Proposed Changes to Minor Injury Unit Services within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – **forwarded to all Members**

- Noted; Council objected to the proposed revision to the service at Nevill Hall Hospital, i.e. closing between the hours of 1.00 a.m. to 7.00 a.m., particularly as patients visiting the Minor Injury Unit at Prince Charles Hospital are advised they should attend either Nevill Hall Hospital or The Grange.

Therefore, the Chair suggested this would be the wrong policy at this time.

4) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 15.09.2023 and 22.09.2023; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting 18.9.2023 at Tredegar Library 10.00 a.m. - **distributed to Members**: Received.

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

157) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 36
ii) List of planning applications received in week 37
- b) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2023/0188	Mr. W. Walters Yr Hen Becws Merthyr Road Tredegar	Proposed construction of 4 detached dwellings with associated parking and external works, land adjoining Yr Hen Becws Merthyr Road.

No objections

C/2023/0189	Mr. D. Watkins BGCBC, Anvil Court Church Street Abertillery	Extension of existing cemetery into adjoining open field, field west of Dukestown cemetery.
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No objections; fully support the extension

- c) **To consider other planning matters** – Cefn Golau cemetery; Clerk to write in support of such a development to extend Cefn Golau cemetery as there was no capacity to bury loved ones.

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

- Stagecoach: a Member had received a letter from a parent outlining concerns relating to the No. 97 Stagecoach service, on which her daughter travelled to Ebbw Vale College, as there was no longer a run to Georgetown, with the first pick up being at Park Hill. He had contacted Stagecoach, Blaenau Gwent Council and the College and, therefore, asked if Councillor Jacqueline Thomas, in her dual role as a County Borough Councillor, could take this matter forward.

Councillor Thomas confirmed that she was in contact with a number of residents / parents and was attempting to progress this matter together with Councillor John Morgan. Should any Members receive concerns, the Member asked that they advise residents to place these in writing as the more concerns received would support all complaints in respect of the need for this service, as well as all bus routes throughout Tredegar.

- TTC Noticeboard: the Leader and RFO would liaise to consider the purchase of the new noticeboard, as delegated by full Council, whereby it was agreed that Council consider a slightly larger noticeboard, perhaps with an illuminated cabinet if possible.
- Defibrillator access: the Leader referred to access to a defibrillator in the town centre and proposed that, should Council be prepared to purchase a defib cabinet, the defibrillator at Fresh Active could be placed outside for access 24/7. This would prove an ideal location as there was already cameras in place for security. The defib cabinet generally cost in the region of up to £600.00 and the Member would welcome such access for the public.

Council offered their full support, as access 24/7 was important; a Member highlighted that there was a defibrillator at The Mountain Air, and the stewards lived on site, and would allow access whenever needed.

- Presentation Awards Ceremony: the Leader would like Council to take a different approach to the evening, suggesting the Leader undertake the welcome and the appropriate Members of each Ward present the award to the recipient. This would be an opportunity for Members to introduce themselves and would be nice for Members to be visible to members of the public and be aware who is representing their Wards.

The Clerk thereupon briefly updated Council on nominations received to date, which were agreed accordingly.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.24 p.m.

_____ Chair