

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

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

164) Apologies. Councillors K. Phillips, P. Cornlouer, A. Evans, E. Jones

165) Declarations of Interest

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

166) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said the Mayor's Charity Concert had reached the threshold for the concert to proceed, with the sale of an excess of one hundred tickets, currently raising £820.00 and approximately a further £200.00 as a result of the raffle. The Mayor said it would be nice to see everyone there who had purchased tickets for this 50^s/60^s Dance.

Leader's update –

The Leader had met with staff and their Union representative in respect of subtle changes to contract, e.g. slight change to working hours to accommodate meetings until 7.00 p.m. for working Members, and allow staff a late start in lieu, to avoid the practice of the same Members making all decisions;

Placing a permanent board in the Clock garden, whereby removable inserts could be placed promoting various events to inform the public, and prevent items being placed on the railings / the Clock, perhaps a collapsible design which could be stored inside the Clock;

Long Service Awards for former Members covering four terms, i.e. previously sixteen years and now changed to twenty years.

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

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

▪ **Remembrance events**

Expenditure approved:

- To purchase three wreaths and three poppy bouquets
- Twenty lamp-post poppies
- To agree the sound engineer for the 12th November, 2023: J Cotton Audio

▪ **Christmas Lights switch-on and display**

It was agreed that a meeting be convened with Senior Members, Chair of Events Sub-Committee and Blachere Illumination.

Expenditure approved:

- Sound engineer for the entertainment, J Cotton Audio
- Stage / gazebo provision

168) 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)**

Bedwellty Park Bowls Club - Any financial assistance received would be used towards the purchase of buying kitchen equipment.

2022/23 Oct'22 CQ No. 379 £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.*

169) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
Re: Commons Act 2006 Section 38. BGCBC are applying for consent to construct works on Bedwellty Common. The works will be located northwest of and adjoining Cefn Golau Cemetery.

- Noted.
- 2) OVW
Re: Cancelled conference 30.09.2023. Will be discussing potentially holding the Conference / AGM in a virtual format towards the end of January 2024.

- Noted.
- 3) EDPR
Re: Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm proposals. Would like to meet with Council to discuss the proposals.

- Members expressed disappointment of the timing of the sessions, being between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m., excluding those working in the day. It was raised that Tredegar Town Council should be involved in considering how monies were invested in the community.

It was agreed that an invitation be extended to EDPR to attend a formal meeting of Council.

4) Property 4

Re: Complaint, Central Baptist Church. Copy of letter they are sending outlining their opposition to the activities and states this is their final warning to relocate away from the shopping centre.

- Noted.

5) Coach & Horses

Request for Council to consider buy and installing a defibrillator at the public house; have checked locally at both the nursing home and hairdresser but neither have one.

- While Members supported investing monies by providing defibrillators in the community, it was suggested more were needed on the outside of buildings for access 24/7.

Agreed to defer; pursue with Ambulance Service.

Councillor A.E. declared an interest in respect of the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

6) Financial Matters: a) A.E. Tippings Re: Horeb & Sardis, Harvest Thanksgiving and Flower Festival. Invite to the Harvest services in Trefil. If Council wishes to **sponsor a floral display, this year they will be £40.00**. This year's proceeds from the Flower Festival will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society.

- Expenditure approved.

b) Tredegar Comprehensive Re: Presentation Evening 19th October, 2023 at 6.00 p.m. Invitation for Mayor to attend and asking if Council wishes to sponsor the Aneurin Bevan, Michael Foot and Peter Morgan-Jones awards.

- Members were disappointed that there was no mention of Council the previous year in respect of the Awards for Tredegar Town Council. The TTC representative in attendance on the night should be presenting the Awards on behalf of Council. It was noted previously the School had given the Mayor very short notice. It was

suggested if the TTC representative was not allowed to present the Awards, the cheques should be withdrawn, however; it was highlighted that the parents had been notified and this would not be fair to the pupils.

It was agreed that £50.00 be approved for each Award.

- c) Aneurin Leisure Re: Noticeboard. Happy for freestanding, three window and black.

Quote/details of a proposed noticeboard has been sent via email today to all Members for discussing.

- The Leader liaised with staff, with a design agreed in keeping with Bedwellty House, i.e. more ornate, featuring the TTC logo which was bilingual: design and expenditure approved accordingly.

7) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 29.09.2023 & 06.10.2023; OVW Funding Update, Local Places for Nature, capital funding is now open to applications; Communicorp Local Councils Direct Issue 277 October 2023 – ***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.

170) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 38
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 39

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

c) To consider other planning matters - None received

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

- Thanks were extended to Members for attending the exhibition; the turnout had far exceeded than that expected; it was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to Tommy Weed on this success.

172) 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 – Meeting to be held on 11th October, 2023, Leader to attend.

d) Tredegar Twinning – No meeting due to holidays / Covid.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – No meeting.

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: would be appointing Deputy Head imminently; Deighton Primary: extending best wishes to the lollipop lady on her retirement; Georgetown Primary: annual meeting in January, attendance figures returning to pre-Covid period.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – 15th October, 2023 “Extractive Industries” publication featuring churches / chapels in Tredegar.

h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – No meeting.

i) Tredegar Business Forum – No TTC representative.

j) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – A Christmas event was scheduled for 2nd December, 2023.

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

- A Member was sad to relay that the daughter of a previous TTC admin. staff member, Dilys, had passed away; the funeral would be held Monday. Member to obtain contact details in order that a letter of condolence could be sent.
- Congratulations were extended to Cameron Herring on his recent play for Wales, achieving the highest record for a Welsh cricketer; Member to research further details.
- A Member expressed serious concern in respect of the Arts Council for Wales funding cut for Blaenau Gwent - from £152,000 to zero - only two places in Wales were not receiving funding, Blaenau Gwent being one. This would have a massive impact on events for Heads4Arts and the Member suggested a letter be sent, stating how disappointed Tredegar Town Council were in respect of this decision, as he suggested it was short-sighted to remove this core funding, having a detrimental impact on arts in the valleys, and asking that the Arts Council provide justification and reconsider this funding cut.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.27 p.m.

_____ Chair