

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 1st November, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
A. Jones
E. Jones
B. Rees
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
C. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

193) Apologies Councillors G. Evans, G. Badham, P. Cornlouer, A. Evans,
E. Griffin, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas, K. Waldron and G. Walters

194) Declarations of Interest

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

195) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor had attended the Children's International Film Festival of Wales, which had been a good event, with visitors from all around the world - America and Europe - and had presented Town Council well. Also, the fundraising event to support the Mayor's Appeal had been held at Ashvale Club, raising a nice amount of monies and had been well-attended, and everyone had a wonderful time.

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

It was agreed that the recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved and ongoing actions progressed accordingly:

- Applications approved in respect of Special Event Road Closure Order, Temporary Events Notice and Temporary Street Trading Consent

197) 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)**

Hospice of the Valleys - Any financial assistance received would be used for the Bronze Level sponsorship for the 6-Mile Race.

2022/23 Feb'23 CQ No. 440 £250.00 - Approved accordingly

Councillor M. Turner declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

Tredegar & Rhymney Golf Club - Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase top dressing to reseed greens and tees in the off season.

2019/20 March'20 CQ No. 6002 £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.

198) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
List of applications received, week ending 20.10.2023.
i) Application for Personal Licence – Siobhan Aherne.

- Noted.
- 2) IRPW
Letter from the Chair of IRPW regarding Community & Town Councils, Councillor Allowances, Homeworking arrangements and consumables. Confirming these two allowances as non-taxable.

- Noted.
- 3) RFCA
Defence Silver Employer Recognition Scheme Award 2024 workshops.

- Noted.
- 4) Zero Hour
Seeking support from Council for the Climate & Ecology Bill which is due for a 2nd reading on 24.11.2023.

- Noted.

5) Tredegar
Comprehensive

Complaint regarding their presentation evening.

- The Leader said that, following receiving complaints, he had contacted the Clerk to liaise with the Mayor to arrange an informal chat on the Monday to discuss what had occurred. The reason for arranging the meeting on the Monday was that the Leader was aware the Mayor's charity event was taking place on the Friday and he intended to speak with the Mayor after the event. Subsequently, a written complaint was received by the office on the Tuesday. When the Leader and Mayor had met on the Monday, the Mayor had stated he was displeased how the matter had been handled and immediately stood down from the role as Councillor and resigned from the position of Mayor.

Members expressed disappointment of the loss of such a valued Member, expressing their appreciation for the work he had undertaken as a Councillor and as a very active Mayor to the town. However, Council supported the Leader in respect of how the complaint had been progressed in an appropriate manner.

The Chair said that, in his opinion, up to that point the Mayor had done an excellent job when attending events that he was associated with, such as the Children's International Film Festival of Wales and the Council's presentation awards evening; however, he considered the matter had been handled in an appropriate way.

6) Cllr G. Evans

Letter of resignation.

- Noted and accepted accordingly. It was agreed that a letter be sent thanking the Member for all the hard work undertaken over his eighteen months as a Councillor and the way he had undertaken the role as Mayor.

Council thereupon formally declared a vacancy within the Central and West Ward following the resignation; Clerk to commence the process to fill the vacancy.

7) Blaenau Gwent
Film Academy

Thank you card from the students for the donation of computers.

- A Member expressed thanks to Council for the computers; the Academy was always looking for extra equipment and provision was at no charge to the students. A number of the youngsters were on the spectrum and such assistance would allow tutors one-on-one basis.

8) SSE

Festive Lights 2022 electricity charge £13,218.17.
 – *Office is currently querying the validity of this invoice due to its high value (Xmas 2021 £747.64). Have included this in correspondence so Council is aware of it in case it does fall due for payment as part of the November 2023 Schedule of Payments.*

- Members queried who was responsible for meter reading and checking the estimated usage; the Clerk understood the estimation was based on a median based on usage over the twelve-month period, but would seek clarification with the lights display provider.

9) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 20.10.2023; Communicorp Local Councils Direct Issue 278 November 2023 and Clerks & Councils Direct November 2023 Issue 150 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

Councillor A. Jones left the meeting at this juncture (7.14 p.m.)

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

199) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 42
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 43

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2023/0227	Mr. L. Hillman Moorlands Stockton Way Tredegar	Two dormers to front elevation, covered patio area with front gable, external alterations to bungalow and replacement garage to rear garden - Moorlands, Stockton Way.

No objections

- c) To consider other planning matters – PEDW, Re: DNS/3239181**
 Manmoel Wind Farm. Extended submission date for the additional information requested from the applicants, new date 17.11.2023: Noted.

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

- Congratulations were extended to the House staff, Members were impressed with the layout of the rooms.

201) 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** –Meeting in December.
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – No meeting.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – No meeting.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Decision to be ratified by the Board in December.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: AGM held and appointed a new Deputy Head, who would be joining the School in 2024; St. Joseph’s Primary: Councillor Kevin Phillips had been appointed as Governor but had received no updates.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – No meeting.
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – No meeting.
- i) Tredegar Business Forum** – Meeting on Monday.
- j) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – N/A

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

- A Member was pleased to announce the accomplishments of a ten-year-old young lady who wanted to give half her money to those who needed it; Councillor Ellen Jones agreed to complete a nomination form accordingly.
- The Chair emphasised the need to check the accuracy of information when Members were posting on social media, as he had received concerns from residents in respect of names spelled incorrectly.
- Hamas and Israel – in response to a resident query regarding financial support, Members were unaware of any appeal in place, only vigils were being undertaken at present.
- School development, Chartist Way – works had commenced on site; unfortunately problems were being experienced and these concerns were being directed to County Borough Councillors and Blaenau Gwent CBC accordingly.
- Clerk advised of a vacancy in the Georgetown Ward - Council formally declared the vacancy accordingly; a Member expressed an interest in transferring to this vacancy and the Clerk would investigate to ensure the appropriate process was followed to adhere to legislation.

Clerk to commence the process to fill the two vacancies – one in the Georgetown Ward, and that previously reported earlier in the meeting in the Central and West Ward.

- The Leader wished to inform Members that he had liaised with both the Clerk and the RFO to consider their Contracts of Employment and minor changes had been agreed, which he could make available to Members on request.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.41 p.m.

_____ Chair