

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 15th November, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
G. Badham
A. Evans
A. Jones
D. Rowberry
K. Waldron
C. Walters
G. Walters

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

213) Roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor: to discuss following resignation of the Mayor

The Deputy Mayor agreed to undertake the role of Mayor for the remainder of the term, whereupon it was further agreed that the exchange of chains and consideration of the role of Deputy Mayor be considered at the next formal meeting of Council.

The Mayor said that he wished to continue to support the excellent work of the former Mayor in respect of his chosen charity and would be honouring his choice for the Mayoral Appeal – i.e. Mind Cymru.

214) Apologies. Councillors E. Griffin, E. Jones, B. Rees, J. Thomas, H. Trollope and S. Trollope

215) Declarations of Interest

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

216) 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.

- **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 9th November, 2023**
Security and Road Traffic Management - Christmas Lights switch-on:
To receive and discuss quotations received with a view to appointing provider
To be unanimously agreed that the contract be awarded to Company B, i.e. FM Edwards Group Ltd.

- **Events Sub-Committee – 15th November, 2023**
Remembrance events – Feedback; and
Christmas Lights switch-on and display

There were no recommendations arising; however, ongoing actions were to be progressed accordingly.

217) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2023

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.

- Rentokil – the Officer highlighted a 6% increase but had undertaken a cost exercise and assured Council that the service remained value for money, remaining cheaper than other suppliers in the area.

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.

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

- a) **Events Sub-Committee - 4th October, 2023**
- b) **Civic Meeting of Council - 4th October, 2023**
- c) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 18th October, 2023**
- d) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18th October, 2023**

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

219) 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.

220) National Salary Award 2023 / 2024

(N.B. Agreed rates of pay applicable from 1st April, 2023)

Consideration was given to the National Association of Local Councils' new pay scales for 2023 / 2024; the Clerk referred to the proposed pay scales, to be implemented and backdated from 1st April, 2023, reporting on the information received from the NALC.

It was unanimously agreed that Council support the implementation of the new NALC pay scales, to be backdated to 1st April, 2023.

221) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) K. Williams Re: Halloween event. Thanks for the kind donation, event was a huge success and well attended. In the process of arranging the

Christmas Event and, although will not be requesting a donation from Tredegar Town Council (TTC) towards this event, the Regeneration Team appreciates the support received from TTC over the years and has added TTC to the Christmas poster stating you have supported the event, so that members of the public see that we work together and support one another.

- Noted; Council appreciated the support and working in partnership with the Town Centre Manager, commending the events undertaken.

b) K. Williams Re: Poster for Cost of Living event 28.11.2023 at Tredegar Leisure Centre – **Website / Twitter**

- Noted; pass to Aneurin Leisure for information.

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

c) List of applications received, week ending 27.10.2023.

i) Temporary Event Notices 21st to 22nd & 28th to 30th December – The Olympia

List of applications received, week ending 03.11.2023.

i) Late Temporary Event Notice 11.11.2023 & normal Temporary Event Notice 25.11.2023 – Dukestown Workingmen's Club.

- Noted.

2) Welsh Government

Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024-2025. £10.81 per elector.

- Noted; the Clerk informed Council that expenditure remained far below the threshold permitted.

3) One Voice Wales

Re: Smart Towns Wales programme. Online workshops being held.

- Noted; forward to Councillors K. Phillips, M. Turner and C. Walters.

4) Financial Matters:

a) SLCC Membership renewal notice £229.00

- Noted; it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.

- b) St. John Ambulance Re: Quotation for Christmas Lights Switch On event £123.00 (excluding VAT)
- Noted; it was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.

5) Cllr Tippings

Re: Roundels. Raising concerns about recent street cleansing and driving over the Town Clock roundels.

- A Member expressed concern of vehicles parked over the roundels at a recent Blaenau Gwent publicity event, which was not setting a good example. These roundels were bronze and could be damaged when driven over. Council was repeatedly reporting concerns of vehicles parked on the roundels and the contractors had parked over the roundels when installing the Christmas lights, which was reported to the Clerk and the Member suggested that additional measures were needed to protect these roundels.

The Leader again suggested that appropriate signage be placed in the surround garden, not affixed to the railings, and this should state that parking on the paved area was not permitted. It was agreed that this be progressed and delegated to Senior Members in respect of considering an appropriate design.

6) S. Davies

Re: Peace in the Valleys at Christmas. Asking if Council would be prepared to launch a Celebration of Life in the Valleys event whereby on an afternoon/evening, cups of kindness (tea, coffee, hot chocolate or mulled wine) could be provided from the Tea Room.

- Noted; insufficient information in order to reach a decision; Clerk to liaise.

7) Cefn Golau Together

Trustee opportunity.

- Noted. A Member expressed concern of, from his perspective, a lack of involvement with the Council – for example, in respect of the new community centre. The Member was disappointed with the period of time taken to progress the matter, and it had taken nine months for the development to progress through planning, and he said that the people of Cefn Golau were becoming frustrated.

Another Member said that an issue with the community centre could be that various parties were not learning from one another and now this was at the Stakeholders stage, it would allow those involved to come together more regularly.

- 8) Grants Thanks:
- a) Tredegar Camera Club
 - b) Friends of Bedwellty Park
- Noted.

9) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 09.11.2023 and 17.11.2023; OVW Minister's letter regarding Asbestos Management.

– ***distributed to Members***: Received.

222) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 45

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2020/0276	Mr. D. Hillman The Gables Charles Street Tredegar	Proposed residential site of 20 dwellings and associated works – amended plans. Land adjoining Ashvale Sports Club.

Observations:

Objections to the development on the grounds of serious concerns relating to access, as Members considered it would prove unsafe for vehicles to pass if cars were parked along the access road.

Also, access for all the site vehicles while undertaking the development, e.g. construction traffic, as the turning point was not sufficient to take such volume.

There was a need to liaise with County Borough Councillors, as Town Council Ward Members were no longer allowed to vote at site meetings in respect of proposed applications.

Although not a planning consideration, a Member expressed concern of the loss of the football pitch, as groups were now forced to travel to attend training.

C/2023/0238	Mr. J. Moriarty-Simmonds Ashtenne Ind. Fund Ltd P/ship 12 St. James' Square London	Change of use from Class D2 (Leisure use) to revert back to Class B1, B2 & B8. Unit 4 Sirhowy Hill Industrial Estate.
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No objections: but Members were saddened by the loss of the former leisure use.

c) To consider other planning matters – PEDW, Re: Cenin Renewables, land at Manmoel Common. Copy of an examination notice inviting representations from the Applicant, both Local Planning Authorities and Natural Resources Wales on the recent changes to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.

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

- Town Centre planting – a Member said that Tredegar Business Forum were struggling to maintain and pay for the planters throughout the town. The Member had looked at the Council's plant wholesalers and for approximately £200.00, every barrier basket could be planted with seasonal flowering. It was suggested that appropriate signage could be displayed to promote that the bulbs had been donated by Tredegar Town Council.

Council supported the suggestions and it was therefore agreed this matter be agendaed for consideration at a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee, with the appropriate recommendation to the next formal meeting of Council.

- Anti-social behaviour – the Chair referred to the illegal motorbikes in the town, who were causing chaos, one motorist riding on the pavement – it was only a matter of time before someone would be seriously injured. Council supported this concern; a Member said illegal / off-road motorists was very much a problem and was aware a police initiative was in progress to deal with off-road vehicles; another Member referred to motorbikes in the shopping precinct, whereby the same individual was using the zebra crossing as a ramp all the time.

The Leader informed Council that he would be inviting the Police to attend meetings of Council on a quarterly basis to liaise on a number of issues and also the Health Board – not just urgent, but a variety of matters.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.29 p.m.

Chair