

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 6th March, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors K. Phillips (Chair)
E. Griffin
M. Turner
A.E. Tippings
G. Badham
A. Evans
E. Jones
S. Mavar
M. Moore
H. Trollope
C. Walters
G. Walters

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

336) Apologies Councillors A. Jones, B. Rees, D. Rowberry, J. Thomas,
S. Trollope and K. Waldron

337) Declarations of Interest

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

338) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor said that both himself and the Deputy Mayor had participated as chief tasters in a cook off event 'Healthy eating made simple', whereby youngsters took part in providing samples of food prepared in a safe and healthy manner, as part of a series of Blaenau Gwent Film Academy films.

The Mayor had also had occasion to visit Woffington House, which was lovely, and had been asked to wear his Mayoral chain every time!

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

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

- Commonwealth – Fly a Flag: increased expenditure in respect of refreshments was approved accordingly.
- Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly

340) Grants:

Urdd Gobaith Cymru, thanks for donation to Fund For All Urdd Summer Camps 2023-24.

**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)**

**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.

341) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) A.E. Tippings Re: Home of the NHS. Meeting
22.02.2024 update. Next meeting date / link
21.03.2024 at 3.00 p.m.

- Noted.

b) D. Wheelock Re: Gwent Regional Armed Forces
Covenant Liaison Officer. Lisa Rawlings has left
the role and the recruitment process has begun -
forwarded to Cllr Turner

- Noted. Council said Lisa was an excellent
Officer, who would be difficult to replace.

c) D. Wheelock Re: Armed Forces Covenant signing.
Asking for update on how Town Councils are
progressing.

- Noted; circulate and agenda as formal Item to
next Civic Meeting of Council.

d) H. Jones Re: Anti-social behaviour concerns, Red
Lion Public House. Confirming licensing and
opening hours of the premises. Copied relevant
BGCBC Officers in for their information and
attention.

- Noted; forward to all Members.

e) 1) List of applications received, week ending
16.02.2024.

i) Temporary Event Notices, 02.03.2024 –
Dukestown Workingmen's Club.

ii) Application for Personal Licence – Chloe Rogers.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

a) One Voice Wales National Awards Conference -
27th March, 2024, £60.00 per delegate.

- Noted.

b) Request for nominations for the King's New Year Honours 2025.

- Noted; resubmit to next Meeting of Council.

3) Brynmawr Town Council

Re: The general services of Nevill Hall hospital. Asking if Councils would like to meet to discuss the lack of general service at the hospital and we can possibly make a difference to re-establish more services there.

- Noted; ascertain if the intention was to convene a full Quarterly Liaison meeting to discuss.

4) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report, week ending 01.03.2024 and week ending 08.03.2024; Communicorp Local Councils Update March 2024 Issue 281; OVW Comms Guide, Voter registration week which kicks off this Friday; BGCBC New Waste Regulations from 06.04.2024. Details of changes in the workplace; OVW, Coetiroedd Bach (*fwd to Cllr AET*), Tiny Forest funding is open 21.02.2024 to 08.05.2024; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct March 2024 Issue 152 – **distributed to Members**: Received.

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

342) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 08
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 09

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0041 No objections	Ms A. Lamoratt Bleak House Beaufort Road Tredegar	Retrospective application for the retention of fence on top of existing boundary / retaining walls, replacement garage and garden room - Bleak House, Beaufort Road, Tredegar.
C/2024/0049 No objections	Mr. D. Thomas 16 Copper Beech Drive Bedwellty Gardens Tredegar	Extension with balcony and patio to rear of property. Internal layout changes to include conversion of garage to study and cloakroom. Relocation of kitchen, also converting living room area and

dining room area to open plan.
Extending bedroom which will include relocation of bathroom, 11 Cefn Parc.

C/2024/0052	Mr. A. Walker ABUHB Headquarters St Cadoc's Hospital Lodge Road Caerleon	Demolition of Tredegar Health Centre, partial demolition of Tredegar General Hospital and erection of a new Class D1 health and wellbeing centre including revised access, car parking, landscaping and ancillary works, Tredegar General Hospital, Tredegar Health Centre and Bedwellty Park.
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Observations: A Member had attended a residents' meeting where representatives present had raised serious concerns in respect of permission being granted for the demolition plans in place.

The following concerns were therefore highlighted:

- At the top of Market Street, the width of the road had decreased slightly;
- Pedestrians walking from the direction of the town had to use the lefthand pavement to the old fire station and re-cross the road to access the surgery;
- During demolition, the entire length of pavement would need to be closed; therefore, Council would ask if Highways had been involved in the development of such plans and submitted any recommendations, as there appeared to be no mitigating actions in place for pedestrians crossing this section of road and this was the preferred route for lorries;
- Visitors wanted to park as close to the Wellbeing Centre as possible - people were parking in the disabled spaces and on double-yellow lines outside the Wellbeing Centre, and lorries experienced difficulty getting through due to parking each side of the highway;
- The Highways Department had not appeared to recognise the ongoing problems occurring at this development. Therefore, it was suggested that Council support both the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Kier and that a joint letter be sent requesting this matter be reviewed, with a view to mitigating action being put in place throughout the area from the rugby club to the town centre. It was agreed that mitigating actions needed to be put in place for Market Street and Park Row;
- No risk assessments had taken place for this section of highway and the developer considered this outside the remit of their work area and, therefore, not their responsibility;
- Grave concern was raised of potential incidents with the highway being used by twenty and thirty tonne lorries and motorists mounting the pavement / kerbs.

It was agreed that the Clerk liaise with the point of contact, as agreed at a recent Special Meeting of Council, i.e. the Executive Assistant ABUHB.

Councillors G. Badham (6.45 p.m.) and A.E. Evans (6.56 p.m.) left the meeting at this juncture.

c) To consider other planning matters – BGCBC Re: Diversion of Public Footpaths Nos. 151 & 152, stopping up of Public Footpaths Nos. 149 & 150 (part) in the community of Tredegar. Reason for the changes is to enable the implementation of planning application C/2022/0295: detached dwelling in grounds of St Margaret's Bungalow.

Observations: Members felt that the owner of St. Margaret's Bungalow had deliberately left the area to become so overgrown as to prevent the public using the footpath and should therefore be instructed to ensure this was made open and accessible. Council therefore opposed any deletion or diversion and would support the retention of both public footpaths.

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

- None received.

344) 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 – No meeting.

d) Tredegar Twinning – A Member said there had been a mix-up in respect of the date for the meeting and unfortunately been unable to attend.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – The deadline for applications had closed and a meeting was to be held next month.

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: to meet next week; Deighton Primary: it was with sadness that a Member reported the passing of one of the School Crossing patrollers. Parents, current and former, had expressed a wish for a memorial bench to be provided. Should the School want to place this bench in the Deighton playing field, the Member had advised that they should write to Town Council. The Deputy Head was resigning and a meeting was to be held to put a temporary Deputy Head in place. Another Member added that KWT had also offered to provide a recycled plastic bench for the Deighton playing field and she would liaise accordingly; Georgetown Primary: the School Governor representative had accompanied pupils on the Year 4 school trip to Caerleon; St. Joseph's Primary: the Mayor had attended his first meeting as School Governor representative for Council, it was a lovely School, who worked really hard.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – No meeting.

h) Tredegar Business Forum – No meeting; half the bulbs supplied by TTC had been planted.

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

- Dog fouling, Deighton playing field – the Leader had visited the home of the gentleman who had submitted complaints to Council in respect of dog fouling and owners not picking up the mess. One of the major concerns in pursuing any action was photographic evidence and as to how Council could enforce the £1,000.00 fine outlined on the signage erected at the playing field. The Leader had undertaken a walkaround with the gentleman and there were quite a few incidents whereby owners had left dog

mess on the playing field. There was a need for Council to work in partnership with BG Enforcement Officers and, perhaps, provision of a CCTV camera on the lamppost outside the property in question, in the hopes of acting as a deterrent.

A Member had experienced similar issues outside his home; he had told the owner to remove the mess or this would be reported to the Police. There was a need to acquire evidence, which could be posted on social media, and TTC could pursue prosecution. It was suggested that a camera with a motion sensor, providing a cheap option to display images and record car registration numbers.

- Anti-Social Behaviour - Blaenau Gwent Task Force had been set up, chaired by the Leader BGCBC, consisting of the Community Safety Officer, Police, Tai Calon, other social landlords, etc. If a breach of tenancy was proven a conviction could be secured, e.g. hoarders forced to leave the premises. Members outlined a number of issues in need of attention, such as stealing from Greggs, illegal motorists driving up Castle Street, performing 'wheelies' during a funeral procession. People living outside the area could be banned if sufficient evidence was provided, including CCTV evidence, drones, etc.
- Town Clock – needed to be up and running as a matter of urgency; the matter was delegated to Senior Members in order to progress.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

_____ Chair