

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
Wednesday, 18th June, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

A. Jones

M. Turner

A.E. Evans

G. Jones-Griffiths

S. Mavar

D. Rowberry

P. Tolley

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

068) Apologies. Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, E. Jones, J. Thomas, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron and G. Walters

069) Declarations of Interest

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

070) 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 – 18th June, 2025

- Cleaning Contract: It was therefore agreed: RFO to contact Sparkle to ascertain availability to meet to review current contract.
- Sirhowy Garden Fence: It was therefore agreed that the RFO invite the company to re-tender based on the amended information.
- Promotional TV: It was therefore agreed that the promotional TV be located in Fresh Active with a Pen drive facility / port to update information and that an appropriate Service Level Agreement be agreed and put in place accordingly.
Reason for siting in this premises: this was considered the best location due to opening times and volume of footfall.
- RFO replacement - Internal Auditor Recommendation: It was therefore agreed that costings be ascertained in respect of an apprenticeship role and a report be brought back for Members' consideration.
- Pressure Washer - feedback on research: It was agreed that the following item be purchased:
 - Worx Nitro Hydroshot cordless high-flow portable power cleaner

071) Accounts: To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in June 2025

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations, valid to date, were available for Members to view at the meeting or upon request in the office, which was noted accordingly.

- Note and ratify amendments for May – Council informed changes would not affect overall monthly amount previously reported
- June – ratify urgent payment made to Clerk in respect of Toilets ‘call out’.

Note: this was done as an online transfer as second trial as explained in report of RFO

There being no queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds, as approved by Council, would be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

072) RFO update

The RFO spoke to the report, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting, outlining the salient points for Members’ attention in respect of the following.

- Smart Money Cymru
Community Investment Bond – on due consideration, it was agreed that an amount of £30,000 be invested for a six-month period. In response to a question raised, the RFO confirmed that any amount invested would be covered by Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
Petty Cash Account – it was agreed that this provision be retained within the existing Bank and that a debit card be sought from Barclays Bank.
- Online Payments - test – it was agreed that no further online payments be made until an appropriate written procedure was in place.
- Asset Register – ongoing.
- Sirhowy Community Garden - fencing – ongoing.

The report of the RFO was thereupon noted and accepted accordingly.

073) Allowances and Expenses Policy

Consideration was given to the report of the RFO, relating to the annual review of the Allowances and Expenses Policy . apologies for delay aim to presented to Council in March prior to new financial year.

The RFO spoke to the report, clarifying that amendments were highlighted in ‘Red’ for Members’ consideration.

It was agreed that the Allowances and Expenses Policy be approved accordingly.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 7^t May, 2025**
- b) Annual Meeting of Council - 7^t May, 2025**
- c) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21st May, 2025**

It was agreed that, for points of accuracy only, all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record.

Council referred to the comprehensive presentation by the Chief Constable and Police representatives’ it was refreshing to note positive methods being put in place with marked

changes and hopefully this issue was now 'turning a corner'.

075) 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.

076) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) L. Sage Re: Tredegar Recreation Ground. Confirming that a Condition Survey will be undertaken which we should receive back within two weeks. Nia has reached out to Geldard's asking them to provide advice on becoming a Trustee.
 - The Leader confirmed continued contact, as this matter needed to move forward.
 - b) K. Williams Re: Outdoor Cinema 04.07.2025. Asking if the toilets can be left open in the evening for the event and she will close them.
 - The Chair extended thanks to Blaenau Gwent CBC for hosting the event in Tredegar as part of the Bevan Festival, as the venue had originally been scheduled as Eugene Cross Park.

Council was happy to support the event by allowing use of the public conveniences, on the proviso that the toilets were supervised by a suitable Attendant to prevent any damage / vandalism.

If able to accede to this condition, Council would therefore allow the Local Authority the use of the public conveniences.
 - c) A.E. Tipping Re: FREE digitisation for Welsh collections with Art UK. Closing date for submission of interest is 20.06.2025.
 - Noted. The Chair suggested proposing a collection, such as the Lord Tredegar bust, Aneurin Bevan bust and Lord Tredegar oil painting. Clerk to pursue.

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

- d) 1) List of applications received, week ending 30.05.2025.

Transfer & vary Designated Premises Supervisor – Thanish Store, King St.

2) List of applications received, week ending 06.06.2025.

- Noted.

2) Leanne Thomas
Evans

Application form for the vacant Councillor role.

- The Clerk clarified that as only one expression of interest had been received, unless Members had a justifiable reason to decline, the applicant should be accepted accordingly

Consideration was given to the application, which was thereupon approved accordingly in respect of:

- Ms. Leanne Thomas Evans

3) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault 03 juin 2025 - Revue de presse; OVW Re: 2025 Sustainability and Innovation Summer Show 28.08.2024 at Swansea Tennis Centre; OVW Cost of Living Crisis Project - Information and Resources; OVW Re: Llais y Goedwig's The Gathering 2025 at Penlleagaer Valley woods, Swansea and Wild Spirit woods, Bridgend 20th & 21st June, 2025; GAVO Blaenau Gwent Volunteering Awards: Nominations are open and closing date is 25th July, 2025; Ruth Taylor- Davies Re: The Valleys That Changed The World - Revised constitution and advance notice of next meeting, 18.09.2025, Maesteg Town Hall.

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

077) Planning:

- i) List of planning applications received in week 23
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 24

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2025/0164	Diocese of Monmouth 64 Caerau Road Newport	Erect a timber church office adjacent to St. George's Church, St. George's Church, Church Street.

Observations: Council objected to the proposed planning development on the following grounds – concerns the structure would prove to be an eyesore; visual impact upon a Listed building; and, changing the character of the building.

- c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

The Chair said that Council had requested an update in respect of queries presented in relation to planning conditions 'Gryphon Quarry, Trefil' and asked that the Clerk pursue a response.

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

- Deighton playing field – this amenity was becoming a real concern and discussion was needed. In respect of the fence from the left-hand side, a padlock had been attached, as this gate was generally locked. The Leader had relocked bottom gate three times, even placing a bicycle chain on this gate, which had been deliberately cut through. There were significant gaps in the fencing whereby the bars had been spread apart – this would require some force and the Member believe equipment had been used to carry out this vandalism.

The issue with people walking dogs on the field early evening and mornings continued and the Member had been told Council “had no right” to prevent dog walkers using the field. Members had been subject to abuse by members of the public when advising that access was prohibited for animals and, as responsibility for this amenity had taken on for the community, this was most disappointing. It was getting to a point where a serious consideration was to weld the gates closed with access through the kissing gate only.

It was agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor undertake a visit and report back to the next meeting accordingly.

- Southend Allotments - trees – concerns received from a resident; the Clerk confirmed that she was aware and was pursuing this accordingly.
- Mark Jones Memorial, Ironsides, to be held 26th July, 2025 – no further details at present.
- V J Day 80, 15th August, 2025 – the Chair referred to the Burma Hill shrine and suggested Clerk to liaise Royal British Legion to support celebrations and avoid duplication.

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

_____ Chair