

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 5th November, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: **Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)**
 A. Jones
 M. Turner
 A.E. Evans
 G. Jones-Griffiths
 D. Rowberry
 J. Thomas
 P. Tolley

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

191) Apologies **Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, L. Thomas Evans, E. Jones, S. Mavar, H. Trollope, S. Trollope K. Waldron and G. Walters**

The Clerk had been contacted by Councillor K. Phillips to explain his reason for absence; unfortunately, due to commitments in respect of workload, which were pressing at the current time, the Member was extending apologies into the New Year, possibly up to February.

192) Declarations of Interest

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

193) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Kidz R Us – made a cheque presentation, it had been a lovely visit, full of energy, and the Mayor informed of activities, such as the adult learning difficulties class and dance performance - Diane and Jordan were a credit to the town.
- Flower Festival, Trefil – the displays had been beautiful and outstanding, the Festival had been reported on Facebook, and raised funds for the Mayor's Appeal.
- Trinity Chapel – had presented a carved Angel to the Mayor, who had visited to present a cheque to the Chapel, and had been made welcome.
- The previous month the Mayor had visited a group only to be bombarded with complaints; apologies had now been received from that organisation.

194) 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:

- Remembrance Sunday:

T2520 cairn memorial, Provision of a 16-seater minibus at a cost of £120.00; and, 'Teas / coffees', were agreed accordingly.

- Christmas Lights switch-on and display:
The following expenditure was considered and unanimously approved:
Tokens of appreciation presented to supporters / participants and associated supplies:
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 - Compère - £20.00 Voucher
 - Santa - Jameson's whisky
 - Sleigh - Chocolates £5.00
 - Tredegar Comprehensive School – Chocolates / Biscuits £10.00
 - Tredegar Orpheus MV Choir – Chocolates / Biscuits £10.00
 - Thomas Waste Management, flatbed (petty cash) £50.00
 - Sweets to be thrown to children in audience by Santa / guests
 - Christmas Poster Competition - Winner, personalised bespoke mug and Christmas cards.

Services of the sound engineer, J Cotton Audio: £210.00.

Competitions:

Poster – personalised mug and Christmas cards for winner; and

Christmas Window Dressing Competition – expenditure in respect of prize-giving – 1st Prize £50.00, 2nd £30.00 and 3rd £20.00.

195) Future Projects - RFO seeking suggestions for projects for the next financial year and longer-term

Council had been invited to email project proposals to the RFO to be put forward in November, or bring to next meeting of Council, for the forthcoming budget in December. This would allow the Officer to collate a proposed list of projects and any costings known would be useful.

196) 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

Cymru Creations – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the costs of running the Blaenau Gwent Film Academy and Over 60s Social Club which are free for the community to attend.

2019/20 Sept'19 CQ No. 901 £200.00 - Approved accordingly

Gwent Defibbers – Any financial assistance received would be used to promote basic life support by delivering CPR and defibrillator training plus a blood pressure monitoring service.

2024/24 July'24 CQ No. 706694 £200.00 Approved accordingly

Made In Tredegar – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the increasing running costs of the Little Theatre to keep it as an affordable and functioning community venue.

2024/24 July'24 CQ No. 706694 £200.00 Approved accordingly

- The Leader suggested there was a need to review the grants, as £200.00 was not a sufficient amount for some groups, the Clerk explained this matter would need to be considered in the appropriate forum, i.e. the Policy Sub-Committee.
- The Chair said an analysis could be undertaken of grants awarded each year, and a survey of organisations, for consideration of Sub-Committee.

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.

197) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) i) L. Sage Re: Tredegar Recreation Ground, Draft Tenancy at Will (TAW). Once happy with the contents, this will need to be signed. Dave Watkins is currently reviewing the 'wishlist' you provided and will be in touch with you shortly.

ii) Cllr Turner's response to the above email sent to L. Sage.

- Leader had met with the Team Manager - Street Scene, Dave Watkins, to assess works required, and had asked that the Officer attend with all certification, Legionnaire testing had been carried out, the Officer had appeared taken aback on reviewing the list / certification. Floodlights: Council had been told all were fully working / operational, but did not even know if these were working / safe - would be tested Friday that week. The Stand: Council had been informed this was in a usable condition; however, a lot of seats were missing, bird mess, which needed sanitation, and handrails were not in the best condition, terracing required tidying up [holes] , and needed re-rendering. The Team Manager - Street Scene and the Property Assets & Review Officer, Lyn Sage, were told there would be no handover until the work was done to Council's satisfaction.

Council thanked the Leader for his diligence in pursuing this matter on behalf of Council.

b) Statutory Consultation - Amendment 19 of the On-Street Consolidated Traffic Order. Closing date for comments 13.11.2025.

- Noted: forward to all Members.

c) P. Newman Re: Quickstart / Trailblazer. Referrals will start coming through and he will contact us once he has found someone suitable.

- Noted; previously, in respect of such programmes, the employer set out a job description and interviewed candidates, now there would be a pool of candidates working closely with employers to match eligible individuals to suitable roles; helping individuals move closer to employment through tailored, localised support.
The Programme was still in early stages with arrangements progressing and an Expression of Interest had been completed in readiness.

d) Digital Switchover: PSTN Review, Tredegar Town Council, Bedwellty House. Quotation for initial transfer cost and monthly cost.

- Noted.

e) K. Williams Re: Proposed Light Switch-On Event in Collaboration with Ebbw Vale Business Forum. Response to concerns raised by Council.

- Noted; request on agenda for next Quarterly meeting write seeking an assurance, this needed to be escalated to enquire of organisers if this would be every year or this date was a 'one-off'; if not, involved next year, as Town Centre Manager establish a link now as could re-occur every year.

f) K. Williams giving an update on the arrangements to open and close the walk way.

- Noted.

g) A. Parker Re: New Arrangement for TCC Interaction with BGCBC (Monday, 3rd November). No longer the Service Manager overseeing liaison with Town and Community Council's in Blaenau Gwent. This function as moved to the Adult and Communities Directorate under the stewardship of Leanne Roberts who is the Service Manager for Customer Experience & Transformation. David Arnold who deals with Strategic Partnerships is transferring to Leanne's Team.

- Noted.

- h) D. Wheelock Re: St. David's Day 2026 Welsh Government's Pilot Support Fund. Reaching out to explore a potential collaboration around St. David's Day 2026, in light of the Welsh Government's Pilot Support Fund, (see attached) which supports innovative and inclusive celebrations of Welsh identity.
 - Noted; forward to Councillors J. Thomas and M. Turner.
- i) Business & Innovation Team Re: Support a Local Child This Christmas – Join the Gift Appeal.
 - Noted: a donation of £100.00 was unanimously approved.

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

- j) i) List of applications received, week ending 17th October 2025
 TEN 23/24.12.2025 – The Olympia
 TEN 29/30/31.12.2025 – The Olympia
 ii) List of applications received, week ending 24th October 2025
 TEN 28.11.2025 – Mark Turner, TTC
 Temporary Street Trading 28.11.2025 – Mark Turner, TTC.
 - Noted.

2) One Voice Wales Welsh Government: Consultation on the changes to local government elections rules in Wales. OVW will be preparing a response to this consultation, and the views of Community and Town Councils are invited by 6th January, 2026.

- Noted; forward to all Members.

3) Aneurin Leisure Trust Aneurin Leisure Trust and the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity team extends an open invitation to all Members of Tredegar Town Council to take part in a community wildflower planting session at Parc Bryn Bach on Monday, 17th November, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., subject to weather conditions. ***Attendance to be confirmed by Friday, 14th November, 2025.***

- Noted.

4) Cllr Cuss Princetown Service - 7th November, 2025 at 9.15 a.m.

- Noted.

5) Wales Air Ambulance Community Council Appeal 2025.
Previous donation: 2024/25 Nov'24 £200.00

- Noted; a donation of £200.00 was unanimously approved.

6) Hospice of the Valleys Re: Join the Great Festive Dress Up and make spirits bright for Hospice of The Valleys.

- Noted: a donation of £50.00 was unanimously approved.

7) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 24.10.2025 & 31.10.2025; OVW Re: Volunteering in Retirement – **Twitter**; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct November 2025 Issue 162; Blaenau Gwent Funding Event 20th November. Beaufort Theatre between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m., booking essential – **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.

198) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 40
 ii) List of planning applications received in week 41
 iii) List of planning applications received in week 42

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0183	I. Ali Aziz BTL Properties Ltd. 21-22 Castle Street Tredegar	Re-consultation: Amended description. Change of use from A2 (financial & professional services) to mixed use A1 (shops) on the ground floor and basement and C3 Residential flats on 1 st & 2 nd floors including the installation of roof lights – 21 Castle Street.

Observations

No objections: subject to appropriate parking provision in respect of compliance to relevant planning conditions.

P/2025/0290	Mr. P. Bevan 18 Maes Morgan Tredegar	Proposed new residential house on vacant plot, 1 Maes Morgan.
P/2025/0296	Mr. D. Corbett Corbett Developments Ltd.	Erection of a portal frame light industrial unit, portacabin, perimeter

No objections

Waun-y-pound Industrial Estate Ebbw Vale	fence, a gate & associated external works, Land on Crown Business Park.
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c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

199) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - October 2025

The Clerk spoke to the draft Annual Remuneration Report 2026 - 2027, to be agreed by town and community councils, which was the first report drafted since the Democracy and Boundary Commission assumed responsibility for this remit from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Council noted all options in relation to allowances / payment for Members; observing that Senior roles and allowances were agendaed on an annual basis for ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council. The Clerk highlighted there were no changes to the payments and benefits paid to Elected Members for 2025.

Council noted and agreed:

- Community and town councils (CTC): The IRPW had previously simplified the reporting requirements for CTCs to encourage Members to accept allowances to which they were entitled, and work would continue to monitor the impact of this.
- Determination 6/2026: payments to Community and Town Council (CTC) Members The Panel continued to mandate payments for extra costs of homeworking and payment for office consumables, i.e. £156 and £52 respectively; being no change in the Determination from the previous year; and
- Reporting requirements
An annual statement was submitted by 30th September each year, to be published on the community / town council website. The Panel had determined that from September 2024, returns need show the total amounts paid in respect of mandatory payments only.

200) To approve the Annual Report - April 2024 to March 2025

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Report - April 2024 to March 2025 and Training Plan; the Clerk sought the feedback of Members, whereupon:

- The Clerk suggested that the 'Planting – Tredegar Business Forum: watering and weeding' could be included, which was agreed accordingly.

It was agreed that the draft Annual Report and Training Plan, subject to the foregoing addition, be accepted accordingly. Council expressed appreciation to the Clerk for the work undertaken in producing the Annual Report, which clearly reflected, as a Council, the work undertaken.

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

- Bandstand: roof urgently required attention, needed new roof decoration. Could be

considered as a project in the forthcoming budget-setting process for the next financial year.

- Toilet access: request to the House to open over the Christmas period.

202) 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** – The Leader had attended, discussed The Charter, Tredegar had not signed as well as some others; discussion around OVW and relevance regarding substance, paying annually then paying for conferences; Conference / Award Ceremony to be held on the same day, Builth Wells, attract more entries.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – No meeting.
- d) Tredegar Twinning** – No meeting; unfortunately the Secretary was really poorly and was not well enough for the organisation; the Vice-President Wales had resigned; the British Government awarded a grant in France in respect of exchanges and hoped this would be offered in the future for reciprocal arrangements, as the main financial burden was in respect of travel; Christmas dinner to be held in November.
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – Awaiting announcements, sadly only one of four Tredegar representatives in attendance. Three applications received from Tredegar – Business Forum, Women and Girls Cricket Team, and Bedwellty Park Bowls Club.
- f) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: long-serving School Clerk reducing working hours after thirty+ years, a new Clerk had been appointed to take over when the School Clerk finished; Ysgol Bro Helyg Primary: scheduled to open 12th November, 2025, there were a few minor matters outstanding, e.g. appointment of a caretaker.
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – The October Day School had been held Tabor, Brynmawr, with over fifty attending for the talk in respect of ‘Transport’. Publications were progressing well and the Mayor had been invited to do the Foreword for one.
- h) Tredegar Business Forum** – Meeting took place on Monday, which had been very constructive and there were a number of events planned for the forthcoming year. Placemaking, Clerk to request update.

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

- Civic nominations: the Leader presented two nominees to receive a Civic Award, which were unanimously approved – Member to complete nomination form accordingly.
- Open Air Cinema: unable to proceed due to weather conditions.
- Remembrance memorabilia: four full-size silhouettes, steel, sought price. Lamp-post poppies, agreed to approve expenditure in order to replenish supply.
- Congratulations extended to Councillor Sunny Mavar on the occasion of his marriage.
- Speeding cars, Park Hill: complaint regarding a car on fire, vehicles travelling along the corner by The Bush, not looking left or right at the junction, danger over speed limit; however, if not monitored, this would prove a waste of time.
- Tredegar Quiz Wizards: starting next Wednesday - 12th The Moose, 19th TBC, 26th The Nag's Head, 4th December TBC and 10th The Bowls Club.
- Attendance at meetings of Council: the Clerk reported an absence for over six consecutive months of Councillor Geraint Meredith and, in reporting the matter through

the appropriate channels, advising Members accordingly. Unfortunately, as no reason for absence has been received for consideration, the decision should be that **the role as Councillor would cease with immediate effect** in accordance with specialist guidance in the field of local government law and under the Local Government Act 1972 s85(1) and (2), i.e. *If a Member fails throughout six consecutive months to attend any meetings of the Council or of its Committees or Sub-Committees of which he is a Member he ceases automatically to be a Member of the Council unless his failure is due to a reason approved by the Council before the end of the period...".* It was therefore approved for the Clerk to write to inform the Member of the cessation of the role of Councillor, extending the thanks of Council accordingly.

- Tredegar Ironsides Minis and Juniors: fixture every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chair