

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Joint Civic and Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 10th December, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

**A. Jones
M. Turner
K. Phillips
L. Thomas Evans
E. Jones
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
P. Tolley
H. Trollope
S. Trollope
G. Walters**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

231) Apologies. Councillors G. Badham, A.E. Evans, G. Jones-Griffiths, S. Mavar and K. Waldron; RFO – Ms. A. Edwards

232) Declarations of Interest

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

233) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Diamond Wedding, Barbara and Duncan – congratulations to these lovely people, that Council know and love, who had been over-whelmed by the celebrations.
- Opening of MUGA at Tredegar Comprehensive School [Aneurin Leisure.]
- Christmas Lights switch-on – the display was beautiful; the event had been successful and Council was grateful of help by others. Lee had done a lovely job as Compère, if needed again, he wished to work with Council to make festivities bigger / better!
- Mayor Blackwood, Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir - Louie Doel and Ellie Roberts were excellent. Poem, Patrick Jones, working with mental health charities to make a characteristic bridge, the site of many suicides, safer.
- Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir - fund-raising concert in support of Cardiac Rehab.
- Cheque Cymru Creations – who were thriving in the town, offering help throughout Tredegar and working with the older generation.
- Ystad Deri Community Centre - one lady carrying operations, an absolute stalwart; surprised people attended all over – Tredegar, even Rassau, who came to events because nothing similar in their area.

- Otters Presentation – this was Sue Woodward’s 47th year, starting six months after formed and was always joyful. When started, many of the disabilities related to Thalidomide, now the majority of people were on the Autism or Down Syndrome. The work was challenging, but lovely to support.
- Bedwellty Park Bowls - presentation cheque; the Club had an outstanding year, and next year would be special as their 50th anniversary; lots of events with the Bowls Barbarians, having secured promotion to the next league.
- Presented certificates to Window-Dressing competition winners - , these had been decorated / painted and it had been a lovely honour.

234) To receive the 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:

▪ Events Sub-Committee

Mayor’s Christmas visits - Residential and Care Homes

It was agreed: to accept tender received for the transport provision, i.e. 16-seater minibus at a cost of £180.00 (Tabby’s).

▪ Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee

It was agreed that the following would be presented to Council, with a view to the appropriate Recommendations being formally agreed and approved accordingly.

Project	No	2026/27
T2520 Bomber Memorial	✓	
Promotional TV	✓	
Grants review		✓
Tredegar Recreation Ground		✓
Beaufort Garden fence		✓
Allotment trees		✓
Additional office staff member		✓
Replacement handyman		✓
New cleaning contract * SLA required		✓
Refurbishment of the public conveniences		✓
Refurbishment of Burma shrine alcove		✓
Installation of a Remembrance Bench in Troedrihwgair * <i>Review condition of all benches; further consideration</i>		-
Male Voice Choir to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Aberfan disaster. * <i>Further consideration</i>		-
Centenary ‘The Moose’ * <i>Potential Council involvement</i>		-

- **Bereavement Entitlement:** following due consideration, it was unanimously agreed the Officer’s wellbeing be supported and the Sub-Committee therefore proposed that Council allow flexibility in respect of entitlement and that the Officer be allowed to take time to meet any personal requirements up until the new year; and Further consideration be given to review and update appropriate Policies.
- **Memorabilia:** bespoke Clocks 1) generic for any recipient; 2) personalised / engraved - to be provided at a cost of £10.00-£15.00. Mayor to liaise in respect of feedback accordingly.

235) Tredegar Recreation Ground: any update for discussion

The Leader was awaiting a response from the BGCBC Officer, Team Manager - Street Scene, Mr. Dave Watkins, following their previous meeting. Therefore, no update to be received.

236) 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)

Councillor J. Thomas declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion.

Tredegar Moose Ladies Circle – Any financial assistance received would be used towards painting of the external walls of the building and fencing around the car park.

20124/25 Nov'24 CQ No. 706744 £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.

237) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in December 2025

The Clerk spoke to the report and explained that bank reconciliations, valid to date, would not be available at the meeting but for Members to view upon request in the office during opening hours, which was noted accordingly. The Officer thereupon highlighted the following:

- Accounts for Payment in November 2025
'Red' indicated changes made, i.e.
Christmas window competition winners now included and cheques issued;
BGCBC - agreed that a cheque was best option for payment, amount remained unchanged;
St. John Ambulance - initial write back of cheque cancelled as payment honoured by Bank whilst out of date, as well over six months old;
Ystrad Deri Community Centre included to offset replacement cheque.
The overall amount was £300.00 higher than previously reported due to amendments outlined above.
- Accounts for Payment in December 2025
Included "Potential payments for pre-approval to pay before Christmas closure, if invoices received".
- Section 137 payments in Schedule of Payments – Resolution of Council: In pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, expenditure up to £121,947.61 was approved in relation to the above £0.00.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items were approved for payment. The Clerk 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 RFO, which was noted accordingly.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee - 5th November, 2025
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 5th November, 2025
- c) Events Sub-Committee - 19th November, 2025
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th November, 2025

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

239) 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.

240) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) H. Hinton Re: P/2025/0120 Clock Tower. Advice regarding the handrail install enquiry.
 - Following a concern raised by a Member, upon enquiry, the following advice had been received from a Planning Officer of BGCBC.

The works would require planning permission and Listed Building Consent. Subject to the handrail being of an appropriate design, material, finishing and fixing, and associated planning considerations as part of the formal application process, it was considered likely a planning application and Listed Building Consent application would be supported.

On due consideration, the pre-application advice was noted accordingly; however Council would not be proceeding at this time.
 - b) N. Morgan Re: Consultation for proposed lease, Bedwellty Park Pavilion & Bowling Green. Proposed 25-year lease under the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy. Any comments are to be submitted to her.
 - Noted; Council was fully supportive of Bedwellty Park Bowls Club in respect of their application for a twenty-five year Lease of the Pavilion and Bowling Green – Clerk to write accordingly.

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

- c) i) List of applications received, week ending 21st November, 2025

Temporary Event Notice, 29th and 30th November
– Kidz R Us

i) List of applications received, week ending
28th November 2025

Application to transfer premises licence – The
Mountain Air

iii) List of applications received, week ending
5th December 2025

- Noted.

2) Torfaen CBC

F. Phillips Re: 2025 Actuarial Valuation. As of April 2026, Town Councils have been moved to a pooled contribution rate. Our employer's contribution rate will increase by 0.2% each year for the next three years starting 1st April, 2026 and again this valuation there is no additional lump sum to be paid.

- Noted; a Member had attended on behalf of Council but considered a Section 151 Officer, or appropriately qualified finance officer, needed to attend due to level of understanding required. The Leader offered to look into the matter and report back accordingly.

3) SLCC

SLCC Membership Renewal Notice £253.00 **Prev. £240.00.**

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

4) Credit Union

Press Release – on behalf of Council re: funds deposited with Smart Money Cymru.

- Noted; the RFO and Leader had been consulted with and consequently this had been posted on the Council's Facebook page.

5) Tenovus Cancer
Care

D. Delahay asking if they can attend a Council meeting to explain about the support they offer.

- Noted; it was therefore agreed that an invite be extended to attend a formal meeting of Council.

6) Barclays

Re: Changes to Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). From 1st December 2025, the FSCS is increasing the maximum level of protection it provides, from £85,000 to £120,000, on eligible deposits. FSCS protection covers total eligible deposits across all the accounts held with Barclays, Barclays Business Banking, Barclays

Premier Banking, Barclays Wealth Management, and Tesco Bank.

- Noted; Members welcomed the information.

7) Blaenau Gwent
Heritage Forum

Re: Powell's History of Tredegar. Just republished a very important literary work. Demand for book remains high, hence the decision to reprint, (100 copies printed). The Forum wonders whether Council may wish to obtain copies that could be distributed to local schools or perhaps could even arrange an official book launch?

- Council would wish to purchase books and discuss an official launch; to be considered further in the new year.

8) H. Woolf

Re: FC Tredegar Minis & Juniors. Support for children's access to sport and funding opportunities. Request for financial support and an update on changes at FC Tredegar.

- Noted. Council supported young people in sport and would not wish to lose children from accessing such resources, due to being unable to meet the monthly fee required. A Member suggested the Club be signposted to appropriate organisations in each Ward of Tredegar that offered support to struggling families.

Members suggested perhaps a conversation was needed to better understand requirements and the Club be invited in to meet with the appropriate Sub-Committee.

9) Urdd Gobaith
Cymru

2026 Fund for All Appeal. Asking for a donation towards a child attending one of their Summer Camps. ***Previous donation: 2023/24 Dec'23 £180.00***

- Noted; a donation of £230.00 in sponsorship of one place was unanimously approved.

10) Tredegar Quiz
Wizards

Donation of £100.00 to Mayor's Appeal 'Kidney Wales', donated by that week's quiz winners 'Tred Fest'.

- Noted; the Mayor extended sincere thanks.

11) Holocaust Memorial
Day Trust

Invitation to light up a building in purple at 8pm for Holocaust Memorial Day on Tuesday, 27th January, 2026, as part of the national Light the Darkness.

- Noted.

12) Christmas Lights Correspondence - various: Damage to Town Clock lighting due to vandalism

- Noted; Leader and Clerk to liaise to conclude the matter on behalf of Council.

13) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 21.11.2025; FREE Biodiversity Packages for C&TCs; HMD 2026 Resource Launch – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

Councillors E. Jones, D. Rowberry and J. Thomas declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

241) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 44

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2024/0144 <i>No objections</i>	Mr. W. Edwards 15 Nantyglo Cwmcracken	RE-CONSULTATION Alteration of red line boundary for access To demolish an existing wooden construction property and replace with a single storey Bungalow – Land at Old Tram Road, Waundeg, Tredegar.
P/2025/0191 <i>No objections</i>	Mr. P. Flanagan c/o. Mr. P. Parsons Creation Design Wales Room 229, The Innovation Centre Festival Drive Victoria Business Park, Ebbw Vale	Proposed change of use of vacant land to residential curtilage, Vacant land between The Gables and Deglan, Charles Street.
P/2025/0291 <i>No objections</i>	Mr. D. Davies Jim Davies Civil Engineering Ty Gwyn Banalog Terrace Hollybush	Construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and associated works, Plots 1-3. Former Pochin works Site, Newport Road.

P/2025/0298	Mr. P. Poopalarethnam Bestco Group Plc. 21 Castle Street Tredegar	Advertisement consent for 3 fascia signs and 4 window posters plus 1 wall sign, 21 Castle Street.
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Observations:

No objections; however, concern was expressed in regard to the impact upon the visual amenity, as this conservation area was core to the heritage of the town.

P/2025/0299	Mr. P. Poopalarethnam Bestco Group Plc 21 Castle Street Tredegar	External alterations to front and side elevation, front roller shutter door and installation of Inpost unit to the side elevation, 21 Castle Street.
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Observations

No objections; however, a Member suggested the location of the unit should be re-sited, so as not to obscure, as the current position was directly in front of an existing window.

P/2025/0305	S. Rowlands, BGCBC The Energy Centre Lime Avenue The Works Ebbw Vale	Proposed construction of a 2.4m high fence and gates as per design drawings, Bryn Bach Primary.
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No objections

P/2025/0312	Mr. M. Jenkins Willowbank, Hillview Tredegar	Proposed works to rear garden space including erection of outbuilding, retaining wall, steps, driveway and gates. Retention of existing retaining walls, Willowbank Hillview, Georgetown.
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No objections

P/2025/0332	Mr. D. Hughes Overlook House Georgetown Tredegar.	Installation of 2 holiday chalets to provide tourism facility at site adjoining Dan Y Bryn, Newport Road including access, ecology and Landscaping.
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No objections

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

242) 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.

243) 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 – band playing and bucket collection at supermarket.

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – Grants awarded and the deadline for the next round

of funding was March 2026.

f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: new S.I. Partner; no longer a teacher involved in learning community as now full-time in EAS; MUGA multi-box bay, community focus development; five members of staff absent due to serious illness, however the good news that all were improving; excellent Christmas activities – two Nativity and one Panto. Georgetown Primary: the Governor representative had attended the Christmas plays.

g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – No update.

h) Tredegar Business Forum – number of plans in place for 2026; poppies pop-up shop in town – Town Centre Manager / Amanda had tried to meet with landlord on four separate occasions as no heating; former Midland Bank had changed hands; new shop – Mitchell Roath; Santa's Grotto on 6th December; Police moving on alcoholics; ASB experienced in Precinct and racist abuse of staff in Post Office.

Another Member referred to a racist incident in Georgetown, whereby she had been surprised by the attitude of some of the citizens within the community. The Police had been contacted but the Member had been informed that no report had been made by the shop owners themselves.

i) Placemaking – No update.

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

- Blaenau Gwent Film Academy Awards organised by the youngsters, invite extended to any Members who wished to attend and present Awards on behalf of the youngsters – Saturday, 13th December, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.
- In respect of a query, Members confirmed that Council made no financial contribution to the CCTV within Tredegar.
- Civic Nominations: agreed, Member to complete necessary forms accordingly.
- Council was informed of vandalism to the toilets – the Leader asked that any issues be reported to the Clerk and himself direct to be kept updated.
- The Leader wished to thank all Councillors for their hard work in 2025 and the Clerk and RFO also.
- Christmas Card: thanking Council for all the hard undertaken by Members and staff on behalf of the community, in particular the festivities organised around the Town Clock for the switch-on of the Christmas Lights display.

The Chair extended best wishes of Thanks and a Happy New Year. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.11 p.m.

_____ Chair