

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 4th February, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings. (Chair)

**A. Jones
M. Turner
G. Badham
A.E. Evans
G. Jones-Griffiths
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
P. Tolley**

In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne

**By invitation: Torfaen CBC representative:
Place Planning Consultant, Chris Ashman**

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

281) Declarations of Interest

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

282) Presentation: Place Planning Consultant, Torfaen CBC, seeking comments of Council on the development of a shared Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen blueprint for future growth

The Chair extended a welcome to the Place Planning Consultant, Torfaen CBC, who had been invited to attend, following his request to seek the comments of Council on the development of a shared Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen blueprint for future growth, and respond to any questions raised.

- A Blueprint for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth for Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen
 - Key economic challenges
 - Future Position Statement
 - Place planning creating vibrant, attractive, and functional spaces that enhance the quality of life offer
 - Strategic Theme 1 – Business and Employment Growth
 - Strategic Theme 2 – People and Skills
 - Strategic Theme 3 – Infrastructure and Investment
 - What had been done - Place plans, Improved workspace /employment sites, Housing growth and Ebbw Vale line

- What was being done - Strategic site development – planning framework and business cases, Tredegar – housing sites, Welsh primary school, shopping centre, Pontypool – The British, Ebbw Vale – Northern corridor and The Works phase 3, Transforming towns project delivery, Pontypool, Cwmbran, Blaenavon, Tredegar, Abertillery, Brynmawr
- What's Next - Pride in Place delivery [two town centres], Eastern Valleys metro improvements. Tech Valleys Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing zone, More Town centre renewal, Housing and Neighbourhoods, Destination Management and Visitor economy, Skills and Workforce pipeline, SME Growth framework
- Shared Delivery via 'The Deal' Approach
- Next steps
 - Stakeholder engagement – February to May 26
 - Secure development partner – January to June 2026
 - Council(s) approval – June 2026
 - Delivery via Work Streams from June 2026 – including publication of relevant documents, programme of delivery and aligning with BGT Deals
 - Put in place new structures to support delivery – from Spring 2026
 - Set up BGT Inclusive Growth Partnership and other governance and management arrangements by end of 2026
 - Annual Performance Review from Autumn 2027

Council was very pleased to hear of such development and had emphasised for many years the need to build economic activity and transport links to compete with other areas, such as Newport, Cardiff and Swansea. Tredegar had significant heritage to take advantage of in attracting visitors to the area and employers to generate jobs. Members stressed the importance of providing the appropriate infrastructure to encourage industry to this area, not just Blaenau Gwent as a whole but Tredegar, e.g. MacDonalds, Costa Coffee, named brand retailers, etc.

Council thereupon thanked the Place Planning Consultant for his presentation, which had been most informative and sincerely welcomed.

283) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Michael Morgan of Gwent Defibbers, who was to be presented with a cheque following the organisation's grant application; Mr. Morgan extended thanks to Council and provided Members with background to the organisation.

- Tredegar 'Live' – the Mayor had attended a meeting at Llanhilleth Institute, which had proven interesting, where it was considered that the Tredegar Live document was the most up-to-date of any such document currently in place in Blaenau Gwent. The Mayor proposed that a review of the document was needed and it was therefore agreed that a meeting be convened accordingly.
- Afternoon Tea, The Moose – raised funds for the Mayor's Appeal, with over sixty ladies in attendance at the event.
- Go Local and Honey Bees – the Mayor had been invited to undertake a visit, attending both shops, and had received a very warm welcome.

284) To receive the verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committee / Working Party meetings held prior to this meeting of Council

No Sub-Committee or Working Party meetings had held prior to Council; however an

informal meeting of Council had taken place and Members welcomed the collaboration of their Local Authority counterparts.

285) Grants:

A Member updated Council in respect of the proposed Choir Concert in memory of the Aberfan disaster; unfortunately, this could not proceed due to the busy diary commitments of the Choirs.

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)

Hospice of the Valleys - Any financial assistance received would be used for the Bronze Level sponsorship for the 6-Mile Race on 12.04.2026.

2024/25 Jan'25 CQ No. 706775 £250.00

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk liaise with the grant applicant to ascertain the contribution in respect of the Silver Level sponsorship, as Members were aware of the set amount allocated within this budget heading. It was therefore agreed that the Bronze Level sponsorship be approved 'in principle' within a donation, as appropriate, up to the maximum amount allocated.

Councillor G. Jones-Griffiths declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

Stocktonville Senior Citizens Welfare Association - Any financial assistance received would be used towards purchasing new kettles, teapots. Tea urn, crockery etc to accommodate those attending classes.

2024/25 Feb'25 CQ No. 706784 £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.

286) Correspondence

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

1) BGCBC a) A. Williams Re: Review of Community Areas and Electoral Arrangements, Blaenau Gwent.

- Noted; discussion ensued in respect of the closure of the Polling Station, Peacehaven, and Community Centre, James Street; it was suggested that some individuals were unable to use the booth provided at the Methodist Chapel.

b) TRO Consultation: Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and On-Street Parking Places (Civil Parking Enforcement and Consolidation)

ORDER 2019 (Amendment NO. 20). Statutory consultation period open till 19th February, 2026.

- A Member suggested the proposals for Tafarnaubach excessive; Council acknowledged Members should take into consideration how Council looked at other areas to park responsibly. It was pointed out that Penn Pharmaceuticals had own car park and responsibility for their own employees; lorries had to be able to pass.. Discussion ensued regarding responsible parking in other locations, e.g. schools, and associated safety aspects.

c) K. Watkins Re: St Davids Day Funding. Offer of £1,000.00 to all town councils to support events and activities for Dydd Gŵyl / St David's Day. Respond with a brief outline of your proposed activity and associated costings no later than 12th February, 2026.

- It was agreed that the funding be sought to contribute to School transport for the children to access activities in Bedwellty House.

d) Cllr S. Behr Re: Pride in Place spending. Response to Cllr Turner's letter – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**

- Circulate to all Members; any comments to be fed back to the Leader.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Re: National Awards Ceremony 2026. Being held Wednesday 1st July, 2026 at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground. Nomination guide attached, closing dates for entries 30.04.2026.

- Noted.

b) P. Egan Re: Go Fund Me page. Respond to queries regarding the legality of it.

- Noted; response. A Member suggested the individual group be awarded funding, for the two individuals from Tredegar, proposing £1,000.00 as he would like £500.00 available for each individual representing UK in Denmark.

This proposal was seconded and the expenditure in the sum of £1,000.00 approved unanimously.

3) Torfaen County Borough Council

J. Griffiths Re: Funding Strategy Statement and Valuation Results. Asking for Council's views on

the Funding Strategy Statement, to be submitted by 9th March, 2026. Also, requesting Council confirm they are happy with Employer Contributions submitted to Council at the meeting in December 2025 (0.2% increase each year for 3 years commencing 2026).

- Noted.

4) Cllr Tippings

Re: Memorabilia. Potential presentation designs from Lottie Dottie.

- It was therefore unanimously agreed that expenditure be approved to purchase ten of each of both designs.

The Clerk again reported the lack of memorabilia in stock, whereupon it was agreed that the glass awards previously awarded by Council be purchased [quantity ten] and expenditure approved accordingly.

5) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 30.01.2026 – ***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.

287) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 3
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 4

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2025/0297	Mrs. H.L. Hudd Wauntysswg Farm Mountain Road to Waun Tysswg and boundary Cefn Golau, Tredegar	Replacement steel frame agricultural building for the secure storage of machinery, Wauntysswg Farm, Mountain Road to Waun Tysswg and boundary, Cefn Golau .
<i>No objections</i>		

- c) **To consider other planning matters** – Asbri Planning - PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION BEFORE APPLYING FOR PLANNING PERMISSION Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 SCHEDULE 1 Article 4. (4) SCHEDULE 1B Articles 2C & 2D Full planning application for residential development and associated works Land at Chartist Way, Sirhowy, Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent, NP22 4PR

At the request of the Chair, a Ward Member provided an update for Council's information.

288) 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.

289) 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** – Club 69, to undertake half marathon in Orvault.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** - closing deadline for applications was end of March.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: new Advisor working really well with Head, one of the priorities; Deighton Primary: meeting to be held the following week; Georgetown Primary: meeting was to be held the next day; Ysgol Gymraeg: School was progressing really well but concerns in respect of advancement to Welsh Medium School, how pupils would be educated, projected that schools in the south-east would be full within two years, strategic plan for needed education.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – meeting held two weeks ago, no TTC Member representation in attendance, if unable to attend notify 'reserve'. Next Lecture 12th February, 2026, twenty places of interest across Gwent 'Follies of Gwent'.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** - meeting to be held next week.
- i) **Placemaking** – No update.

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

- Town Clock garden surround – no bulbs ordered as clear of garden needed, leave open and plan planting for springtime; proposed theme: Moose Centenary – check if blue / yellow.
- Moose Ladies – the ladies had been charming' proposed that invite be extended to Presentation Awards ceremony - in recognition of Centenary and formal presentation of grant cheque.
- Nomination forms – following due consideration, it was agreed that Members complete nomination forms in respect of the four individuals named, which was approved accordingly.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Chair