

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held via
Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 20th May, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

A. Jones

M. Turner

K. Phillips

G. Badham

E. Jones

G. Jones-Griffiths

D. Rowberry

J. Thomas

**In attendance: Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne
RFO – Ms. A. Edward**

001) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027:

Thanks and Appreciation by outgoing Mayor 2025 / 2026, Councillor A.E. Tippings

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated, the nomination was duly seconded: it was unanimously agreed, therefore, that the Mayor remain in situ.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Alyson Tippings was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Mayor.

002) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor:

At this point, the Chain of Office will be handed over and the Consort's Chain will also be exchanged. Gifts / flowers will be given to incoming and outgoing Consort.

Mayor to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk; an exchange of Chain of Office was not applicable.

003) To receive any communication the Mayor may wish to lay before Council.

Councillor Alyson Tippings was pleased to accept the role of Mayor and said she would like to thank Members for their diligence and support, as a Council was only as good as it's Members.

004) Apologies. Councillors H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron and G. Walters

The Clerk reported an absence for over six consecutive months of Councillor Sunny Mavar and, in reporting the matter through the appropriate channels, advised Members accordingly that:

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 that the Clerk write informing the Member of the cessation of the role of Councillor, extending the thanks of Council accordingly.

005) Declarations of Interest

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

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027: Chain of Office will be given to the incoming Deputy.

A Member proposed that Councillor Allan Jones be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor, the nomination was duly seconded. It was unanimously agreed that the Deputy Mayor remain in situ; an exchange of Chain of Office, therefore, was not applicable.

Deputy Mayor to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

A Member said he was pleased to nominate Councillor Mark Turner to the role of Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and the Councillor re-appointed.

Leader to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

A Member nominated Councillor Kevin Phillips, to the role of Deputy Leader; the nomination was duly seconded, and the Councillor re-appointed.

Deputy Leader to duly sign the acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

009) To approve the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio Members of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees with voting rights.

This was agreed unanimously.

010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council.

Circulated and reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee on 18th March, 2026: these were agreed unanimously.

011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.

Circulated and reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee on 18th March, 2026: these were agreed unanimously.

012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council's Bankers (existing).

This was agreed.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader, Deputy Leader of Council, and Finance Sub-Committee Chair, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously. (N.B. Clerk and RFO to sign cheques only in the case of an emergency, once approval agreed by the signatories listed.)

014) To agree the Mayor's Allowance (£500.00) and Mayoral Civic budget (£815.00) – to authorise payment in full or pro rata.

This was agreed unanimously: the RFO said the onus was on the Member, if wishing to decline, and a response required by email.

015) To agree a Leader's Allowance, not exceeding £500.00, and authorise payment.

This was agreed unanimously: the RFO said the onus was on the Member, if wishing to decline, and a response required by email.

016) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).

This was agreed unanimously.

017) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee: To meet quarterly.

This was agreed unanimously.

018) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

- a. **Civic Sub-Committee:** G. Jones-Griffiths and P. Tolley
- b. **Events Sub-Committee (To incorporate Publicity Sub-Committee and Website Working Party):** G. Jones-Griffiths and G. Badham replaced by L. Thomas Evans
- c. **Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00:** L. Thomas Evans, G. Jones-Griffiths and P. Tolley
- d. **Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee (To incorporate the Budget Working Party):** G. Jones-Griffiths
- e. **Appeals Committee**
- f. **Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council**
- g. **Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee (To incorporate Tredegar Twinning Association):** G. Jones-Griffiths and S. Trollope replaced by L. Thomas Evans
- h. **One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme:** G. Jones-Griffiths
- i. **Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee (Encompassing Tredegar W/C Facilities, Deighton playing field and Sirhowy Community Garden, Allotments and Town Clock) :** G. Jones-Griffiths and P. Tolley

j. Planning Representatives: P. Tolley [Reserve]

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee / Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2027.

Membership to remain in situ, with the foregoing amendments agreed accordingly.

019) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:

- a. Quarterly Liaison Meeting / Joint Committee of Local Councils**
- b. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales**
- c. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM**
- d. Tredegar Twinning Association: K. Phillips replaced by P. Tolley**
- e. Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund**
- f. School Governing Bodies**
 - a. Bryn Bach Primary**
 - b. Deighton Primary**
 - c. Georgetown Primary**
 - d. Glanhwy Primary**
 - e. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary**
 - f. Ysgol Gymraeg Tredegar**
- g. Blaenau Gwent CAB: Clerk to ascertain if meetings were taking place.**
- h. Tredegar Business Forum**
- i. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**
- j. Tredegar Placemaking: it was noted no invitation had been received since representation replacing the THI.**
- k. Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park**
- l. Armed Forces Community Covenant**

The list was reviewed and representation agreed unanimously.

020) 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 / Working Party meetings held prior to Council be approved accordingly.

- **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee held Monday, 11th May, 2026**
- Agreed: post of Town Council Operative
 - 24 hours per week – flexible basis (time of year / seasonal), dependent on responsibilities relating to The Recreation Ground, including Saturday and Sunday
 - National Living Wage
 - Subject to a six-month probationary period
 - Job specification approved
 - Contract and specification to be discussed with Operative
 - DBS mandatory
 - PPE / Uniform – RFO to liaise in respect of provision.
- Deighton playing field: agreed to meet with appropriately qualified tree surgeon to discuss works urgently required within the field boundary.

- **Working Party – Christmas Lights Display held Tuesday, 12th May, 2026**
 - Specification: to seek quotations in respect of the proposed display featuring tree wrapping, motifs and the canopy at The Circle
 - Replacement of bespoke TTC lighting (x3) 'Welcome' and bypass
 - Site visit at The Circle to review infrastructure
 - Next meeting to be held Tuesday, 26th May, 2026
- **Working Party – Review of Grants Policy held Wednesday, 13th May, 2026**
 - Start-up Grants: renamed a First Time Application, capped at a maximum of £200.00.
 - Sporting & Cultural: grants between £200.00 and £500.00 dependent on circumstances, e.g. running costs opposed to a designated project. Grants greater than £300.00 could not apply the next financial year.
 - Churches / Chapels: no monetary amendments.
 - National Charities: to include CAB, range changed £50.00 - £200.00.
 - To be included with Sporting & Cultural applicants – St. John Ambulance, RBL, Business Forum
 - Hospice of the Valleys: increase £400.00.
 - Aneurin Leisure Trust: £1,000.00.

Recommendation: RFO to update Grants Policy, subject to the foregoing amendments, to be presented to next appropriate meeting of Council for approval.

- **Civic Sub-Committee held Wednesday, 20th May, 2026**
 - **Tredegar Town U14s:** It was agreed the applicant be given another opportunity to attend and a further invitation be extended.
 - **FC Tredegar Mini & Juniors:** It was agreed that a grant of £200.00 be recommended to Council for approval, rather than the £100.00 start-up grant, due to excellent work being undertaken and the fact that the Club could have applied separately in relation to the Minis and Juniors, having individual bank accounts in place.
 - **Tredegar Ironsides Mini & Juniors:** It was agreed that a grant of £200.00 be recommended to Council for approval, rather than the £100.00 start-up grant, due to excellent work being undertaken in reviving rugby provision in the community.

021) Tredegar Recreation Ground: any update for discussion

The Leader said that the Clerk had written to a number of solicitors to seek a quotation in respect of the content of the Tenancy of Will contract, who had expressed no interest in this piece of work. The Leader had thereupon sought legal advice and had received the same response as the Clerk that, as the Council would be able to cease responsibility at any point without consequence / notice, he was assured Council would be covered legally. He had therefore had a conversation with Mr. T. Watkins, currently undertaking bookings, and the Property Assets & Review Officer, BGCBC, in respect of outstanding issues, e.g. holes in the fencing requiring permanent repair, rather than temporary as at present, and lighting within the pavilion.

The Leader had expressed concern that an inspection was required of the whole site, prior to Council taking on responsibility of the asset, and no documentation would be signed before this was carried out. The Member had already requested completion of a few

remedial items, i.e. resurfacing of car park and demolition of toilets, which had been agreed accordingly.

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

022) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2026.

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.

- April 2026 Accounts – Council to ratify payments / adjustments in **RED**, which were agreed accordingly
- May 2026 Accounts
 - two additional payments in respect of grants awarded in the sum of £400.00 and total for May amended accordingly.
 - Mighty Oaks: cheque to be written back, as works not completed by end of March, due to the need to re-apply for the planning application in respect of TPO remedial works.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, presented items plus the additional amounts reported were approved for payment. The RFO asked that the designated signatories liaise in respect of the transfer of funds and authorisation of the online payments, as approved by Council, to be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

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

- a. Events Sub-Committee - 1st April, 2026
- b. Civic Meeting of Council - 1st April, 2026
- c. Performance Review Sub-Committee - 15th April, 2026
- d. Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th April, 2026.

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

024) 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.

025) Correspondence.

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) L. Sage Re: Deighton and Beaufort garden leases. Copy of letter sent to our solicitors instructing them that they can now register the leases with Land Registry.

- Noted. The Chair asked for an update in respect of the fencing to Sirhowy community garden; the Clerk confirmed the RFO was progressing this matter.
- b) A. Pryce Re: Deighton Playing Field. Blaenau Gwent Play Team asking to use the field for their summer play schedule, dates included.
- Members approved this request and were happy to support the play sessions, which were considered an excellent activity for young people. Clerk to confirm and reiterate the criteria for use.

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

i) List of applications received, week ending 17th April, 2026

Temporary Event notice for the sale of alcohol
02/03.05.2026 – Sirhowy Woodlands

ii) List of applications received, week ending 24th April, 2026

1) Temporary Street Trading Consent
02/03.05.2026 – Sirhowy Woodlands

2) Temporary Street Trading Consent 07.05.2026
and 03.06.2026 – Parc Bryn Bach

3) Minor variation to a Premises Licence to amend a condition on the licence – Railway Tavern

iii) List of applications received, week ending 8th May, 2026

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Re: Membership of One Voice Wales 2026-2027. Renewal £3,305.00.
- Noted; this cost was based upon per household, rather than in accordance with inflation. It was unanimously agreed the expenditure be approved accordingly.
- b) Launch of One Voice Wales Civility & Respect Pledge.
- Agreed; Clerk to sign accepting Pledge.
- c) Webinars: Biodiversity Team: The five pillars of nature recovery.
- Noted; forward to all Members.

- d) National Conference & Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, 1st July, 2026 at Royal Welsh Showground. £99.00 per member and £139.00 for non-members.

- Agreed; Clerk to book two places.

3) Constituents Complaints:

- a) BGCBC M. Stent. Responses to the concerns raised.
- b) BGCBC M. Hopkins. In respect of the parking issues, as there are no traffic regulation orders within the immediate vicinity of the Railway Tavern the Council has no powers to deal with obstructive parking. This would be for Gwent Police to enforce.
- c) Gwent Police D. Wise Re: Parking Enforcement. Responses to concerns.
- d) BGCBC K. Rees Re: Parking Enforcement. Responses to concerns raised.
- e) Cllr T. Smith Response concerns raised.
- Council expressed concern that the Local Authority and Police appeared to be avoiding responsibility by naming the other party and the issues remained unresolved. Police were ignoring the practice of double-parking on Castle Street and in The Circle and Members believed unlawful behaviour led on to other levels of crime.

4) N. Smith MP

Re: DWP Scans. Response from DWP on how they are trying to raise aware of the scams.

- Noted; forward to all Members.

5) Cllr Tippings

Re: The Granary. Raising concerns of residents regarding antisocial behaviour.

- Members were aware of ongoing issues with United Welsh Housing, such as The Granary and Cronin Court, suggesting the Association was not doing enough to keep residents safe. Members had witnessed anti-social behaviour that had been ongoing for quite some time and it was therefore agreed that Council write in support of residents' concerns in order that appropriate action could be taken to resolve these issues.

6) Grants:

- a) D. Summerfield. Classic Car show has been cancelled due to lack of support. Asking can they redirect the funding to their town planting project.
- This was unanimously agreed.

- b) Blaenau Gwent Otter. Letter of thanks for the donation towards the International Gala in Denmark.

- Noted.

7) A. Latham

Re: Siting of a bench. Asking for advice about placing a commemorative bench between Aneurin Bevan Stones and the lake.

- Noted; inform individual to write to Blaenau Gwent CBC as this area was within the remit of the Local Authority.

8) Ruth
Taylor- Davies

Re: Just added! 1926 and Coalfield Community: Welsh People's History Society. Various dates for online events.

- Noted.

***Urgent
Correspondence***
St. John Ambulance

Armed Forces Day: Emergency Medical Cover

- The Clerk outlined the quote of St. John Ambulance in the sum of £156.00, whereupon Council unanimously approved expenditure for the emergency medical cover.

In respect of a response needed within a forty-eight hour period, Council agreed that the Officer be delegated the power to accept the quote in respect of Aneurin Bevan Day, upon receipt, if a similar amount.

9) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 24.04.2026, 01.05.2026, 08.05.2026, 15.05.2026 & 22.05.2026; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2025 Issue 165; OVW Biodiversity Packages 2026-27 now available, deadline for applications given; OVW Funding Newsletter May 2026

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

026) Planning

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 14.
ii) List of planning applications received in week 15.
iii) List of planning applications received in week 16.
iv) List of planning applications received in week 17.

b) Applications

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2026/0055	Mr. B. Witcomb Unit H Crown Business Park Tredegar	Proposed change of use of vacant land for the storage of caravans and other vehicles (sui Generous), Yard 1 adjoining Unit E, Crown Business Park.
No objections		
P/2026/0057	Miss M Roszkowska Ashby House Harford Street Tredegar	Erection of new front and side boundary fence and gate, Ashby House, Harford Street.
No objections		
P/2026/0061	Mr. M. Perrett Postif Care Ltd. c/o Agent Mr. J. Samuel Justin Samuel Associates Ltd.	Proposed replacement security fence, 4 gates, additional roller shutter curtains to openings. Former Job Centre Plus Office, Upper Coronation St, Tredegar.
No objections		
P/2026/0082	Mr. P. Stumpers Cobra Real Estate Ltd. 7 Bridge Street Newport	Change of use of the existing building from Class C2 (residential institution) to a Sui Generis House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to provide 14 bedrooms, Elmwood House, Elmwood.
Observations: The building was situated directly behind Kidz R Us and Council considered this could prove an inappropriate type of provision, bearing in mind the safeguarding aspect. Insufficient parking provision for fourteen to twenty-eight residents and staff parking provision; also, bicycle racks, as required. Insufficient facilities, i.e. communal areas / public amenity spaces, which could prove difficult to adhere to in maintaining to an acceptable standard (overcrowding, cleanliness, etc.). Queried the level of HMO provision within Blaenau Gwent in respect of the percentage permitted.		
P/2026/0092	Mr. L. Prosser Sirhowy Garage Beaufort Road Tredegar	Installation of a hand car wash facility including canopy, screening and associated works within the existing garage forecourt, Sirhowy Garage, Beaufort Road.
Observations:		

c) Other Planning Matters: None received.

027) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize, the Peter Morgan Jones and Michael Foot Awards, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.

This was agreed unanimously, subject to an assurance by the Comprehensive School that the Mayor would be involved in the presentation.

028) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.

This was agreed unanimously.

029) To agree the Lindsay Bryan Sports Memorial Award.

This was agreed unanimously.

030) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

The Standing Orders, outlining the schedule for meetings of Council and subject to annual review (Policy Sub-Committee on 18th March, 2026), were agreed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.23 p.m.

_____ Chair