

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid
on Wednesday, 17th June, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)

A. Jones
M. Turner
K. Phillips
L. Thomas Evans
D. Rowberry
G. Walters

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

By invitation: Heddlu Gwent Police representatives:
Chief Constable, Mark Hobrough
Sergeant Dan Wise
Sergeant Matthew Price

062) Apologies: Councillors G. Badham, A.E. Evans, E. Jones,
G. Jones-Griffiths, J. Thomas, P. Tolley, H. Trollope,
S. Trollope and K. Waldron;
Police and Crime Commissioner, J. Mudd

063) Declarations of Interest

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

064) Policing: Invitation extended to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to attend to provide an update and respond to any issues of concern raised

The Chair extended a welcome to the Chief Constable and Police representatives, who had been invited to attend this meeting of Council to provide an update on work throughout the area and respond to issues raised.

- The Chair had welcomed the positive work undertaken by the Community Action Team.
- The same problems continued with low-level crime, remaining unchanged. There was a steady decline in Tredegar with no apparent Police presence.
- Public feeling was that telephoning the Police was a waste of time, as people sending in photos never received a response; reporting incidents on five / six occasions to no avail, despite pointing out vehicles selling drugs and providing the location.
- Issues with certain individuals hanging around the Post Office – public experiencing abuse and intimidation, approaching users of the cash-point demanding money, being

aggressive.

- Anti-social behaviour throughout Tredegar.
- Youngsters on bikes; youth was considered out of control.
- Working within Blaenau Gwent Film Academy, and Cymru Creations, the PCC was the Academy's President; the Member said that the problems faced within one month at being located in The Queen's Ballroom far outweighed those within a longer period when based in the Little Theatre – i.e. drug-taking, abuse, crimes of a sexual nature – on the doorstep of a venue catering to youngsters and vulnerable adults. Despite reporting the incident and receiving an unsatisfactory outcome, being informed that the individual had said 'sorry', the Member had needed to attend a Police surgery in the Library for the issue to be appropriately addressed. Unfortunately, upon release, the individual returned to undertaking the exact same criminal activity.
- Drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana in the vicinity of the Queen's Ballroom, being informed it was difficult to enforce the prevention, as Doctors now prescribed marijuana for health reasons.
- Off-road vehicles – vehicles travelling to the Trefil quarry and off-loading a van-load of bikes; the Police had been given registration plate numbers, photographic evidence, days and times of such practice, but little or no response had been received.

The Chief Constable said that he had promised to return to Council following his visit the previous year to respond. He therefore wished to highlight the positive progress made over the period, e.g. First Response for telephone calls had reduced from 14.5 minutes to now just under one minute, out of forty-three Forces, every single person was within the top five via 101, on average 97% hitting 999 calls, which was one of the best in the country. The Chief Constable thereupon provided a brief update in respect of various progress, such as the Emergency Response Teams, now at 82%, and 999 reaction rate improved from 8% to 19% - such improvement was travelling in the right direction.

The Chief Constable recognised, however, that the public needed to feel safe and referred to current public perception. He had invested in the Community Action Team, which was indicating some really positive results at ground level and provided an update on work undertaken in respect of arrests, off-road activity, anti-social behaviour, rural and retail crimes, how to facilitate crimes of a repeating nature, and Neighbourhood matters.

The Chief Constable and Police representatives provided a further update in respect of tackling off-road crime, such as use of drones to gain evidence, use of intelligence to confiscate / crush these vehicles, if proven illegal, and educating parents on purchasing such vehicles. A team of Officers were tackling issues in respect of off-road, securing funding and undertaking operations covertly.

Sergeant Wise and Sergeant Price to liaise direct with Councillor Phillips in respect of the significant decline in social behaviour in the vicinity of The Queen's Ballroom. The Member responded that, on a positive note, a PSO had participated in a podcast, speaking with youngsters, providing explanations really well in a calm manner for hours.

Council thereupon thanked the Chief Constable and Police representatives for attending and responding to questions raised, which had been most informative. Members looked forward to continued updates in the future.

065) To receive any verbal recommendations of all Sub-Committees / Working Party held prior to this meeting of Council

It was agreed the recommendations of the Sub-Committee held prior to Council be approved accordingly

- **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee held 17th June, 2026**

It was unanimously agreed that the quotation outlining urgent remedial works to trees located within the Deighton playing field in the sum of £400.00 be approved.

Fencing – Sirhowy Community Garden; RFO confirmed to again go out to tender.

Provision of new Laptops – to be progressed accordingly.

066) Tredegar Recreation Ground: any update for discussion

Moving towards signing of Tenancy at Will at Civic meeting of Council on Wednesday, 1st July, 2026; meeting with Team Manager - Street Scene and Property Assets & Review Officer at 2.00 p.m. that day, invitation extended to any Member wishing to join; signing of Tenancy at Will on the proviso agreed works were complete / to be implemented subject to agreement.

067) Revised Grant Policy

The RFO said that the Policy had been amended, as outlined, subject to the foregoing consideration of the Working Party held 13th May, 2026: the revised Policy was thereupon agreed accordingly.

068) To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in June 2026

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

- 'Red' indicated changes / additional payments for ratification.
- 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 £300.00.

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

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

- a) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 11th May, 2026
- b) Working Party 'Events' - 12th May, 2026
- c) Working Party 'Policy' - 13th May, 2026
- d) Civic Sub-Committee - 20th May, 2026
- e) Annual Meeting of Council - 20th May, 2026
- f) Working Party 'Events' - 26th May, 2026 *DEFERRED*

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

070) 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.

071) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) L. Sage Re: Council Storage Facilities. Asking whether the Town Council stores anything on Council land or within any council-owned units or buildings. Responses required by 19.06.2026.
- Noted; public toilets, Gwent Shopping Centre, and a container, Recreation Ground.

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

- b) i) List of applications received, week ending 5th June, 2026
Vary designated premise supervisor – The Belle Vue
- ii) List of applications received, week ending 12th June, 2026.
- Noted.
- c) St. Joseph's Primary. Cllr Kevin Phillips has been removed from the Governing body due to non-attendance.
- Proposed: Councillor P. Tolley. To be agendaed for future meeting of Council.

- 2) Richards & Lewis Solicitors
- Re: Leases of Beaufort Close & Deighton Sports Ground. Completed the registration of the title to Beaufort Close at the Land Registry and enclose a copy of the title information document for Council's records. Will let Council have the title information document for Deighton Sports Ground once they receive it.
- Noted.

- 3) Keep Wales Tidy
- Nature Tidy Wales Awards Nominations are open!
- Noted; forward to all Members.

4) Royal Mail

Re: Important information, Royal Mail service update. The key change will be that Second Class letters will be delivered every other weekday (Monday to Friday). First Class letters will still be delivered six days a week (Monday to Saturday).

- Noted.

5) PUBLICATIONS

OVW Important News: Wales Nature Week 4th to 12th July. Will be holding eight BioBlitz events. Further details released shortly; OVW Re: Biodiversity Packages 2026-2027. Application deadline for the four rounds – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

072) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 20.
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 21.

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2024/0273	Mr. S. Thambiacah 90 Glyn Terrace	Change of use for ground floor only, from A1 to A3 hot food takeaway.
<i>No objections</i>	Tredegar	Addition of a cooking ventilation pipe to rear of property, 90 Glyn Terrace.
P/2026/0112	L. Davies 70 Glanhowy Street	Replacement extension to rear of dwelling (in lieu of existing extension, to be demolished as part of works) and associated works.
<i>No objections</i>	Tredegar	Widen drive opening for improved parking provision to front, 70 Glanhowy Street.

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

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

- Crosskeys Silver Band - Council commended the Band's performance on Sunday, which had been fabulous.
- The Queen's Ballroom - Thanks were extended to the youngsters and the builders working on the restoration; the Leader commended everything Councillor Phillips was trying to do at The Queen's Ballroom, which was an absolute credit to him and the youngsters, in summing up what the town was about.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.49 p.m.

_____ Chair