

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on
Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors A.E. Tippings (Chair)
A. Jones
M. Turner
K. Phillips
L. Thomas Evans
E. Jones
G. Jones-Griffiths
J. Thomas
P. Tolley
G. Walters

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

By invitation: Tenovus representative
Mr. D. Delahay

042) Apologies: Councillors G. Badham, G. Meredith, D. Rowberry,
H. Trollope, S. Trollope and K. Waldron

043) Declarations of Interest

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

044) Attendance by Tenovus representative/s: opportunity to tell Council more about what Tenovus do as a charity to support people affected by cancer and in respect of the difficulties some find linking in with services

The Chair extended a welcome to the Tenovus representative, who had sought an invitation to attend this meeting of Council to provide information and respond to issues raised.

The Community Engagement Officer said he had been in the post for the past six months, how to support people effected by cancer, linking in services, stall at events.

- Tenovus Cancer Care offer information, advice and specialist support to everyone affected by cancer.
- Mobile Support Units bring treatments closer to home.
- Support line: Access to team 365 days a year to get the right support, based on individual's needs.
- Access to experienced nurses 365 days a year to answer any questions.
- Cancer Callback: service to provide support throughout treatment, unique service delivered in partnership with the NHS and acts as complementary treatment support.

- Counselling service: provides a safe and confidential space to connect with feelings and think about what would support needed.
- Benefits Advice: advisors offer guidance to benefits / grants entitlement, Blue Badge entitlement, etc.
- Help with money worries and provide a safe space to talk about the emotional impact of a diagnosis.
- Unique network of choirs are fun, friendly and uplifting - Sing with Us Choirs (fourteen / fifteen country-wide).
- All-Wales Cancer Community: for voices to be heard.

Members:

- Bevan Festival supports NHS, integral part of service NHS provides.
- Request for information – poster, leaflet.
- Chair in Blaenau Gwent fortunate have Hospice of the Valleys who work with them, work together totally support. Nurses work between ourselves and Health Board predominantly work separately.

Council thereupon thanked the representative for attending to outline the services provided, which had been a really good presentation, and responding to questions raised.

045) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Tredegar Horse and Pony Show; not as sunny / glorious a day as last time, really widely appreciated, and conversations had proven most interesting and informative. Lovely to see Aneurin Bevan featured on medals literature, etc., high quality show. System hacked before entry details released so some participants did not show up on the day, sad after all the effort put in to the Show.
- Band Concert on Sunday.
- Lady, 100th birthday in June Central Surgery and a couple's 65th wedding anniversary this week.

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

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

- **Working Party – Christmas Lights Display held 26th May, 2026**
Draft specification needed in respect of suggested display for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Party - ongoing.
Next meeting - Tuesday, 9th June, 2026 at 12.00 noon.
- **Events Sub-Committee held 3rd June, 2026**
Armed Forces Day
Agreed: Blaenau Gwent Rhythm and Ukes to perform 12.30 til 1.30 p.m. expenditure approved for a one-hour performance in the sum of £150.00.
Royal Welsh Regimental Band: Agreed, to approve expenditure for tea / coffee and Welsh cakes.
Agreed: Designated charity - Tredegar Veterans Support Hub.

Approved: overtime for Clerk to work Armed Forces Day.

Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.

Aneurin Bevan Day

It was agreed that expenditure in respect of the purchase polo shirts be approved unanimously.

Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.

Agreed: Expenditure should new mic stands be required to accommodate the radio microphones.

Town Show proposal - convene a Working Party, to commence meetings in October [approx.] with a view to a 2027 event.

Christmas Light Display 2026 - next meeting to be held Tuesday, 9th June, 2026 at 12.00 noon.

047) To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972, Schedule 12A

Moved, the meeting was closed to the public.

048)a) To receive final report of the Internal Auditor for year-end 31st March, 2026;

The RFO referred to the report of the Internal Auditor, outstanding points contained therein had been, or would be, actioned and reported throughout the year accordingly.

- Year End Internal Audit 2025 / 2026 – One action outstanding: Christmas Lights contract to be offered for tender in line with Council's own Financial Regulations.
No further issues arising.
- Year End Internal Audit Report 2024 / 2025 – outstanding: contingency arrangements in respect of significant period of absence for the RFO.
No further issues arising.

The report of the Internal Auditor for year-end 31st March, 2026 was unanimously approved and accepted accordingly.

048)b) To confirm the Annual Accounts for year-end 31st March, 2026 and approve Mayor to sign;

The RFO asked that Members formally agree the accounts to 31st March, 2026; the Officer thereupon highlighted salient points in respect of confirming the accounts.

- The Annual Accounts to 31st March, 2026 and associated bank reconciliations had been completed.
- Council had approved both the Reserves and Asset Register to 31st March, 2026 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 15th April, 2026. There had been no amendments to the documents or accounts since that meeting and all financial documents relating to that year were available in the office for Members to view, upon request.
- Overall income for the year was £195,199 and overall expenditure £167,106 expenditure was below predicted spend by approximately £21,953 mainly due to some projects / activities not being completed in that financial year.
- The combination of higher income than anticipated and reduced expenditure had resulted in there being no draw on Reserves.

The Annual Accounts were approved for year-end 31st March, 2026 and signed by the Chair of the meeting in the presence of Council.

048)c) Internal Audit 2025 / 2026: to undertake a review of the Internal Audit Process for the year ended 31st March, 2026;

The RFO referred Members' attention to the report and supplemental documents, which outlined the purpose of Internal Audit and how Council approached the process.

Council thereupon agreed to the following points, summarised below, as contained within the report of the RFO:

- Page 2 of the report, along with Appendix 1 Governance and Accountability, provided Statements for consideration as to whether Council Agreed or Disagreed. The RFO sought Members' observations and asked Council to agree to the points on these pages of the document, which were unanimously agreed.
- Officer enquired if there were there any specific areas for future development, or Council would wish that Internal Audit to look at: none were received at this time.

In respect of the performance of the Internal Auditor, the RFO had engaged satisfactorily with the Internal Auditor and was happy to continue. The format adopted by Council worked well for Tredegar and the portal used for submission was easy to use.

Following due consideration of the statements outlined within the report and subsequent review being formally accepted and approved accordingly, it was unanimously agreed to continue with the current Internal Auditor.

048)d) Agree the Annual Governance Statements on the Return for 2025 / 2026, prior to External Audit; and

The RFO spoke to the Annual Return, including the Annual Governance Statements, and together with the OVW Toolkit, which had been circulated to the meeting for Members' perusal. The toolkit was linked to the Annual Governance Statements, previously circulated, and therefore Members needed to understand whether Council met the Statements. Any "No" Answers would require an explanation for External Audit.

The RFO spoke to Parts 1 – 10 of the Annual Governance Statement; Part 1 was 'No', as Tredegar Town Council currently undertook no formal consultation with feedback sought from the community. Parts 2 – 9, Members thereupon agreed as 'Yes', and Statement No. 10 was 'No', the General Power of Competence was 'Not Applicable'.

Members of the Council therefore agreed, to approve by resolution, to submit the Annual Return to the External Auditor.

048)e) Council approval and certification of Annual Return 2025 / 2026 to be signed by Chair

The Annual Return was approved and certified, and signed by the Chair of the meeting in the presence of Council, in accordance with the statutory deadline of 30th June, 2026.

The RFO would add all the supplementary documents in support of the Annual Return; and forward all paperwork to the External Auditor.

The Electors' Rights notice would be displayed on the Council's website and noticeboard, giving the public a period from 6th July to 31st July, 2026, to request to inspect all financial documents for that year. This financial year Tredegar Town Council would be subject to a full audit for 31st March, 2026.

The Chair extended his thanks to the RFO for her continued diligence in preparing the reports and for the hard work undertaken.

049) To re-open the Meeting to the Public

Moved, the meeting was re-opened to the public.

050) 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; and

Kidz R Us – Any financial assistance received would be used as core funding towards the costs of running the building to ensure they can continue to be a community asset available to all and the classes they run.

2025/26 Sept'25 CQ No. 706865 £200.00: Approved accordingly

Tredegar Angling Club – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the general upkeep around the lake to maintain it as a safe environment for fishing e.g. grass and tree cutting.

2025/26 Sept'25 CQ No. 706866 £200.00: Approved accordingly

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

Tredegar Ironside RFC – Any financial assistance received would be used to purchase a replacement pack of pads for their defibrillator which is not just used on match days but also available for all their teams plus members, customers and neighbours.

2017/18 March'18 CQ No. 827 £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)

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

Tredegar Methodist Church – Any financial assistance received would be used towards the replacing the existing fire door and frame.

2025/26 June'25 CQ No. 706841 £300.00: Approved accordingly

051) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) C. Smith Re: Summer Play Sessions delivery.
Asking for financial support towards extending the
Summer play sessions they offer.

- How to deliver this provision locally within Tredegar and generally how activities were currently provided within the Blaenau Gwent area; a breakdown was needed. It was agreed that this be considered by a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee and brought back to Council accordingly.

b) i) List of applications received, week ending 15th May, 2026

New Premises Licence – 15 Commercial Street.

ii) List of applications received, week ending 22nd May, 2026

Temporary Street Trading Consent every Thursday between 4th June & 1st July – Parc Bryn Bach.

TEN for 3rd July, 2026 World Cup game – The Olympia.

iii) List of applications received, week ending 29th May, 2026

- Noted; Council expressed concern of the number of licensed premises within the town supplying alcohol and the detrimental impact on the surrounding area.

2) One Voice Wales

For your Council's attention: One Voice Wales Area Representatives on Gwent Valleys Area Committee. Letter raising concerns about meeting attendance.

- Noted.

3) N. Smith, M.P.

Re: Illegal Off Roding. Update on steps / discussions he has been part of.

- Council thanked the M.P. for the response; this issue was raised on a regular basis, but actions outlined appeared to be having no effect on this ongoing issue.

4) Taylour Electrical

Re: Clock lights. Update on site visit and two quotes.

- On due consideration, it was unanimously agreed that the following be approved:

Replace (water damaged) Floodlight 75 x3

Replace all connection boxed x4 with water-proofing compound

Total expenditure in the sum of £760.00

5) EDP

Re: Invitation to join the Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm Community Liaison Group. First meeting is 30.06.2026 at 5.00 p.m. by Teams.

- It was agreed: Leader, Councillor M. Turner be appointed and Councillor J. Thomas [Reserve].

6) Defibrillator requests:

- a) The River Centre Learning Community: Asking if Council would give consideration to donating a defibrillator to their Primary Campus in Tredegar, as previously done by Council for the other Tredegar schools.
- b) E. Saunders Re: Defibrillator for Cefn Golau. Asking for discussions with Council regarding funding or assistance to fundraise for a defibrillator to be sited in Cefn Golau.
 - Council required further information in order to give due consideration, e.g. accessibility to public, whether 24/7, current provision throughout Tredegar, locations, donations provided through medical services (such as Williams Medical), etc.

7) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 29.05.2026 and 05.06.2026 – ***distributed to Members:*** Received.

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

052) Planning:

- a) i) List of planning applications received in week 18
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 19

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2026/0089	Mr. S. Hughes Aneurin Leisure Parc Bryn Bach Merthyr Road	New building to increase the number of driving range bay by 5, Parc Bryn Bach, Merthyr Road.
<i>No objections</i>		

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

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

- Water penetration to the grassed area opposite the Tea Room to be reported to Manager, Bedwellty House.

054) 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** – No meeting held, Secretary on holiday.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – the representative provided an update on successful applications in the Tredegar area; deadline for next submission was 2nd September, 2026.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary: interviews in respect of two new posts scheduled for Friday – one full-time temporary maternity cover and one permanent part-time post; Deighton Primary: taking on a number of Training Assistants to work with pupils; Glanhwy Primary: Governor vacancy, to be agendaed for future consideration; Ysgol Gymraeg: interviews Friday that week to appoint new Headteacher, issues relating to Bro Helyg however the Tredegar-side was progressing fine, good news received in respect of the new School which had now settled.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – June trip scheduled visiting churches, excavation site nearby that Owain Glyndwr may have visited. Lectures remained popular with attendees having to book a place – next one related to Brecon canal.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – barrier planter's liners purchased, Councillor M. Cross obtained quote, agreed and planting undertaken, daffodils removed and retained. Classic Car Show, 8th August, 2026, cancelled – Pen Bryn Oer bid extended to following year with event anticipated to be delivered with Adrian.

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

- Anti-social behaviour – number of incidents around the town and in the Precinct, individuals throwing bottles, vicious behaviour towards members of the public, incident in Castle Street, number of issues with a certain gentleman (including indecent exposure). Council said that unlawful behaviour was getting out of control and stressed the importance of taking appropriate action, starting with minor infringements, such as double parking throughout the town centre.

A Member expressed concern in respect of the lack of action taken by the Police on reporting incidents, e.g. drinking vodka 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. He enquired if the town centre was a designated 'alcohol free zone', but was informed there were no areas within the Tredegar area where alcohol was prohibited in the streets.

- Raised flower beds – a Member reported that there were flower beds in need of repair / replacement, which had rotted through the soil was spilling on to the floor: Clerk to report issue to Blaenau Gwent CBC.
- Tredegar Recreation Ground – the Leader said that the Clerk had contacted a number of Solicitors in respect of the draft Tenancy at Will document, who had not been inclined to take on such work. The advice the Clerk had received was that due to the nature of a Tenancy at Will, i.e. that the asset could be handed back without notice, and that the initial cost for such legal works would cost around £2,000.00, that it would not be productive to undertake such spend. Following this feedback, the Leader had referred the query to the TAW Union's solicitors, who had offered the same advice.

The Leader had therefore liaised with the BG Officers in respect of the condition of the asset on Council taking on the Tenancy at Will, e.g. demolition of toilets, re-surfacing of car park [to be undertaken at the same time as the re-surfacing of Park Row], etc. Once both parties were satisfied that all outstanding works were complete / agreed for implementation, the anticipated date for completion was by 30th June and the Leader had asked, therefore, that the signing of the document be agendaed for the Civic meeting of Council on Wednesday, 1st July, 2026.

A further recommendation was that the Town Council Operative commence his post on Wednesday, 1st July, 2026 accordingly, which was unanimously agreed.

- The Moose International Tredegar Lodge – celebrating their centenary, it was agreed that the garden surround to the Town Clock could reflect this achievement, e.g. planting flowers in the appropriate colours for the Club.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.01 p.m.

_____ Chair