TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held via Microsoft Teams / hybrid on Wednesday, 1st July, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Aherne**

By invitation: **Team Manager - Street Scene, Mr. D. Watkins**
Property Assets & Review Officer, Ms. L. Sage

081) Apologies: Councillors K. Phillips, G. Badham, E. Jones, D. Rowberry, H. Trollope, S. Trollope, K. Waldron and G. Walters

082) Declarations of Interest
The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

083) Tredegar Recreation Ground: signing of the Tenancy at Will
Council welcomed the Team Manager - Street Scene, Mr. D. Watkins, and the Property Assets & Review Officer, Ms. L. Sage, to the meeting.

The Leader thanked the Officers for all the work being done – visits, telephone calls, emails, etc.; this was a massive step forward for the people of Tredegar. Signs would be placed on the gates to let the public know that Tredegar Town Council was running the ground and hopefully Council would be working towards the ground being self-financing at some stage.

This ground was given to the people of Tredegar for use, not just for sport but other opportunities also, e.g. carnivals, fetes, etc., fostering social cohesion to meet the needs of the town. Although Council had encountered some scepticism on taking on this asset, hopefully this vision would be achieved going forward.

The Team Manager - Street Scene said this was a momentous time for Tredegar Town Council to take on such responsibility and he hoped all the best for the future. The Leader agreed this was a massive opportunity and Council could now proceed with getting any matters outstanding sorted. The Town Council operative would commence employment as of today, 1st July, 2026, who would manage the Recreation Ground on behalf of Council.

Firstly, there would be a need to change the locks on many of the gates, as there were currently a significant number of keys in use out in the community. two notices had been ordered and provided free by Smartsignz; it was important that this message be conveyed to the public.

The Leader had given the new employee direction in respect of the work he could do to 'freshen up' the area. Plans / ideas for the pavilion had been discussed and he was keen that the facility be seen as more than a sports ground, e.g. the pavilion could be used as a meeting place, as there were facilities available there. This was a substantial sized field that could be used for running youth activities during the summer holidays and the Leader asked Members to please bring forward any ideas to utilise this asset. Members asked for a tour of the facility, which was agreed accordingly.

The Leader briefly outlined the works agreed for completion by BGCBC, e.g. boilers, five bulbs for floodlights, etc., and consideration could be given to a deep clean around match days, utilising the Council's contractor for the public conveniences. Also, a SLA was in place in respect of grass cutting, but refuse collection / recycling needs would be subject to consideration. Members had already noted the operative working at the Town Clock garden surround and said it was nice to see this individual, working on behalf of Council, engaging with members of the public and considered this as a positive for Council. The Chair supported the comments and said Tim placed a massive amount of pride in the work he carried out.

A Member suggested Council could liaise with the Town Centre Manager, who may have monies available to undertake murals; the Leader confirmed that he had had discussions with the Town Centre Manager, e.g. general events, open air cinema, as EDP wanted such events brought into communities. The Deputy Mayor referred to the fireworks display, previously held at the Recreation ground, now being organised by Skinners.

As unanimously agreed by Council, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor thereupon signed the Tenancy at Will, accepting responsibility with immediate effect.

The Chair thereupon offered the sincere thanks of Council to the Team Manager - Street Scene and the Property Assets & Review Officer for all their hard work and attending, who left the meeting.

084) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update on events:

- Tredegar Horse and Pony Show: attended by fabulous people, proud of Aneurin Bevan history, featured on rosettes and trophies;
- Band Concerts were becoming increasingly popular, as were phase two of the concerts in the courtyard undertaken by Bedwellty House. Therefore, more Councillors needed to attend to address any questions from the public, setting up of chairs / equipment, etc.;
- Queen's Ballroom Official Opening: lovely event, fantastic to see regeneration of an older building within Tredegar of visual significance in the town centre being re-opened / re-used by the community;
- 100th birthday: visited Central Surgery Nursing Home, receiving a wonderful welcome, to take flowers and card for a resident on her 100th birthday. The family, mostly of Abertysswg, were bowled over by the visit and the Nursing Home had put on a fabulous

spread in celebration. Clerk to inform the Home of the Bevan Parade, which would pass by the premises on Sunday, having asked to be more involved in TTC events;

- Hedgehog Houses: Council had been given one for the Sirhowy Community Garden and this would be affixed when the fencing work had been carried out and one for the Deighton playing field. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had put up the trellis at Deighton also and the flowers looked very nice.
  A Member referred to posts litter-picking at Deighton playing field, bench tipped, Clerk and RFO emptying bins, need to rebut only responsible inside the fence and trees now done. Up util one operative would see Deighton cleaned more regularly.
  Chair discuss with John Mewitt litter-pick eighty bags of rubbish seventy-five bags of recycling. Recycling bins needed, would like to approach School , fourteen trees like to plant in October. Councillor S. Trollope Governor-representative on behalf of Council, great if be involved.

Councillor P. Tolley joined the meeting at this juncture (6.27 p.m.)

085) 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.

- Armed Forces Day
  Discussion needed at Council-level to agree how arrangements would be undertaken in the future.
  It was proposed that Council liaise in the respect of Town Council's calendar of events to avoid an impact on footfall for all parties.
  It was further proposed that Town Council consider awarding Freedom of the Town of Tredegar to the Royal Welsh Regimental Band for their generous and continued support – this presentation could form part of the Armed Forces Day event.
  Ongoing actions to be progressed accordingly.
- Aneurin Bevan Day / Bevan Festival
  It was proposed that only those volunteering for events received a Bevan Festival polo shirt.
- Merchant Navy Day
  It was agreed that expenditure in respect of refreshments be approved, i.e. tea / coffee and Welsh cakes.
- Town Clock Open Day
  Working Group to be convened to consider arrangements
- Consideration needed in respect of provision in undertaking future TTC events, i.e. whether to offer service to external provider.

086) Grants:

Stocktonville Senior Citizen Hall grant thanks.

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

Tredegar Cricket Club – Any financial assistance received would be used as core funding towards the costs of running club including items such as the purchase of cricket balls and insurance.
2024/25 July'25 CQ No. 706698 £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.

087) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) A. Watkins Re: Draft SLA for The Recreation Ground.

- Agreed: expenditure approved accordingly.

b) A. Watkins Re: Recreation Ground. 2025 / 2026 hire charges.

- Noted; there was a need to discuss the charges levied in the future, with a view to maintaining or reducing in keeping with other providers, and associated issues e.g. provision of barriers around the field.

c) i) List of applications received, week ending 19th June, 2026.
ii) List of applications received, week ending 26th June, 2026.

- Noted.

d) A. Tippings Re: Tredegar C1880. Copy of email sent to Sian Lloyd at Cardiff Productions regarding Tredegar Town Council owned photographs.

- Noted; the Officer had referred the matter to Town Council to seek appropriate permission for photographs to be used in the programme.

2) Financial Matters:

a) St. John Ambulance Cymru Re: ABD quote £285.00 (excluding VAT).

- Agreed: expenditure approved accordingly.

b) Taylour Electrical Re: Town Clock lights. All works completed as per quote, but unfortunately Matt discovered upon arrival that the fourth working light has also stopped working since our visit mid-May, the fourth was working at time of quote. Let us know if you would like us to quote to change that last light.

- Agreed: expenditure approved accordingly.

c) C. Hares Re: Sponsorship opportunity YGTCS music and performing arts production of Beauty & the Beast July 2026. Various sponsorship packages available.

- Council was pleased to support Tredegar Comprehensive School; it was therefore unanimously agreed to approve a Gold sponsorship of £200.00.

3) Electoral Review:

a) Brynmawr Town Council Re: Minutes from the Joint Meeting held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026.

b) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council. Copy of letter sent to BGCBC Cllr S. Thomas.

- The Chair said that a Member of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council had been vociferous on this matter, as the proposed changes had decimated the number of Members for both Nantyglo and Blaina TC and Brynmawr TC. The next step was to seek a meeting with the Local Authority Leader and Cabinet Member prior to submission to the Senedd.

  A Member recognised the rationale to the review but would not like to see those more active town / community councils disadvantaged. The Leader thereupon explained the criteria used to ascertain the proposed numbers upon which these proposals had been set, the formula for which was based on 'x' number of residents per Elected Member.

  Members noted the letter had been sent on behalf of all four Town and Community Councils and suggested Council should have been party to that letter for approval beforehand. The Chair confirmed that the letter had been sent in a joint manner supporting the partnership of the Joint Town and Community Councils Committee.

4) Cpt R. Burton

Re: AFD. I wanted to write to address the state of the grassed area where the Band performs the marching display. We have performed for many years here, but the area seems to have deteriorated and there are now some very large craters in the ground. Clearly these are a significant hazard to the Band when marching, we could have a broken ankle or a fall which would be fairly catastrophic.

- Noted; Council fully endorsed the comments, there were now some severe dips in the lawn that could cause injury to those undertaking the parade.

  Members also referred to the ongoing problem with the water drainage adjacent to the Tea Room. Members had received strongly worded complaints from parents whose children's footwear had been spoiled, and this was at a stage that definitely needed to be resolved.

  The Chair added that the Bandstand was also in need of attention, referring to rusted panels and the roof needed to be cleared; the Clerk had also reported a section of the railing that was rusted through and could be a risk to the public.

  It was unanimously agreed that this letter should be forwarded to Aneurin Leisure for urgent attention in order to be resolved.

5) IWN — Re: Fully funded Trailblazer Inclusive employer training courses.

- Noted.

6) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 26.06.2026 and 03.07.2026; OVW Important News - Nature Week 2026; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct July 2026 Issue 166 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

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

088) Planning:

a) i) List of planning applications received in week 22
ii) List of planning applications received in week 23

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
P/2026/0089 ***No objections***	Mr. S. Hughes Aneurin Leisure Parc Bryn Bach Merthyr Road	***Reconsultation: Amended Description*** New building to increase the number of driving range bay by **4**, Parc Bryn Bach, Merthyr Road.

c) To consider other planning matters – None received.

089) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park / Parc Bryn Bach - any issues to

have been previously reported direct to the House Management / Aneurin Leisure personally

- As previously recorded under 'Correspondence' Item No. 4.

090) 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 – the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation had taken place, but unfortunately the Leader had been unable to attend.
d) Tredegar Twinning – the Association had a stall at the Armed Forces Day to raise funds.
e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – No meeting.
f) School Governing Bodies – Bryn Bach Primary: meeting next week, however two appointments had been made - one temporary full-time and one temporary part-time.
g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – Next meeting to be held on Monday.
h) Tredegar Business Forum – The meeting had been cancelled.

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

- Deighton playing field, Litterpick – An individual had been filming at the Deighton playing field; the bench had been tipped, Clerk and RFO had been emptying the bin on a weekly basis, not 100% aware regarding the timeline but Council needed to rebut any incorrect statements, Council was only responsible for the area inside the boundary fence; remedial works to the trees were done, Deighton would be cleaned on a regular basis with the new Town Council operative in post.
  The Chair had discussed a litterpick with the appropriate BG Officer - eighty bags of rubbish and seventy-five bags of recycling had been collected. Recycling bins were needed.
  A Member said she would like to approach the School, as she also had a good working relationship with the BG Officer. Another Member suggested the School Governor representative for Deighton could be involved.
  The Chair said that she had fourteen trees available which she would like to plant in October
- Town Centre – the town itself was becoming increasingly worse, constant complaints 1) entrance to town and 2) people hanging around, Council needed to be more vocal on social media, meeting with Police, show public Town Council support concerns, publish 'good news' stories in public domain. Vigilant, Members aware of individuals being given money to buy alcohol for underage children.
- Off-road biking – a Member referred to Torfaen Community Police Officers responding to complaints of off-road biking and would welcome the Police in Blaenau Gwent being more pro-active in apprehending such individuals.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.12 p.m.

_____ Chair