

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at Bedwellty House on
Wednesday 6th May 2015 at 6.30pm**

Present:	Councillor	R. Watkins
		G. Meredith
		T. Smith
		A. Tippings
		B. Willis
		D. Howells
		H. Trollope
		P. Prosser
		D. Rowberry
		R. W. Thomas
		S. Trollope
		J. Thomas
		O. Price

In attendance: Ms. C.M. Keane – Town Clerk

Also Present: Invited guests.

001) Apologies: Cllrs. G. Bowen-Knight, M. Cross, B. Willis, J. Morgan,
R. W. Thomas and M. O’Sullivan

002) Thanks and Appreciation by Cllr. R. Watkins, Mayor 2014–2015.

Cllr. Watkins thanked all those who had helped during his year in office highlighting a number of events and announcing that his appeal for the RNIB, had raised approximately £6000 – final figure to be confirmed. He wished the incoming Mayor well.

003) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2016.

Cllr. Geraint Meredith was proposed and seconded – there were no other nominations and Cllr. Meredith was elected unanimously.

004) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.

The Mayor read the acceptance of Office and duly signed – it was then confirmed by the Clerk. At this point the Chain of Office was handed over and the Consorts Chain also exchanged. Gifts of flowers were given to incoming and outgoing Consorts.

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

The Mayor, Cllr. Meredith, announced that his Appeal this year would be for Valley Sands, the Still Birth and Neonatal Death Society. The Appeal was a very personal one for the Mayor and his wife and Consort Rhianan.

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2015.

Cllr. Jacqueline Thomas was proposed and seconded and, there being no other nominations, was duly elected unanimously. She then completed her declaration of Office which was ratified by the Clerk and was duly installed as Deputy Mayor.

At this point the Chain of office was given to the incoming Deputy.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2015.

Cllr. Tommy Smith was proposed and seconded and, there being no other nominations, was duly elected unanimously. He thanked Members for their continuing support.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2015.

Cllr. Alyson Tippings was proposed and seconded and, there being no other nominations, was duly elected unanimously. Cllr Tippings thanked Members for re-electing her into this role.

009) To approve that 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.

This was agreed unanimously as approved by the previous administration.

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

This was agreed unanimously as approved by the previous administration by a show of hands.

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

This was agreed unanimously as approved by the previous administration by a show of hands.

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

This was agreed unanimously as approved by the previous administration by a show of hands.

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence

The Clerk invited all present to attend the Town Council's Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of VE Day to be held in Bedwellty House and Park at Noon on Friday 8th May 2015 and also to join in the nationwide Two Minutes silence being held at 3pm. There was also to be a Beacon lit in the Park at 9.32pm.

015) To consider any Urgent Planning Applications. - none

016) To set the Mayor's Allowance (£1050) and to authorise payment of the allowance.

This was agreed unanimously.

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

This was agreed unanimously and so moved.

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

This was agreed unanimously and so moved.

019) To Confirm the following sub-committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2016.

- a. Civic Sub-committee
Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader Deputy Leader, Cllr Rowberry (Chair) Cllrs: R W Thomas, Howells, H. Trollope and R Watkins.
- b. Events Sub-Committee
Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader Deputy Leader,(+ five Members) Cllrs Watkins (Chair) Cross, H. Trollope, Willis and Price.
- 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.
Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader Deputy Leader, Cllrs: Morgan, Howells, S. Trollope, Rowberry, Prosser and Willis.
- d. Finance & Staffing Sub-committee.
Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader Deputy Leader, Cllrs. H. Trollope (Chair), Rowberry, Howells, O' Sullivan and Watkins
- e. Appeals Committee.
Cllr. Cross (Chair) Cllrs. Prosser, Bowen-knight, S. Trollope. Morgan and Willis
- f. Policy Sub-Committee- **All Members of Council. Mayor (Chair)**
- g. Community, Youth and International Sub-committee.
Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader Deputy Leader, Cllrs. Rowberry, Price, Willis, Watkins, Morgan and S. Trollope
- h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme
Cllrs Tippings, Smith, Morgan, Price, Watkins and Meredith
- i. Planning
Cllrs. R W Thomas, Watkins and Howells.

The Chair of Committees and Sub-committee to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee/Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2015.

020) To confirm the appointment of Mr S. Bees as the Internal Auditor until the Annual Meeting of Council 2016.

Confirmed and agreed unanimously.

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

- i. Joint Committee of Local Councils
Leader, Mayor, Clerk plus two Members
- ii. a) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales
Leader, Mayor, Clerk, Cllrs O'Sullivan (Watkins as reserve)
- iii. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM
Leader, Mayor, Clerk.
- iv. Tredegar Twinning
Leader, Deputy Leader, Mayor Cllrs Willis and Watkins.

- v. School Governing Bodies
 - a. Bryn Bach Primary – Cllr Howells
 - b. Deighton Primary – Cllr. S. Trollope
 - c. Georgetown Primary – Cllr. G. Meredith
 - d. Glanhowy Primary – Cllr. R. Watkins
 - e. St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Primary – Cllr. M. O’ Sullivan
- vi. Blaenau Gwent CAB
Cllrs. Watkins and H. Trollope (Howells reserve)
- vii. Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel
Cllr. G. Meredith
- viii. Tredegar Business Forum
Cllrs Smith and J. Thomas
- ix. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum
Cllrs. Prosser and Willis
- x. VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative - the Leader.

022) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize and Michael Foot Prize, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.

It was agreed to present the Aneurin Bevan prize to the best student in a science subject (previously also, this student had gone on to study medicine.) and the Michael Foot Prize to the best student in an arts subject.

023) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council.

These were confirmed unchanged.

At the conclusion of the Meeting everyone was invited to join the Mayor in the Carriage Room.

_____ Chair