

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 2nd
September 2015 at 6.30pm**

Present: **Councillor** **G. Meredith**
 J. Thomas
 T. Smith
 A. Tippings
 R. Watkins
 P. Prosser
 B. Willis
 S. Trollope
 H. Trollope
 D. Howells
 J. Morgan

In Attendance: **Ms C Keane – Town Clerk**

120) Apologies. **Cllrs. R. W. Thomas, G. Bowen-Knight, M. Cross, O. Price, D. Rowberry. An extended apology was received and accepted on behalf of Cllr. A. Cotton.**

121) To confirm the appointment of Mr Stuart Bees CPFA as the Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2016, following a thorough review of both the Internal Audit Process and of the performance of the Internal Auditor held on 17th June 2015.

The letter of appointment was read by the Clerk. All Members of Council agreed that the review process undertaken on 17th June 2015 had been extensive and that the Process itself and the work of the Internal Auditor was comprehensive.

It was therefore agreed unanimously to confirm the appointment of Mr. Stuart Bees as Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2016.

122) 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

This was agreed.

123) To receive a request from the RFO to amend working Hours from 1st September 2015.(NB This will not affect the number of hours worked as per Contracted Hours)

This was agreed unanimously agreed.

124) To agree and sign the Contracts of Employment for the Clerk and the RFO.

The contracts were agreed and the Mayor signed both contracts. It was requested that copies be kept electronically.

125) To re-open the Meeting to the Public.

This was agreed.

126) To approve additional works carried out at the Public Toilets.

Thanks were given to Cllrs Willis and Smith for their continued vigilance and it was noted with disappointment that there had been vandalism in the toilets during the Classic Car Event and efforts were being made to view the CCTV coverage. It was noted that the positioning of the bouncy castle may have obscured vision in some way (this to be noted for future events). Maintenance work had previously been agreed to replace the flushes and together with additional repairs the sum of £350 was agreed unanimously.

127) To agree financial support for the annual maintenance of the Walkway to the Town Centre in Commercial Street (estimated at £200-£500 p.a) for a period of five years. (subject to qualification by the RFO)

Following a meeting of the VVP/THI Board of which Town Council is a member (see Delegates to outside bodies) a proposal had been received by Council for financial support to maintain the Walkway in Commercial Street. Plans had been viewed at the Board Meeting and the Clerk was asked to circulate plans to Members following the Meeting. It was agreed that funding of approximately £200-500 per annum be agreed. The work was to be in partnership with Groundworks and it was agreed to take this back to the VVP/THI Board. Full details and plans to be received and scrutinised by Council.

128) Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

Completed End of Grant form received from Tredegar Methodist Church, Tredegar Town AFC Seniors and Tredegar Thespian Players.

Tredegar Angling Club – letter of thanks for continued support.

Shelter Cymru – A grant of £50.00 was recommended.

St James Church Mothers' Union – Their Annual grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Silurian Boxing Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended. It was noted that the Club was now flourishing.

Tredegar Operatic Society – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Heads of the Valley Gateway Club – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Tredegar Thespian Players – A grant of £200.00 was recommended.

Jayne Jones - Re Kidz R Us Blackpool Fund – Council were unable to provide funding.

129) Grants to Churches and Chapels

Church Immaculate Conception – a grant of £250.00 was approved

Cllr. A. Tippings declared an interest in the following and took no [part in the discussions or voting thereon.

Horeb and Sardis –sponsorship at a cost of £30 was approved.

130) Planning:-

a) to consider an Officer's Report

C/2015/0177- Land adjacent to Merthyr Road Tredegar construction of 6 no detached houses garages and associated works – Firehouse Consort Ltd

Delegated items determined between 16th June 2015 and 7th August.

2015/0038 Gwent MOT Station Gelli Rd retention of single storey valeting bay – approved.

2015/0192 21 Bryn Picca retention of single vehicle garage – approved

2015/0163 Plot 27 Maes Morgan – proposed erection 2 bed bungalow – approved

2015/0159 Former Scout Hall Scwrfa – Detached house and Garage revised scheme – approved

2015/0217 17 Gwent Way – Retention of porch to front – approved

2015/0156 28 Cripps Avenue retention of garage dog kennel and steps – approved

2015/0160 65 Vale Terrace – demolition of existing outbuilding kitchen and bathroom rear extension and rebuild – approved

2015/0125 – 19 Maes Morgan – construction of 2 storey 4 bed dwelling – approved

2015/0169 – Land east of Whitworth Terrace – discharge of condition 3 – drainage scheme of planning permission ref 2014/0202 – condition discharged.
 2015/0212 – 47 Vale Terrace – application to increase size of extension re 2015/0131 – approved.
 2015/0200 – 95 Glyn Terrace – first floor rear extension – approved
 2015/0176 7 Oliver Jones Crescent – retention of block garden shed – approved
 2015/0231 Ashlea Church Street – change from white to black upvc windows ref 2015/0109 approved
 2015/0180 – 11 Rhyd Terrace – 2 storey garage with shed below – approved
 2015/0146 – land adj to Plymouth Arms Merthyr Rd discharge of condition 2 site noise survey 3 materials for roof and brickwork 17 coal risk assessment – conditions discharged.
 2015/0218 – Ein Cartref Carmel Street – vary condition 1 and 3 re planning permission 2006/0219 approved
 Noted en bloc.

b) No Verbal Report of the Planning Committee – Council in recess.

c) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal
2015/0266	Mr J Walters 29 Mafeking Terrace Tredegar.	Retention of ground re-profiling and proposed extension of 2 stable blocks for storage purposes, land to the East of Whitworth Tce.
Emailed to Ward Members & reply by 6.8.15 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections.		
2015/0267	BGCBC Civic Centre Ebbw Vale.	Retrospective planning application re-rendering project already carried out at property nos. 1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 9 Islwyn Terrace.
Emailed to Ward Members & reply by 6.8.15 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections.		
2015/0277	Mr T Evans 4 Alexandra Terrace, Tredegar.	Detached domestic garage
Emailed to Ward Members & reply by 6.8.15 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections.		
2015/0284	Mr I Goddard Plas Newydd Cottage 5-6 Porthycarne Close, Usk.	Two storey building containing three flats, land adjacent to No.3 Aneurin Rise.
E-mailed to Ward Members – Objections lodged concerning scale and location of development		
2015/0290	Mrs A Jones 42 Glyn Terrace, Tredegar.	Single storey rear extension.
Emailed to Ward Members & reply by 17.8.15 – Replied to Planning Dept. as No Objections.		
CON/2015/0004	Mr R Evans Penyhreol Farm New Tredegar.	Proposal to install a single medium scale turbine measuring 50m to hub and 77.9m to blade tip with associated infrastructure and access, Penyhreol Farm, New Tredegar.
E-mailed to Ward Members Replied to planning Dept No Objections however Tredegar should also benefit from any community benefit fund		
2015/0309	Mr Andrew Crossman Eurocaps Ltd Crown Business Park Dukestown Tredegar	Erection of 2 no 250kw wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
No Objections		

d) Other Planning Matters

a)Members noted that the Circuit of Wales had overcome another significant hurdle in the Planning process.

Cllr. J. Morgan arrived at this point

b) It was noted that planning permission had been granted for a wind turbine by Caerphilly CBC and that Tredegar Members had previously been in negotiation with them for a share of their community fund. Clerk to check.

131) Correspondence.

1) BGCBC a) Paul Amos – Information and Governance Officer would like to come along & introduce himself and also requesting that the Charter is circulated amongst Councillors as BGCBC wish to review it – Charter copied to all Members.

Received. It was noted that there were currently problems within the JCLC and the Clerk was instructed to contact all relevant members to call a meeting of the JCLC. Hard copy of Charter requested by Leader.

b) Blaenau Gwent in Bloom – Town Clock Commended in the Public/Private Building category. (J.Mantle informed)

Received. It was noted that tenders for repair had been issued and following consultation repair on a like for like basis would not require additional planning permissions. The original paint colours were still available. The gate lock had been missing on the day of the Car event. The gardeners be asked to attend the office to discuss future planting and works.

Cllr. Morgan was thanked for his efforts in getting the area around the Clock cleaned for the Classic Car Event.

Cllr. B. Willis declared an interest in the following and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

c) List of licensing Applications week ending 17/7, 24/7 31/7. 7/8 and 21/8.

d) Supplied via Cllr. K. Hayden -Response from BGCBC Business Development Officer re the distribution of Commercial Business Fund – noting that only £240 is available for Tredegar. Has already met with the Business Forum. NB Clerk has e-mailed to point out position re Public conveniences.

Received. Members were disappointed at the amount available. It was agreed to write to the Borough Council to ask if the booking were being made via the Market and also that any monies or help being made available to other towns to re-open their toilets should also be made available to Tredegar.

2) Mazars Return of Annual Audit – Please note that there are once again, no matters for attention.

Received. Congratulations and thanks passed to the RFO.

3) Bedwellty House & Park

Vicki Nash Seeking Council support for a Lantern Making series of workshops for school to co-ordinate with TTC's Switch on Event on 27th November.

Received. It was agreed that Town Council ask Bedwellty House to join with us in promoting the Switch-On event. Other funding possibilities were noted. It was agreed to invite Ms. Nash to the next Events Sub-Committee meeting to discuss.

4) Cllr. H. Trollope Article from the Argus newspaper commending Tredegar Comprehensive on their success in GCSE's with 90% of pupils attaining five A* to C grades – with 52% achieving 5 GCSE's including English and Maths.

Received. Members commended the rising standards across all schools and it was noted that not a single pupil had left the Comprehensive without a qualification.

5) Community Council of Abertillery and Llanilleth

Offering Training with One Voice Wales – The Council Meeting 24.9.15 at 6.30pm cost £30

Received.

6) One Voice Wales a) i) Agenda and Booking form for the OVW Conference and AGM Saturday 3rd October 2015 at Bont Pavillion, Pontrhydfendigaid. Guest speaker Leighton Andrews AM Minister for Public Services; Dr Jonathan Owen Chief Exec of National Assoc. of Local Councils (NALC) and Keith Edwards Ministerial Advisor – Future Role of Mutuals.

ii) Notice that Tredegar Town Council has a motion on the agenda of the OVW Annual General Meeting. “OVW calls on the Government and other funding bodies to allow Community and own Councils to benefit from grants and funding available to other non-profit making organisations”

Both i and ii received. It was agreed to contact other members of the JCLC to see if they were attending and to travel together if possible. Absent Members to be contacted to see if they wanted to attend.

b) Support your high street week 19th-26th September 2015.

Received. The Borough Council were liaising with Tredegar Business Forum – to put on web-site.

c) September training courses.

Received – interested Members to contact the Clerk.

7) Welsh Government Consultation on the Welsh Government’s Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales has been launched and is open until midnight 9th November 2015.

Received – copied to Members.

8) Kate Blewitt Torfaen CBC

Re TPIF Application South Wales Route of Industrial Heritage to include the Town Clock in a project to bring together the story of the industrial heritage across the region – delivery by Torfaen CBC seeking our support and co-operation in their funding application **must reply Thursday 3rd September.**

Received – it was agreed to support, possibly featuring the Museum, Clock, Sirhowy Ironworks and possible the Cholera Cemetery.

9) Cllr Tippings Armed Forces Covenant Fund Awareness raising session Cardiff being held on Tuesday 8th September 10.30-12 noon in Ty Llewellyn Army reserve Centre Cardiff **NB THIS ROUND OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS CLOSSES ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

Received – it was agreed to put in a bid for the Cairn site at Trefil to improve and provide additional information for visitors. Also possibly to light the War Memorial.

10) J. Hunt Cynefin Place Co-ordinator Tredegar (Severn Wye Energy Agency)

a) Re: Test Town Bridgend 2015 – Opportunity for young entrepreneurs, 16-30 year olds, to showcase their product/service.

Received. It was noted that local schools no longer have a business department.

b) i) Re: Tredegar Partnership Forum – Setting up this new forum with the first meet/eat being on Friday 14.8.15 at 12 noon in the Flying Start Centre, Cefn Golau.

ii) Re: Tredegar Partnership Forum 14.8.15 – now fully booked, will seek a bigger free venue for the next meeting.

Received. Following much discussion it was agreed to call a meeting of the OVW Climate Change Adaptation Programme and to write to Severn Wye asking for a progress report and exit strategy for the Cynefin Place Co-ordinator.

11) Wales Homes for Veterans Receipt and thanks for donation.
Received.

12) Smart Money Cymru Inviting Councillors to launch event taking place Friday 11th September 2015–

9.30 am at Bevan House

Received – available Members to attend.

- 13) CAB Opening hours at various venues throughout Blaenau Gwent. NB at Glan yr Avon Surgery Alternate Wednesdays 9-12.30 and ViTEC Centre Tuesdays 9.30 – 12.00

Received – it was agreed to check who controlled bookings at the Glan-yr-Afon Surgery and if there might be any alternative to the ViTEC Centre.

- 14) Friends of Bedwellty Park

The Secretary has requested a meeting with Town Council to propose an extension of Sunday Concerts and to work in partnership.

Received. This idea was welcomed by all Members and it was noted that Council had already decided to extend the Concert season to 10 weeks and that more varied entertainment be provided. Contact to be made with Arts Council Wales and the Night Out Scheme.

- 15) National Association of Local Councils NALC

- a) Legal Note L04-15 re Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013. There are a few amendments that TTC will need to make to Standing Orders to comply, however we already provide much of the required information on our web-site.
- b) Legal Note L05-15 re Public Contracts Regulations impact on Standing Orders and Financial regulation – to be discussed and amended as necessary.

Received – a Meeting of officers of Council agreed to discuss any changes required.

- 16) Local Councils Update – Article copied to all Members regarding the smoking ban in cars carrying Under 18's being implemented in October.

Received and noted.

- 17) Nantyglo & Blaina TC

Invite to Mayor and consort to attend their Civic Sunday 27th September 2015 at Wesley Church Nantyglo at 3pm and Nantyglo Rugby Club Afterwards

Received.

- 18) Mr Albert Skeates BEM

Clarification of the events to mark the presentation of the BEM to Mr Skeates. A private presentation to be made by the Lord Lieutenant to him in the Assembly Room at Bedwellty House on Thursday 10th September at 11am. **ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ARE THEN INVITED TO ATTEND A SURPRISE CELEBRATION AT THE MOOSE AFTERWARDS.** Please advise if you will be attending.

Mr. Skeates was nominated by Town Council for an award for his work in Tredegar and it was agreed that the cost of the buffet at the Moose be covered by Town Council.

It was agreed that the Mayor and Consort attend and make a presentation to Mr Skeates BEM and that photos be placed on the Council web-site.

19) PUBLICATIONS

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Community Update Summer 2015 – forwarded to Cllr Price; Ville D'Orvault Orvault ma ville #65 July – September 2015; BGCBC Road works report week ending 24.7.15, 31.7.15., 7.8.15, 14.8.15, 21.8.15 & 28.8.15: Aneurin Bevan CHC Annual Report 2014/15: SLCC Notice of Annual Meeting 16 October Hinckley: Clerks & Councils Direct Sept 2015: Furniture@work Office furniture catalogue;

OVW 2016 Natural Resources Wales Competitive grant; Wales Audit Office Newsletter; Good Practice Exchange Team at Wales Audit office will be holding a senior level round table event with the Project Management Institute Thursday 10th September 12-1400

AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

20) AGENDA

Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 23rd July 2015 at 10.30am Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale;
Executive Committee Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 11am – Agenda item nos. 11 & 13(a) reports; Special
Planning Committee Monday 27th July 2015 at 2pm at 1 Cross Brook Cottages, Trefil – forwarded to all
Sirhowy Ward Members; Environment, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 29th July
2015 at 2pm Council Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 9.30am Council
Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Monday 3rd August 2015 at 10am Council
Chamber, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at 2pm Council Chamber,
Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Thursday 20th August 2015 at 9.30am Tredegar
Library: Planning Committee Meeting to be held in Council Chamber EV on Thursday 3rd September 2015
at 2pm: Special Meeting of Council Wednesday 30th September at 9.30 am in the Council Chamber EV re
Treasury Management and the Circuit of Wales; Corporate overview scrutiny Co at the Council Chamber
EV on Tuesday 1st September at 2pm: General Licensing Co Council Chamber EV Tuesday 1st September
at 10am. Executive Meeting in Council Chamber EV Wednesday 8th September 11am Education Active
Living & Learning Scrutiny Co meeting Tuesday 8th September Council Chamber EV at 2pm
AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS

132) Matters concerning Bedwellty House and Park.

a) Armed Forces Day

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the House Manager to discuss participation by the Twinning Association, one of the main participants in the event. It was felt that there should be some leeway allowed. There was some discussion about finding an alternative site for the event.

133) Delegates: To receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/working Parties.

- a) School Governing Bodies Bryn Bach Primary urgent attention to barriers on roundabout required.
- b) Tredegar Crime Prevention Panel – Merging with Ebbw Vale Panel further update to be provided.
- c) Tredegar Business Forum – congratulations to be given at the event debrief and the following concerns to be raised a) that the opening of the Clock wasn't publicized widely enough which resulted in people being turned away. b) some problems with people moving the road closed signs.
- d) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – much discussion regarding their event and a note that Ms. Janet Karn was to be made redundant with resulting questions over the future of the Archive she holds in the Library.
- e) VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative - Previously discussed (see Minute No 127)

134) Matters of Local Interest and concern (by prior notice).

- a) Clerk to write to Trust to ask what is to happen to the Archive in the Library.
- b) It was noted that the Bedwellty Park Bowls Club had gained promotion from League 3 and had only lost three matches all season.
- c) Any outstanding monies for the Highest Point Walk required urgently – to be matched by Carillion.
- d) Additional Road Closure signs required – Clerk to write to Carillion to see if any available.
- e) Meeting required re Climate Change Group, Events re World War I and Publicity re Newsletter.

There being no other business the Meeting Closed at 8.40pm.

_____ Chair