

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 17th May, 2017 at 6.20 p.m.**

Present: Councillors

- J. Thomas (Chair)**
- T. Smith**
- A.E. Tippings**
- M. Cross**
- D.W.A. Howells**
- M. Turner**
- B. Willis**
- P. Prosser**
- P. Waldron**
- T. Gregory**
- G. James**
- A. Jones**
- D. Jones**
- E. Jones**
- G. Meredith (6.25pm)**

In attendance: R.F.O. – A. Jones

**001) Apologies: Councillors H. Trollope, S. Trollope and D. Rowberry;
Mrs. C. Price, Town Clerk**

It was noted that Councillors H. and S. Trollope's apologies were as a result of this Annual Meeting being moved to a week later than initially proposed.

002) Thanks and Appreciation by Councillor J. Thomas, Mayor 2016 - 2017.

The Mayor wished to extend a 'big thank you' to all Members – past, new and to those lost by Council - for their support over the previous twelve months. It had been a wonderful, enjoyable and busy experience.

Councillor Smith expressed thanks to the Mayor and stated he held her in high esteem, for her role as Mayor, during her Term in Office and for the fundraising she had undertaken. He continued by thanking Councillor M. Turner for his support and excellent work done as Consort.

Councillor G. Meredith joined the meeting at this juncture.

003) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

A Member proposed that Councillor Jacqueline Thomas, due to the excellent work she had already done and for being a credit to the town, continued in the role as Mayor. This nomination was seconded with the above sentiments fully endorsed.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Jacqueline Thomas was thereupon unanimously re-elected to the role of Mayor.

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

The Mayor read the acceptance of Office and duly signed – it was thereupon confirmed by the RFO.

At this point the Chain of Office was presented to the Mayor.

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

Councillor Jacqueline Thomas was pleased to accept the role of Mayor; she was honoured and felt privileged to once again undertake this role for another year.

The Mayor continued by saying how she was looking forward to working with everyone, old and new Members, over the next year and expressed her sadness for those Members that had either retired or Council had lost, such as Councillor M. O’Sullivan.

The Mayor reiterated her thanks to all Members for their past support and for their continued support, for both herself, the Deputy Mayor and Consorts.

The Mayor thereupon announced her Mayoral Appeal this year would be supporting Blaenau Gwent Otters Disabled Swimming Club, which had been an outstanding organisation, working for over thirty years in the community.

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

A Member proposed that Councillor Haydn Trollope be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor and confirmed, in his absence, that he had expressed an interest in this role.

This nomination was duly seconded and RFO confirmed she would invite Councillor H. Trollope to call in to the office to sign the Declaration of Office. The Chain of Office would be presented at the next meeting of Council.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

A Member stated “it gives me great pleasure to nominate Councillor Smith as our Leader. Since he was first elected, he has grown in confidence and stature. He works tirelessly for this Council, and this town, and is a superb ambassador for them both. I am speaking for us all when I say that we are all so glad that you have agreed to accept this nomination to Office, under your leadership the Council has stepped in and taken over the running of facilities such as the public conveniences, Deighton playing fields and Sirhowy community garden. I firmly believe under you we shall continue to improve the town for its residents, businesses and visitors.”

The nomination was duly seconded and appointed. A Member highlighted how she had worked with Councillor Smith in a variety of different voluntary roles and commended him for all the work he had done for the local schools and tenants/residents of the town.

Councillor Smith thereupon accepted the role of Leader and thanked all his Colleagues in allowing him the opportunity to continue in this role, as he had done for the last three years, and for their continuous support. He continued by saying how it has been an honour to represent Council at various meetings and by welcoming the community at Council’s presentation evenings.

The Leader read the acceptance of Office and duly signed – it was thereupon confirmed by the RFO.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated to the role of Deputy Leader. He continued by saying how she was a long standing Member of Council, undertaking this role for several years already; she had always supported others’ roles and shown full commitment to the town. He highlighted how female input was being proactively encouraged nationally and how Tredegar Town Council could be seen as a flagship due to its fair representation - six female Members – who actively engaged with the community and in the Council activities.

The nomination was duly seconded and Councillor Alyson Tippings appointed as Deputy Leader.

The Deputy Leader thanked her Colleagues for their vote of confidence and promised to continue to support the Leader, the Council and the town. She continued by paying tribute to a past councillor, Councillor Roger Thomas, who she described as her comrade on that bench, her Ward and this Council; his contributions to hold the Police to account were legendary, as were his contributions to education and sporting activities in the town; we all thank him for his time spent in this Chamber and wish him well in his retirement.

The Deputy Leader read the acceptance of Office and duly signed – it was thereupon confirmed by the RFO.

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:

All Members were reminded that this document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing their Declaration of Office.

This was agreed unanimously.

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

All Members were reminded that this document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing their Declaration of Office.

A Member reminded Council of its interest to support the new Smart Cymru Credit Union, looking towards opening a chequing account with them to reduce banking costs. The RFO confirmed that she had already met with a representative and that she would be collating a report, which could be presented to a future Staffing and Finance Sub-Committee meeting for discussion.

This was agreed unanimously, with the point above noted, as approved by the previous administration.

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

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration, and until the report from the RFO was received regarding use of another financial facility, such as Smart Money Cymru Credit Union.

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.

Members were reminded that the Clerk and RFO would only sign cheques in the case of an emergency, once proper approval had been gained from the other four signatories listed.

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.

1) BGCBC

- a) M. Howland Re: Deighton Fields – boundary fence of field is TTC’s responsibility and he has informed Mr. Ashman of this.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting, after 7th June, 2017, with M. Howland, BGCBC Legal and Estates representatives plus available Members of the Facilities Committee. Councillors Smith and Tippings both agreed to attend.

- b) K. Rees: Have your say – Planning Service customer survey 2016/17, respond by 28.05.17.

Agreed to forward for all Members to respond via the link if they wish to do so.

Councillors T. Smith, B. Willis and M. Cross declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

- c) Planning Application C/2017/0024: First Floor
7 The Circle

i) S. Smith: supplied link to Planning Committee’s report that outlines the positive recommendations and has passed the email to Building Control to see whether there has been a breach under the Building Act.

ii) K. Assender: Building Control gave advice regarding the possible change of use but to date they have not received a Building Regulation application for the scheme.

It was agreed to request that Council was kept updated.

2) Gwent Police

J. Cuthbert: responses to queries raised by Council.

The incident in question related to the theft of a former Councillor’s wallet whilst shopping in Morrison's. It was agreed to seek clarity as to why no action, other than a warning, was taken when the incident was caught on CCTV and the assailant was a known perpetrator to the Police.

3) Welsh Government

Open Doors Event – call for entries, closing date for registration is 1st June, 2017 with event to be run between 1st - 30th September, 2017.

It was agreed to once again participate by opening the Town Clock on Saturday, 2nd September, 2017 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

4) PUBLICATIONS - Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting.
Noted.

5) AGENDA - Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting.
Noted.

015) To consider any Urgent Planning Applications

Councillors T. Smith, B. Willis and M. Cross declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

a) Officer's report

None received – Noted.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee

A verbal report was received from a Member and the points raised were listed by the relevant application below.

c) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2017/0139	Mr. I. Hilton 79 Kimberley Terrace Tredegar	Rear Garage, 79 Kimberley Terrace

No Objections.

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

2017/0143	Mr. D. Hillman The Gables Charles Street Tredegar	Proposed residential development (18 dwellings) with associated highways and parking provision for adjacent dwellings (Outline), land at Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens.
-----------	--	--

Agreed to reiterate the observations submitted by Council when this was

submitted as outline planning permission.

C/2017/0148	Mr. P. Hopkins 21 Bevan Avenue Tredegar	Installation of disabled access steplift and associated works, 21 Bevan Avenue.
-------------	---	---

No Objections.

C/2017/0150	Mrs. W. Powell 30 Oliver Jones Crescent Tredegar	1 st floor 7 The Circle, proposed replacement emergency exit stairs at rear, replacement windows; and raise main roof; Ground floor The Vault 41a Castle Street, proposed raised storage platform at rear.
-------------	---	---

Members request further clarification on what is meant with regards to “raise main roof”.

d) Other Planning Matters

None received – Noted.

016) To set the Mayor’s Allowance (£1,050) and to authorise payment of the allowance.

This was agreed unanimously.

017) To set a Leader’s Allowance, as per the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16th March, 2016, not exceeding £500.00.

This was agreed unanimously.

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

This was agreed unanimously.

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

This was agreed unanimously.

020) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

a. Civic Sub-Committee

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Rowberry, D. Howells, D. Jones, G. James, M. Cross.

b. Events Sub-Committee

Councillors M. Turner (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Cross, A. Jones, D. Jones, E. Jones, T. Gregory.

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 £500.00

Councillors P. Prosser (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Howells, P. Waldron, A. Jones, S. Trollope, M. Cross.

d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee

Councillors H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor) (Chair Finance), J. Thomas (Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Turner (Chair Staffing), D. Howells, D. Rowberry, B. Willis, E. Jones.

It was noted that, due to the nature of this Sub-Committee, the role for one Chair was very demanding; hence the agreed decision to split to two separate Chairs representing the relevant roles of the Sub-Committee.

e. Appeals Committee

Councillors M. Cross (Chair), P. Prosser, S. Trollope, D. Jones, G. James, T. Gregory.

f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council

Councillor J. Thomas (Mayor) (Chair), All Members of Council

g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), J. Thomas (Mayor), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), D. Rowberry, S. Trollope, E. Jones, D. Jones, P. Waldron, G. James.

h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme

Councillors A. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), D. Jones, A. Jones, E. Jones, P. Waldron.

Members were reminded this was a Working Party and anyone who was interested, or wished to contribute, were welcome to join them.

i. Tredegar Public Facilities

(To incorporate the Deighton Playing fields, Tredegar W/C Facilities)

Councillors B. Willis (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), M. Cross, P. Waldron (Reserve).

It was noted that the Sirhowy Community Garden was to be incorporated into this also.

j. Planning

Councillor P. Prosser (Sirhowy Ward); A. Jones (Reserve)

Councillor P. Waldron (Georgetown Ward); G. Meredith (Reserve)

Councillor M. Turner (Central & West); D. Howells (Reserve)

Councillor T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve).

Members were reminded to call into the Office to view the planning applications prior to the Meeting.

It was agreed that each Ward could select a Chair to present that Ward's observations at Town Council meetings, if they wished to do so.

k. Publicity Committee – NEW Committee

Councillors S. Trollope (Chair), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Turner, E. Jones, D. Jones, T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve).

During the Election canvassing, Members became aware of the community's lack of knowledge about Town Council and the activities it undertakes. Therefore, Members agreed to create this new Committee to move forward with new avenues of promoting, within the community, the Town Council activities and who/how to contact their local Ward representative.

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee/Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

021) To confirm the appointment of Mr. S. Bees as the Internal Auditor until the Annual Meeting of Council 2018.

Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

A new Member asked for further details on "who" Mr. Bees was to which the R.F.O. supplied some background information.

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

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

a. Joint Committee of Local Councils

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), D. Howells, P. Waldron; Mrs. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor E. Jones (Reserve).

The Leader explained, for the benefit of Council's new Members, this group consisted of representatives from all the Borough's Town Councils, who then worked in conjunction with BGCBC on community issues.

b. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor); Mrs. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor P. Waldron (Reserve).

c. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), M. Cross, P. Waldron.

d. Tredegar Twinning Association

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), J. Thomas (Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), B. Willis; Mrs. C. Price (Clerk).

e. School Governing Bodies

i) Bryn Bach Primary

Vacancy

ii) Deighton Primary

Councillor S. Trollope

iii) Georgetown Primary

Councillor P. Waldron

iv) Glanhwy Primary

Councillor E. Jones

v) St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary

Councillor T. Smith

During this meeting, it was unanimously agreed to elect Councillor Waldron as Council's representative on the Governing Body for Georgetown Primary, which he duly accepted.

A vacancy still remained on the Governing Body for Bryn Bach Primary to which it was agreed to await confirmation of BGCBC's representation before a nomination from Town Council was made.

f. Blaenau Gwent CAB

Councillors H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), E. Jones, T. Gregory (Reserve).

g. Tredegar and Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel

Councillor T. Smith (Leader).

It was noted Tredegar and Ebbw Vale had merged into one Panel and that all Members were encouraged to attend the Bi-Monthly meetings that were being held.

Councillor Smith agreed to furnish Councillor Gregory with the contact details for the Panel for him to ascertain further meeting details.

h. Tredegar Business Forum

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) and J. Thomas (Mayor).

i. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum

Councillors P. Prosser, B. Willis, T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor) (Reserve).

j. Allotment Association

Councillors J. Thomas (Mayor), H. Trollope (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), P. Waldron, A. Jones.

k. VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative

Councillor T. Smith (Leader).

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

For the new Members of Council, it was explained that the Aneurin Bevan Prize was awarded for science and the Michael Foot for literature. For both, a cash prize was given and the winners were presented with a trophy each, which remained displayed at the school.

A Member proposed a new prize was created in recognition of the services of a former teacher, Peter Morgan-Jones, who recently passed away. This prize was to cover the

departments for arts/crafts and encompassing music. If agreed, a new trophy would need to be purchased and criteria for the award drawn up.

This was agreed unanimously.

024) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.

For the new Members of Council, it was explained that Tony Gregory (deceased) was a former Councillor, who very much supported the community, helping people reach their goals and was a champion of young people; he supported youngsters who may have gone astray and those lesser academic achievers to help them bring out/learn skills within the community.

The award was for a young person who had made a difference to their life and criteria had been established; past recipients and their achievements were highlighted.

This was agreed unanimously.

025) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

These were confirmed as unchanged and thereupon agreed.

026) Accounts: To consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in May 2017.

The RFO explained that, due to the rescheduling of this meeting, there would be no Ordinary Meeting, at which a Schedule of Accounts was normally presented, being held in May. Therefore the Schedule has been brought to this meeting, as an additional agenda item for approval, to prevent any unnecessary delays in making the payments.

It was agreed that the gardeners proceed with the clearing of The Clock garden beds and plants were to be ordered. All bulbs removed were to be retained with the proposal for them to be planted in Sirhowy Community Garden.

There being no queries, the Schedule of Payments, and necessary bank transfer, were unanimously approved with the agreement that Councillor Smith would attend the office the following week to oversee the transfer.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

_____ Chair