

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 7th June, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)**
 H. Trollope
 A.E. Tippings
 M. Cross
 T. Gregory
 D.W.A. Howells
 G. James
 A. Jones
 E. Jones
 P. Prosser
 D. Rowberry
 S. Trollope
 M. Turner
 P. Waldron
 B. Willis

In Attendance: **Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price**

Also Present: **Business Forum representative Diane Summerfield**

039) Apologies: **Councillors T. Smith, D. Jones and G. Meredith**

040) Declarations of Interest.

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

041) Classic Car Event: to discuss future organisation of this event

At the invitation of the Chair, the Business Forum representative, who was in attendance at the meeting as a result of a recommendation at the recent Events Sub-Committee, following discussion between the representative and Members, was invited to speak in respect of organisational arrangements for the Classic Car Event 2017.

The Business Forum representative informed Council that, potentially, the event would not go ahead this year, as she was unable to dedicate the time needed and there were no other active members in the Business Forum. The representative said that, from her own

perspective, she would be willing to take a break for one year and take up the mantle again the following year.

She thereupon responded to questions raised by Members and highlighted the following:

- enquiries - time was needed to take control, monitor and chase up issues,
- correlation, updating paperwork and printing – printing of advertising materials (flyers and posters) and programmes were undertaken by BGCBC;
- road closures and stewarding;
- there was a gap in vehicle provision - she had been let down by her 'bus contact', therefore a new one was needed, and she had received complaints in respect of this due to the lack of vehicles in the vicinity of The Circle/Castle Street – a Member suggested that Skinners had recently renovated coaches and may be able to assist, John Parfitt was also suggested as a suitable point of contact;
- the event did not increase retail, as the type of people attending did not intend to shop, thus benefitting the cafes rather than the retail trade (and the cafes were uninterested in taking over or helping with the organisation);
- Business Forum could finance the prizes;
- the only date available in the Classic Car events calendar was the Bank Holiday weekend.

Councillor E. Jones joined the meeting at this juncture (6.41 p.m.)

A Member stated that, collectively, Town Council wished to support this event and that administrative staff had capacity to help, however this commitment had to be two-fold, in order to build momentum.

Coalfields Regeneration were establishing a website, to link all websites via an electronic 'business card', and this should assist in organising events to access key information/engaging and communication, as the website developed.

A Member confirmed this event clashed with fund-raising for Eddie Matthews, an all-day Rugby event at The Rec on this date. Discussion ensued in regard to combining the two events and ferrying public between The Rec and town centre; possibly via pony & trap or by coach.

It was suggested that perhaps the Classic Car Club contact in Brynmawr could be contacted to assist, as the Business Forum representative was not covetous of the event and did not mind who undertook the organisation.

A Member thereupon formally proposed that Tredegar Town Council support the organisation of this, and other such events in the town, and that an Events Sub-Committee be convened to liaise with the Business Forum representative, which was agreed accordingly.

It was further agreed that the Town Council meet the expenditure incurred in respect of the Special Event Road Closure Order, which the Clerk was happy to complete and return to

BGCBC.

042) To receive the verbal recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting

Consideration was given to the following recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee:

- that a start-up grant of £100.00 for Mini Movers be recommended for approval;
- it was agreed that a letter be sent to Friends of Tiggy's notifying the applicant that the application be refused, as the Town Council were not in a position to award such a grant;
- the appropriate letter be sent to Tredegar County Club and Institute, stating that the application could not be supported at this time, however if activities were open to community groups in the future, the Club was welcome to re-apply;
- that the afore-mentioned grants listed, amounts as recorded, be recommended for approval; and
- it was agreed that a Civic Sub-Committee be convened during the August recess to review and appraise the grant application procedure, with a view to the RFO undertaking an audit in regard to protocol.

The recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee were unanimously approved.

043) Update on Insurance Renewal

The RFO presented an update in respect of the insurance renewal. The Officer had written to appropriate parties in respect of renewing public liability and buildings insurance in accordance with Financial Regulations, which delegated powers to the responsible finance officer. She had obtained three quotes on this occasion, over a one and three-year period to ascertain potential savings. One party had quoted for one year cover only.

The RFO had emailed the quotes received to the Mayor and Deputy, Leader and Deputy, in readiness for renewal on 1st June, 2017, seeking observations. The Officer informed Members that the successful tender was Zurich Municipal, who remained the Town Council insurers for the past few years. The insurers had clarified that any adjustments in respect of premium tax would not affect the amount that the Town Council had to pay.

In response to a question raised, the RFO confirmed that the insurance covered Deighton playing field, Sirhowy community garden and all events. Playing fields always proved high risk and the groups utilising such amenities should be registered and have their own public liability insurance.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Tredegar Public Facilities group was should be convened.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the RFO for her diligence and hard work in determining the best deal on behalf of Council.

044) One Voice Wales: Motions for 2017 Annual General Meeting

To propose a maximum of two motions for debate at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 30th September, 2017 (to be submitted *no later than 12.00 noon on Friday, 30th June, 2017*)

The Clerk asked that Members give due consideration of suitable motions for submission, in order to report back to the next meeting of Council, to adhere to the deadline of 30th June, 2017; She advised Members that all Town Councils presenting motions must attend the One Voice Wales AGM in order to speak to the motions for debate.

045) Grants:

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations

Bedwellty Park Ladies Bowls - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of running the club and purchase of kitchen equipment - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum - Request for financial assistance to be used for guest speakers at their annual heritage day in October - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

Parchment Class - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of hiring the room for classes - Recommendation of £100.00 – **Approved**.

Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of the buses insurance - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

St. John Ambulance, Tredegar Branch - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the refurbishment of the building.

Minute Ref 195 “St. John Ambulance was required to levy a nominal charge at any event where an ambulance was provided – it was agreed that further consideration would be given to grant monies allocated in the future to offset such expenditure”.

Approved that this application be held in abeyance until the end of year, and considered in January, when any balance would be known in respect of charges levied / events supported by St. John Ambulance.

Tredegar Angling Club - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of improving the pathways and grass cutting - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

Tredegar Decoupage Group - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of hiring the room for classes and purchase small items of equipment - Recommendation of £100.00 – **Approved**.

Tredegar Gardeners Club - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of running trips to various gardens and guest speakers - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

Tredegar Quilting Class - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the costs of tutors and materials - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

Ystrad Deri Community Centre - Request for financial assistance to be used towards renewing the guttering and the repointing of the patio area - Recommendation of £200.00 – **Approved**.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137)

Tredegar Methodist Church - Request for financial assistance to be used towards the updating of their sound system - Recommendation of £225.00 – **Approved**.

In respect of questions raised, the Clerk would undertake to clarify appropriate activities that Town Council could support, e.g. room hire, running costs, etc.

046) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) J. Brooks Re: Methodist Chapel, Harcourt Terrace – change of use to community boxing gym, April 2017 planning committee resolved no further action on breach.

- Noted.

- b) M. Perry Re: Southend Allotments - confirming fence line is ownership of Town Council.

- Allotments Sub-Committee required.

- c) M. Howland Re: Deighton Fields – available for meeting all day on 8th, pm on 9th/12th/13th.

- Dates to be forwarded to Members of the Working Party.

- d) Introduction from Sarah Keefe the new Equalities Officer Blaenau Gwent – looking to map out local services/support groups etc.

- Invite to Civic Meeting of Council in July.

Councillor B Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

- e) i) List of Licencing Applications week ending 14.04.2017: Top Shop, Ysguborwen.
ii) List of Licencing Applications week ending 21.04.2017: The Inn Place, 33 Market Street.
iii) List of Licencing Applications week ending 28.04.2017: 1 Glyn Terrace.
iv) List of Licencing Applications week ending 19.05.2017: Lidl, Gelli Road and Sunnys, 4 King Street.
v) List of licencing applications week ending 26.05.20 17: Mark Williams Snooker Club; Dorian House, Coach Bach and The Cambrian, Castle Street.

- In respect of 1 Glyn Terrace, Members wished to make Town Council aware of a petition outlining the opposition of County Borough Councillors.

Agreed, Clerk to write outlining concerns in respect of litter, over-provision, link to anti-social behaviour, parking issues, close proximity to primary school, proving a health and safety risk.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Presentations made to Larger Council's Committee meeting.
 - Noted.
 - b) Reminder OVW/SLCC Joint Event 12th July, 2017 in Flintshire.
 - Noted.
 - c) Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community & Town Councils.
 - Noted.
 - d) Social Media Policy Template.
 - To be referred to Publicity Sub-Committee.
 - e) National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales: Consultation on the draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the NDF, closing date for responses 21.07.2017.
 - Noted.
 - f) Code of Practice on Workforce Matters (Two Tier Code) and annual monitoring form.
 - Clerk/RFO to complete and return.
 - g) Guide to taking part in "Battle's over – A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light 11th November, 2018".
 - To be publicised.
 - h) South East Wales Regional Engagement Team: Call for proposals to tackle poverty through sustainable employment. Deadline to submit

proposals is 30.06.2017.

- Noted.

- i) Press statement on behalf of the Board of Community Health Council Wales.

- Circulate to Members, via email.

- j) Opportunities Bulletin: Brand new master class, international placements and quick tips now available.

- Noted.

3) Award Nominations:

- a) **Tony Gregory Award:** Jenna Bedford, nominated by Cllr H Trollope.

- Agreed.

b) **Civic Award:**

i) Lyndsey Wangiel, nominated by Councillors H & S Trollope.

ii) Howard Morris, nominated by Councillor Cross.

iii) Roger Thomas, nominated by Councillor Cross.

iv) Jade Lapping, nominated by Councillor S Trollope.

- Agreed en bloc.

The former postmistress, Barbara James, was also to be invited to attend the next presentation evening, as agreed by the former administration.

Members were informed that Mr. David Morgan, former President of the World Cricket Association, was making a remarkable recovery, which was welcomed by Members; Clerk to write letter.

- 4) Councillor Tippings a) Hospital Artefacts – details of where/what items have been located.

- Noted.

- b) Invite to all Members from Alun Davies, A.M. to workshop 15.06.2017 to discuss the development of a Health and Wellbeing Centre in Tredegar – ***forwarded to all Members via email/post.***

- This was a very important meeting that

Members should endeavour to do their utmost to attend, if Town Council put forward their views. However, this would be the first of many meetings with the opportunity to express views on this matter.

Agreed that Clerk forward apologies to the office of Alun Davies, A.M., for those Members unable to attend.

Councillor T. Gregory left the meeting at this juncture (7.50 p.m.)

- 5) Aneurin Leisure Trust
- a) Hairdressing event – did not use Mayor’s Parlour as utilised another room in the House.
- Noted.
 - b) Response to Council’s request for the Mayor’s Parlour to only be utilised for Mayoral Events.
- Members reiterated that the Mayor’s Parlour was to be utilised for Mayoral events only and to be kept locked at all times.
- 6) Wales Audit Office
- Letter from Anthony Barrett with request it is presented to Council.
- Circulate to Members, via email.
- 7) Gwent Police
- Response to email sent back to Mr. Cuthbert regarding the incident at Morrison’s.
- Agreed that response be forwarded to former Councillor Roger Thomas, and that all personal details be removed and the generic query be re-sent seeking feedback.
- 8) GAVO
- Asking if Council will consider sponsoring an award this year.
- Agreed to sponsor the Disability Award, if available. Members requested that appropriate notice be provided in respect of nominations and attendance at events, whether the main function or participation in the judging process.
- 9) Covenant Fund
- Confirmation of successful application and necessary forms for use of the grant funding.

- Clerk to pursue Roman Street Lighting.

Town Council extended thanks to Steven Hughes, Aneurin Leisure, for providing assistance following vandalism of the inspection chamber to the Bandstand and reporting the matter to the electrician.

Members also extended thanks to Councillor Alyson Tippings for pursuing the grant, and the monies awarded were greatly welcomed.

10) Fresh Active

Asking whether Council would consider funding a community Defib to be located at the gym; foot fall in TWO months circa 7000.

- A brief discussion ensued in respect of relocation of one of the defibrillators in place within the town centre. A Member said that the OVW newsletter had included an organisation based in Llanelli that installed defibrillators free of charge.

It was therefore agreed that the Town Council pursue financing another defibrillator, rather than relocating existing, to be installed in the Fresh Active gym.

11) Cadw

Confirming Open Doors event 2nd September, 2017, is registered.

- Noted.

12) L. Price

Dreamboats & Petticoats night Saturday, 24th June, 2017 at Georgetown Community Centre, tickets £5.00, bring your own food and drink.

- Noted.

13) Messages of Thanks:

- i) R Thomas - Thank you for get well message.
- ii) E. Cavender-Morris Re: Orvault visit – thoroughly enjoyed participating and looks forward to working with us again in the future.
- iii) Tredegar Horseshow - Thank you for continued support with sponsorship.
- iv) Tongwynlais Band - Thanks for letting them perform, love to return next year if not sooner.

- Noted.
- 14) D. Manning-Lee
- i) Copy of email sent to Councillor Smith Re: Political Banners.
 - ii) Political banners – complaint about enquiry.
- It was agreed that this correspondence be considered at the close of the meeting under exempt conditions.
- 15) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- a) Planning Aid Wales CTC free planning training workshop Monday 19th June 2017 from 4.00 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. at Plas Y Ffynnon, Brecon.
- Noted.
- b) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 26.05.17 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
- Noted.
- 16) J. Karn
- Wednesday 14th June, 2017 at 2.30 p.m. Tredegar History and Archive Group present an illustrated lecture entitled “The Newport Ship” at Tredegar Library (upstairs room) – **added to website**
- Noted.
- 17) Communicorp
- Local Councils Update May 2017 Issue 206 – **relevant item copied for Members**
- Noted.
- 18) Seafarers UK
- Please fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day 03.09.2017.
- Noted; to be discussed at a future Events Sub-Committee.
- 19) Sherman Theatre
- Under 7s Christmas tour 2017 – asking whether a booking is going to be made.
- Noted.
- 20) Woodland Trust
- Tree Charter will launch 06.11.2017, signature gathering book detailing the 10 principles of the Tree Charter included.

- Clerk to liaise with Aneurin Leisure to ascertain a suitable location to place the book for attention of the public.

21) PUBLICATIONS

Play Wales Play for Wales Issue 48 Spring 2017; Ville D'Orvault, Orvault & Co Issue 11 May / June 2017; War Memorials Trust Bulletin 73 May 2017; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct May 2017 Issue 111; Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Patients Voice News Bulletin Issue 30 February – March 2017 – **added to website**; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 02.06.2017; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 09.06.2017; Communicorp Local Councils Update June 2017 Issue 207; One Voice Wales - CEW Newsletter May 2017 & Cynnal Cymru May Newsletter & Historic Environment Update Number 4.

Available for Members – received.

22) AGENDA

BGCBC Annual Meeting of Council Thursday, 25th May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Annual Meeting of Council Thursday, 25th May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. – notice of exempt item; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 13th June, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for Members – received.

Councillor B Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

047) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)

List of Delegated Items determined between 29th March, 2017 and 26th May, 2017:

C/2017/0054 Discharge of Conditions: 5 – Details of steel security shutters & entrance canopy, 6 – Landscape works of planning permission C/2015/0329 (C/2015/0329 – Provision of a single storey building to accommodate community facilities & daycare with associated parking & landscaping), Former Sirhowy Infants School, land within Flying Start site, Tredegar – *Condition Discharged*.

C/2017/0084 Discharge of Conditions: 10 – Ecology & 11 – Tree protection of planning permission C/2016/0231 (C/2016/0231 Residential development of 14 dwellings (social housing) and associated site works), Former Aneurin Bevan Residential Home, Ashvale, Tredegar – *Condition Discharged*.

C/2017/0070 Discharge of Conditions: 3 – construction method statement; 4 – materials; 5 – boundary treatments; 7 – drainage; 9 – landscaping; 15 – highway condition survey; 17 – retaining walls of planning permission C/2016/0231 (C/2016/0231 Residential development of 14 dwellings (social housing) and associated site works), Former Aneurin Bevan Residential Home, Ashvale, Tredegar – *Condition Discharged*.

C/2017/0080 Discharge of Condition 2 of planning permission C/2015/0383 relating to external finishes (C/2015/0383 – new external ramp and steps for disabled access to the Church), St George’s Church, Church Street, Tredegar – *Condition Discharged*.

Planning Applications Report:

C/2017/0083 Construct 2 storey rear extension and increasing the height of the existing dwelling by approx. 300mm, 1 Police Row, Tredegar – Recommendation to **GRANT** subject to conditions.

C/2017/0095 Rear first floor extension, 5 Vale View, Tredegar – Recommendation to be **REFUSED**.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any - none received

c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council’s observations

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2017/0157	Mr. P. Moore 25 Park Row Tredegar	Single storey rear extension, 25 Park Row.

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters

C/2017/0150 First Floor 7 The Circle and Ground Floor 40 Castle Street – Raise roof: proposed to incorporate improved insulation and will only raise the level by 100mm.

- further clarity was needed: Clerk to pursue.

048) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally

A Member said that she had been approached by Aneurin Leisure staff, Steven Hughes, who asked that the vandalism in the Park be reported. Aneurin Leisure had contacted the police, who had appeared unconcerned, declining an invitation to visit to view the vandalism, merely agreeing to log the incident. Steven would welcome any support that Town Council could offer in engaging the police with a view to resolving this problem.

Members acknowledged the concerns; however, a Member pointed out that youths congregated in the play area due to the area of fencing that required repairing, which provided easy access to the Park even when the top gate was locked. A brief discussion ensued in respect of the security measures that could be applied to deter such vandalism and anti-social behaviour. A Member suggested that if the culprits were known to Aneurin Leisure staff, these should be ‘named and shamed’ on social media or within schools.

Town Council agreed this issue needed to be addressed and was happy to liaise with Aneurin Leisure.

049) 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** Leader and Councillor Ellen Jones to attend
- d) **Tredegar Twinning Association** feedback from our French counterparts had been very positive, everyone had been overwhelmed with the virtual gift, the CD of Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir and Tredegar Comprehensive School. The Association was trying to recruit members to establish a Bools Team.
- e) **School Governing Bodies** no update
- f) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** no meeting
- g) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** meetings no longer held
- h) **Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel**
- i) **Tredegar Business Forum** no meeting
- j) **VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative** no meeting
- k) **Allotment Association** no meeting

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

- The Deputy Mayor wished to make Members aware in respect of issues where individuals with disabilities were being processed unfairly at some Tribunals and encouraged Members to raise any concerns they may have
- Tredegar Thespians presenting 'Blood Money' at the Little Theatre from Thursday, 13th July to Saturday, 15th July, 2017.

To consider the exclusion of the press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and Data Protection Act 1983

Moved, the meeting was closed to the public.

- Consideration was given to a letter of complaint received in respect of a Member's conduct; the Clerk read the email for Members' attention whereupon the Member in question was accorded an opportunity to respond and offer an explanation on the comments.

It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the complainant that, having looked into the matter, Council was satisfied with the Councillor's explanation.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.

_____ Chair