

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**                    **Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)**  
                                      **H. Trollope**  
                                      **T. Smith**  
                                      **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.G. Willis**

**In Attendance:**    **Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price**  
                                      **RFO – Ms. A. Jones**

**170) Apologies.    Councillor D. Jones**

**171) Declarations of Interest.**

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

**172) To receive any verbal recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting**

The following recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee were presented for consideration and approved accordingly.

- Council to consider addressing any over/underspends at the third quarter within each budget heading;
- **Town Clock:** Deputy Leader to liaise with the office in respect of ordering of bulbs for the Town Clock garden surround;
- **Presentations / Donations:** that the gift purchased in respect of the Orvault visit be removed from expenditure under this budget heading and recorded under '**International Partnerships**'.

**173) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in October 2017.**

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view.

- **Town Centre walkway** – the Leader had received feedback that the walkway should be finished over the weekend; he confirmed the cheque would not be issued until the work had been checked and the Council satisfied with the contract. The Leader had spoken with the RFO on a few issues to be addressed, e.g. scaffolding/ladder left unsecured, obsolete light fittings (to be removed by BGCBC), paint blistering, etc. prior to completion.
- **Grass Cutting - Deighton/Sirhowy** – in response to a question raised, the Clerk confirmed that in respect of the number of cuts stipulated within the contract, an additional cut had been required in respect of Deighton, which had been provided as a gesture of goodwill by the contractor.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds would be undertaken in the presence of the appropriate Member and Town Clerk, which was noted accordingly.

The RFO left the meeting at this juncture.

**174) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:**

- a) **Civic Sub-Committee - 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**
- b) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**
- c) **Events Sub-Committee - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**
- d) **Civic Meeting of Council - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2017** amendment (page 136), second paragraph to read 'Deputy Leader' and not Deputy Mayor.

It was agreed that all Minutes presented be moved en bloc as a true record, with any matters arising to follow.

**175) Matters arising from the Minutes.**

**Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

- Surveying mound (Brinore Tramroad) – the Clerk confirmed that a request had been sent to the Heritage Officer BGCBC; Members requested that, if a response had not been received within a month, Clerk to pursue.
- Truck Shop – Clerk to write to Cadw requesting representatives to meet with Tredegar Town Council.
- Trefil 'Welcome' road sign – the Deputy Leader had no progress to report.
- Pensions – the Mayor confirmed that she had briefly reviewed the documentation and had sought advice from a long-standing trustee, and was currently awaiting a response.
- Lighting provision 'Cenotaph' – the Leader provided an update, for Members' information, whereby it had been agreed to install a temporary supply for the speaker system from an existing lamppost, to be installed the Friday prior to the event. Should planning permission be required, Aneurin Leisure Trust had offered to help with the completion of the planning application, due to capacity and knowledge.

- Illegal parking – Members had recently been informed that a number of prosecutions had been made in respect of illegal parking at The Circle; a query had also been raised in respect of enforcement issues outside the NCB and the bay allocated as a bus stop, due to broken lines. Clerk to liaise with Sergeant Pigeon in respect of ongoing illegal parking, as some Members considered there had been no change in respect of such issues.
- CCTV provision – Members were informed that no cameras had been working across the County Borough since 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, as the Local Authority server had been down, who was attempting to resolve the issue as soon as possible. Clerk to liaise with Community Safety Manager, BGCBC.
- Peter Morgan Jones Award – a Member had acquired an awards brochure, as requested by Council previously, but had deemed nothing suitable. She had therefore liaised with the son of Peter suggesting utilising artwork to design an award from an acrylic block; this matter was ongoing.

#### **Events Sub-Committee - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

- TTC website – a Member suggested that the most recent forthcoming event should be shown on downloading the Events page on the TTC website; the Deputy Leader confirmed this request had been related to office, who was pursuing appropriately. Furthermore, the Deputy Leader asked that an ‘events page’ be set up for each individual event rather than just a notification added to ‘comments’.
- Cairn walk, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday – a suggestion was made that tea be made available in the Chapel for participants, particularly the New Zealand visitors, which was agreed accordingly; and  
Members to liaise with Royal British Legion, as a matter of priority, in respect of provision of wreaths / catering. A brief discussion ensued in respect of payment and reimbursement options in respect of catering.  
It was agreed, therefore, that Councillors T. Smith and M. Cross nominated as point of contact to liaise and should any payment be required, subject to subsequent reimbursement; that powers be delegated to the Leader and Clerk accordingly.
- Christmas Lights switch-on event –  
Christmas poster competition – Clerk to email Schools, issuing a ‘gentle reminder’; and Deputy Leader had liaised with Abletouch in respect of providing a plunger.

#### **Civic Meeting of Council - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

- Deputy Leader had forwarded information to Deighton Primary School following their request for advice in respect of their Remembrance project regarding the Trefil bomber crash.
- Fresh Active ‘defib’ training – Members extended apologies for being unable to attend; however, the Mayor was of the understanding that the event had been successful and was well-attended.

#### **176) Chair to sign Minutes**

Minutes approved were duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council.

#### **177) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Annual Report To receive any comments of Members in respect of the draft report**

Members thanked Officers for the report. Although Members were aware of remuneration

and the opportunity to accept an amount of £150.00 in respect of expenses claims, Council proposed that the report be **Deferred** until next Ordinary meeting of Council to allow Members sufficient time to digest the information; which was agreed accordingly.

## 178) Correspondence

### 1) BGCBC

- a) M. Howland: Transitions, The Lodge Building. Have terminated the lease and Aneurin Leisure are not interested in having the transfer. Seeking views of Council by 23.10.2017.

- Members requested that the correspondence be **DEFERRED** and presented to the next meeting as an Agenda Item. It was noted that the deadline for comment was 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.

Members suggested it would be beneficial to undertake a visit to the property and Council needed to ask for a key to gain access.

It was agreed, therefore, that the Clerk write to the Property Asset and Review Officer to request an extension to allow TTC to effectively consider the options for the building.

- b) C Engel: Copy of last response he sent to Alyson regarding the trees and Xmas Lights.

- Clerk to check previous decisions to ascertain exactly which trees wrapped by LITE Ltd., prior to seeking a site meeting with the Arboricultural Officer (BG) and requested the LITE contact be invited and bring along a sample of the ties used to affix the lighting to allow for growth.

- c) 1) List of Licensing Applications week ending 06.10.2017

i) Julian Crowle, new personal licence.

2) List of licensing applications week ending 13.10.2017

i) S. Hughes – new personal licence

ii) T. Smith – temporary event notice 24.11.2017

- Noted.

### 2) One Voice Wales

- a) Boundary Commission for Wales: Revised Proposals Report 2018 Review, representation period ends 11.12.2017.

Members noted there was no change from the previous map; Council therefore supported the

Revised Proposals for change.

- b) Draft Budget: Welsh Tax Policy report.
  - Noted.
- c) Can your Council afford to lose its Memory? Learn simple steps to protect your Council's valuable data at a two-hour seminar Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 from 6.30 p.m. Cowbridge.
  - Noted; Officers welcome to attend if deemed beneficial.
- d) Update on Burial Charges for Children in Welsh Communities.
  - Members welcomed this, as families should not be faced with such financial pressures during their time of grief. Thanks were extended to the First Minister, Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones, A.M.

3) National Assembly for Wales a) New consultation: Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

- Noted.

4) Cllr Smith Photos of new signage for TTC managed green spaces.

- Noted; some negative feedback had been received in respect of the wording 'provided by'; the Leader said that he did not consider it necessary to amend the current signage, however perhaps this should be a consideration in the future.

5) Christmas Lights: a) A Briggs: Will commencing testing of stored motifs and installation after 13.11.2017 but will confirm date nearer the time; will be in attendance at the switch on.

- Noted.

b) Hospice of the Valleys: asking whether they can undertake a bucket collection at the switch on event.

- Council highlighted this was a Town Council event, which supported the Mayor's Appeal, it would be inappropriate, therefore, to allow another organisation to undertake a 'bucket

collection': Clerk to respond.

6) Invitations

- a) Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council: Invitation to all Members to the opening ceremony of the Abertillery War Memorial Ramp on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 10.30 a.m. Somerset Street, Abertillery.

- Noted.

- b) Cllr Cuss: Invitation to Princetown and Tafarnaubach Memorial Service – Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 11.00 a.m..

- It was noted that the date and time was not outlined on the poster; Clerk to liaise.

(Members were reminded to contact the Clerk to ascertain which Members would be present at the three memorial events.)

7) C. Smith

Young Promoters Project: first session at Deighton Primary went really well.

Enquiring as to whether Council would consider funding a bus to take children to visit the Sherman Theatre?

- Council highlighted that financial support had to be shared equitably across all schools in Tredegar and this further funding could not be approved. Clerk to respond.

8) Gavo

- a) Volunteer Awards 2017: - Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 at 6.00 p.m. EVI. Maximum of 7 tickets available for Council, ***please confirm whether any are required.***

- Noted; the Mayor wished to attend and other Members were invited to notify her if wishing to join her on the evening in order to confirm tickets required.

- b) No plans for any more funding surgeries this financial year and will bear in mind Council's email regarding surgeries in Tredegar when planning next year.

- Noted.

- c) Blaenau Gwent Crucial Crew: 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November – looking for organisations, charities or agencies who can deliver short 15 min

workshops at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale to the Year 6 pupils of Blaenau Gwent.

- Noted.

- d) Youth Employment Mentor, closing date for applications 25.10.2017, remunerated role.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website and forward to Cllr T. Gregory.

- 9) R. Taylor-Davies Heritage and Regeneration Conference 2017, Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at Merthyr Town Football Club.

- Noted.

- 10) Brecon Beacons Tourism Information from the All Wales National Park Partnership meeting.

- Noted.

- 11) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- a) Meetings: **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
- i) Audit & Scrutiny Committee Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Brecon.
- ii) Extra Ordinary General Meeting Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Brecon.
- iii) Planning, Access and Rights of Way Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Brecon.

- Noted.

- b) i) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 29.10.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
- ii) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 06.10.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**

- Noted.

- 12) Sirhowy Valley Woodlands Website: [www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk](http://www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk)

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

### 13) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 12.10.2017 & 20.10.2017; Communicorp Local Councils Update October 2017 Issue 211.

– **distributed to Members**: received.

### 134) AGENDA

Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Service Committee Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November,

2017 at 11.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee: Promoting Wellbeing in Blaenau Gwent – Amendment to time, Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in Tredegar Library; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 – agenda item no. 8 withdrawn; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of the Council Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 postponed to Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 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 item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

**179) Planning:**

**a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** – Noted as received.

**b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any** – None received

**c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations** – None received

**d) To consider other planning matters** – a Member said that the developer had appeared to alter the land levels, and had not replaced trees, and the Headteacher had expressed concern; Clerk to check whether the planning of the development was proceeding in accordance with application submitted.

**180) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Car park, (Masonic Hall) – it was considered the car park was in need of a general 'tidy up'; Clerk to write to BGCBC
- Police operation – Council was informed of a police operation at the Trefil quarry whereby one squad / two plain cars had been tasked with pursuit of illegal off-road vehicles.
- Tredegar History and Archive – a Member informed Council of Christmas cards for sale, depicting scenes of Tredegar, to raise funds (£1.00 per card).

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair