

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwelty House on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)  
H. Trollope  
T. Smith  
A.E. Tippings  
G. James  
A. Jones  
E. Jones  
M. Turner  
P. Waldron  
B.G. Willis

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

**093) Apologies.** Councillors T. Gregory, D.W.A. Howells, D. Jones (*work commitments prior to retirement*), G. Meredith, P. Prosser, D. Rowberry and S. Trollope

**094) Declarations of Interest.**

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

**095) Defibrillator: to consider quotations received.**

The Clerk referred to the sales quote from Williams Medical, and outlined the three comparable quotations obtained by the RFO from Safelincs Fire Safety Solutions, First.Aid.co.uk and Risk Assessment products. The Clerk highlighted that the quotation was valid until 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

A Member referred to the firm from Llanelli advertised in OVW literature, whereupon:

It was agreed that the quotes be deferred for a two-week period to allow Deputy Leader to investigate.

**096) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in July 2017.**

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

- **Annual Return** – BDO had received the Annual Return and responded with a few queries (four in total); the RFO had responded to all and the Clerk was pleased to report that an email had been received stating that BDO was satisfied and the audit was now complete. This had been passed to be reviewed and signed off.
- **Accounts for Payment in August** – it was noted that the payment to Williams Medical Supplies would be removed from the payments for August, if not required. Following a brief discussion, with a view to Town Council proceeding with Williams Medical if the defibrillator was not provided free of charge: Agreed, to approve lowest quote and proceed in recess.
- **Cheques written back** – the RFO responded to questions raised. Trade Account UK related to the return of the trimmer, less the amount for the protective goggles. Members requested a breakdown of the information on future Schedule of Accounts in respect of cheques written back, which was agreed accordingly.

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.

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

- a) **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017**
- b) **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017**
- c) **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017**
- d) **Events Sub-Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**
- e) **Civic Meeting of Council - 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**
- f) **Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

It was agreed that:

- c) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 – **Deferred**; to be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee. However, Members were asked to consider a request that the following amendment be included as a final comment to the Minute in respect of the Town Clock: 'A Member wished to express how grateful she was to staff for all the work undertaken, and running around they did to make the day happen for the School, which she knew the School had very much appreciated, and just wanted to relay this had been appreciated by Members.'. A Member said that he recalled this comment had been made after the meeting had been closed, and would not consider it appropriate to include this comment in the Minute – this consideration was supported and it was agreed that the comment would not be included when the Minutes were considered at the next meeting of Finance and Staffing; however, the comment was noted accordingly. It was proposed that a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee be convened as soon as possible, which was agreed.
- f) Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 – referred to next Ordinary meeting of Council.
- the remaining Minutes presented, i.e. a), b), d) and e), be moved en bloc as a true record, with any matters arising to follow.

## **098) Matters arising from the Minutes.**

### **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017**

- Apologies – reason for absence to be recorded in the Minutes, when made known to the Clerk.
- In respect of Earmarked Reserves, Council requested that the list of reserves be recorded in the Minutes; following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk ascertain if this would be appropriate and to implement in the future.
- Sherman Theatre: Under 7s Christmas Tour 2017 – the Clerk confirmed that Deighton Primary School had agreed to host the production, requesting this take place on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, commencing at 1.45 p.m. A Member expressed concern this time was unsuitable as the production was directed to an age group who would be unable to attend due to attending school, suggesting an early evening or Saturday matinee performance would be more appropriate. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Councillor A.E. Tippings would liaise with the Head of the School accordingly.

### **Events Sub-Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

- Fly the Red Ensign – Councillor A.E. Tippings offered her assistance in arranging this event; Clerk to forward the 'How to take part' guide to the Member.

### **Civic Meeting of Council - 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

- It was noted that Councillor A. Jones had been in attendance at this meeting.
- Town / Community Councils Consultation – no response had been received in respect of Council's response for a meeting; however, the Clerk had forwarded the proposed items for Town Council in the interest of progress.
- Civic Award nominations – the plus one representative to Jack Morris to be removed; amendment noted that the Minute should read "Dr. A.U. Khan".
- Memorabilia – it was agreed to purchase fifty 'Town Clock' clocks, unless there was merit for this product to be ordered 'in bulk'; discretion of staff upon investigation.
- War Memorial – Clerk to liaise with appropriate Officer, BGCBC, on behalf of Roman Street Lighting.
- Armed Forces Day – the Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group had participated at Bedwellty Park on the day and responded this had been an excellent event, whereby the Group had been able to promote the Armed Forces Covenant more in one day than the previous six months, and were interested in working with the Town Council in the future. Members were informed that 2018 was commemorating Welsh Armed Forces Day, with the UK event being hosted in Llandudno; therefore events would not be held in Cardiff or Caerphilly as participants would be attending the national event. Therefore, Tredegar would be the largest event taking place in the south of Wales next year. The Chair of the Events Sub-Committee said that Town Council needed to consider that date, as it was important that Tredegar Town Council hold this event once again in 2018. This would be discussed prior to the next Civic Meeting of Council at an Events Sub-Committee to ensure arrangements were in place and that the event at Bedwellty Park would not clash with the national event.
- Charity Event, Recreational Ground – Clerk and Members had liaised with the RFO to ensure the appropriate level of support could be offered by Town Council to this event. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Tredegar Town Council would meet the cost of pitch hire or provision of the bouncy castle; Clerk to liaise with the correspondent to advise that the invoices for payment be forwarded to Tredegar Town Council accordingly.
- Town Centre walkway – the deadline for quotations for tender were due 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017; it was therefore agreed that plenary powers be delegated to the Mayor/Deputy,

Leader/Deputy, and the Chair of Finance, to consider and progress.

- Bryn Bach Primary School right of way – a Member had spoken with the appropriate Officer of the Local Authority and a response would be fed back directly to the Member expressing the concern.

### 099) Chair to sign Minutes

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

### 100) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC  
Notice of confirmation of public path order: diversion order Mount Pleasant View, Georgetown – **forwarded to Cllrs EJ, AJ, GM, PW**  
  
- It was noted that a letter was missing on the “key” outlined in the correspondence; Members questioned the validity of the Order; Clerk to query.
- 2) One Voice Wales
  - a) South East Wales RET June Newsletter.  
- Emailed to Members.
  - b) Delivering Community Services & Supporting A Clustering Model – **forwarded to Cllr Smith**  
- Noted; circulate to Members.
  - c) Revised School Organisation Code: consultation ends 30.09.2017 <https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/school-organisation-code>
  - d) Welsh Government Workshops for local government representatives on higher activity radioactive waste management and disposal: The revised dates are Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September in the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea.
  - e) Consultation on the Welsh Revenue Authority having access to criminal powers, consultation closed 02.10.2017 **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**  
- Noted.
- 3) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
  - a) Review of the Brecon Beacons National Park Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
  - b) i) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 30.06.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**  
ii) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 07.07.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**  
- Noted.

- 4) M. Morgan Nominating Gemtime for a Civic Award due to 20 years trading in town.
- It was felt that the Town Council would not wish to set a precedent, as many businesses had been in operation over that number of years; agreed, Clerk to send a congratulations letter regarding support of the town.
- 5) Gwent Police Inspector Amanda Thomas is replacing Inspector Sarah Greening.
- Invite to Civic Meeting of Council in September, if the Equalities Officer BGCBC did not take up the previous offer to speak to Council.
- 6) Nash Partnership Town Centre Strategy: Asking for perceptions and thoughts from local residents, survey available at <https://carolinemacdonal.typeform.com/to/gJOvwf>
- To be publicised on TTC website.
- 7) Future Generations Commissioner for Wales Update – Developing the Commissioner’s Priorities.
- Received.
- 8) J. Palasz Apply for your Tree Charter Legacy Tree – Town Council may now apply and the application form is available online.
- Clerk to pursue to request a tree for either Deighton playing field or Sirhowy Woodlands (Councillor A.E. Tippings offered assistance in completing the application).
- 9) Chris Walters Request for the Clock to be opened 28.07.2017 for International Volunteers.
- Agreed, as Members acknowledged the continued support of this Aneurin Leisure member of staff; risk assessment to be carried out. The Clerk informed Council that a copy had already been made available. (Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings available to undertake an inspection prior to the visit).
- 10) R. Taylor-Davies The Valleys That Changed The World: September meeting reminder – Big Pit on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
- Noted.

11) Gwent Police Response to how decisions are made regarding prosecution.

Members noted the factors outlined in the correspondence and deemed there was clear evidence that a former Councillor's formal complaint should have been pursued for prosecution.

## 12) PUBLICATIONS

Ville D'Orvault, Orvault & Co July/August Issue 12; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 14.07.17 & 20.07.17; Charter for Trees Leaf Summer 2017 newsletter – ***distributed to Members***: received.

## 13) AGENDA

Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Tredegar Library; Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Planning, Access and Rights of Way Tuesday, 18.07.2017 at 10.00 a.m. – ***forwarded to Cllr M. Turner***; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Audit and Scrutiny Committee Friday, 21.07.2017 at 10.00 a.m. – ***forwarded to Cllr M. Turner***; Executive Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Planning, Access and Rights of Way Tuesday, 18.07.2017 at 10.00 a.m. – additional item for agenda.

**Available for Members** – received.

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

### 101) Planning:

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

**List of Delegated Items determined between 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 and 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2017:**

C/2017/0139 Rear garage, 79 Kimberley Terrace, Tredegar – *Approved.*

C/2017/0160 Single storey rear extension, 25 Park Row, Tredegar – *Approved.*

C/2017/0148 Installation of a disabled access step-lift and associated works, 21 Bevan Avenue, Tredegar – *Approved.*

C/2017/0155 Application for Non Material Amendment of planning permission C/2015/0181 to make changes to the proposed materials, 1 Cross Brook Cottages, Trefil, Tredegar – *Approved.*

C/2017/0039 Four bedroom house with integral garage and conservatory, land to the rear of 123 Beaufort Road, Tredegar – *Refused.*

**Planning Applications Report:**

C/2017/0025 New detached bungalow and garage, garden land of New House, St. James Close, Tredegar – Recommendation to REFUSE with reason stated in report.

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

**c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations**

<b>App No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2017/0194	Mr. D. Jones Planet Fitness Units J, K & L Bowen Industrial Estate Aberbargoed	Change of use from B2 (manufacturing) to D2 (gym), Units 2a & 2b, Sirhowy Industrial Estate, Tredegar
No objections		

**d) To consider other planning matters – None received**

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

- Remaining section of the surveying mound (Brinore Tramroad) had been moved, enquire why remaining mound not reinstated, as on a risk register, and what action to be taken regarding the complete loss of this important architectural site.
- Unveiling of plaque, Drill Hall – the Deputy Mayor had attended the event as the Mayor had been unavailable to attend. This had been an excellent event and Town Council congratulated the Heritage Forum for organising the event in commemoration of the soldiers recruited in WW1.
- Smart Monitoring– the Mayor drew Members' attention to an event taking place on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon at High Street, Blaina; registration was required by next Friday.
- Clean up/litter pick at the Aneurin Bevan Stones – congratulations to the Mayor and Consort, and Deputy Leader, for undertaking a litterpick in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy. Members expressed concern at the amount of household rubbish deposited in this area and enquired if it would be appropriate to write to the Executive Member BGCBC asking if a camera could be placed in the vicinity to deter illicit dumping. A Member also referred to sections of dry-stone walling missing, which should be reported to the Local Authority in order to be addressed.  
A Member clarified that a request had been made to the appropriate Officer, who had confirmed cameras could not be used in law for fly tipping.
- Bomber crash site – RFO had passed on a message received on the website from a relative of the bomber crash site, living on the south island in New Zealand, who was visiting with her family next November to take part in commemorations, particularly the Cairn walk. Agreed, ascertain availability of New Zealand Armed Forces wreaths and purchase for guests to lay, as Members would welcome these guests taking part in the ceremony; the Deputy Leader had ascertained that the guests were fit enough to undertake the walk. Further consideration needed if Tredegar Town Council to purchase gift.
- Trefil 'Welcome' road sign – villagers wished the road sign replaced; the local M.P. had written to Blaenau Gwent on this request, who had refused. Tredegar Town Council was therefore being asked to consider purchasing this sign or contributing a donation, stating 'Highest Village in Wales/resting place of Aneurin Bevan'. This was agreed accordingly; Councillor M. Turner to liaise with media connections– Mayor to unveil, together with youngest and oldest residents living in the village.
- Truck Shop – Blaenau Gwent were petitioning to apply to Cadw to de-list the property, with a view to progressing as the building was unsafe; Local Authority currently only

allowed to a take a layer off. A Member highlighted that a similar situation could arise in respect of Harcourt Terrace Chapel.

- Website – Hywel has asked that any comments be fed back to him.
- It was noted that the Mayor had attended a presentation in Torquay; the President had designed a badge with Tredegar Town Clock as the centrepiece.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.56 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair