

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwelty House on Wednesday, 20th September, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

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

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

141) Apologies. Councillors A. Jones, D. Jones and B.G. Willis

142) Declarations of Interest.

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

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

The following recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee were reported, for consideration:

- Friends of Tiggy's - as the group had failed to attend to present their application on three separate occasions, that the grant application be **REFUSED** and the applicant be informed that no further applications would be considered in the current financial year, but would be welcome to re-apply from April 2018 onwards;
- that a start-up grant of **£200.00** for Young Enterprise be recommended for approval, as this Programme met criteria in respect of the Future Generations Bill and Members considered that the minimum grant of £100.00 would prove insufficient to have a beneficial impact;

- that a start-up grant of **£200.00** for TredFest be recommended for approval to support this long-standing event, held over the past seven years.

The recommendations were **Approved** accordingly.

144) Accounts: to ratify any additional payments that may have been made during August recess; and, consider Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2017

The RFO spoke to the report, highlighting the corrected total for August due to any amendments / additional payments made during recess for Council ratification, and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view.

- **Town Clock – urgent electrical works** – an electrician had been requested to attend prior to the Open Doors event due to issues raised; he had identified corroded lightbulbs that required replacing and cabling needing to be secured, which had been undertaken accordingly, and had removed all obsolete wiring, to ensure the safety of visitors. The designated Members of Council, i.e. Mayor/Deputy, Leader/Deputy, had approved this expenditure during the August recess due to the urgency of works needed to ensure public safety.

In response to a question raised regarding the electrical assessment of the Town Clock requested previously, the RFO confirmed this had been undertaken and it would be the decision of Council how Members wished to proceed with such a project. It was agreed, therefore, that the appropriate Sub-Committee consider how to address this issue and present recommendations to Council accordingly.

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts, all presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds had been undertaken by the Leader and Town Clerk, which was ratified accordingly.

145) To ratify approval of Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 22nd June, 2017 - deferred from the previous meeting of Council; considered and adopted at the meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee held 4th September, 2017

Approval of the Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee were ratified accordingly, with any recommendations / matters arising to be considered under the appropriate Agenda Item.

146) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 10th July, 2017**
- b) Publicity Sub-Committee - 17th July, 2017** (page 76) amend social media to 'internet'
- c) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th July, 2017** (page 86) amend General Secretary to 'President', i.e. Mayor, Councillor J. Thomas.
- d) Civic Sub-Committee - 21st August, 2017**
- e) Policy Sub-Committee - 21st August, 2017**
- f) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 4th September, 2017**
- g) Events Sub-Committee - 6th September, 2017**

- h) **Civic Meeting of Council - 6th September, 2017** (page 100) PC Mike Smith to be amended to PCSO Mike Davies; and
(page 109) the following point to be added 'the Annual Return was approved and accepted by Council' in accordance with the wishes of BDO, which was agreed accordingly.

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

147) Matters arising from the Minutes

Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee - 10th July, 2017

- Deighton playing field – a meeting was needed with users and Town Council to discuss wear and tear of the pitch, or ask users to report back accordingly; and ascertain who is responsible for fenceline adjoining Maes Glas.

Publicity Sub-Committee - 17th July, 2017

- A further meeting of this Sub-Committee was required.

Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19th July, 2017

- Fly the Red Ensign – the Deputy Leader thanked those who had attended, particularly the Leader who had operated the sound system; however, it was noted that better attendance was needed by Members at such events.
- Bryn Bach Primary School right of way – a Member had contacted Blaenau Gwent CBC and hopefully this would be done as soon as possible.
- Surveying mound (Brinore Tramroad) – letter to Heritage Officer, drawing concerns of Town Council to removal of this important architectural landmark.
- Truck Shop – Cadw had been invited to a meeting, Members believed that demolition had been refused; this building was an eye-sore and a danger. Members expressed concern that a similar situation could occur, as arose in Cardiff, causing a danger to the public.
- Trefil 'Welcome' road sign – Mayor and Deputy, Leader and Deputy, to pursue.

Civic Sub-Committee – 21st August, 2017

Review of grant form – further discussion was needed in respect of proposals raised by Members.

Policy Sub-Committee – 21st August, 2017

- Pensions – to be deferred; information to be forwarded to Councillor Jacqueline Thomas, who was a Trustee of the Pension Scheme.

Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 4th September, 2017

- The Leader thanked the Members of the Fact Finding Sub-Committee and the staff for their co-operation. Following on from the process, the Fact Finding had deemed that information was missing and sought further information. At the behest of Council, the Leader had contacted I♥Payroll, who had provided the appropriate details.

It was agreed, therefore, that all recommendations of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee held 4th September, 2017, be **Approved** accordingly. (Recommendation 4: to be backdated to date of original request – copy of letter to be forwarded to Mayor / Deputy, Leader / Deputy and Chair of Staffing, to be delegated powers to authorise.)

Events Sub-Committee – 6th September, 2017

- Cairn walk, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday – a Member had liaised with the New Zealand visitors and confirmed that ANZAC centres were required for the centre of the wreaths. Members were required to attend all three events and should notify the

Clerk accordingly in order to co-ordinate.

- Lighting provision, Cenotaph – Leader to meet with Aneurin Leisure and Blaenau Gwent representatives on Thursday, 28th September, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.; Members welcome to attend, to contact Leader.
- Christmas Lights switch-on – Clerk to pursue flatbed lorry (Thomas Waste); approval of road closure from 3.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. (application £100.00), and Temporary Event Notice (£21.00).

Civic Meeting of Council - 6th September, 2017

- Illegal parking – no change in respect of issues raised; Clerk to liaise with Sergeant Neil Pigeon.
- Golf Day and Race Night - 30th September, 2017– Members encouraged to attend.
- Cenotaph – it was understood that Blaenau Gwent CBC provided PA / sound systems to all other towns for their Remembrance service; Clerk to liaise with appropriate Officer seeking clarity. In response to a question raised, the Leader confirmed that a PA system would be provided at the Cenotaph service in Bedwellty Park, and an agreement reached with J. Cotton Audio in respect of setting up of equipment.
- Bedwellty House and Park – anti-vandal paint had now been restored to the community garden, with no further incidents to date.

148) Chair to sign Minutes

The Clerk suggested that, following feedback received from the Group Meeting that a number of amendments were needed, that the Minutes be signed at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council, which was agreed accordingly.

149) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) Town/Community Councils meeting Thursday, 21st September, 2017 at 2.30 p.m. – **cancelled due to insufficient business items.**

Advance notice of Consultation with Town/Community Councils meeting Thursday, 23rd November, 2017 - **Request for items for inclusion on the agenda to be submitted no later than 12.00 noon on Monday, 6th November**

- Members considered there were sufficient Items of business submitted by Tredegar Town Council for the meeting to proceed. Council requested that an Item be presented enquiring of the intentions of BGCBC in respect of parking when responsibility was devolved from the Police Authority after March 2018.

- b) i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 08.09.2017.
> Belle Vue: Variation of designated premises supervisor.

ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 15.09.2017.

> Top Shop, Ysguborwen: transfer of premises licence and variation of designated premises supervisor.

> Dukestown Workingman's Club: small society lottery licence.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

Vacancy x 4: Welsh Government Senior Research Officers, closing date 22.09.2017, remunerated roles.

- Noted.

3) Communicorp

Annual subscription renewal notice Local Councils Update – **renewal approval sought**

- Noted; Approved, renewal of Annual subscription (RFO to process payment).

4) Members
Correspondence:

a) Cllr Turner: Details of two forthcoming Mayor's Appeal fundraising events, golf day and race night on 30th September, 2017.

- Noted; Members encouraged to attend.

b) Cllr Smith:

i) Written request from Bedwellty House Manager for consideration of a defib being supplied by TTC. **Available.**

- the Leader outlined the written request forwarded to him by the Manager of Bedwellty House and Park in requesting that Town Council support the installation of the defibrillator in The House. Members considered there was sufficient provision within the town; however, this request could be considered in the future if the Town Council undertook a similar project.

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the Awards for All Wales fund, who had allocated funding to town/community councils for defib provision whereby five-six worthy recipients had been identified.

ii) Confirmation to bring to Council's attention of the change relating to the Clock gardeners.

- Noted; general duties, such as weeding could be incorporated into the contractual employee's

duties, however it was recognised that planting was a specialised skill to be undertaken by a suitably qualified person.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the former employee, thanking him for his services to TTC.

iii) Remembrance Sunday: Email from Fr Davis confirming details for parade is correct and asking for assurance that PA system will be available otherwise they will not be taking part with Cllr Smith's email confirming PA system will be available – ***silent generator information***

- further consideration could be given to purchasing / hiring a silent generator for events; however, suitable provision had been made for the Cenotaph, with a temporary supply being provided and J. Cotton Audio attending on the day to set up equipment.

5) Made in Tredegar

Request for a letter of support.

- Noted; Members fully supported the excellent work undertaken by this company. Agreed, Clerk to write.

6) Tredegar
Comprehensive

i) Invite to attend presentation evening 21.09.2017 at 6.00 p.m. – ***forwarded to Mayor due to short notice; emailed School asking for names of awards Winners***

ii) Confirmation of Names for the three awards

iii) Noted request for earlier notice of presentation evening.

- Noted; Mayor, if available, or Deputy Mayor – concerns raised over short notice given of event; and

Agreed, to purchase outstanding Awards.

7) GAVO

a) List of awards available to sponsor.

- It was agreed that TTC sponsor the Personal Journey Volunteer of the Year award.

b) Grand opening of the Brynmawr Tabor Centre (Baptist Chapel) by Carl Sergeant, A.M. on Thursday, 21st September, 2017 at 12.15 p.m. followed by open day.

- Noted.

8) V. Williams

Magic Porridge Pot: selling sheet giving

information on the show and opportunity for representatives to attend Sherman Theatre on Tuesday 26.09.2017 at 2.00 p.m. to talk to the show director.

- Noted.

9) Powys County Council

Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026: Notice of Matters Arising Changes Public Consultation from 19.09.2017 to 30.10.2017 also details of public drop-in sessions.

- Noted.

10) Merthyr County Borough Council

Friday, 27th October, 2017 Heritage and Regeneration Conference 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at Merthyr Town Football Club.

- Noted.

11) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

a) National Park Authority Meeting Friday, 22nd September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Conference Room, Plas Y Ffynnon, Brecon.

- Noted; all such information to be forwarded to Councillor M. Turner.

b) i) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 01.09.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
ii) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 08.09.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**

- Noted.

12) Brecon Beacons Tourism

Have your say on the Wales Audit Office survey: The Wales Audit Office want to hear what you think of council services in rural communities <http://audit.wales/my-rural-services>

- Noted.

13) Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

Patients Voice News Bulletin Issue 31.

- Noted.

14) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 15.09.2017 and 22.09.2017; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct September 2017 Issue 113; Communicorp Local Councils Update September 2017 Issue 210.

– **distributed to Members:** received.

15) AGENDA

Special Audit Committee Tuesday, 12th September, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council

Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 14th September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Executive Committee Monday, 2nd October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) Monday, 11th September, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – additional report; Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 18th September, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum agenda meeting 22.09.2017 at 9.30 a.m. at Tredegar Library; Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee Friday, 22nd September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday, 21st September, 2017 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) Tuesday, 26th September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee Wednesday, 27th September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Monday, 25th September, 2017 at 11.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum agenda meeting 22.09.2017 at 9.30 a.m. at Tredegar Library – amended agenda

Available for Members – received.

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

150) Planning:

- a) To consider an Officer’s Report (if received)** None received.
- 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/2017/0248	Mr. M. Skinner Ron Skinner and Sons The Car Showroom Tafarnaubach, Tredegar	Change of use of industrial (B2) land to car sales (sui generis), including landscaping and provision of two portakabin buildings ancillary to car sales. Closure of existing highway and change of use to car sales, including remodelling of topography and landscaping. Provision of covered walkways and modified building access ancillary to existing car sales use – adjacent highway and former Unit 6A.

- No objections; Council welcomed the development, stating there would have been concerns if the site had been cut off, but as there was another

access, Members welcomed this going ahead.

C/2017/0269	Mrs. L. Badham Heather View Trefil Road - No objections	Tredegar	Proposed building plot and new site access, garden land at Heather View, Trefil Road, Trefil.
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d) To consider other planning matters

C/2016/0231 Former Aneurin Bevan Residential Home, Ashvale, Tredegar – Members raised concerns that the planning application received was not consistent with the works being undertaken within the current development. Tredegar Town Council had raised no objections as the site plan had indicated only one access point for ingress/exit; unfortunately, there now appeared to be a further access at The Crescent, which was a very narrow road, and facing a junction. Residents had therefore complained that they had not been informed of such works.

Town Council was informed, therefore, that County Borough Members had informed the Planning Department that the Councillors considered this unacceptable and would have submitted objections if aware of access issues.

A discussion thereupon ensued regarding the following:

- Why Local Authority Officers had not advised Members
- The additional access, and what appeared to be a further two properties
- Health and safety issues, particularly in respect of local schools
- Illegal parking on footpaths – should be addressed by Enforcement Officers and prams/pushchairs and wheelchairs were forced onto the public highway
- Cleansing required, as a result of lorries accessing the site

The Leader suggested that local Town Council Ward Members could attend the appropriate meeting at the Civic Centre to support the concerns raised by the County Borough Members.

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

- Councillor Tony Gregory apologised that he had been unable to attend a number of meetings due to holiday commitments
- Performance of 'Nye and Jennie' at The Metropole Theatre, Abertillery – 15th – 18th November, 2017
- Rubbish to be removed from foot of Town Clock
- ATC – letter of support from Council because of closure; Clerk to liaise with Wing Commander

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.08 p.m.

_____ Chair