

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 4th October, 2017 at 6.30 p.m. (6.40 p.m. start)**

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

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

156) Apologies: **Councillors D.W.A. Howells, A. Jones, D. Jones, T. Gregory and
 S. Trollope**

157) Declarations of Interest.

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

158) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor provided the following update since presenting her last report:

Four events undertaken in one day, i.e. Gemtime, 20th anniversary; football' Air Cadets, collection of Multiple Sclerosis box from Castle Hotel, Blaenau Gwent Otters swimming gala; Haydn deputised for the School Presentation evening on Friday in her absence. The Mayor offered apologies for absence from Sunday to Tuesday as she had a work commitment in Brussels in relation to Brexit, and would be attending a Conference in London on Friday.

Unfortunately the Charity Golf Day had been rained off and no monies had been raised in respect of the Hog Roast, due to lack of ticket sales. The Race Night had raised £564.00, with some prizes being returned in support of the Appeal.

The Deputy Mayor extended his thanks to the Mayor and Consort for a most pleasurable evening on the Race Night, which had run very smoothly due to the excellent organisation. The Deputy Mayor said that it had made his evening when a young man in attendance, with

learning difficulties, had expressed how much he had enjoyed the event; it was wonderful to see his enjoyment.

The Deputy Leader offered her congratulations for this great event, and expressing disappointment about the weather, however, she considered that more support was needed by Councillors.

The Mayor said that the Golf Club wished to support the Mayor's Appeal the following year, and had suggested spring time when the weather may be more suited to this type of event. She thanked the Golf Club for this offer to undertake the event again, which was greatly appreciated.

A Member extended the thanks of Mrs. Barbara James, former postmistress of Ashvale Post Office, who had a wonderful time at the Presentation Evening and had been delighted with her 'Town Clock' clock. The Mayor supported these comments, adding her thanks to Council Members and staff for this event.

Council was informed that the Gwent Gazette had been most complimentary of this event and was carrying out a follow-up of four articles of a number of the recipients. A correction to the initial article was noted, as the Leader had been mistakenly recorded as Councillor Tommy Weed.

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

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

- Cairn Walk – to meet at Top House at 9.30, to depart at 9.45 a.m.
- Benches – to lay Poppy: town centre 12.00 noon; 12.30 p.m. Peacehaven, 1.00 Sirhowy
- Councillor M. Turner to pursue provision of professional banner for stage and present proof to Council for approval
- Gazebos x 4; also tables and chairs required, to approve expenditure
- Christmas poster competition – judging to take place on Monday, 23rd October, 2017 – Mayor, Deputy Leader, Chair of Publicity Sub-Committee and Councillor Ellen Jones Christmas Eve home visits to be held Saturday, 23rd December, 2017
- Approve expenditure in respect of gift for each residential / care home
- approval of expenditure in respect of Street Trading Consent (application £25.00)

160) Grants

a) To receive, consider and approve grants to Cultural and Sporting organisations (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972 s.137

Georgetown District Community Association – Any funds received would be used for the maintenance of the building including such costs as the fire safety requirement and insurance.

Previous – 2016/17 June'16 CQ No. 405 £200.00. *Approved.*

Sirhowy Valley Woodlands – Any funds received would be used for the ongoing work on the infrastructure of woodlands such as the purchase of drainage pipes and non-burnable signage.

Previous – 2016/17 July'16 CQ No. 425 £200.00. Approved.

Southend Allotment Association – Any funds received would be used for the ongoing work on the pathways.

Previous – 2016/17 April'16 CQ No. 371 £200.00. Approved.

Vale View Allotments – Any funds received would be used for the maintenance of the hedge around the allotment site and hiring of a skip for site cleaning.

Previous – 2016/17 May'16 CQ No. 386 £200.00. Approved.

Council was aware that a meeting with Allotment representatives remained outstanding and was still required.

b) To receive, consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137) (Grants as of 1.4.17 now max £300.00) - None received.

161) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) Invitation to attend an Event Safety Advisory Group meeting - 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 16th November where Andy Goodenough, Gwent Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisor will be available to go through national guidance.

- Noted: agreed, Clerk to attend.

Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion thereon.

- b) A. Tippings: Event poster deadlines and request for details of any events to be sent for them to be added to the Valleys website.

- Noted; Clerk to forward dates of events, as and when agreed.

- c) M. Gough, Deighton Primary: Looking for information/advice for a Remembrance project and information regarding the Trefil bomber crash.

- Noted; Clerk to forward the contact detailed for Councillor A.E. Tippings to the Head to liaise, Councillor H. Trollope had approached Cymru Creations, and History and Archive Members may be able to help.

- d) Blaenau Gwent In Bloom 3rd Prize certificate and trophy.
 - Noted; Clerk to write to Mr. J. Mantle, thanking him for all his hard work.
 - e) List of Licensing Applications week ending 22.09.2017.
 - i) L. Brown, 18 Bryn Bach – personal licence.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) AGM Motions 2017.
 - Noted; forward to Members.
 - b) Gwent Valleys Area Committee Meeting: AGM and Ordinary meeting being held at 7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 10th October, 2017 at Pontypool Town Council Offices – last meeting was inquorate, request to make every effort to attend.
 - Apologies, unable to attend – JT and HT; Leader, Councillor T. Smith, and Councillor E. Jones to attend.
 - c) Appointment of Independent Members to a Special Health Authority, closing date 13.10.2017, remunerated roles, six posts.
 - Noted.
- 3) Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
- Consultation: Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities, consultation period 29.09.2017 to 21.12.2017.
- Noted.
- 4) Welsh Government
- The Independent Review Panel seeking views from Community and Town Councils regarding the future role of Community/Town Councils.
- Noted; forward to Members.
- 5) Grantscape
- M. Young, Pen Bryn Oer Wind Farm Community Benefit Panel: Request for two nominations to join the Panel.
- Members welcomed the invitation to participate, following a brief discussion it was agreed that Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings be nominated as the Panel representatives for Tredegar Town Council. Members appreciated the representatives interest, recognising the need

to attend such meetings as regularly as possible.

6) Presentation Evening:

- a) Email from Thomas Weed thanking Members for their support and his award.
- b) R. Thomas expressing his gratitude for the presentation by Council.
- c) D. Williams: Apologies for the running club not attending but did not receive the letter until after the event. Thanks for inviting them and acknowledging their activities, hope to attend in the future and as included contact details.

- Noted. A Member said he had attended many Presentation Evenings over the years and considered this to be one of the best, with a positive mix of old and young guests; everyone he had spoken to had enjoyed the event, with positive feedback received on Facebook and Twitter. He therefore wished to thank everyone who had organised the evening.

7) Howe & Co. Solicitors

Claim from previous Tredegar Urban District employee.

- It was noted that the dates of employment predated the Town Council being established and therefore would be the remit of Blaenau Gwent CBC, and it was also noted that the claim had already been passed to the Local Authority.

8) Members Correspondence:

- a) Cllrs Trollope: Request to move AGM 2018 to avoid clash with their holidays.

- It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting be held Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018.

- b) Cllr Tippings: Defib training taking place at Fresh Active Sunday 08.10.2017 at 4.30 p.m.

- Noted. Council was informed that Fresh Active had expressed an interest in raising funds for the Mayor's Appeal in recognition of the good work carried out by Council.

- c) Cllr Smith: War Memorial - Outcome of meeting with Walter, Steve and contractors on 28.09.2017.

- It had been agreed that a temporary supply be installed for the current year; it was suggested that the works may be subject to planning permission and Aneurin Trust had offered to support TTC with completing the application due to relevant expertise/capacity'.

Clerk to liaise with Roman Street Lighting and Mayor/Deputy, Leader/Deputy be delegated powers to authorise if any expenditure incurred to these additional works in order to progress.

- 9) Cadw Request for information regarding the recent Open Doors event.
- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
- 10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- a) Local Access Forum: Looking for suitable persons to apply for membership of the Local Access Forum, closing date is 21.10.2017.
 - Noted.
 - b) Rights of Way Improvement plan questionnaire, available until 03.12.2017.
<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/environment/planning-access-and-row/rights-of-way-improvement-plan-questionnaire/>
 - Noted; to be placed on TTC website.
 - c) i) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 15.09.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
ii) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 22.09.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
 - Noted.
- 11) Brecon Beacons Tourism Brecon Tourism Information Centre closing March 2018.
- Noted.
- 12) GAVO
- a) Blaenau Gwent We Want Engagement event 6th September, 2017: feedback, powerpoint presentation and collated responses.
 - b) Funding Surgery Tuesday 24.10.2017 Newtown Community Centre.
 - Noted; concerns were raised that funding surgeries were not being held in the Tredegar area. Clerk to enquire when such an event would be held in Tredegar.
- 13) National Grid Team Presentation from the meeting held 28.09.2017.
- Noted; forward to Councillor T. Smith.

14) Hospice of the Valleys Invite to AGM - Friday, 27th October, 2017 at 12.00 noon.

- Noted; forward to Councillor T. Smith and those Members not in attendance.

15) R. Taylor-Davies An illustrated Talk and Book signing by Andrew Hemmings - Thursday, 12th October, 2017 Newport.

- Noted.

16) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 29.09.2017 & 06.10.2017; One Voice Wales Cynnal Cymru Events Newsletter; Parker Wholesale Dutch Bulb catalogue – ***distributed to Members***: received.

17) AGENDA

Audit Committee 3rd October, 2017 – CANCELLED; Advance Notice of Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 12th October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Planning Committee 5th October, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. – change of venue to the Executive Room; Special Executive Monday, 2nd October, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Planning Committee 5th October, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee 17th November, 2017 now moved to Tuesday, 5th December, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 11th January, 2018 now moved to Wednesday, 10th January, 2018 at 9.30 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.

162) Planning:

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

List of Delegated Items determined between 28th August, 2017 and 18th September, 2017:

C/2017/0211 Temporary change of use (until April 2018) of former Council Yard for car and van parking in association with the construction of residential development on the site of the former Aneurin Bevan Care Home, The Crescent - *Approved.*

- *Cars had been congregating in this area but the situation had improved;*

- *Members would ask that the footpath be kept clear, this had been cordoned off that day, forcing pedestrians onto the highway;*

- *Public crossing from The Avenues – no footpath.*

A Member provided clarity in respect of the planning application, which outlined there would be an effect on walkways/pavements and the application would detail when these would be closed for works.

C/2017/0215 Proposed hardstand, 'Brigadoon' Grampton Crescent, Tredegar – *Approved.*

Planning Applications Report:

C/2017/0071 Detached dormer bungalow, land opposite 4 & 5 Picton Road, Tredegar – Recommendation to GRANT subject to conditions.

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/2017/0277	BGCBC Municipal Office Civic Centre Ebbw Vale.	Construction of a new ramped access to the frontage of an existing educational building, Thomas Richards Centre, Dukestown Road.

No objections; Members welcomed the building being put into use.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the shared access with Glanhowy Primary School, whereby a Member provided a brief update on ongoing discussions between the Head and appropriate Officers of BGCBC.

d) To consider other planning matters. None received.

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

- No further incidents within the community kitchen garden since rails fitted;
- Water ingress to ponds – Water Board pursuing legal matter with resident as feeding into wrong sewage pipe;
- Free Teas for OAPs – every Tuesday from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at Bedwellty House
- Siting of planters – Members expressed concern that the planters could prove problematic for lorries/buses to manoeuvre, also cars turning, as this was the drop off point for the elderly and disabled. Another Member supported these concerns as she had attempted to attend the Free Teas for over 50s and, being unable to walk due to a recent injury, had returned home as unable to park.

Furthermore, a Member highlighted health and safety concerns in respect of access for emergency services, such as fire and ambulance.

It was noted that this was an operational issue in relation to management and was the remit of Aneurin Leisure, not the Town Council.

Planters were to be sited along the drive, replacing the barriers – a Member was

concerned this would restrict the width. Also, the fire hydrant in the courtyard had now been blocked off and the Fire Service would be unable to access this emergency point.

It was agreed, therefore, that Councillor Mark Turner liaise with the House Manager, Cath Hares.

164) 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; Clerk to write to other Town/Community Councils. The Local Authority Leader had cancelled the last meeting – TTC felt, as a Council, sufficient Items had been presented for consideration.
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** Leader, Councillor T. Smith, and Councillor E. Jones attending the Annual General Meeting.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** apologies had been extended for the next meeting was 30th September, 2017.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning Association** the meeting had been held on Monday but Members had been unable to attend.
- e) **School Governing Bodies** recipient of the Teacher for Wales award, *Lynsey Wangiel*, would be attending the Great Britain awards and had been put forward for the Global Teacher award – the Council was very proud of this teacher's achievements and wished her all good luck.
Deighton Primary School won three awards in Blaenau Gwent in Bloom.
Georgetown Primary School – newly appointed Headmistress in post with renewed interest in respect of the School.
St. Joseph's Primary School had appointed the Acting Head, Mr. McMorrow as Headteacher – Clerk to write.
- f) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** no meeting. Heritage Forum have a 'Heritage Day' event at the end of October with four speakers attending – Tickets for sale £10.00 pp, details on Heritage Forum website.
- g) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** N/A, remove from future agendas.
- h) **Tredegar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** no meeting
- i) **Tredegar Business Forum** no meeting; a Member reported that Diane Summerfield had been extremely ill but was now recovering and hoping to return shortly.
- j) **VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative** a Member said that Councillor Cross had spoken with the Executive Member for Regeneration BGCBC, requesting a meeting and expressing his disappointment that no further meetings had been called since the new administration, not just involving the elected Members but also the various organisations within the community. The Committee had to be accountable for any monies spent and, if this would no longer be continuing in the current forum, a resolution was needed for the community as to how this would be monitored.
- k) **Allotment Association** invitation to representatives to attend a meeting.

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

- Deputy Leader outlined concerns of Aboricultural Officer in respect of installation of Christmas lighting in trees. Clerk had forwarded the specification of LITE Limited, detailing methodology and highlighting this had been undertaken in line with

environmental considerations. Also, concerns had been raised in respect of the hand-digging of the trench as concerns to roots of trees in this area, and requested that County Borough Members take on board these issues: agreed, Clerk to liaise with Aboricultural Officer.

- Inspector Amanda Thomas and Neighbourhood Sergeant Neil Pigeon had expressed an interest in attending Council again to provide an update to Members.
- Police matters:
 - A Member referred to an incident that occurred on the weekend. He had telephoned 101 on four separate occasions over a thirty-six hour period and had been disgusted that, as the main point of contact, had not received a response. Finally, he had resorted to utilising Twitter to report the incident as contacting 999 would have been inappropriate, as it was not an emergency issue. Members asked that the Clerk circulate the direct email addresses for Police Officers.
 - Sergeant Pigeon had been emailed in respect of a car that had been abandoned for over ten weeks – this was a serious matter but no response had been received.
 - A Member said that an official response had been received from the Sergeant, which outlined visiting every business in the town centre in respect of illegal parking – resulting in two prosecutions outside Coral’s and five cars along Commercial Street.
- Fund-raising event – Fish & Chip Supper and Quiz night, 20th October, 2017.
- The Mayor highlighted that the St. David’s Community Awards were being held once again – it was noted that these were usually awarded to celebrity figures rather than members of the public.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.04 p.m.

_____ Chair