

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present: Councillors M. Cross (Chair)**

**T. Smith  
D.W.A. Howells  
G. James  
D. Jones  
E. Jones  
D. Rowberry  
P. Waldron  
B.G. Willis**

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

**Also Present: Heddlu Gwent Police  
Neighbourhood Sergeant Neil Pigeon  
Police Community Support Officer Mike Davies  
SAMA Wales 82 representatives (x3)**

**201) Apologies. Councillor J. Thomas, H. Trollope, A.E. Tippings, T. Gregory,  
A. Jones, P. Prosser, S. Trollope and M. Turner**

## **202) Declarations of Interest.**

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

## **203) Change of Order**

It was agreed that the item 'Armed Forces Day: SAMA Wales 82 representative invited to attend to receive a Donation resulting from monies raised at the event' be considered following agenda Item 'Policing matters'; which was agreed accordingly.

## **204) Policing matters: invitation extended to Inspector Thomas and PS Pigeon to attend to provide an update and respond to any issues of concern raised**

The Chair welcomed the Police Officers in attendance to Council; Neighbourhood Sergeant, PS Neil Pigeon, extended the apologies of Inspector Amanda Thomas, who was unable to attend due to interviewing of new recruits. PS Neil Pigeon and PCSO Mike Davies were in attendance to provide an update and respond to any concerns raised.

Members welcomed the methods that had been put in place by the new Inspector. The Leader thanked the Sergeant and CSO for attending. He and a Colleague had met with the Inspector and Sergeant the previous day and had set no questions for this meeting and considered that progress was moving very well. He thereupon opened the meeting for Members to raise concerns.

Councillor D. Jones joined the meeting at this juncture (6.05 p.m.)

- **Parking – Market Street / Town Clock** – PS Pigeon said that in excess of fifty warning notices had been issued, with action taken in respect of twelve, and considered this was a positive message for the public, which had been publicised on Twitter. A similar exercise had also been carried out in Commercial Street; the Officer confirmed this also included parked cars in the bus stop at Barclays Bank.
- **Drug intelligence** – the Police thanked Members and constituents for the intelligence received, which helped the Police to secure warrants; Greenmeadow and Ysguborwen – enquiries were ongoing, the positive impact was evident on the community and residents on the estate; Ystad Deri – dealing with Tai Calon, which appeared positive in going forward. The Leader said that the drug raids had sent shock waves throughout the community.

Arrangements had been planned for network action days across Blaenau Gwent, in conjunction with partners, e.g. organised crime groups. The Local Neighbourhood Team would look at low-tier offenders and intelligence was growing in Tredegar, as sufficient evidence was needed before going to Court. The Officer confirmed that Police would consider life style and proceeds from crime would be confiscated.

The Licensing Department, in conjunction with the Police, would look at any intelligence received in respect of licensed establishments; one property had been identified in the Tredegar area through intelligence. PS Pigeon ensured completed confidentiality for a 'Covert Human Intelligence Source' (CHIS) in working together with the Police.

Members said that the PCC had visited Waundeg in Tredegar on being appointed to the role.

The Sergeant said that the Police tried to meet/engage with groups, e.g. the School Liaison Officer liaising with Comprehensive School pupils within her role.

- **A4048 Tredegar to Blackwood** – due to the number of accidents on this highway, an Officer had been tasked to undertake research - there had been approximately ten accidents over a three-year period. The Sergeant did not consider the fencing adequate and recognised there was a speeding issue. Members of the community had been recruited to be part of Speed Watch and training would be undertaken over the next two weeks. Feedback would be requested and Members would receive data from that exercise.

A Member asked if Speed Watch could be used outside schools and built up areas. The Sergeant said an exercise could be undertaken in any area identified, as long as criteria could be satisfied, e.g. Drysiog Street had been proposed but had been unsuitable due to the scope of the area. The Member therefore proposed Bryn Bach Primary school, which was supported by Members and noted accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending and expressed his confidence in the work the Police were currently undertaking, which he supported. The Neighbourhood Sergeant

thereupon suggested that the Police could be invited to attend a future meeting in January to provide further feedback.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Neil Pigeon and PCSO Mike Davies thereupon left the meeting.

**205) Armed Forces Day: SAMA Wales 82 representative invited to attend to receive a donation resulting from monies raised at the event**

The SAMA Wales 82 representatives joined the meeting at this juncture; the Chair welcomed the representatives to the meeting to receive a donation resulting from monies raised at the Armed Forces Day. He was very proud as Tredegar Town Council, being the only Council to arrange such an event across Blaenau Gwent. The Town Council were pleased to support various armed forces charities, choosing a different recipient each year, and welcomed the support of the Welsh Regimental Band who performed at the event every year.

The Leader, on behalf of Members, was pleased to confirm the amount for this worthy cause in the sum of £500.00.

On behalf of SAMA Wales 82, representatives thanked the Town Council and reiterated their support in the organisation of the armed forces event, if Members so wished.

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

The following recommendation of the Civic Sub-Committee was presented for consideration and approved accordingly.

- that a grant of **£200.00** for Tredegar Women's and Girls' Athletic Football Club be recommended for approval; the full grant amount proposed was due to consideration that this appeared to already be a well-established Club with the applicant personally investing to provide this opportunity.

It was noted that Tredegar Town Council also provided helpful advice in signposting groups to access other avenues of funding to support such organisations.

**207) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in November 2017.**

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view. The Officer referred to the additional payment of £200.00 approved by Council, outlining the amended total for Members' information.

The Leader referred to the Christmas poster and window dressing competitions and stated that clear guidelines were needed; therefore, there was a need for Town Council to set out appropriate criteria. The Chair supported this concern and suggested this should be agendaed for discussion by the Events Sub-Committee.

- **Made in Tredegar** – it was noted that no costings had been received by the RFO prior to this work being carried out; the Leader felt this needed to be raised,

particularly as Town Council supported this organisation with grant funding.

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 thereupon left the meeting at this juncture.

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

- a) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**
- b) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**
- c) Events Sub-Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017**
- d) Civic Meeting of Council - 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017**

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

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

**Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

- Town Centre walkway – concerns had been raised over the colour of ‘grey’, need to check on colour; request a meeting on site with contractor; Members disappointed over lack of progress, not enough attention given to completion of work within agreed timescale.

- Truck Shop – meeting held with Heritage Officer and County Borough Members; Blaenau Gwent Officers tasked with terrible situation in dealing with the case of ownership. Blaenau Gwent retained responsibility for making site safe; Law had changed slightly that local authorities could recharge for element of cost incurred; Cadw definitively not prepared to delist status of building. The Local Authority, not Cadw, was responsible for meeting costs incurred; however, since changes in Welsh Government legislation, liability could be claimed back.

A Member suggested that a response be sought from Blaenau Gwent in respect of the up-to-date situation in order that Members could inform the public accordingly.

A brief discussion thereupon ensued regarding the deterioration of the building and removal of sections of the roof, scaffolding, safety and duty of care – considering possible ways forward, e.g. reduction of level.

In response to question raised, Members were informed that a Compulsory Purchase Order could not be sought, and the site cleared, due to the listed status of the building.

- Cairn walk, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday – Members felt that Remembrance Sunday had went well and suggested that an Events Sub-Committee be reconvened to meet with RBL representatives to clearly define roles. As Town Council had taken on certain responsibilities, clear guidelines should be set on roles/responsibilities. Also, Council emphasised the need for flags to the front of House to be removed at the earliest possibility, as the porch was listed and concerns was raised that damage could be caused to the structure of the building.

There were areas of concern in respect of the war memorial and Council felt that Blaenau Gwent CBC should take note of the condition, as other towns across the County Borough were reliant on the Local Authority in ensuring these events went

smoothly.

There was no centre insert in the Tredegar Town Council wreath and staff needed to ensure the TTC centre was in place.

There was a need for more speakers in the future – perhaps at the top of the hill for participants, as only those present around the Cenotaph could hear the service.

It was agreed that Council continue with provision of a sound technician for this event, which had proven successful.

Whilst Council had no objections to the wreaths being laid in groups, every school, community group and organisation should be named individually and participants aware of each wreath laid on behalf of the organisation.

The events held on the Saturday at Tafarnaubach, town centre, the Cairn and commemorative benches had all went well.

The Chair thereupon thanked the Royal British Legion for the day and extended his best wishes.

How Wales Changed the World – Members welcomed the televised coverage by the BBC of the walk to the Cairn and acknowledging the work of Tredegar Town Council, as it appeared this was recognised globally but the Council was still subjected to criticism locally. Also, the Commissioner of New Zealand had sent a message to the people of Tredegar. (Clerk / AET to liaise)

- Christmas Lights switch-on event – Clerk to liaise with LITE representative in respect of inspection of equipment, arrangements for the event, etc.
- Made in Tredegar – congratulations were extended to Made in Tredegar for winning a GAVO award.

#### **Events Sub-Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017**

- Christmas Eve home visits – Clerk provided a brief update.
- Christmas poster competition – two packs to be order initially in readiness for presentation to first prize winners at the Christmas Lights switch-on event.
- Tredegar Heritage Initiative Board – letter to Blaenau Gwent CBC requesting, at the next regeneration meeting, Members would like to see more progress, particularly in respect of the NCB area. Several groups had been involved in that committee, but no meetings had been held since May.
- NHS at 70 – there was a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, at Gwent Archives, if Members wished to attending, 9.00 until 11.00 a.m.

#### **Civic Meeting of Council - 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017**

- Amend to “**Deputy** Mayor referred to correspondence he had received from Deighton Primary School...”
- Page 166, Item 6: Councillor P. Prosser declared an interest, as one of the correspondents was his niece; and  
Item 13: Catapult, Commercial Street – low hanging lights.

#### **210) Chair to sign Minutes**

Minutes to be duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council.

## 211) 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. The Leader outlined that Members were aware of the £150.00 set by the Independent Remuneration Panel to cover expenses incurred in the role of Councillor; this was an individual choice of Members - those who wished to claim up to that amount should liaise directly with the RFO.

## 212) Correspondence

### 1) BGCBC

- a) A. Evans, Tredegar Roundabout: Update following on from site meeting – **forwarded to A. Davies, A.M.**

- The Leader referred to a telephone call from the P.A. of Alun Davies, explaining that following the meeting, this matter had been referred back to Welsh Government. Unfortunately, the information kept by Welsh Government had not been updated as to what had taken place. Further investigation was needed to source information from Blaenau Gwent and the Police in respect of up-to-date information on accidents. Welsh Government officially met with Blaenau Gwent Officers and information fed back to the Welsh Government. Hopefully, barriers would now be placed on the roundabout.

- b) A. O'Leary Re: Review of Electoral Arrangements in Blaenau Gwent. Copy of letter sent to all Members inviting them to a meeting in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 5.30 p.m.

- Noted; encourage Members to attend.

- c) Consultation: Blaenau Gwent Public Services Boards Draft Summary Well-being Plan, online survey available until 21.01.2018.

- Noted.

- d) Sally Jones, Community Connectors Re: Christmas Day Event. Asking if Council would like to make a donation or vouchers.

- A brief explanation was provided of the work undertaken by Community Connectors, whereupon a donation of £100.00 was approved

and agreed accordingly.

- e) P Amos:
- i) Standards Committee Community Council Member: Vacancy has arisen, asking all Town/Community Councils agree the new nomination received.
  - ii) General Data Protection Regulations, Data Protection Legislation becomes effective on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

- Noted. Tredegar Town Council had not been asked for a nomination to sit on the Standards Committee - it was therefore agreed that Councillor Jacqueline Thomas be nominated. Clerk to write to Paul Amos to seek clarity as to how nominations were generally sought.

- f) A Tippings: Effect Networking event, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at General Offices, Ebbw Vale 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

- Noted.

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

- g) i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 03.11.2017.  
ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 10.11.2017.

- Noted.

- 2) One Voice Wales a) Innovative Practice National Awards 2018: Closing date for entries is Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The conference will be held at the Hafod A Hendre Building, Royal Welsh Showground on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

- Noted; to be agendaed for next meeting of Council as a formal Item for discussion.

- b) Dates of Larger Council Committee meetings in 2018.

- Noted; forward to Town Council nominated representatives.

- c) Review of the Community and Town Council

Sector: Dates and venues for Consultation events. OVW wishes to encourage all Councils to send a representative to their nearest event and asking for details of attendee for the event to be sent to them.

- Noted; forward to Town Council nominated representatives.

d) Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 30.

- Noted.

e) Gwent Valleys Area Committee: change of date and venue. Now Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. offices of Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council.

- It was noted this meeting should have been held in Tredegar but no venue had been identified.

f) Written Statement by the Welsh Government: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Programme.

- Noted; Members considered the Programme commendable.

g) Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust: Information event at All Nations Centre, Cardiff on 20.10.2017 for all persons in applying for the Chair role.

- Noted; write to Welsh Ambulance Service, thank for work undertaken and excellent standard of service and support of future of the town, suggesting Members could undertake a visit.

3) Aneurin Leisure

Ceri Waters, Funding request: Wish to run three parent and children workshops in Tredegar Library and hoping Council will consider funding an artist for these events.

- Council could not support full amount of £600.00; it was therefore agreed to support one half-day session in the sum of £200.00.

4) ASBRI Planning

Publicity and consultation before applying for Planning Permission: Demolition of Greenacres Hostel and the construction of 26 residential units

and associated works.

- The following points were noted:

Members welcomed plans going forward, this had been awaited for in Tredegar, behalf of whole of Blaenau Gwent, mixed development. dependency, decant from Roderick, revamp/improve far higher standard, existing residents given priority. agree if could be given to local residents, close link to Social Services.

Ex-Councillor Dennis Owens deserved a mention for all his hard work in supporting this.

Green Acres, Blaenau Gwent owned building, selling ground to Melin Homes, should be transferred 'as is'.

A brief discussion ensued in respect of disposal of land by the Local Authority, whereby a Member explained the process and uplift on the value, whereby such sales exceeded the amount in undertaking schemes and outlined ongoing negotiations.

The Chair welcomed any 'lessons learned' from previous sales of land to ensure there was not a repetition of issues arising, such as had been experienced in Ashvale - e.g. contractors should contact local schools in the vicinity of a development to highlight any issues prior to construction.

#### 5) Kidney Wales

Walk for Life letter of thanks to Council for continued support.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

#### 6) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

a) Thoracic Surgery Services in Wales: Public Meeting Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Newport Centre.

b) Consultation on Older Adult Mental Health Services in Gwent: Consultation started 01.11.2017 and runs 'til 26.01.2018, poster attached of the public events.

c) Major Trauma Services in South Wales: 12 week consultation opened 13.11.2017 with public meetings being held – Blaenau Gwent 15.01.2018 venue TBC.

- Noted; forward to Members, for information.

- 7) T. White Christmas Eve visits: 10 members available for 23.12.2017.
- Noted; forward to Town Council nominated representatives – Clerk to provisionally book transport.
- 8) Nick Smith MP Surgery notice, Tredegar Library on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 between 4.15 p.m. and 5.15 p.m. – **added to website and noticeboard**
- Noted; forward to Town Council nominated representatives.
- 9) Brecon Beacons a) New CEO appointed from 01.02.2018, Julian  
Tourism b) Have your say on 4 proposed Welsh Government  
Taxes including Tourism Tax.
- Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner.
- 10) R Watkins Hospice of the Valleys Impact Report 2016-17.
- Noted; forward to Members, for information.
- 11) GAVO Tabor Centre Brynmawr Centre Manager position closing date for applications 30.11.2017, remunerated.
- Noted; forward to Councillor T. Gregory.

## 12) PUBLICATIONS

Play for Wales Issue 49 Autumn 2017; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 10.11.2017 & 17.11.2017; Ville D'Orvault Orvault & Co. Issue 14 Nov/Dev 2017.

– **distributed to Members**: received.

## 13) AGENDA

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda for meeting Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Tredegar Library; Democratic Services Committee 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 – report for agenda item 8; Audit Committee Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Consultation with Town/Community Councils Pre-meeting will be Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Committee Room 2 Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. postponed until Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. in the Executive

Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Joint Scrutiny Committee Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 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.*

**213) Planning:**

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

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/2017/0312	Mr. N. Long 45 Gwent Way Tredegar	Concrete block garden shed, rear boundary block/brick wall, internal garden wall, 45 Gwent Way.
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2017/0316	CRS Pizzas Ltd c/o. Mr. F. Sykes Pegasus Planning Group Ltd First Floor South Wing Equinox North Great Park Road Almondsbury, Bristol	Change of use from a retail unit (class A1) to a hot food takeaway (class A3); installation of extraction/ ventilation equipment and other minor external alterations including alterations to the existing shopfront, 100 Commercial Street.
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2017/0317	Mrs. L. Davies 29 James Street Tredegar	Rear kitchen/WC extension, 29 James Street.
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2017/0318	Mr. M. Kalonas 16 Brangwyn Road Tredegar	Retention of garden shed, 16 Brangwyn Road.
<b>No objections</b>		

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

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

- Hospital, Park Row – letter regarding the situation in respect of Doctors, Aneurin Bevan Health Doctor there until end of this year, review in six months’ time, no Doctor there when tried to make appointment, cannot get Doctor there.

Clarification, raised in Council – meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Bedwellty House, encourage Members to attend, there was only one Doctor, if not emergency making appointment for following day. Locum was involved in traffic accident.

- The Magic Porridge Pot – feedback requested from Sherman Theatre.
- Aneurin Bevan plinth – if Abletouch unable need to look elsewhere, agenda for next meeting.
- The Lodge, Bedwellty Park – due to changing climate across the county borough, the Town Council had expressed an interest in The Lodge. No decision was yet to be made and an exercise as to the feasibility would need to be undertaken. Every Member was encouraged to visit the premises. A report would be presented to full Council for consideration if this interest was pursued.
- Cairn Memorial – a Member proposed that consideration be given to purchasing a memorial in respect of the Cairn (bomber crash) site and sought the support of Council, i.e. location, signposting, raising profile/promotion, etc.
- Lantern Making Workshops – the Clerk referred to correspondence received from the Bedwellty House and Park Learning Officer, seeking approval of funding to undertake workshops for one class in each of the Tredegar primary schools. Members highlighted concerns in respect of the short notice allowed for, whereupon the Clerk outlined the reasons, as explained by the Learning Officer. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Town Council would meet the expense of one workshop at £105.00, of each participating primary school, to a maximum of five Schools upon confirmation
- Christmas gifts – the Clerk sought approval of expenditure of the Members for the gifts presented by Council as a token of appreciation for support to Tredegar Town Council; which was agreed accordingly. Delegated powers for staff to undertake best value exercise prior to purchase. Town Council further agreed the cost incurred in respect of Christmas lights staging.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.16 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair