

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwelty House on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

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

**220) Apologies.**        **Councillors D.W.A. Howells, E. Jones, T. Gregory  
                                     and B.G. Willis**

**221) Declarations of Interest.**

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

**222) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor provided an update, as follows:

**November**

- Cairn Walk – great walk, lots of fun, people left group due to weather. Fantastic to welcome family members from New Zealand, undertaking visit in recognition of their uncle. Great to see Tredegar Town Council on the news. Thank you letter to Paul Heaney BBC credit ;
- Remembrance Day – considered the best event over previous years, church was packed. It was announced that Father John Davis had moved on; Clerk to write. Three events, explain on website/Facebook, which Members attended across three events
- Christmas Lights Switch-on – great event, full of youngsters and families.
- Welsh Pony & Cob Society – to present trophy
- Meal with Blaenau Gwent Otters – thanks Councillors for their support

## **December**

- Christmas Window Certificates

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

- It was agreed that the Aneurin Bevan Day event, hosted by Tredegar Town Council, be held on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018 to commence the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NHS celebrations.
- It was agreed that Armed Forces Day be held on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.
- Publicity – how to advertise events going forward.
- The lowest tender of £80.00 be approved; in response to questions raised, the Clerk confirmed the provider.

### **224) Grants:**

#### **a) To receive, consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations**

Friends of Valleys Karate Club – Any funds received would be used for purchase of training equipment such as sparring mitts, head guards and shin pads

**Previous – 2013/14 Feb'14 CQ No. 707 £100.00.** Approved £200.00

Silurian Boxing – Any funds received would be used for the ongoing running costs including literature/posters etc. and equipment.

**Previous – 2016/17 Dec'16 CQ No. 523 £200.00.** Approved £200.00

*Councillor H. Trollope declared an interest in the following application and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

Tredegar Town AFC (Seniors) – Any funds received would be used for the ongoing running costs such as referee/linesman fees, pitch hire and medical supplies.

**Previous – 2016/17 Oct'16 CQ No. 465 £200.00.** Approved £200.00

2167 Sqdn (Tredegar) RAF Air Cadets – Any funds received would be used for the upgrade of the IT equipment.

**Previous – 2016/17 Nov'16 CQ No. 495 £200.00.** Approved £200.00

#### **b) To receive, consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 01.04.2017 now max £300.00 - None received.**

In response to a previous query raised, the Clerk briefly outlined the churches and chapels that had applied to the Council to date for grant funding; she advised Members that any churches and chapels be directed to the office for a grant application form, if wishing to apply.

### **225) Correspondence**

*Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the following item of correspondence and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

- 1) BGCBC                      a) Economic Development Unit: Consultation  
Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Draft

Summary Well-Being Plan, deadline for comments  
21.01.2018.

- Noted.

- b) N. Landers Re: Removal of Christmas Lights. Has been informed lights were in very poor condition, disintegrated on removal. Reluctant to attached lights until trees are mature enough which is usually around six-seven yrs.

- BGCBC had asked for costing, which Town Council had provided; Clerk to refurnish Officer with information.

- c) Y. Tovey Re: Welsh Government, second round of Community & Town Council Planning Aid Wales Workshops. Date confirmed as 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 from 4.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. in the Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale. **Five** places allocated for per Town Council, ***please confirm whether all Five are required.***

- Noted; Clerk to confirm all five places allocated were required.

- d) H. Cunningham Re: Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group. Invitation to send a representative to the next meeting being held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018 in Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

- Noted; nominate Councillor Mark Turner and forward the date of the Armed Forces Day hosted by Tredegar Town Council, agreed to be held on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

- e) Paul Amos:

i) Standards Committee Community Council Member:

(a) Deadline for nominations extended to 15.12.2017 – ***Clerk responded with Cllr J. Thomas nomination***

(b) Will allocate time next week to consider how to progress with the appointment process.

ii) Well Being Assessment: Response to query raised at Town/Community Consultation Meeting regarding who the representatives/participants were for Ebbw Fawr as there is no Town Council.

iii) Pest Control services.

- Noted:

i) the Leader suggested that Town/Community Councils needed to meet and liaise in respect of proposed nominees. The Clerk highlighted that the Data Protection Officer had responded to Town/Community Councils explaining that he would look at the appointment process.

ii) the response received from the Data Protection Officer had been to a query raised by a Member of TTC. Ebbw Vale North and South were covered by the Local Authority, however Sirhowy could struggle, as excluded by being within the Tredegar Town Council boundary. Members who attended the Consultation meeting said that Officers present would have been in a position to respond if the LA Leader had allowed more time for the explanation.

iii) pest control information to be placed on Town Council website. Again, Members had felt the LA Leader had not allowed Officers to respond to queries raised in respect of fly tipping.

*Councillors T. Smith and P. Prosser/P. Waldron (Tredegar Orpheus MV Choir) declared an interest in the following items and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

f) i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 17.11.2017.

ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 01.12.2017.

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) *Removed – forwarded to all Members, for information*  
b) *information*

3) Welsh Government Truck Shop, Listed Building: Future of the building is now a matter for BGCBC to consider; in Cadw's opinion the building is an extremely rare example of a company shop and, despite its condition, retains sufficient elements of its original architectural character to justify retention on the list.

- Noted. A brief discussion ensued regarding liability should an accident occur, i.e. this being the Local Authority not Cadw, and similar matters in respect of Saron Chapel and Harcourt Terrace Chapel.

- 4) Cllrs Trollope Civic Nomination.  
- Agreed; the remarkable experiences of this lady were noted and commended accordingly.
- 5) N. Jones Asking whether they can hold a family fun day on the Deighton Field in 2018.  
- Noted; Clerk to email requesting further information, with future consideration by the Events Sub-Committee. A Member advised caution in considering such events, referring to a recent fund-raising event whereby the Police had been needed to intervene. It was noted that any such event would have to be a non-alcoholic event.
- 6) Town Councils correspondence:
- a) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council: Nominating Cllr Glyn Smith for the BGCBC Standards Committee.  
- Noted.
- b) Cllr Banks, Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council: Following Consultation Meeting Cllr Banks contacted PS M. Briggs to ask him to contact Tredegar Town Council direct to update on the meetings regarding off-roading, which he has agreed to do.  
- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
- 7) Seafarers UK Fly the Red Ensign Merchant Navy day 2017: Certificate of Commemoration.  
- Noted; place on website and Facebook.
- 8) William Holmes £400 donation to Mayor's Appeal for Xmas Lights switch on – **cheque with RFO**.  
- Noted; letter of thanks expressing appreciation.
- 9) J Karn Project for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS.  
*Removed – agenda for Events Sub-Committee, for consideration*
- 10) C Smith Copy of email sent to Deighton Primary school thanking them for running the Night Out Young Promoters project in the school and for making her feel welcome.

- It was noted that the next School on the rota was Georgetown Primary School. In respect of publicising the event, the Clerk understood this had been undertaken by the pupils in conjunction with the Night Out Co-ordinator. Members would not wish any school to oversubscribe in respect of capacity but highlighted that the performance had been open to pupils across ALL schools.

11) Myanmar Embassy Christmas card.

- Noted.

12) Aneurin Bevan Health Board a) *Removed – forwarded to all Members, for information*  
b) *information*

*Councillor P. Waldron declared an interest in the following item of correspondence and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

13) K. Waldron Press release on Waldron Commercials.

- a Member said the Nick Smith, M.P., had agreed to visit prior to the Christmas period to receive a presentation. It was suggested that the Town Mayor be invited, who highlighted she would need the date in advance to ensure ability to attend. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent.

14) GAVO *Removed – forwarded to all Members, for information*

## 15) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 24.11.2017, 30.11.2017 & 08.12.2017; Natural Resources Wales newsletter; Communicorp Local Councils Update December 2017 Issue 213; Brecon Beacons Tourism Review of “on-territory” visitor information services & Wales Tourism Alliance urging Members to respond to the proposed tourism tax.

## 16) AGENDA

Special Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special meeting of the Council Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017: Agenda item 7(a) Minutes; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, report for agenda item No. 9; Special Joint Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 12.00 noon Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Agenda meeting Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 10.30 a.m. Tredegar Library.

## **226) Planning:**

### **a) OFFICERS REPORT – Information Only**

#### **List of Delegated Items determined between 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017:**

C/2017/0247 Extension for garage and utility area, Elmhurst 17 Harford Street, Tredegar - *Approved.*

C/2017/0241 Relocation of bin store, Maes Y Dderwen, Charles Street, Tredegar – *Approved.*

\*\* C/2017/0059 Demolition and replacement of new single storey boiler room to south elevation. Replacement of UPVC windows with new single glazed timber framed windows with secondary glazing. Reinstatement of 2 brick and stone chimney and conical roof vent, NCB Building, The Circle - *Approved.*

\*\* C/2017/0060 Application for Listed Building Consent for demolition and replacement of new single storey boiler room to south elevation. Internal alterations to create caretakers flat and reposition of the toilet facilities. Replacement of UPVC windows with new single glazed timber framed windows with secondary glazing. Replacement of artificial slate roof with new Welsh slate roof. Reinstatement of 2 brick and stone chimney with reintroduction of metal conical vent at roof level replacement of UPVC rainwater goods with cast iron fittings. Hacking off existing render and replacement with limewashed render, NCB Building, The Circle - *Approved.*

*In response to questions raised, the following was noted: scaffolding would be erected; the development would be undertaken in a similar manner to that of the TA, as a listed building; Listed Contractors would be employed; crumbling brickwork would be addressed; specifications would be as near as possible to original materials; development to be monitored by Cadw.*

C/2017/0236 Single storey side extension and front porch and attic conversion, Jesmond Dene, Park View - *Approved.*

C/2017/0289 Non material amendment for planning application

C/2015/0350 removal of condition 8 – acoustic report, 13 Arches Close - *Approved.*

C/2017/0290 Discharge of condition 6 – soakaway test and 7 – full geotechnical survey of planning permission C/2015/0350 – 2 detached dwellings and garages (outline)), 13 Arches Close – *Condition Discharged.*

**Planning Applications Report:**

C/2017/0269 Proposed building plot and new site access, garden land at Heather View, Trefil Road, Tredegar – *Recommendation to GRANT subject to conditions.*

C/2017/0187 Variation of Condition 22 of planning permission C/2012/0327 relating to noise output from the turbine, Waldron’s Commercials, unit 29 Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate, Tredegar – *Recommendation to APPROVE.*

*Councillor G. James declared an interest in the following report and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

\*\* C/2017/0143 Proposed residential development (18 dwellings) with associated highways and parking provision for adjacent dwellings (outline), land at Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens, Tredegar – *Recommendation to enter into a S106 agreement and if signed then permission be GRANTED subject to conditions.*

*A Member was disappointed in such a development on ‘green space’ as there was not enough space allocated for children to play. Town Council was informed that the LA Ward Members had objected to the planning application. Town Council C&W Ward Members would receive an appropriate invite to attend the LA site meetings.*

\*\* C/2017/0248 Change of use of industrial (B2) land to car sales (sui generis), including landscaping and provision of two portakabin buildings ancillary 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, Ron Skinner & Sons Car Sales, adjacent highway and former Unit 6A Tafarnaubach Ind. Estate, Tredegar – *Recommendation to GRANT subject to conditions.*

*Town Council welcomed the development, which would bring further employment into the area.*

**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/2017/0325	Mr. J. Watkins 38 Burnet Drive Blackwood	Application for tree works, reduction of length of lowermost westerly limb and remove dead wood of oak tree to create a 3 metre buffer with property; reduction of length of lowermost south westerly limb of horse chestnut tree to create a 3 metre buffer with neighbouring conservatory, 12 Elmwood Grove, Tredegar.

***No objections as long as application in order and any written reports were prepared.***



C/2017/0328	Mr. A. Bridgeman Heather View Bungalow Trefil Road, Trefil	Single storey rear extension and the rebuild of a domestic garage, Heather View Bungalow, Trefil Road.
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**No objections**

C/2017/0332	Mr. Iles, Melin Homes c/o Miss Hallett Asbri Planning Ltd Unit 9 Oak Tree Court Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff	Application for prior notification of proposed demolition of Greenacres Hostel and No. 16 St Luke's Road.
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**No objections** – although Council recognised the loss of such a landmark building, Members acknowledged this had become an eyesore and, particularly the Ward Members, welcomed this re-development. The application appeared thorough and the Town Council hoped that lessons had been learned to avoid similar issues that had arisen at Ashvale.

**d) To consider other planning matters.**

A Member highlighted problems experienced in relation to the new build at the rear of Bryn Bach Primary School; levels had been incorrectly placed and an application for approval of those amended levels had now been re-submitted. Governors were very concerned in respect of security to the site at the north end of the School and entry was now easily accessible over the wall. The property was massive and overlooked the School play area. The Planning Officers had been made aware of these concerns, and now also the Town Council.

**227) One Voice Wales Innovative Practice National Awards 2018**

It was agreed that the Clerk investigate the categories to ascertain, if appropriate, to submit the Christmas Lights, the Town Council website, and the Armed Forces Day event for Tredegar.

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

- Members to report lack of lighting to the bottom path in the Park to ensure lighting to the bottom lane was adequate.
- Friends of Bedwellty Park update: the anti-vandal paint applied to the community garden had proven unsuccessful.
- Members were extremely saddened by the graffiti and vandalism within the Park.

**229) 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** – attended by Councillors T. Smith, J. Thomas, D. Howells and P. Waldron; Members welcomed the convening of the meeting but considered that some of the information supplied by email could have been reported

by Officers in attendance on the day. The Mayor felt that the meeting had proceeded in a less than friendly environment and had felt disapproval of Town and Community Councils throughout the County Borough. The LA Leader did acknowledge the requirement to consult with Town and Community Councils and Members were therefore encouraged to attend these meetings at each and every opportunity. The Local Authority was also required to consult with Town and Community Councils in respect of the budget; agreed, Clerk to write to ascertain when Town Council could expect this consultation prior to budgets being approved, as this consultation was required before Tredegar Town Council set their own budget.

- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – Councillors T. Smith and E. Jones had attended. The next meeting in January had moved location to Abertillery.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – no meeting.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning Association** – a social event had been moved from the Christmas period to January; Clerk to liaise.
- e) **School Governing Bodies** – *Bryn Bach Primary School*: Governors welcomed the continued high levels of attendance. Concern had been noted in respect of the reduction in the number of children receiving free school meals, not due to improvements in the community, but to Local Authority restrictions. A presentation had been received in respect of Seesaw, an online programme for recording children's work – this was being piloted and rolled out throughout the School;  
*Deighton Primary School*: no meeting;  
*Georgetown Primary School*: a new Headteacher had been appointed, which appeared positive for the School with a slight change to the curriculum, placing the School on a higher pedestal, together with all schools in Tredegar, to be recognised as best achievers across South Wales. The Head wished to ensure all Headteachers shared the same objective to improve.  
*St. Joseph's Primary School*: a Member was happy to report a most positive outcome in respect of a tribunal relating to a seven year old pupil with a heart condition: he commended the mother's dedication in ensuring her child was able to attend school and the commitment of the teachers. He considered St. Joseph's a very caring school. Councillors M. Cross and T. Smith had been appointed to the Appointments Panel and the temporary Head had applied to the post on a permanent basis.
- f) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – to meet the following week. Councillor Prosser agreed to supply feedback following the meeting on queries in respect of the plaque.
- g) **Tredegar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – work was ongoing in the community with an engagement exercise with the Fire Service, Police, and Community Safety Officer at Sirhowy and Lindsay Gardens, outlining equipment available and providing advice.
- h) **Tredegar Business Forum** – no meetings had taken place for approximately eight/nine months. The Leader reiterated the need for the Business Forum to communicate with the Town Council, particularly in recognition of the support to the town centre. A main contact was needed to speak direct with the Council. It was suggested that CB Councillor John Morgan may be in a position to update Council, particularly if the Town Centre Partnership had been reinstated. Members emphasised an appropriate format was important in going forward to ensure a shared vision for improving the town.
- i) **VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – the appropriate portfolio Executive Member had initiated discussion in respect of representation, proposing one individual from each Ward, one Heritage Forum member, etc. This was scheduled for the New Year and

more clarity was needed on what it hoped to achieve in order to orchestrate progress in a proper manner within Tredegar. It was proposed that councillor T. Smith could undertake a dual role; however it was felt that Tredegar Town Council would wish to have its own representative.

**j) Allotment Association** – awaiting formal meeting.

### **230) Bryn Bach Primary School - to discuss: vacancy**

It was agreed that Councillor David Jones be nominated for appointment to this vacancy, which was agreed accordingly.

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

- Welsh Assembly Government monies for new health centre – only two in Gwent (Tredegar and Newport);
- Meeting with Electoral Officers – forty-two Members currently, likely to be reduced to thirty-eight. Local Authority asked to establish a Working Party – Central & West Ward to be reduced by one Member. Clerk to request presentation slides, if available;
- Walkway – Councillor T. Smith had visited, considered painting to have been undertaken reasonably well, as walls being painted not re-plastered. He suggested that once painting was complete, a small group of Members could visit to ensure work was to a suitable standard and sign off for payment.

It was noted that some issues had arisen in respect of the colour of the paint, and blistering. The contractor had not been instructed to undertake any painting to the railings.

It was suggested that if three Ward representatives wished to visit, the following could attend – P. Waldron, Georgetown; P. Prosser, Sirhowy; and G. James, Central and West (the Leader confirmed he would be happy to accompany the group, should they wish).

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair