

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 20th December, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.**

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

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

232) Apologies. **Councillors T. Gregory, A. Jones and D. Rowberry**

233) Declarations of Interest.

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

234) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in December 2017.

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view. The Officer said that the invoices for LITE Limited had been received but not included in the schedule of payments, as this was not due for payment until January 2018.

Councillor G. James joined the meeting at this juncture (6.35 p.m.).

- **Christmas Lighting** – the Deputy Mayor and Leader, together with the Clerk, had met with the LITE representative. The Leader said that issues had been discussed, highlighting that the Council had received an excellent service last year, but considered the service received this current year as ‘good’, stating Council wanted an excellent service at all times. On conclusion, the LITE representative had agreed £300.00 would

be deducted from the invoice in compensation for the two main issues discussed, i.e. motif at Morgan Street and bespoke 'Welcome to Tredegar' motif; the Deputy Mayor thanked the Leader for undertaking a tremendous job on behalf of the Town Council.

The Deputy Leader welcomed this news and considered this appeared a good company to work with, with Council receiving such a positive response to concerns. The Member suggested that the RFO could check the cost of the hire of the Morgan Street motif.

- **Temporary electric supply – 'War Memorial'** – the Leader highlighted the works for a permanent electric supply needed to be completed, as this payment was not sustainable year on year.
- **Call out / repair telephone system** – the cost had been levied against the Town Council, as the fault was an internal issue within the office.
- **Moose International** – this payment had been agreed on the proviso that, if Blaenau Gwent CBC sent the monies direct to the Moose then this payment be made to Tredegar Town Council; Deputy Mayor agreed that he would monitor to ensure payment. The Deputy Leader considered it was disappointing that such a small statutory council as Tredegar had needed to step in on behalf of the Local Authority in this situation. The RFO confirmed that she was not usually involved in this process for the buffet for Remembrance Sunday, with the Royal British Legion applying directly to the County Borough Councillors for grant funding.

The Chair of the Events Sub-Committee said that a meeting should be convened with Royal British Legion representatives to discuss the event's proceedings, roles and responsibilities. In response to a question raised, the RFO confirmed that an invoice for the wreaths had been received and paid for; the Officer was still awaiting the invoice for the poppy bouquets.

A Member enquired of the payment for painting of the town centre walkway. The RFO clarified this had been approved within a previous Schedule of Accounts for Payment, to be issued once the work had been signed off by Members. The Deputy Leader thereupon provided an update of the inspection: -

The wall next to Cotton's had render loose, which had resulted in great difficulty in painting this area satisfactorily; there was a black beam that had been repainted four times but water was seeping through the cross beam streaking the paintwork – it had been agreed this would be repainted following a longer dry spell to alleviate this problem; the colour used for the initial contract was from a local supplier, which had been an 'end of line' product and therefore the paintwork could not be matched exactly; the contractor undertaking the initial contract had sub-contracted the work to another individual for the interior and the Deputy Leader had the gentleman's details, should Council wish to acquire his services in the future. It had been agreed previously the contractual employee of the Council would undertake any painting of the ironwork in this area.

A Member expressed his disappointment in the length of time taken to complete the work, due to the individual undertaking work elsewhere, and suggested that the 'cheapest' may not be the best option when undertaking the tender process in the future. The Deputy Leader recognised the Member's concerns but considered the sub-contractor who had completed

the work was professional and could be used in the future.

The Deputy Mayor clarified that the initial contractor had been instructed to undertake painting to the exterior only initially and had ensured enough paint was purchased to undertake this work; this contract had been signed off by Council on completion. Funding from the Halfpenny Rate had been allocated by County Borough Councillors to be utilised for painting of the interior to the town centre walkway, which had again been put out to tender.

A Member had been unable to visit on the Saturday, as proposed, but was not very impressed with the work undertaken and, unfortunately, not considered monies spent worthwhile.

- **Life Leisure Trust** – the Deputy Leader referred to the two additional payments made for projects, suggesting that such funding should be allocated through the £1,000.00 allocated to Aneurin Leisure on an annual basis.

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.

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

- a) Civic Sub-Committee - 15th November, 2017**
 - b) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th November, 2017**
 - c) Events Sub-Committee – 6th December, 2017 ****
 - d) Civic Meeting of Council - 6th December, 2017 ****
- (** Minutes available for consideration at meeting)**

It was agreed that Minutes c) and d) be **DEFERRED** for consideration to the next meeting of Council, and; the remaining Minutes presented be approved en bloc, as a true record, with any matters arising to follow.

236) Matters arising from the Minutes.

Ordinary Meeting of Council - 15th November, 2017

- Invitation to be extended to Police representatives to attend Ordinary Meeting of Council, 17th January, 2018.
- A4048 Tredegar to Blackwood – Councillors T. Smith and M. Cross had received a response from the A.M.; this would be forwarded to Town Council accordingly.
- Truck Shop – Deputy Leader said no further response received to date.
- War Memorial – Clerk confirmed ‘action outstanding’ to be pursued with Retained Leisure Officer, BGCBC.
- Residential / Care Home visits – Members encouraged to make every effort to attend.
- Nantybwich / A465 Roundabout - Councillors T. Smith and M. Cross working with A.M.; Welsh Government agreed to place barriers. It was noted issues had arisen with vehicles rolling into the back of one another, it was suggested that sequential traffic lights would stop this occurrence or placing louvres on the lights. Also, motorists were accelerating

from the garage and thus arriving at these lights at speed.

Councillors P. Prosser and P. Waldron left the meeting at this juncture (7.01 p.m.)

- Community Connectors – the Deputy Leader had presented the cheque in a timely manner due to the imminence of the Christmas Day event.
- Letter to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – update sought on GP provision at Tredegar Health Centre.
- Magic Porridge Pot – Clerk clarified that she had contacted the Night Out Project for an update, however this would not be available until after the Christmas period due to the Co-ordinator being on leave.
- Aneurin Bevan plinth – Deputy Leader to liaise with Abletouch.

237) Chair to sign Minutes

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

238) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) M Howland Re: Sirhowy Gardens and Deighton Fields Licence to occupy.

- Clerk to pursue previous request of Tredegar Town Council for either a twenty-five year lease or acquiring the freehold of Deighton playing field: the reason being in order to apply for grants, which was agreed accordingly.

Thanks were extended to the appropriate Members for their hard work in ensuring that horses on Deighton playing field were removed in the appropriate manner, being collected by an animal sanctuary in Abergavenny. On behalf of Council, the Deputy Mayor thanked this organisation and had suggested, as long as the appropriate constitution was in place, that the organisation apply to Council for grant funding; however, no commitment had been given. Members noted that if animals were not chipped appropriately, ownership could not be ascertained.

The Leader also extended thanks to Councillor Bernard Willis who had arranged for keys to be cut to gain access. A brief discussion ensued in respect of ensuring that gates were locked securely to prevent such issues in the future, which was now resolved.

- b) P. Amos Re: Standards Committee. Will discuss with the Monitoring Officer to arrange a formal appointment process.

- Noted.

- c) M. Cahill Re: Aneurin Bevan Memorial Stones, Enhancement project.

- it was agreed that a letter in support of the Project be forwarded, as Tredegar Town Council would wish to be part of the Project going forward; Clerk to send formal letter of support as a priority to accommodate deadline for submission of application to HLF.

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

- d) List of Licensing Applications week ending 07.12.2017:

- i) Fern AFC – Temporary events notice
- ii) Shandor's General Store – Transfer Premises Licence
- iii) Kevin Taylor – New Personal Licence
- iv) Master Kebab – replacement Premises Licence

- Members noted that a public house had changed hands in Tredegar, however the licensee would remain in place and the premises would be closed for refurbishment following the Christmas period.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Community & Town Council Consultation Events – The Next Steps.

- Noted; forward to Members via email.

- b) Buckingham Palace Garden Tea Parties 15th May, 31st May and 5th June 2018.: Invitation to submit details of the current (outgoing) Chairperson.

- Noted; forward to Councillor J. Thomas.

- c) Welsh Ambulance Service Branch letter for donations to support ambulance staff in Wales – details of 3 activities.

- Noted; refer to RFO to ascertain appropriateness of supporting awards ceremony and feedback to Council.

- d) Review of the Community and Town Council Sector: Newsletter
- Noted; forward to Councillors T. Smith, A.E. Tippings and M. Turner.
- 3) SLCC
- Membership renewal notice, due January 2018 – **Council to approve**
- Noted; the Clerk confirmed the membership fee of £165.00, which was approved accordingly.
- 4) Law Commission
- Planning Law in Wales: Consultation Paper available and closing date 1.3.18 for responses.
- Forward to Planning Committee Members. It was noted that for any planning development over ten units, the Local Authority had to consult with town and community councils – this should be monitored in the future, e.g. the development of Greenacres.
- 5) Christmas Greetings:
- a) Seafarers UK
b) One Voice Wales.
- Noted.

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 15.12.2017 & 22.12.2017.
– ***distributed to Members***: received.

7) AGENDA

Special General Licensing Committee Thursday, 14th December, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee Friday, 15th December, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 10th January, 2018 meeting is cancelled; Executive Meeting 20th December, 2017 – Reports for agenda item Nos. 9 & 12; Executive Wednesday, 20th December, 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.

239) 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** – None

received

d) To consider other planning matters

In response to a question raised in respect of any inspections throughout the period of development, Members were informed this would be the remit of Building Control personnel, who the developer could employ privately to look after a project; the Local Authority would not have to check a development however each contractor had to satisfy local building control requirements, which were laid down in the appropriate manner.

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

- Sports Centres – openings over Christmas period
A Member expressed concern that Tredegar Sports Centre would be closed from 11.30 a.m. on 24th December, 2017 until 2nd January, 2018, with only Ebbw Vale and Abertillery Sports Centres remaining open. Members strongly supported the Member’s concern and requested that a letter be sent to the Local Authority, as a priority, expressing concern as to the apparent downward spiral of facilities and the lack of use of this Sports Centre.
- Town Council were informed of the sad passing of former Local Authority Member, Councillor Don Wilcox; the funeral would take place 1.00 p.m. on 2nd January, 2018.

The Mayor extended best wishes to Members for a merry Christmas, on behalf of herself and the Deputy Mayor, whereupon: there being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

_____ Chair