

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:**                    **Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)**  
                                     **H. Trollope**  
                                     **T. Smith**  
                                     **A.E. Tippings**  
                                     **T. Gregory**  
                                     **D. Howells**  
                                     **G. James**  
                                     **A. 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**

**274) Apologies.**    **Councillors M. Cross, D. Jones and D. Rowberry**

## **275) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **276) Change of Order**

It was agreed that the item 'Policing matters' 'be considered following the Schedule of Accounts agenda Item; which was agreed accordingly.

## **277) To receive the verbal recommendations of the Performance Review meeting held immediately prior to this meeting**

The RFO Officer said that Council had received the draft budget for the forthcoming financial year, following a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee; Council had therefore agreed Earmarked / General Reserves, agreed to move forward and adopt Precept "b", which was at a standstill for the eighth consecutive year.

The following recommendations arising from the Performance Review Sub-Committee were reported for consideration, and approved accordingly.

- all recommendations in respect of expenditure *unanimously agreed to be presented to Council for approval*;
- Earmarked Reserves and Precept "b" standstill thereupon approved; *subject to ratification by Full Council*.

**278) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in January 2018**

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view.

- **Christmas Lights** – one invoice had been held back, as the RFO was given to understand a reduction in payment had been agreed; the Officer was waiting to hear from LITE Limited, as following a meeting with this company, there could be a discrepancy with the overall bill. A Member said she was very pleased with the outcome of that meeting, but Council should not accept £100.00 compensation, if the cost levied originally was far higher. The RFO thereupon enquired if Council wished to withhold payment, as initial payment was due next April. for the final year – Council were happy to proceed with payment, with any reimbursement from that payment, as appropriate; RFO to undertake analysis of cost regarding display in respect of decorations.

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.

**279) Policing matters: invitation extended to Police representatives to attend to provide an update and respond to any issues of concern raised**

The Chair welcomed the Police Officers in attendance to Council; PS Neil Pigeon and PCSO Mike Davies were in attendance to provide an update and respond to any concerns raised.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Neil Pigeon said that an update was provided fortnightly at the Tasking Meeting, to discuss crimes and consider statistics over the Christmas period. He provided a comparison of overall crime within the Tredegar area and was pleased to report these statistics had reduced significantly from the previous period, which was most encouraging.

- Illegal parking - since the last meeting, parking issues were beginning to creep back in; however, recent policing had proved impressive, and matters dealt with quickly with a visible Police presence; outside Edwards, parked vehicle completely blocking street for over an hour and a half; congestion outside Barclays Bank, due to parking on the corner; outside Ashvale shop, usually around 5.00 p.m.; noted that PCSO Mike had spoken to a number of motorists, but with the building site, this was causing chaos, as vehicles should be parked in the Council yard, not on the main road.

PS Pigeon asked those issues to be brought to his attention in order to target those areas and assess the problem, for the Team look at and that feedback would be reported to next meeting to confirm what had been done. When Police were undertaking these type of operations, need to know figures, quantify, e.g. Fixed Penalty Notices. Illegal bikes were not road legal, with no licence plates – the Police needed to identify those individuals - public could notify Police of owners, with a view to prosecution. If the individual was not recognisable, this could not be used as evidence in Court. In response to a question raised, he confirmed it was Gwent Police policy not to pursue.

Caravan, parked rear of Library - Police had looked at registration, rear reflectors were in place and the vehicle directed into flow of traffic; Police could intervene only if causing dangerous obstruction, e.g. fire service, as not on double yellow lines.

A Member said there had been a transit van, parked on double yellow lines in sight of the police station.

- Communication – the Police was attempting to reintroduce radio communications, Gwent Shopping Centre plus some town retailers were on board to link to the Police Station; however, there was a charge. A Member said that cameras had previously been introduced by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch, and welcomed these radios as a link to Police, perhaps linking in public houses also, and small businesses could link to larger to mitigate cost.

In respect of the 101 service, a Member considered there was a flaw in the system, and perhaps feedback was needed to the PCC.

A Member congratulated Police on a new service providing videos, e.g. Market Street, in respect of an incident - phoned 101, response from Officers had been very good; there was a need to promote this service more, which could be used on mobile phones and also download videos.

PS Pigeon agreed this was the best evidence to take forward to prosecute, with a direct link to the Control Room, Officers could tell Response Team where to be – this was an effective tool.

The Leader thanked PS Pigeon and the Team for the joint venture in the Sirhowy Ward, knocking on doors to engage vulnerable residents; this went very well and he would welcome other such operations.

- Illegal biking / quads - a Member referred to video footage of an incident in the Circle prior to Christmas, whereby the public had been subjected to abuse when asking the individuals to stop; causing a nuisance ripping up grassed areas, which impacted on the environment. A Member suggested a joint poster campaign, detailing contact numbers of both BGCBC and Tredegar Town Council Members, providing a wider range of contact .

PS Pigeon confirmed the person at Greenmeadow had been identified and he would provide a future update on action taken. Also, the Off-road team ran operations every Sunday, and would be looking at the Trefil area in the near future.

Concerns were raised in respect of Tafarnaubach, Trefil and Dukestown – PS Pigeon clarified that Police could not use stingers, and other preventative measures had been removed due to austerity. Nick Smith, M.P. met Police HQ every month with matters discussed at a strategic level; operations were put in place, but Police needed that intelligence; Neighbourhood Team contact numbers were available on the Gwent Police website.

A Member said there was a track for motorbikes in Aberbeeg, at a cost of £10.00 per day. The Officer said bikes could be confiscated and destroyed, in respect of offences under the Road Traffic Act.

A Member enquired how Tredegar compared to other towns throughout Blaenau Gwent, e.g. Sirhowy woodlands ASB - drinking and drugs; could Crime Prevention Panel cameras be placed there; Off-road meetings held with N. Smith, M.P., and the Inspector had suggested looking at the use of drones, to catch off-road bikers. She said elected Members were here year on year; methods of good practice had been put in place previously and discarded, e.g. two hours had been spent ascertaining a pinch point for motorcyclists, and expressed concern other methods of catching/prevention were not used. Also, there was a Policy in place for raves in the Trefil area; Members reiterated their support that Town Councillors were willing to work with Police.

PS Pigeon understood that the Chief Inspectors in place frequently moved forward, but hopefully from the Sergeant standpoint there would be consistency. He would come back on the drones query and provide feedback; the Crime Prevention Panel do have cameras – enquire of availability; to come back how Tredegar compared across all four towns.

The Chair thanked the Officers on behalf of Council for their attendance and comprehensive response to questions raised.

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

### **a) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

amendment to page 208 – to read “Nantylwch/A465” roundabout, not Tredegar, as stated page 225, Correspondence Item 5 – removal of final paragraph, to conclude “... Members wishing to attend.”

### **b) Events Sub-Committee - 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018**

### **c) Civic Meeting of Council - 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018**

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

## **281) Matters arising from the Minutes**

### **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

- Temporary electric supply ‘War Memorial’ and Moose International– Clerk to pursue with Walter Syrett and Rhian Daly respectively and provide update
- Aneurin Bevan plinth– work complete
- Nantylwch/A465 roundabout – Councillors T. Smith and M. Cross had attended meetings

with Ken Skates and Carillion, as the Sirhowy Members had worked diligently for safety barriers to be provided, unfortunately, this was now at a standstill due to recent developments with Carillion

### **Events Sub-Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018**

- Concert 'Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir' – a Member highlighted that TTC should contact Trevor White, as Secretary of MV Choir.
- Tredegar Business Forum – the Mayor said that those Councillors sitting on the Forum would be invited to attend a meeting at the end of the month, approximately 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup>, as the members were trying to invigorate this Forum.
- Aneurin Bevan celebrations – letters to be sent to all businesses in Commercial Street and Gwent shopping centre; liaise with Business Forum representative, in respect of the proposed 1948 theme for the event.

### **282) Chair to sign Minutes**

The Mayor suggested that the Minutes be signed at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council, following the amendments requested being undertaken, which was agreed accordingly.

### **283) Correspondence**

- 1) BGCBC
- a) M. Howland Re: The Lodge. Will arrange access once he has the keys, supplied building costs too.
    - to visit / meet with Mark Howland week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018; invite to February meeting of Council, with visit to The Lodge half hour before. Confirmation needed in what state of repair building to be handed over, what Blaenau Gwent willing to maintain, Charter – how much to pay towards upkeep / running costs.
  - b) M. Howland Re: Green Spaces. Current policy excludes town councils from the Community Asset Transfer process but a review of that policy is being undertaken in May.
    - Noted; Leader to sign licence(s) accordingly. It was suggested this same arrangement could apply to the Lodge also, in the future.

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

- c) Blaenau Gwent Business Awards 2018 being held 22.03.2018, application forms now available online.

- to be placed on TTC website and forwarded to Councillor P. Waldron

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

- d) i) List of licensing applications week ending 05.01.2018.  
ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 12.01.2018.  
1. Red Lion – premise licence transfer.  
2. Tredegar Ironsides RFC – temporary event notice.

- Noted. Members raised concerns in respect of the proposed increase to taxi licence tariffs, as Blaenau Gwent CBC set the fare tariff for which taxis were allowed to charge, which had not been considered, which appeared inconsistent.

- e) P. Amos Re: Standards Committee – Objection raised to proposal, new option is to alphabetically select each Member for one term.

- Noted; Clerk to respond confirming support of Council.

## 2) One Voice Wales

Review of the Local Council Sector: asking for Council's responses to the four questions posed by the Panel to be submitted via the online survey.

- Noted, individual responses required.

## 3) S A Decorators

Town Centre Walkway:

- i) Scaffolding will be removed this week.  
ii) Proposal to Council for additional works and offering to quote.

- Noted, i) public feedback had been complimentary; Council thanked the contractor for the work, which had been completed to a good standard; and, ii) pass to Blaenau Gwent CBC for attention.

## 4) N. Jones

Update on proposal for fun day on the Deighton Playing Fields.

- present to Events Sub-Committee for consideration of issues, such as insurances, licences, public liability, vehicular access, and to meet with Nathan Jones.

- 5) Friends of Bedwellty Park  
 Congratulations on the superb Christmas Lights, they have received many positive comments on the excellence of the display.  
 Noted; Council thanked Friends of Bedwellty Park for their comments and to be placed on TTC website.
- 6) Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
 Response to letter sent raising concerns.  
 - a Member raised concern that the response had been directed to Alyson Tippings. The Clerk explained that, due to the depth of knowledge within the content of the initial letter, rather than generic, this had been signed by the author on behalf of Tredegar Town Council, which had been clearly stated.
- 7) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum  
 Agenda for meeting Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Tredegar Library.  
 - to be circulated to all Members that attend.
- 8) Coalfields Regeneration Trust  
 i) Copy of email sent to Tredegar Archive Club confirming proposed meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m. in the museum to discuss 10 The Circle.  
 - Councillor A.E. Tippings confirmed attendance.
- 9) Nick Smith, M.P.  
 Next Advice Surgery Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. at Abertillery Library.  
 - TTC welcomed the M.P. holding surgeries on a Saturday and extended thanks. To be placed on TTC website.
- 10) GAVO  
 a) Open Access Case Worker Merthyr Tydfil, full time, remunerated, closing date for applications 23.01.2018.  
 b) January funding newsletter.  
 - to be circulated to any interested parties.
- 11) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board  
 Apply to become a member of your local Community Health Council.
- 12) S. Morgan  
 Royal British Legion South Wales, Admiral Nurse Service. Working in conjunction with Dementia UK to support / give advice to carers who are care for

a loved one with dementia. Service is free but to qualify for support the carer or person living with dementia needs to be a RBL beneficiary. Simon Morgan is one of four practitioners that will be covering this area.

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website.

13) Cllr T. Smith

Request from Tredegar Twinning Association to meet with Town Council to discuss the forthcoming visit from Orvault.

- Members expressed concern in respect of the issues arising in relation to lack of accommodation; Clerk to write to Twinning Association representative requesting three possible dates in order to convene a meeting with the Senior Officers of the Council.

14) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 12.01.2018 & 19.01.2018; J Parkers Wholesale catalogue Spring 2018; Ville D'Orvault Orvault & Co. Issue 15 Jan/Feb'18; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct January 2018 Issue 115.

– ***distributed to Members***: received.

15) **AGENDA**

Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Advance notice of Special Meeting of Council Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 – *postponed*; Executive Committee Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Committee 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, report for item No. 9.

**Available for Members** – received.

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

**284) Planning:**

**a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** - None received.

**b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any -**

Site meeting – proposed development: land at Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens, Tredegar (*Councillor G. James declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon*)



A Member said that a fact finding meeting had been held on site with Tredegar / BG Planning Members; this had been well-attended, with a number of issues recognised to be fed back to the Planning Committee; he had asked for a copy of the Protocol to Speak from the appropriate Officer. It was noted this Council had made representation in respect of this planning application – should a Member wish to speak to the application at Planning Committee, they may wish to review the Council’s objections, and amend if appropriate. Another Member suggested that clarification was needed whether the playing field was outside the tenure.

It was agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Planning Department (BGCBC) requesting a time slot for the appropriate Member to speak on behalf of Tredegar Town Council. As the planning development site was located in Central and West, it was agreed that the appropriate planning representative for that Ward and Reserve be nominated to attend, i.e. Councillor M. Turner and D. Howells respectively.

**c) To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council’s observations.**

<b>App. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/2018/0015	Mrs. L. Caniff 20 Larch Lane Bedwellty Gardens Tredegar	Garage converted to a room, garage door changed to French doors, 20 Larch Lane

No objections

**d) To consider other planning matters - None received.**

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

**▪ The Lodge, Bedwellty Park, Tredegar**

- Publicity Sub-Committee – to be convened, Chair required the meeting to be held between 4.00 and 6.00 p.m. on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday;
- Update requested regarding Deighton playing field – Clerk to contact;
- Review of electoral arrangements– BGCBC;
- Former Aneurin Bevan Nursing Home, sale of land – Local Authority has to pursue maximum return, and sale has to be open / transparent. It was noted that Welsh Government had instructed local authorities to dispose of buildings no longer in use. Full figures of sale and funding recouped. **Upon a vote being taken – one abstain, six in favour, Members also representing Blaenau Gwent declared an interest;**
- Welcome sign for Trefil, recent good press, feedback Trefil not well signposted. Councillor A.E. Tippings to provide feedback to the next meeting of Council.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair