

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

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

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

**By invitation :** Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Property Asset and Review Officer, Mr. M. Howland  
THI Regeneration Officer, Mr. C. Howell

**311) Apologies.** Councillors J. Thomas T. Gregory and D. Rowberry;  
Also, RFO – Ms. A. Jones

**312) Declarations of Interest.**

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

**313) Invitation extended to the Property Asset and Review Officer (BGCBC), Mr. M. Howland: to discuss matters arising, following Members visit to The Lodge, Bedwellty Park, Tredegar**

**PLEASE NOTE: all Members invited to attend The Lodge visit at 5.30 p.m. prior to the Ordinary meeting of Council**

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mr. Mark Howland, Property Asset and Review Officer, who had been invited to attend to discuss / response to any arising, following Members visit to The Lodge, Bedwellty Park, Tredegar

The Officer introduced Mr. Ceri Howell, Townscape Heritage Initiative, who was in attendance following an informal Expression of Interest by Tredegar Town Council in respect of The Lodge, Bedwellty Park, and a possible community asset transfer in the future. The Property Asset and Review Officer thereupon provided a brief background to the current

assets managed in partnership with the Local Authority and Tredegar Town Council. Although town and community councils were currently excluded from the Community Asset Transfer process, the Officer was undertaking a review of that policy and, hopefully, town and community councils should be able to take on council assets / property in the future, if approved; particularly in view of the Welsh Government agenda for town and community councils to take on a more operational role.

The Property Asset and Review Officer would need a clear declaration of what the Town Council would like to do, whereupon a CAT could be undertaken at Nil cost with a dialogue in respect of the cost of occupation of the offices, which would have to be considered within the framework. Concerns had been expressed in respect of the condition of the building and a potential option of monies through the THI had arisen.

Mr. Howell added there could be an opportunity through the main project currently being undertaken at The Circle in expanding the knowledge of heritage and the Lodge could allow the THI to approach Lottery Funding to compile a schedule of works, bearing in mind training and up-skilling needs, and ensuring the building was properly maintained. If the THI could identify an 'end use' for such a project, these allowed the applicant to "tick boxes". This had not been given the go ahead as yet but if the Town Council was interested, perhaps indicative changes could be brought in to the schedule of works, as part of the THI and capital projects.

- Access – if the stairs proved problematic, a solution could be considered to resolve issues; in respect of a question regarding installing a lift, the Officer was unable to respond on such issues, as this was only at an early stage in respect of approaching Lottery Funding, but the THI and Town Council could work together to define a project.
- Listed Building – a Member had photographs of The Lodge which could be used when engaging with schools and groups
- It was recognised that a commitment on an Expression of Interest could prove beneficial to the application when being considered for Lottery Funding; BG Officers confirmed this could strengthen the case on being put forward.

The Property Asset and Review Officer suggested that in order to move forward with a CAT, Tredegar Town Council could register their interest, outlining their concerns in respect of the state of the building and issues relating to access to the upper floor, guttering / roof, etc., whereupon Ceri would use that to support the building and any match-funding that may be needed.

The THI representative was happy to work with Town Council, particularly in respect of the training aspect, i.e. employment for young people, legacy, etc.; however, he emphasised the application could still be refused.

The Chair thereupon proposed Town Council submit an Expression of Interest to ascertain what funding was available in revamping The Lodge. The Leader added that Council had to be mindful of the ongoing costs if relocating from the building of Bedwellty House, which was acknowledged but Members also recognised the possibility that Town Council could be required to relocate in the future. The Chair said that it was within the public domain that the Local Authority intended ceasing payment to the Trust for the location of Tredegar Town Council within the House and Town Council could need to consider these costs in the near future. A Member suggested the need to liaise with other Town Councils to gain parity. In

response to a question raised, Council was informed that negotiations would have to be undertaken between the Trust and Town Council if payment arrangements changed. However, the Chair said that the Leisure Trust had increased charges by approximately 7.4% for the coming financial year.

In response to a question raised, it was noted that the Clerk and RFO could be housed in the upper floor offices, with provision of a meeting room downstairs for informal and sub-committees, with the venue for the full meeting of Council remaining in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House.

A Member referred to the Town Council charter which identified the need for the Local Authority to provide a 'home' and suggested perhaps there was a need to consider a legal aspect before taking responsibility from Blaenau Gwent; Council was sure this would form part of any negotiations.

The Chair thereupon expressed thanks to the Property Asset and Review Officer, Mark Howland, and THI representative, Ceri Howell, on behalf of Council for attending and the comprehensive response to questions raised; the Officers thereupon left the meeting.

**314) To receive the verbal recommendations of the Performance Review Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting**

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

- **Budget against Actual figures to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017** – the recommended virements were accepted.

Councillor M. Turner left the meeting at this juncture (6.28 p.m.)

**315) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2018**

In the absence of the RFO, it was agreed that the Officer circulate the Schedule of Accounts for payment on her return to the four 'senior officers' with delegated powers of full Council to approve; which was agreed accordingly.

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

- a) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**
- b) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**
- c) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

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

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

#### **Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

- Page 235: amend that “Councillor A.E. Tippings arrived at the meeting at this juncture (4.58 p.m.)”
- Minutes of Sub-Committee approved with a view to recommendations being re-agendaed for action

#### **Performance Review Sub-Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

- War memorial – a Member said that she believed this had been left un-pointed to allow water to drain; cleaning operative to be instructive to remove chipping trays and cleaned; plastic holders for wreaths / crosses etc. to be removed

#### **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

- Bedwellty House and Park – Aneurin Leisure had been asked to place the Aneurin Bevan sculpture on the plinth in the Assembly Room; also, House Manager agreed for the nameplate to be placed on the Mayor’s Parlour door and to erect the nameplates for the past two Mayors on the board in the Chamber. Police curfew in place within the Park after 5.00 p.m. – proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Inspector and ask that this be an ongoing situation to resolve problems.
- Aneurin Bevan celebrations – letter to be sent to Business Forum in respect of 1948 Theme; agreed accordingly; suggested that seventy year memorabilia could be purchased, e.g. plates
- Classic Car Event – ask Business Forum if this event was to be undertaken in 2018
- Former Aneurin Bevan Nursing Home, sale of land – Clerk to check notes and update Minutes in respect of information in relation to the vote being undertaken.

### **318) Chair to sign Minutes**

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

### **319) Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent: to receive any comments of Members, to collate and forward accordingly**

The Chair confirmed there was no impact on Tredegar Town Council within the Local Authority arrangements; however, impact upon town and community councils would be considered at a later date. A Member considered there had been noting coterminous with the town councils and clarification was needed from Blaenau Gwent.

Blaenau Gwent representation would be a reduction of forty-two councillors to thirty-four, which had been affected by the boundary changes in Blaenau Gwent, in the Tredegar Central & West Ward, there would be a loss of one Member; due to the ratio, a Member suggested Town Council needed to know the impact upon Tredegar Members. A recommendation had been put forward to Blaenau Gwent to change from three Wards to four, however Blaenau Gwent Members had not agreed.

The Member said that under the covenant, this would have been ideal to share that information, but no discussions had been ongoing other than the report on political arrangements and she was concerned on the lack of correspondence between Blaenau Gwent and Tredegar Town Council Officers; Clerk to write.

## 320) Correspondence

### 1) BGCBC

a) H. Jones Re: Taxi Licences. Will include Council's response as part of the report for the Licensing Committee. There is always provision for fares to be increased; this request would usually come from the taxi trade and implement following a full consultation. A recent increase request was rejected as the majority of the responses to the consultation were not supportive of an increase.

- Noted.

b) A. Watkins Re: Deighton Fields/Sirhowy Garden. 2018 charge will be the same as 2017.

- Noted.

c) CAT Training for Community Groups (Communities First): free workshop events during March.

- Noted; circulated to Members via email.

*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 09.02.2018 and 16.02.2018.

i) S. Irish – personal licence

ii) Tredegar Town AFC Juniors – Small Society Lottery Licence.

iii) Coach & Horses – Replacement Premises Licence.

- Noted.

e) A. Tippings, Destination Management Officer: Bevan Festival 2018 – Aneurin Bevan Day Walk, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.

- Agreed; when being promoted, Blaenau Gwent to state as part of the Bevan Festival 2018.

### 2) One Voice Wales

a) 2018/19 Annual Membership subscription renewal due April 2018.

- Approved; membership subscription of £2,206.00 for 2018/2019.

b) The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 31 January 2018

- Noted.

- c) End to local government fees for child burials.
  - Noted; Members again welcomed this commitment reached by Welsh Government.
- d) Women's Suffrage Centenary Grant Scheme – Celebrating Women in Wales.
  - Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
- e) Tax policy work plan 2018 and developing new taxes in Wales.
  - Noted.
- f) OVW Innovative Practice Awards, Hafod y Hendre Building, Royal Welsh Showground – Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018
  - Noted; Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings.

3) Roman Builders

War Memorial: waiting for weather to improve.

- Noted.

4) S Jones

Sherman Theatre Christmas Tour 2018 dates and cost.

- Clerk to pursue with Georgetown Primary School to ascertain interest.

5) Members correspondence:

- Cllr Cross

i. Two Civic Award nomination forms.

- Nomination forms supported and approved accordingly.

- Cllr T. Smith

ii. Concerns re: Dramroad – raised by Huw Walters

- Noted. Forward to appropriate Officers BGCBC, Clive Rogers and Nicola Davies, seeking clarification on any action intended / being taken.

6) Aneurin Leisure Trust:  
C. Hares

Sponsor two Summer Band Concert dates, requesting to be paid via TTC

- It was agreed that the Aneurin Leisure Trust payment could be made via the Town Council, as requested by House Manager.

- 7) Torfaen CBC  
Inviting nomination of a current (or former) senior officer to represent LGPS Employers on the Local Pension Board.  
- Noted; any interested parties to contact Clerk and to be offered to RFO.
- 8) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board  
BG Talk Health Borough Forum – Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at Llanhilleth Institute, 2.00 p.m.  
- Noted.
- 9) Brecon Beacons Tourism  
Brecon Beacons National Park Volunteers Wanted. Full training will be given.  
- Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner.
- 10) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority  
a) Weekly List of Planning Applications – 9 February 2018  
b) Agenda for BBNP Local Access Forum – Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018, 2.00 p.m.  
- Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner.
- 11) D Roach  
Asking for financial support for the one off football event being held in Tredegar Leisure Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.  
- Noted.
- 12) Keep Britain Tidy  
Register for nation's biggest tidy-up #LitterHeroes  
- Councillor A.E. Tippings outlined details of a litter pick arranged for the Trefil area on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 – Horeb Chapel past Penrhyn Farm.
- 13) Twinning Association  
AGM, Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 7.15 p.m., Bedwelty House  
- Noted; pass to Twinning Town Council representatives.
- 14) GAVO  
Postcode Community Trust – Community Grants  
- Circulate to Members, via email.
- 15) Promo Cymru  
Consulting on “How would you like to see EVI develop?”

- Clerk to complete survey.
- 16) National Grid Team Notification: 'start of works' letter, plus announcing road closures
  - Noted
- 17) Commonwealth Pageantmaster, B Peek Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018
  - Agreed; Town Council to support the event; Clerk to send invitation to all schools.
- 18) E. Cooper Invite to Mayor / partner, all Tredegar Members, to charity event on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, in Tredegar Rugby Club
  - Noted; Members encouraged to attend and support this event.
- 19) L Davies, BG / Caerphilly Care & Repair Vacancy – Technical Officer, request to place on TTC website
  - Agreed.

## 20) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report: week ending 16.02.2018 and 23.02.2018. UK Mail – brochure of services.

## 21) AGENDA

Audit Committee Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 10am Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 has been **cancelled**; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm Tredegar Library; Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale & report for item no. 4(a); Democratic Services Committee Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 11.30am Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Meeting of the Council Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Committee Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 9.30am Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

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

## 321) Planning:

- a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received) - None 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/2018/ 0043	Miss P Thomas Cranford, The Rhyd Tredegar.	T1 Lime (closest to road) & T8 Lime (last tree on drive): crown raise and thin, Cranford The Rhyd.
No objections		
C/2018/0049	Mr. T. Lewis 2 Mydrim Place Tredegar	Former St. Joseph's School, off Glandovey Terrace; erection of 2 No. two bedroom dwellings and all associated works
No objections		

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

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

- Mayor's Quiz Night – Bowls Club, Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018 at 8.00 p.m.; congratulations to the team that Councillor Alyson Tippings participated in on reaching the Final.
- Tredfest on Saturday – the TTC banner had been on full display.
- Thanks extended to the Leader for keeping the Town Council Facebook page up-to-date.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.18 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair