

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Thomas (CHAIR)  
T. Smith  
A.E. Tippings  
G. James  
A. Jones  
D. Jones  
E. Jones  
D. Rowberry  
M. Turner  
P. Waldron  
B.G. Willis

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

**345) Apologies.** Councillors H. Trollope, M. Cross, T. Gregory,  
D.W.A. Howells, G. Meredith, P. Prosser, S. Trollope

**346) Declarations of Interest.**

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

**347) To receive the verbal recommendations of the Policy Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting**

A review of the following Policies had been placed before the Policy Sub-Committee for consideration, whereupon a Member asked that an amendment be considered to the Risk Management Policy, as the statement could be open to wide interpretation, which was agreed accordingly: -

**Health and Safety** – Health and Safety considerations also apply when members of the public visit the ~~House~~ office.

A Member formally proposed that the Council approve the recommendations of the Policy Sub-Committee, as placed before the Sub-Committee and subject to the foregoing amendment; the policies were approved accordingly.

### **348) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in March 2018**

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

In addition, included in the Schedule of Payments were payments made in February, subject to approval via delegated powers of the Mayor / Deputy Mayor and Leader / Deputy Leader, as approved by Ordinary meeting of Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018.

- One Voice Wales – the payment of £984.75 had been levied for OVW to undertake a review of the workload / staffing structure of the office.
- Quiz Wizards – the trophy shop was currently closed due to water damage, once the Member was notified that the shop was re-open she would take the trophies for engraving.

As this was the final month of accounting before year-end, there was a need to undertake further virements to prevent an overspend, which the RFO proposed for Members; consideration, as follows: £570.00 Sports / Cultural £250.00 S.137, £325.00 Churches / Chapels, £150.00 from civic presentations to presentations / donations.

The virements were approved accordingly, whereupon the RFO confirmed this would avoid any draw upon reserves, and spend would remain the same as when the budget had initially been set for 2017 / 2018.

- Thematic assertions 2017 / 2018 - when proposed, Council had been made aware these would be how General Reserves were managed and internal audit. Following publication of the Financial Management report thematic, the RFO said the thematic assertions would now be Reserves and S.137 Payments; this should only be used when no other power was available for use. Current spend of £3,550 was well below allowable spend of £7.46 per electorate (i.e. £83.732).

Tredegar Town Council were able to justify that funding allocated to Churches / Chapels had been approved for non-religious activities, as a community asset, and made a point of all decisions being recorded in the Minutes. The RFO would undertake a review of S.137 however to look for alternative use e.g. toys, kitchen equipment, etc.

In response to a question raised, the RFO confirmed she continued to update the website, and asked that any images in respect of events, e.g. Armed Forces Day, Aneurin Bevan Day, etc., being forwarded direct to the office as she was not able to allocate additional time to search for this information on the Town Council Facebook page.

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.

### **349) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council: Civic Meeting of Council - 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

**Events Sub-Committee - 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 (copy to follow)**  
**Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee - 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**  
**Performance Review Sub-Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018**  
**Ordinary Meeting of Council - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018**

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

**350) Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Civic Meeting of Council - 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

- Welsh Government's Bee Friendly Scheme – a Member asked Council to consider how some areas could be used at Deighton / Sirhowy for wildflower seeds, e.g. bankings, areas that were not included in the grass cutting scheme. A Member highlighted most areas were inclusive to service users, e.g. scouts, and this would need to be considered by the Tredegar Public Conveniences Sub-Committee.
- Tredfest – the final had taken place in The Cambrian on Friday night; however, the final event had been due to be held in the Rugby Club and the Member was unaware if this was to be re-arranged; Mayor invited to attend - 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.
- Tredegar Twinning Association – the following changes to the programme were reported for information: meeting, Saturday morning and the Civic reception prior to evening event at the Orpheus Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018; Clerk to liaise with representative to confirm arrangements.
- War Memorial – thanks extended to Dudley's
- Litter pick, Trefil – sixteen bags of refuse had been collected, an armchair, carpets, etc., which had been an incredible achievement. Asbestos dumped on site had been referred to Blaenau Gwent CBC for action; the Member commended the Council for picking up that amount of recycling, which had been undertaken immediately. Litter Champions works really well.
- Invite Police representatives to next appropriate meeting of Council

**Events Sub-Committee - 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

- Aneurin Bevan Day – itinerary / poster
- Timetable – this had been done and sent through to office; many other groups were welcome to organise activities in support of the Aneurin Bevan event and retain profit
- Events Sub-Committee to be held 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018
- Gala Dinner being organised by Tredegar Branch Labour Group
- Liaise with Kevin Phillips of Cymru Creations £140.00 hire £100.00 licence – option putting on Bevan film, charge levied for entry.
- Meeting at Transport House – unfortunately none of the Union representatives had attended, Chair to re-arrange meeting

**351) Chair to sign Minutes**

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

**352) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - February 2018**

## To receive report to take effect during the financial year 2018 / 2019

The Clerk spoke to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, highlighting any significant changes and salient points for consideration / requiring approval:

### **Section 13. Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils**

- The Panel has reflected different payment requirements for Councils in each of these three groups
- Tredegar Town Council was in Group B - Income of Expenditure in 2017 / 20178 of: £30,000 - £199,999
- 13.9 'Where not mandated, each determination requires a formal decision by each of these Community or Town Councils annually.'
- 13.10 'In all cases, any individual Members may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part of all of the entitlement ... giving notice in writing' (The RFO had developed a proforma - No. 44)
- 13.12 'Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal Council' – this related to the position of Leader / Deputy Leader and Executive Member.
- 13.13 'The Panel is mandating payment ... Receipts are not required for these payments.'

**Determination 44: Community and Town Councils in Groups A and B must make available a payment to each of their Members of £150.00 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables, etc.** – this was mandatory; the payment must be waived by each individual Member if not to be claimed.

- 13.14 'Councils in Groups B and C are **authorised** to pay up to five responsibility payments for specified roles' – currently this related to the Leader payment only within Tredegar Town Council.

**Determination 47: Community and Town Councils in Groups B and C are authorised to make an annual payment of £500.00 each to up to five Members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment for costs and expenses if that is claimed.** – this annual payment was taxable.

**Determination 48: Community and Town Councils are authorised to make payments to each of their Members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances.**

**Determination 49: If a Community or Town Council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it may authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its Members at the maximum rates set out on the basis of receipted claims.**

**Determination 50: Community and Town Councils are authorised to pay financial loss compensation to each of their Members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties.**

**Determination 51: All Community and Town Councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults**

***(provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403.00 per month. Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by Members in order for them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.***

- Civic Head / Deputy Civic Head – this payment was an ‘Honoraria’, rather than a personal senior salary and, therefore, non-taxable.

***Determination 52: Community and Town Councils are authorised to provide a Civic Head payment to the mayor/Chair of the Council up to a maximum of £1,500.00 to undertake the functions of that office. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment for costs and expenses and the £500.00 senior salary if these are claimed.***

***Determination 53: Community and Town Councils are authorised to provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the Deputy Mayor / Chair of the Council up to a maximum of £500.00 to undertake the functions of that office. This is in addition to the £150.00 payment for costs and expenses and the £500.00 senior salary if these are claimed.***

Town Council noted and agreed the Determinations (No. 44, 47, 48-53 inclusive), to be considered at the Annual General Meeting for approval of requirements pertinent to Tredegar Town Council as an individual community / town council.

### **353) Correspondence**

- 1) BGCBC
  - a) N. Landers Re: Town Centre Walking. Reviewing schemes to check eligibility to access for funding. Any works would be allocated following a competitive tendering process.
    - Noted.
  - b) M. Howland Re: Bedwellty Park Lodge. Information regarding new stairs and lift.
    - Issue needs to be considered as a Working Group
  - c) Vision for Education: Booklets and posters promoting the devised vision for education.
    - circulate copy for each Member of Council as School Governors.

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

- d) List of Licensing Applications week ending 09.03.2018.
  - i) Mountain Air – Transfer of Premises Licence Holder – ***further information requested***
  - ii) Mountain Air – notification of 2 or less gaming machines.

iii) Belle Vue – notification of 2 or less gaming machines.

- subject to information requested; noted.

2) One Voice Wales a) One Voice Wales National Awards 2018: shortlisted for Best Website Award.

- Noted.

b) Motions for 2018 Annual General Meeting. Propose a maximum of two motions for debate at the AGM on Saturday 29.09.18. Closing date for motions is **noon on Thursday 31.05.2018.**

- agenda as Item for Ordinary meeting of Council in April 2018.

c) Welsh Hearts working with your Community: Asking for update on whether there is a defibrillator onsite.

- Further information requested.

d) Consultation document on Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities: local toilets strategies, closing date 04.04.2018.

- Clerk to liaise with BG Officers to ascertain any progress in respect of developing a Strategy.

3) Wales Audit Office

Survey of Town and Community Councils closes 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018, questionnaire of survey being undertaken (copy attached). **Only one response per Council will be accepted.**

- circulate electronically to Members via email.

4) Nantyglo & Blaina  
Town Council

Enquiry (to all Town Councils) as to the possibility of the Joint Committee of Local Councils becoming active once more.

- No forum currently, interesting precursor to meetings with Blaenau Gwent. TTC happy to support and send a delegate but rules of engagement required to join together to discuss issues across all areas. Clerk to respond confirming support of TTC.

5) Brecon Beacons  
National Park  
Authority

Planning Applications Consultation Review: From 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 they propose to send only an email informing Council of details of the planning applications within our respective boundary,

including a link to enable viewing of the application documents.

- Councillor Turner said that all planning applications relevant to each area would not be made available via an email link and allow access to submit comments; this could be subject to password protection.

6) D. Llewellyn

Tramroad Trails Study being undertaken by Caerphilly County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

- A Member said this could prove an interesting project for TTC to undertake. The Clerk confirmed this had been circulated to all Members for information.

7) Western Power  
Distribution

Rassau to Brynmawr 33,000 volt Connection project commencing in March and works will take approximately six months.

- Forward to Councillor M. Turner.

8) **PUBLICATIONS**

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Community Update Spring 2018; BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 16.03.2018 & 23.03.2018; Communicorp Local Councils Update March 2018 Issue 215.

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

9) **AGENDA**

Joint Education & Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 – POSTPONED; Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 rescheduled to Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 2.30 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Education & learning Scrutiny Committee Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. at Pence School; General Licensing Committee Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee rescheduled from 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 to Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 2.30 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting of Council Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Audit Committee Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for Members** – received

**For Information: Items forwarded to Members**

One Voice Wales:

Community Asset Transfer Conference being held 19.3.2018 at Llanhilleth Institute – **forwarded to Leader / Deputy Leader / Mayor / Deputy Mayor.**

*To be re-arranged*

BBC Wales reporter writing a feature on the future of twinning in Wales and looking for information – **fwded to Cllrs Smith / Tippings**

*Councillor A.E. Tippings confirmed this information had been sent*

Aneurin Leisure: D Morris confirming meeting with P Sykes rescheduled to 4.30pm Wednesday 21.3.2018. – **forwarded to Cllrs Smith / Tippings / Thomas / H Trollope / Cross**

*Update: proposals for Tredegar – due to reduced budgets, plans for Parc Bryn Bach would likely not come to fruition until July 2018*

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

**354) Planning:**

**a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)**

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

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

No objections were raised in respect of the following applications submitted on behalf of Tai Calon Community Housing Limited, Solis One, Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina. A lot of this land to be given to Tai Calon now taking opportunity to use as development. BG not have return. Any contentious issue? Plans very professional.

| <b>App. No.</b> | <b>Proposal</b>  |
|-----------------|--|
| C/2018/0075     | Outline application for construction of 2 houses and associated parking, site adjacent to 48 Cripps Avenue.                |
| C/2018/0076     | Outline application for construction of 2 dwellings and associated car parking, adjacent to 32 Walter Conway Avenue.       |
| C/2018/0077     | Outline application for construction of 3 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 59 Attlee Way.                |
| C/2018/0078     | Outline application for construction of 5 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 60 Walter Conway Avenue.      |
| C/2018/0079     | Outline application for construction of 4 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 62 Gainsborough Road.         |
| C/2018/0080     | Outline application for construction of 2 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 113 Gainsborough Road.        |
| C/2018/0081     | Outline application for construction of 9 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 9 Gainsborough Road.          |
| C/2018/0082     | Outline application for construction of single dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 53 Walter Conway Avenue. |
| C/2018/0083     | Outline application for construction of 4 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 9 Walter Conway Avenue.       |
| C/2018/0084     | Outline application for construction of 6 dwellings and associated parking, site adjacent to 10 Walter Conway Avenue.      |
| C/2018/0085     | Outline application for construction of single dwellings and   |



**d) To consider other planning matters**

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

- A Member expressed concern that the public was not having information on what TTC was doing, suggesting a quarterly magazine / newsletter could be placed in the Library – Publicity Sub-Committee, request a meeting
- Display noticeboards – issues reported: new locks, post office / outside gym needing to be completely refurbished, locks faulty, felt backing replacing, Perspex damaged, one by chip shop needing relocating e.g. Masonic car park entrance. It was agreed that an inspection be sought from BGCBC with a TTC Member(s) in attendance – proposed that Councillors P. Waldron and M. Turner attend. It was suggested that TTC could take on responsibility for these noticeboards; Council did not consider appropriate to pursue at this time.
- Updating of office computers – in order to move progress, quotes to be sought from an I.T. specialist (at least four). The Clerk highlighted she did not have the I.T. expertise to determine what software the Council could require; a Member also stressed the importance of complying with the Data Protection Act
- Police Local Authority - Members had met with the Chief Fire Service Officer, Mark Kift – agreed to invite this Officer to a meeting of Council together with Police representatives
- Bands Ebbw Valley Brass won Award – Best Section Champions - congratulations

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.51 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair