

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 18th April, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors T. Smith (Chair)

A.E. Tippings

M. Cross

G. James

A. Jones

D. Jones

E. Jones

P. Prosser

D. Rowberry

S. Trollope

M. Turner

P. Waldron

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

Also Present: Heddlu Gwent Police
Ward Manager, PC Nik Thomas
Community Support Officer Julieanne Wilkinson

380) Apologies. Councillor J. Thomas, H. Trollope, T. Gregory,
D.W.A. Howells, G. Meredith and B.G. Willis

381) Declarations of Interest

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

382) Policing matters: invitation extended to Police representatives and Station Commander SW Fire & Rescue Service, Mike Kift, to attend to respond to any issues of concern raised

Apologies had been received from SWFRS Commander Mike Kift, who would be pleased to attend a future meeting of Council.

The Chair welcomed the Police Officers in attendance to Council; PC Nik Thomas extended the apologies of PS Neil Pigeon, who was unable to attend due to undertaking the induction of new cadets, who would be able to help with community issues. PC Nik Thomas and PCSO Julieanne Wilkinson were in attendance to provide an update and respond to any concerns raised. PC Thomas outlined the number of crimes committed within Tredegar, which showed

a slight increase on the same period the previous year.

- **Drug intelligence** – the Police welcomed intelligence received from Members and constituents, which would help the Police to secure warrants. There was a network across Blaenau Gwent, in conjunction with partners, to undertake appropriate action acting upon intelligence received, e.g. house visits undertaken in conjunction with Tai Calon. Drug kits were not available for ‘on the spot’ tests, only breathalysers for those under the influence of alcohol;
Officer to pursue enquiries regarding the use of camera drones;
The Police operated a ‘non pursuit’ Policy.
- **Illegal Parking** – PCSO Wilkinson outlined her extensive background in respect of traffic enforcement. The Officer had met with the appropriate Officer of the Local Authority to consider issues in respect of The Circle / Commercial Street / Market Street: the double yellow lines around The Circle required reviewing and the signage was faded, which was illegible and had to be used in conjunction with road markings in order to enforce; the disabled and loading bays; shop keepers parking in the bays throughout the day; the issue of dangerous parking on the corner to Barclays Bank. The Officer said that the road markings and ‘applied restrictions’ had to be more constructive.
Members suggested the Officer could liaise with the bus companies in respect of the bays around The Circle, which were no longer required, e.g. the bus bay outside the betting shop had not been used for a number of years. Reference was also made to two quad bikes that had jumped the red lights; in response to a question raised the Officers confirmed that no helmet was legally required when riding any vehicle with more than two wheels.
A Member emphasised that integrated plans needed to be put in place, considering bus bays, double yellow lines, permits, etc. for a co-ordinated approach with the Local Authority.
The PCSO said that the Blue Badge had to be shown with the date on display and the Police had the authority to confiscate any Blue Badge misused.
- **Continuity of Officers** – a Member expressed a concern in the lack of continuity in the handover of Officers. Members had undertaken a great deal of work with the Police at Trefil in identifying a ‘pinch point’, also the Rassau Industrial Estate and Waterworks Lane, with many culprits being caught – that intelligence had then been wasted once the Officer had moved on.
Members said that it was frustrating giving time and offering proposals that were not passed on. For example, there should be policies already in place with the Police in respect of illegal raves and the Member suggested these two issues needed to be reviewed;
- **Assault Cases** – Members expressed serious concern of a recent incident in Tredegar, whereby two visitors staying in the Tredegar had been assaulted and needed to be hospitalised. The Members were concerned how this impacted on businesses and effecting visitors’ perception. A Member said that there was increasing problems with youngsters causing fights and using drugs, who appeared to be migrating from other areas due to the less expensive cost of living.
PC Thomas said that the PubWatch Scheme was in practice and there would be increased safety with numbers and this would take time to embed, hopefully with all premises in Tredegar becoming involved. There was a dossier in place based on all information shared with the Police, e.g. if an individual was banned in one public premises, this would be identified and extended across all PubWatch premises.

A Member drew attention to the Council's Armed Forces Day and Aneurin Bevan Day, suggesting the Police could have a presence on site and display a Crime Prevention stall promoting the work undertaken.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending and was sure that Council would welcome the Police to attend a future meeting to provide further feedback. PC Thomas thanked the Chair and drew Members' attention to the Police and Crime Commissioner Fund available for community projects, the current deadline for applications of which was the 27th April, 2018; he suggested perhaps funding could be sought for a Regeneration Officer for a two-year period to reduce crime with youth.

PC Nik Thomas and PCSO Julieanne Wilkinson thereupon left the meeting and Councillor M. Cross arrived at this juncture (6.38 p.m.).

383) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in April 2018

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

Budget Against Actual – 31st March, 2018

- **S137 Payments** – this was a power on behalf of the community to be used only as a last resort when no other power no other was appropriate; there was no guidance from the external auditor what they would be looking for. This budget heading was well below the allowed budget and would remain below and, therefore, not affect with Council following the criteria and justifying any grants were for non-religious purposes.
A Member referred to the different amount granted to Churches / Chapels to other groups and organisations but had no concerns in moving across if the Churches and Chapels were still dealt with as currently. The RFO explained this was just a change in power used to authorise payments, not incorporate within the other grants budget. The RFO highlighted that the amount was agreed as part of adopted policy by Council due to powers which permitted Town Council to make such payments.
- **Flower Beds** – Councillor A.E. Tippings to liaise with office in respect of NHS 70th anniversary colour scheme and office then to ascertain quantity when placing order
- **Assembly Room / Picture Gallery** – Councillor A.E. Tippings had liaised with House, with an appropriate budget set aside, but there had been no progress to date – Clerk to liaise with House Manager

The Budget Against Actual was approved accordingly.

Asset Register

- Allotments, Deighton playing field / Sirhowy Community Garden – a Member suggested these should be included in the Asset Register; it was noted these had been transferred to Town Council under lease arrangements not freehold. Clerk to pursue with BG Colleagues within the Estates Section
- Street furniture – related to benches and 'Fences' to gates
- Bust – noted there was not great security in place, CCTV coverage; Members emphasised public access
- Memorial gifts – gifts from Orvault, RFO said that levels stated have to match the Asset

Register

- No increase with inflation / deteriorations, if Council wished would have to revalue entire Asset Register as a whole

The Asset Register as at 31st March, 2018, was approved accordingly.

Schedule of Accounts

- **Electrical provision, War Memorial** – it was suggested that Clerk could inform House Manager, that as the grant amount had not been claimed by Aneurin Leisure the previous financial year, these monies could be utilised to purchase a second column

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.

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

- a) Events Sub-Committee – 7th March, 2018**
- b) Civic Meeting of Council – 7th March, 2018**
- c) Policy Sub-Committee – 21st March, 2018**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 21st March, 2018**

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

385) Matters arising from the Minutes

Civic Meeting of Council – 7th March, 2018

- Gymfinity Gymnastics – Members noted the funding allocated to this organisation had been well used in engaging youngsters in physical activity and supporting the town.
- Kidney Wales Walk for Life – thanks were expressed to the Mayor for organising the event for the Deputy Mayor and travelling to Cardiff to collect the sponsor forms and T-shirts.
- Quiz Wizards – the shop had now re-opened, therefore the engraving could be undertaken to the Shield; this should read ‘2017’.

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 21st March, 2018

- OVW Motions for 2018 Annual General Meeting – maximum of two motions for debate; agreed – to be agendaed for ‘May cycle’ Ordinary Meeting of Council.
- Tramroad Trails Study – any Members wishing to participate to contact representative direct.
- Updating of office computers – this issue to be progressed with a view to completion by end of May 2018.

386) Chair to sign Minutes

Minutes to be duly signed by the Mayor in the presence of Council.

387) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) C. Edwards-Brown Re: Protocol to mark the death of a Senior National Figure or Local Holder of High Office.
 - Noted; to be retained on file.
 - b) i) Precept Cheque – **cheque with RFO**
ii) Grants from Tredegar Members totalling £1400 – **cheque with RFO**
 - Noted.
 - c) F. Olding Re: Tredegar War Memorial. Response regarding product suggested for use on the Memorial.
 - Noted; Council suggested meeting with Dudley's. A Member asked that the trees be cut back that were overhanging the war memorial.

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

- d) 1. List of Licensing Applications week ending 06.04.2018.
 - i) A. Taylor – Personal licence
 - 2. List of Licensing Applications week ending 13.04.2018
 - i) Tredegar Orpheus – temporary events notice.
 - ii) 7 The Circle – change of address for premise licence holder
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Innovative Practice National Awards 2018: Winners, Highly Commended and Commended Councils.
 - Noted; suggested that this be passed to the RFO to view the website of the Winner and Highly Commended, for best practice.
 - b) Report from Age Cymru “Showcasing tackling loneliness”.
 - Noted; place on TTC website and circulate to appropriate organisations.
 - c) The importance of External Audit – A message from Deryck Evans Wales Audit Office.
 - Noted.

- 3) Mrs. S. O'Sullivan Letter of thanks for the donation, now donated to Velindre Hospital for Cancer Research Wales.
- Noted, send letter of best wishes.
- 4) T. Farrup Eurocaps Site expansion asking to show Council their provisional expansion proposed plans and application form. (Attached)
- Noted; Council welcomed these additional jobs to the Tredegar area.
- 5) Welsh Government 2018/19 Funding to support the initial setting up of joint arrangements. Reminder closing date for applications is 20.04.2018.
- Noted.
- 6) Melin Donation of £50,00 each to the Armed Forces Day and Aneurin Bevan Day – **cheques with RFO**
- Noted; send letter of thanks.
- 7) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Improving working structures: reviewing governance and committee structure. Deadline for comments on proposed changes is 27.04.2018 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
- Noted.
- 8) Powys County Council Adoption of Powys Local Development Plan was on 17.04.2018.
- Noted.

9) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 13.04.2018 & 20.04.2018; Communicorp Local Councils Update April 2018 Issue 216.
 – **distributed to Members:** received.

10) AGENDA

Advance notice of Special Democratic Services Committee meeting Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 12th April, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday, 18th April, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday, 18th April, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room – additional item No. 18.; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum agenda for meeting Friday, 20th April, at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 24th April, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 23rd April, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

Available for Members – received.

388) Planning:

a) To consider an Officer's Report (if received) – None received

- i) List of planning applications received in week 14.
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 15.

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 – None received

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

- Universal Credit – Members were encouraged to attend the training session organised by Penny Walker 'Tai Calon Community House Ltd.'
- Welsh Ambulance Station 'Tredegar' – three Members had attended a visit to the newly refurbished ambulance station in Tredegar. This was now a more advanced station with four extra people. A Member said that a letter of thanks was needed for welcoming Members and commended staff on the way the station worked. He suggested that Members should take this into their local community to make residents aware of the service provided. Another Member supported her Colleague's comments, as this had been a most interesting visit, adding that across the entire Aneurin Bevan Health Board area, there were only fifteen ambulances operating. It was agreed that representatives be invited to a future meeting of Council.
- Welsh Ladies Rugby Player– congratulations to sixteen-year-old Hannah Powell, who had been chosen for the under 18s Welsh rugby squad at the Millennium Stadium and as a player for the Dragons; it was agreed that, when Hannah formally received her 'cap', she be invited to attend a future presentation awards evening of the Town Council.
- Autistic Centre, Glanhwy Primary School – a Member referred to her recent visit to the autistic centre based at Glanhwy Primary School, when she had been extremely impressed. She said the work being undertaken at the Centre was phenomenal and the reception for her husband and herself had been amazing. The Member had not been aware this had existed and commended the Centre on how the children had progressed in a very short period of time; she was grateful for the visit and the excellent work should be commended.
- A4048 Tredegar to Blackwood – an accident of a serious nature had occurred on this highway two weeks ago; it had been suggested that a meeting be arranged between Town Council Members and other representatives – Clerk to pursue with Alun Davies, A.M.
- Tredegar Business Forum – the Forum had enquired of any financial aid, as they would like to undertake planting of flowers in the planters throughout the town.

- 'Miss Teen Inspiration 2017/2018' – it was agreed that a letter be forwarded, congratulating Renee Seaward on this achievement.
- Proposed plan for Health Board – Members had attended a meeting where a good debate had ensued on the intent of the Health Board; hopefully a plan that was acceptable to all concerned would be devised. It was agreed that Health Board representative, Bobby Bolt, be invited to the September Ordinary meeting of Council to provide an update.
- Civic award presentations – Councillor Alyson Tippings nominated two recipients for consideration, which were agreed accordingly; Councillor Tippings to liaise with the office to fill out the appropriate forms.
- Bedwellty House and Park – concerns were raised in respect of a number of issues, e.g. children's swings, play equipment outside Orchid House, reason why barrier was not secured, plans for tennis courts, ASB (throwing slates), etc.; it was agreed that a meeting with appropriate parties be pursued, i.e. Health Board, Police and Aneurin Leisure, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

_____ Chair