

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: **Clerk – Ms. C. Price**

001) Apologies: **Councillor T. Gregory**

002) Thanks and Appreciation by Councillor J. Thomas, Mayor 2017 - 2018.

The Mayor thanked those Councillors who has supported her for the last two years in her role as Mayor and to a fantastic Deputy Mayor for his support when she had been unable to attend events due to holidays and work commitments. She thanked everyone who supported her Mayoral Appeals, both Multiple Sclerosis and Blaenau Gwent Otters. It had been a privilege to serve Tredegar and the people.

The Deputy Mayor said it was a pleasure to offer this vote of thanks to Jacquie, on behalf of the Council. It had been quite a busy few years for her that had seen her and Mark's wedding, a new grandchild, UK Presidency of Community her Trade Union, all whilst holding down a full-time job and becoming Tredegar's first ever back-to-back Mayor. "To be honest Jacq, I don't know how you managed it."

The Mayor had worked tirelessly to raise funds for Blaenau Gwent Otters, her Mayor's charity and organised the Kidney Wales, Walk for Life, for the third successive year.

She had been a fine ambassador for our town. Her friendliness, character and sense of style, has charmed our residents, visitors and guests, all of which have received a traditional Tredegar welcome from the Mayor.

The Deputy Leader knew the Mayor's years of office had been filled with memorable occasions. She hoped that these had formed a lasting memory for her, just as her years in office have done for all of us. "Thank you for being a great ambassador for Tredegar and Wales. Now have a rest, put your feet up and come back next week, fighting fit and raring to go on the back benches."

Councillor Smith supported these comments, as it had been an honour, and expressed his thanks to the Mayor, particularly for the fundraising she had undertaken during her years in office and the monies raised. He thereupon outlined an additional individual which he had received for a Civic nomination, which was agreed accordingly.

003) To Elect a Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

A Member proposed that Councillor Haydn Trollope, due to the excellent work he had already done and for being a credit to the town, continue to the role as Mayor. This nomination was seconded with the above sentiments fully endorsed.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Haydn Trollope was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Mayor.

004) Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the incoming Mayor.

At this point, the Chain of Office will be handed over and the Consort's Chain will also be exchanged. Gifts / flowers will be given to incoming and outgoing Consort.

At this point the Chain of Office was presented to the Mayor; Mayor to receive acceptance of Office, to be duly signed accordingly.

The newly appointed Mayor, Councillor Haydn Trollope, thereupon stood as Chair of the meeting

005) To receive any communication the Mayor may wish to lay before Council.

Councillor Haydn Trollope was pleased to accept the role of Mayor; he was honoured and felt privileged to once again undertake this role for another year.

The Mayor had to give some thanks; firstly, to his wife for the continued support she had always given him; secondly, to his sister for being his Consort; his Colleagues for nominating him and to Jacqueline for the excellent way she had portrayed the Council over the last two years, she was a hard act to follow.

As a Blaenau Gwent Councillor, he felt it was a loss for Blaenau Gwent Council, when Members had voted to lose the position of Mayor. He considered this an important role, as people wanted to see the Mayoral chain and what it represented. It was a great privilege to visit people, for instance there were a number of '100 birthdays' attended by the Mayor, and it was an honour to be there. The Town Council had gained as a result of this loss and would go strong as a Council.

Thanks to Clare and Annette in advance; as this was his second time as Mayor, he knew he would need their support.

The Mayor thereupon announced his Mayoral Appeal this year was for the autistic base at Glanhwy Primary School and the Heads of the Valley Gateway Club.

006) To Elect a Deputy Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

A Member proposed that Councillor Ellen Jones be nominated to the role of Deputy Mayor

There being no other nominations, Councillor Ellen Jones was thereupon unanimously elected to the role of Deputy Mayor: Deputy Mayor to receive acceptance of Office, to be duly signed accordingly.

007) To Elect a Member as Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

A Member stated it was a great honour for him to nominate his Ward Colleague, Councillor Tommy Smith, to carry on the role as Leader in the same understanding manner that he had undertaken for the last number of years.

The nomination was duly seconded and appointed.

Councillor Smith thereupon accepted the role of Leader and thanked all his Colleagues in allowing him the opportunity to continue in this role and for their continuous support - it had been an honour to represent Council.

Leader to receive the acceptance of Office; to be duly signed accordingly.

008) To Elect a Member as Deputy Leader of Council until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

A Member proposed that Councillor Alyson Tippings be nominated to the role of Deputy Leader, as she was pleased to support this Member. The nomination was duly seconded and Councillor Alyson Tippings appointed as Deputy Leader.

The Deputy Leader thanked her Colleagues for electing her to this role and would carry on to the best of her ability, as she had done in the role for the past three years.

Deputy Leader to receive the acceptance of Office; to be duly signed accordingly.

009) To approve that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio Members of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees with voting rights.

This was agreed unanimously.

010) To receive and confirm the Standing Orders of Tredegar Town Council:

All Members were reminded that this document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing their Declaration of Office.

This was agreed unanimously.

011) To receive and confirm the Financial Regulations of Tredegar Town Council.

All Members were reminded that this document formed part of the Councillor pack received at the point of signing their Declaration of Office.

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

012) To appoint Barclays Bank plc as the Council's Bankers (existing).

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

013) To Authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, with the Clerk and RFO, to sign cheques on behalf of Tredegar Town Council.

This was agreed unanimously, as approved by the previous administration.

Members were reminded that the Clerk and RFO would only sign cheques in the case of an emergency, once proper approval had been gained from the other four signatories listed.

014) To consider any Urgent correspondence.

1) Cllr T. Gregory

Resignation letter

- A Member said that Tredegar Town Council had a dress code that all Members adhered to; therefore, perhaps not all the reasons as to why the resignation were outlined but Council would accept it. Council would continue to draw the attention of all Members to abide by the Code of Conduct.

It was agreed that the Clerk undertake the necessary process in contacting Blaenau Gwent to advise that there was a vacancy within the Council, with a view to either an election or co-option appropriately.

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk in dealing with the matter, as the Officer dealt with all policy matters on behalf of Council.

2) One Voice Wales

a) Independent Review Panel "pop-in" sessions across Wales: Asking Council to open its doors on 24.05.2018 to collect views. **Need a response by 08.05.2018.**

b) Notification of 2018/19 National Pay Agreement, applicable from April 2018.

- Noted.

3) PUBLICATIONS - Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting - Noted.

4) AGENDA - Deferred to the Ordinary Meeting- Noted.

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

015) To consider any Urgent Planning Applications

a) Officer's report

- i) List of planning applications received in week 16.
- ii) List of planning applications received in week 17.

b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee

A verbal report was received from a Member and the points raised were listed by the relevant application below.

c) APPLICATIONS

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2018/0120	Mr. M. Packer Haymarc Healthcare 35 Castle Street Tredegar	Retain existing storage containers, to be clad in timber frame external wall system, with slated roofs pitched at 20 degrees, rear of 35-36 Castle Street.

No Objections – Council fully supported the application; this was a much-needed retail shop for the disabled and, if to be relocated elsewhere, would be a loss to Tredegar / Blaenau Gwent. A Member agreed with the comments and said that, from a planning perspective, there were more eyesores throughout Tredegar. Council therefore welcomed this planning application that would improve the visual amenity of the landscape in Tredegar.

C/2018/0121	Mr. B. James 51 Glyn Terrace Tredegar	Detached garage in the rear garden, 51 Glyn Terrace.
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No Objections

C/2018/0123	Mr. D. Medlicott 45 North Avenue Tredegar	Single storey garage, 45 North Avenue.
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No Objections

d) Other Planning Matters

None received – Noted.

016) To set the Mayor's Allowance (£1,050) and to authorise payment of the allowance.

The Leader said that, having spoken with the Clerk and the RFO, and following a meeting of the IRPW/SLCC/OVW where it was advised that all remuneration should be subject to tax and paid via a bank account, he asked that Council consider increasing the allowance to £1,315.00, which subject to normal pay deductions, should result in the level of Mayoral allowance being approximately £1,052.00.

The Mayor, Councillor H. Trollope, declared an interest and therefore took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

This was agreed unanimously.

017) To set a Leader's Allowance, as per the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16th March, 2016, not exceeding £500.00.

In respect of a query raised in respect of payroll deductions relating to the Leader's allowance, the Clerk confirmed that this allowance was capped and could not be increased.

This was agreed unanimously.

018) To appoint a Civic Committee (all Members of Council).

This was agreed unanimously.

019) To appoint ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL to the Performance Review Committee to meet quarterly.

This was agreed unanimously.

020) To confirm the following Sub-Committees and to appoint Members to serve on them until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

a. Civic Sub-Committee

Councillors T. Smith (Leader) (Chair), H. Trollope (Mayor), E. Jones (Deputy Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), D. Rowberry, D. Howells, D. Jones, J. Thomas, M. Cross.

b. Events Sub-Committee

Councillors M. Turner (Chair), H. Trollope (Mayor), E. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), A. Jones, D. Jones, J. Thomas, P. Waldron

c. Heritage Sub-Committee (encompassing Bedwellty House and Park, the Assembly Room Picture Gallery, Tredegar War Memorials and Tredegar Town Clock) with plenary powers up to £500.00

Councillors J. Thomas (Chair), H. Trollope (Mayor), E. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), P. Prosser, D. Howells, P. Waldron, A. Jones, M. Cross.

d. Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee

Councillors H. Trollope (Mayor) (Chair Finance), E. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Turner (Chair Staffing), D. Howells, D. Rowberry, B. Willis, J. Thomas.

It was noted that, due to the nature of this Sub-Committee, the role for one Chair was very demanding; hence the agreed decision to split to two separate chairs representing the relevant roles of the Sub-Committee.

e. Appeals Committee

Councillors M. Cross (Chair), P. Prosser, S. Trollope, D. Jones, G. James, T. Gregory.

f. Policy Sub-Committee - All Members of Council

Councillor H. Trollope (Mayor) (Chair), All Members of Council

g. Community, Youth and International Sub-Committee

Councillors A.E. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), H. Trollope (Mayor), E. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), D. Rowberry, S. Trollope, J. Thomas, D. Jones, P. Waldron, G. James.

h. One Voice Wales Climate Change Adaptation Programme

Councillors A. Tippings (Deputy Leader) (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), D. Jones, A. Jones, E. Jones, P. Waldron.

Members were reminded this was a Working Party and anyone who was interested or wished to contribute were welcome.

i. Tredegar Public Facilities

(To incorporate Tredegar W/C Facilities the Deighton Playing fields and Sirhowy Community Garden,)

Councillors B. Willis (Chair), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), H. Trollope (Mayor), M. Cross, P. Waldron (Reserve).

j. Planning

Councillor P. Prosser (Sirhowy Ward); A. Jones (Reserve)

Councillor P. Waldron (Georgetown Ward); G. Meredith (Reserve)

Councillor M. Turner (Central & West); D. Howells (Reserve)

Councillor T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve Member).

Members were reminded to call into the Office to view the planning applications prior to the Meeting.

It was agreed that each Ward could select a Chair to present that Ward's observations at Town Council meetings, if they wished to do so.

k. Publicity Committee – NEW Committee

Councillors S. Trollope (Chair), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), M. Turner, E. Jones, D. Jones, P. Waldron, T. Smith (Leader) (Reserve).

The Chair of Committees and Sub-Committees to be elected at the first Meeting of that Committee / Sub-Committee and to serve until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

021) To confirm the appointment of Mr. S. Bees as the Internal Auditor until the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

Confirmed; this was agreed unanimously.

022) To appoint Members to serve on the following outside bodies:

The following Committee list was available to all Members at the meeting and unanimously agreed.

a. Joint Committee of Local Councils

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope (Mayor), D. Howells, P. Waldron; Ms. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor E. Jones (Reserve).

i. Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope (Mayor), J. Thomas, Ms. C. Price (Clerk); Councillor P. Waldron (Reserve).

ii. One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), H. Trollope (Mayor), M. Cross, P. Waldron.

b. Tredegar Twinning Association

Councillors T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope (Mayor), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), B. Willis; Ms. C. Price (Clerk).

c. School Governing Bodies

i) Bryn Bach Primary

Councillor D. Jones

ii) Deighton Primary

Councillor S. Trollope

iii) Georgetown Primary

Councillor P. Waldron

- iv) **Glanhowy Primary**
(Vacancy)
- v) **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary**
Councillor T. Smith
- d. **Blaenau Gwent CAB**
Councillors H. Trollope (Mayor), E. Jones, T. Gregory (Reserve).
- e. **Tredegar and Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel**
Councillor T. Smith (Leader).
All Members were encouraged to attend the Bi-Monthly meetings
- f. **Tredegar Business Forum**
Councillors T. Smith (Leader) and H. Trollope (Mayor).
- g. **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**
Councillors P. Prosser, B. Willis, T. Smith (Leader), H. Trollope (Mayor) (Reserve).
- h. **Allotment Association**
Councillors H. Trollope (Mayor), E. Jones (Deputy Mayor), T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader), P. Waldron (Chair), A. Jones.
- i. **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative**
Councillor T. Smith (Leader).
- j. **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund**
Councillor T. Smith (Leader), A. Tippings (Deputy Leader).

023) To agree the presentation of the Aneurin Bevan Prize, the Peter Morgan Jones and Michael Foot Awards, in conjunction with Tredegar Comprehensive School.

For the new Members of Council, it was explained that the Aneurin Bevan Prize was awarded for science; the Peter Morgan-Jones for arts / crafts and encompassing music; and the Michael Foot for literature. For each, a cash prize was given and the winners were presented with a trophy, which remained displayed at the school.

This was agreed unanimously.

024) To agree the presentation of the Tony Gregory Award.

For the new Members of Council, it was explained that Tony Gregory (deceased) was a former Councillor, who had very much supported the community, helping people reach their goals and was a champion of young people; he supported youngsters who may have gone astray and those lesser academic achievers to help them bring out/learn skills within the community.

The award was for a young person who had made a difference to their life and criteria had been established; past recipients and their achievements were highlighted.

This was agreed unanimously.

** Members asked that the schools be informed that more notice was required for the Awards evening, as the previous Mayor had been given less than twenty-four hours and could not allow the necessary time from work.

025) To confirm the pattern and timings of Meetings of Council:

These were confirmed as unchanged and thereupon agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.36 p.m.

_____ Chair