

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

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

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

**176) Apologies:** Councillors A. Jones, D. Jones, S. Rees, D. Rowberry

## **177) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **178) Invitation extended to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Ms. Bobby Bolt, to provide an update on primary health care for the Tredegar area**

The Chair extended a welcome to the ABUHB representatives, Bobby Bolt and Dee Pucket, who were in attendance to provide an update on primary health care and the proposed design build in respect of the Tredegar area.

Ms. Bolt briefly outlined the background to progress to date in respect of developing an estates strategy with a view to developing a Resource Centre. Welsh Government had identified funding for primary care in Tredegar; the first to be developed through that route. A commitment had been undertaken to appoint architects to carry out the Feasibility Study, assessing the site to identify what was needed. Interviews would be undertaken in October 2018.

A recent site visit had resulted in expressions of interest received, and it was anticipated that work would commence fairly soon. An assessment would be undertaken of the site and a service model to work on the design of the building. Representatives thereupon responded to questions raised:

- Consultation – a series of open engagement events would be held November /

December to consult with the local people.

- Funding – investment had been committed partially towards the development, however the build warranted a larger development to accommodate a Wellbeing Centre. The two options available were similar in respect of costs incurred, i.e. demolish and rebuild or sustainability of adapting the existing building. Members outlined their views, some on the advantages of new build and others on retaining the existing in celebrating the history of NHS.

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

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

- Annual Return and report of BDO;
- Budget Against Actual Figures to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018;
- LG Pension Scheme (LGPS) Employer Pension Policy – additional Policies agreed accordingly; AND
- Report on changes to Members' payments: **Deferred**  
Agreed that a decision in relation to **Determinations 44, 47 and 52** and 'Recovery circumstances' (clawback options) be deferred for further discussion at the Civic Meeting of Council to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018.

**180) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in September 2018; with ratification of payments made during August recess**

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view. The Officer highlighted the urgent payments for ratification, made during the August recess and approved by the senior officers under delegated powers, as agreed by Council.

- Peter Morgan Jones Award – Clerk to liaise in respect of artwork
- Tony Gregory Award – Members invited to submit nominations

There being no further queries regarding the Schedule of Accounts all other presented items were approved for payment. Transfer of funds had been undertaken in the presence of an appropriate Member and the Town Clerk, which was approved accordingly.

The RFO left the meeting at this juncture.

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

- a) Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018
- c) Events Sub-Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2018
- d) Civic Sub-Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2018
- e) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2018
- f) Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018
- g) Events Sub-Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018

## **h) Heritage Sub-Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

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

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

#### **Civic Meeting of Council - 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018**

- A4048 Tredegar to Blackwood – the Leader provided a brief update following the meeting with the Assembly Member; it was unlikely that Welsh Government would invest in this area, as the majority of accidents resulted from speeding, and monies would be better spent elsewhere in the town. Members considered that concerns in respect of the junction needed to be addressed as a high priority and highway improvements undertaken; also, issues in respect of visibility and street lighting.
- Ponds, Bedwellty Park – pursue meeting with Water Authority and Aneurin Leisure Trust. Friends of Bedwellty Park had been pursuing this issue but had received no response from Welsh Water.
- Drug activity: letter to Police Inspector – County Borough Members had met with the Police Inspector and Sergeant, to discuss matters raised via email and social media. The letter from Town Council had been raised and Members explained the dual role of some Town Council and County Borough Members. A Member said that feedback indicated that sending emails to the PCC and Chief Constable had been considered detrimental to the relationship, causing animosity as the Police were willing to accept an invitation to attend Council and discuss concerns.

Following a brief discussion, a number of Members felt it was appropriate for Council to write however, if considered necessary, to address concerns and a Member expressed disappointment at the lack of response from the PCC. The Clerk clarified that, on attending a meeting of Council to undertake a presentation, the PCC had highlighted that he would not be intervening on policing matters and this would remain the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

The Leader highlighted that he had not been in favour of writing to the Inspector, with a copy to the PCC and Chief Constable, and he could not see any benefit to this action being undertaken. All Members had the email address and telephone numbers of the Officers covering Tredegar and felt that such letters could antagonise and result in a less co-operative relationship.

Members thereupon reiterated concerns in respect of the following: illegal parking, surveillance required; drugs - a forum was needed to work directly with the Police; and ASB. Members considered there was an escalation in such crime with no feedback received from the Police.

*It was agreed, therefore, that an invitation be extended to the Police to attend the Civic Meeting of Council in October.*

#### **Civic Sub-Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2018**

- Spiritual Chapel – Councillor A.E. Tippings to forward relevant documentation to the office to be passed on to the Chapel.

#### **Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2018**

- Civic nomination – Councillor A.E. Tippings to complete form for local historian.

#### **Tredegar Public Facilities Sub-Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018**

- Parking: Deighton playing field – Members had visited the site whereupon it had been agreed that vehicular movement could prove an added danger to users. Members

agreed that the present circumstances be maintained.

### 183) Chair to sign Minutes

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

### 184) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
  - a) P. Amos: Response from relevant officer in relation to recycling bags.
    - Noted.
  - b) M Howland
    - i) Re: Community Asset Transfer Policy, Town & Community Councils. Changes regarding application process for Town Councils.
      - Clerk to liaise to pursue the possibility of the freehold or long-term lease on Deighton playing field.
    - ii) Community Asset Transfer Groups: Blaenau Gwent, Funding Surgery/Energy. Information on a CASC workshop arranged by The Coalfield Regeneration Trust 27.09.2018 and request from D. Watkins as to which clubs/groups will be buying back services from BGCBC.
      - Noted; concern had been expressed regarding the terminology 'disposed of'. Clerk to request list of assets to be disposed of in Tredegar area.
- 2) One Voice Wales
  - a) Gwent Valleys Area Committee Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. Cwmbran Community Council, guest speaker is Andrew Charles Communities Division, Welsh Government talking about Community Asset Transfers.
    - Noted; forward to Councillor T. Smith.
  - b) Boundary Commission Wales: 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales. Final Recommendations Report has been submitted to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, will be added to Commissions website once report has been laid at Parliament.
    - Noted.

- c) Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being in Wales 2019-2023: Call for Grant Proposals. Deadline for applications 03.12.2018.
- To be placed on TTC website; Clerk to check if Town Council eligible.
- 3) Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales      Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County Blaenau Gwent: Draft Proposals, period for representation commencing 18.09.2018 to 10.12.2019.
- Noted.
- 4) GAVO      Blaenau Gwent Volunteer Awards 2018 Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 6.30 p.m. EVI, Ebbw Vale. Request to let them know who will be attending – **5 Spaces**
- To attend: Mayor and Consort, Deputy Mayor and guest, Leader.
- 5) Cllr Thomas      Completed Civic Nomination form.
- Noted; it was suggested this individual would be a worthy recipient of the Tony Gregory Award, which was supported and agreed accordingly.
- Councillor A. Tippings declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*
- 6) A. Tippings      Asking whether Council wishes to sponsor the Harvest Thanksgiving and Flower Festival taking place between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, floral display £30.00.
- Members approved the donation; RFO to process.
- 7) Communicorp      Renewal notice for Local Councils Update.
- Approved; RFO to process.
- 8) R. Taylor-Davies      Invitation to Mapping Our Heritage Launch 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 11.30 a.m. The White Cross, Groeswen.
- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
- 9) Hospice of the Valleys      Open invitation for the Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 at 3.00 p.m. Festival Drive, Ebbw Vale, rsvp by 22.10.2018.

- Noted.

10) Armed Forces  
Covenant Fund  
Trust

Resources to help with the award.

- Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.

## 11) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Road works report week ending 14.09.2018 & 21.09.2018; Ville D'Orvault, Orvault & Co Sept / Oct 2018 issue 19; Communicorp Local Councils Update September 2018 Issue 221; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct September 2018 Issue 119 – ***distributed to Members***: Received.

## 12) AGENDA

Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Ordinary Meeting Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Social Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 9.30am Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 12.30 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meeting Friday,, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library; Special Audit Committee Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 10.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Executive Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale.

**Available for Members** – received.

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

### 185) Planning:

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

- i) None received.
- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 35.  
b) List of planning applications received in week 36.

#### b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any – None received.

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

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2018/0265	Miss C Jones Liberty Care 5 Nursery Terrace	Two storey and single storey rear extensions, 5 Nursery Terrace.

Tredegar

**No objections.**

C/2018/0266

Ms. L. O'Connell  
5 Markham Terrace  
Markham

Detached dormer bungalow,  
land adjoining 7 Arches  
Close.

**No objections.**

#### **d) Other Planning Matters**

For information: a Member highlighted issues that had arisen following a housing build undertaken at the rear of Bryn Bach Primary School as a result of a proposed amendment to the access road, which was now higher than the retaining wall to the play area. Concerns were that motorists could drive directly off the road, endangering the safety of the school children. The Member therefore wished that Governors were aware of this issue that could have an adverse impact of their School, should a similar situation arise on future developments.

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

- Concerns were again raised in respect of the extensive amount of broken glass in the town centre on weekends - apparently from drinking glasses / glass bottles taken from drinking establishments the previous evenings. Agreed, this needed monitoring.
- Y Cwtch – there was a cross in a display case with a plaque attributed to Toc. H. Merthyr; the Clerk enquired if Council would be happy for her to liaise with Merthyr Museum to donate the item, which was agreed accordingly. Councillors P. Prosser and S. Trollope had undertaken an inventory throughout the August recess of all photographs in the Cwtch.
- Welsh Blood Service – a Member raised concern that the service closed at lunchtime and enquired why staff could not undertake staggered lunch breaks; also concern why an appointment was needed as donations were greatly needed and it was disappointing that potential donors were being turned away.
- Interviews 'Tredegar Build' Design Team – Members nominated Councillor Jacqueline Thomas to attend to represent Tredegar Town Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.

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Chair