

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 7th November, 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
 J. Thomas
 S. Trollope
 M. Turner
 B.G. Willis

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

224) Apologies: Councillors E. Jones, M. Cross P. Prosser, S. Rees, D. Rowberry

The Mayor referred to the tragic passing of Councillor Peter Waldron; Council observed a Minute silence as a mark of respect to their Colleague.

The Leader said that, prior to the meeting, Members had paid tribute to Peter at their Events Sub-Committee and the work he had done on behalf of Town Council, particularly the summer band concerts over a ten-week period and Aneurin Bevan Day, but also at the Christmas lights switch-on and many other events held throughout the year. The passing of Peter was very raw, but he wanted to acknowledge the loss of a good friend and Colleague, on behalf of all Councillors and his friends at the Museum, and he was aware that Phil would have liked to be present at Council today to pay tribute also.

The Deputy Leader said that Peter had only been on Town Council a short time but commended his diligence and hard work as a Member of Council and his contribution to the community: he would be greatly missed. The Member was aware of the suffering such a loss would cause his family and wished to extend the kind thoughts of Council at this time.

Councillor David Jones said that Peter had been a very good friend, having joined as Members at the same time and made him feel welcome – being his ‘butty’ on the Council and buying him his first pint! He was a great man and a great gentleman.

The Chair that Peter had not been the average Councillor, but a man of the people, and if he had something to say he would say it to get it ‘off his chest’, always in a right and proper manner. Prior to being a Councillor, Peter had been the oldest paperboy in town and the

Chair had the greatest respect for Peter, who had always been happy to lay into him!, starting with “let me tell you now...”. He said that the family had been invited to attend Council to observe the tributes paid, but had declined the invitation, explaining that the loss was too fresh to attend.

225) Declarations of Interest

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

226) To receive a presentation from Lead Ambassador, Engage to Change, Gerraint Jones-Griffiths, joined by the National Director for All Wales People First, Joe Powell

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Gerraint Jones-Griffiths, the Lead Ambassador for ‘Engage to Change’, who was in attendance to provide a presentation in respect of the work he was undertaking providing support to young people with Autism, Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties to ensure employers provided appropriate job opportunities. Unfortunately, the National Director for All Wales People First, Joe Powell, had to extend his apologies due to another commitment.

The Lead Ambassador briefly provided his own experience and knowledge, having himself been diagnosed with Autism in 2007, as follows: -

- Education, comprehensive school 2007-2012 with 1-1 Support in all lessons
- Transition Project for 14-19-year olds, working with 1,700 young people to gain Work Experience
- Caerphilly Youth Forum, joined aged 16 and became Environment Chair on the Cabinet – 800 young people voted for the Priority Issue ‘Stop Smoking in Parks’
- Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone
- Engage to Change, started as Administrator in 2016
- Engage to Change Lead Ambassador process – invited to apply by Project Manager and was successful
- Finally ... A is Not for Autism, A is for Achievement!

The Chair commended Gerraint, highlighting it was a privilege to have a young person from Tredegar as Lead Ambassador for Wales. Gerraint said he had been extremely honoured to be invited to attend Council to speak in respect of Engage to Change.

The Leader congratulated Gerraint on an excellent presentation; he referred to the ASD base at Glanhwy and said it was pleasing to hear that those young people would go on to gain work experience from employers within the Tredegar area and noted the importance of involving young people in the Forum. It had been great to hear of Gerraint’s success story and pleasing to note his ongoing work with the public in sharing his experiences with other young people.

In response to a question raised, Gerraint confirmed the Project would conclude 2021, and when this was at an end, he would be looking at administrative roles and, perhaps, stand as a Councillor.

The Chair said that in the short time Gerraint had been in post, he had been in contact with the appropriate Blaenau Gwent Officers in respect of apprenticeships. Gerraint was not only Ambassador for those with Autism, but other disabilities also, to gain meaningful

employment and obtain an apprenticeship. He was doing a tremendous job and Council supported his work 100%. He thereupon extended thanks to the Lead Ambassador for a most interesting and comprehensive presentation and responding to questions raised accordingly.

227) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor referred to the tributes paid to Peter, he honestly believed that within two years Peter would have been Mayor, who recognised the importance of the Town Mayor role and understanding the opportunity and privilege in representing the town.

228) To receive any verbal recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting

The Chair endorsed the tributes to Peter, who was hard working and always one of the first to do everything to help out for an event. He thereupon provided a brief update of the arrangements being undertaken in organising the following events: -

- Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday – Saturday, 10th November, 2018 – Cairn walk and WW1 commemorative benches; Sunday, 11th November, 2018 – Remembrance Service at St. George's Church followed by parade and Cenotaph; Burma Shrine service (the Leader asked anyone Members assisting in setting up of equipment to be at the House between 8.00 and 9.00 a.m.).
- WW1 Beacons of Lights 11th November, 2018 at 6.45 p.m.
- Christmas Lights switch-on, Friday, 30th November, 2018
- The following expenditure recommended to Council for approval was agreed accordingly – purchase of two gazebos under the delegated powers of the Leader's expenditure; and, Emergency medical cover provision by Acute Medics.
- Ongoing actions to be reported to Council and noted accordingly.

The Chair apologised that he had been unable to attend the earlier meeting due to another commitment but wished to commend Councillors Tommy Smith and Bernard Willis for affixing the lamppost poppies, as this had been a brilliant display – there had only been one incident, with the youngsters of Tredegar showing great respect for the display. He also commended the work undertaken to the Cenotaph, as the cleaning undertaken had been to a really good standard.

Thanks were also extended to Members in removing the lamppost poppies and to the cleaning operative for his help.

229) Grants:

Tredegar Camera Club – Any financial assistance received would be used to cover the costs of venue rental and guest speakers at open nights.

2017/18 Nov'17 CQ No. 722 £200.00: Approved.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) Grants as of 01.04.2017 now max £300.00 – None received.

230) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC
- a) C. Herring Re: Community Connectors Community Christmas Lunch. Asking if Council would like to make a donation. Will be held at the Moose Hall this year.
 - A donation of £100.00 was agreed and approved accordingly.
 - b) M. Howland:
 - i) CAT groups event and webinar organised by Social Business Wales.
 - ii) CAT Policy; lease/freehold Deighton field and Sirhowy Comm. Garden.
 - Clerk had contacted the BG Officer explaining that, if Town Council were unable to acquire the freehold, then a much longer-term lease would be desired. Agreed; Clerk to write to the Officer, requesting a meeting with the Officer and appropriate Executive Member.

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

- c) i) List of Licensing applications week ending 19.10.2018.
Georgetown Stores – variation of Premises Licence.
 - ii) List of Licensing applications week ending 26.10.2018.
T. Smith – Temporary Street Trading Consent.
A. Hughes - Transfer Premises Licence / variation of DPS.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Conference dates for 2019.
 - b) Larger Councils meeting Dates for 2019.
 - c) Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Training Events: 10th & 11th December in Swansea then 12th & 13th in Cardiff.
 - d) Please help us to support the Armed Forces Community: Armed Forces Covenant Promise.
 - e) Armistice events: encouraging to use the Cymru'n Cofio website as a communication platform.
 - f) Veterans in Wales: Welsh Government's Armed Forces team are running a scoping exercise to identify gaps in services for Veterans and their

families in Wales, welcoming feedback from ex-service people and their families.

g) Insurance information.

- Noted.

3) Cllr Tippings

Drawing for commemorative plaques: ***copies of photos for image.***

- Process approved to pursue design.

4) Cllr Smith

4) Cllr Smith Letter from Stagecoach regarding changes to X4 service to Nevill Hall.

- Clerk to write, placing pressure on Stagecoach to review timetables immediately on completion, with a view to resuming services.

5) Planning
Inspectorate

a) Application by Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd, Wauntysswg Farm, Abertysswg: Local Authorities' responses to the Inspector's letter are now available to view on the Appeals Casework Portal. Applicant have until 9.11.2018 to submit addendums to their reports.

b) New website launched for publishing Development of National Significance cases, www.dns.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

- Noted.

6) Rt. Hon. J. Corbyn
M.P.

Thank you letter and photograph re: Aneurin Bevan plate – ***added to website***

- Noted; Members welcomed the response.

7) GAVO

a) Poster advertising for volunteers for Community Connectors Xmas Day Lunch – ***website / twitter***

- Clerk advised Members to contact the office, if they wished for a collective response to be made.

b) Thanks for GAVO Volunteer Awards 2018 sponsorship plus invitation to attend the AGM on 21st November, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Christchurch Centre, Newport.

- Noted, Mayor and Councillor S. Trollope had attended the Awards ceremony.

c) Meet the Employer Events: November 7th, 15th 20th (Bedwellty House) and 28th – ***added to website***

- Noted.
- 8) Smartsignz Invoice: TTC banner for lorry (stage) for switch-on.
- Noted; expenditure agreed and approved accordingly.
- 9) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) a) T. Cullen: Asking for potential dates for a joint town councils meeting for Clare Walters, Head of Service, ABUHB, to present changes regarding the Care Closer to Home service.
- Noted; request for evening meeting, if possible, after 5.00 p.m. – Clerk to write.
- 10) Welsh Hearts Defibrillator Appeal for Wales: Asking what defibs we have and wants to work with Town Councils to make sure that there are plenty of functional public access defibrillators available at all times.
- Clerk to enquire of involvement in placing defibrillators in old telephone boxes.
- 11) K. Platt Armed Forces Covenant Grant: Digital Development programme.
- Noted.
- 12) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Local Development Plan Review: Invitation to submit Candidate Sites (Stage 1 Initial Call for Candidate Sites), deadline is 12.00 midnight on 07.01.2019.
- Noted.
- 13) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service 2019-2020 plans published for consultation and available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SW-FR-S>
- Noted.
- 14) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Poster for the story of WW1 & WWII in pictures 5th - 16th November Council Chambers, Blaina Institute – **added to website**
- Noted.

15) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 26.10.2018, 02.11.2018 & 09.11.2018.

– ***distributed to Members***: Received.

16) AGENDA

None received.

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

231) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 42
- b) List of planning applications received in week 43
- c) List of planning applications received in week 44

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/2018/0297	Mr. D. Steed Peter Barnes & Associates Garnlydan Farm Ebbw Vale	Retention of a single dwelling, land adjoining The Nook House, rear of Harford Street

No objections

C/2018/0298	Ms. C. Keane 27 Crossways Tredegar	Retention of raised hardstanding, 27 Crossways
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No objections

C/2018/0191	Melin Homes c/o Asbri Planning 9 Oak Tree Court Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff	Amended plans, Former Greenacre Hostel & No. 16 St. Luke's Road
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No objections: *area has been derelict for a long time and, though some disruption would be expected during construction, Council was looking forward to the development of this land and was interested to note four assisted living units were to be provided as part of the development – welcomed.*

C/2018/0300	Mr. M. Davies Davies Homes Ltd. 7 Gelliwasted Road Pontypridd	Retention of house as built, extension of curtilage and associated alterations to carriageway / footpath (along Laurel Grove), 10 Laurel Grove and carriageway
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No objections

C/2018/0306

Mr. M. Jones
15 Railway View
Tredegar

Proposed new dwelling &
detached garage, land adjacent
to The Spirals.

No objections

d) To consider other planning matters – None received

232) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Annual Report 2019/20. To receive any comments of Members in respect of the draft report (Section 13: Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils)

Members extended their thanks to the RFO for the update and accepted the report accordingly.

233) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally

- A Member said that the fountain was no longer working.

234) Delegates: to receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees / Working Parties:

- a) Joint Committee of Local Councils – no meeting**
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales – no meeting**
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM – no meeting**
- d) Tredegar Twinning – met on Monday, three Councillors were supporting the visit to France, an item to consider ‘exchange of gifts’ should be agendaed. A good response had been received to the CD: to consider a musical exchange / musically engineered collaborative event**
- e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – to meet next Monday**
- f) School Governing Bodies – *Glanhowy Primary School*: Annual General Meeting, the Governor to meet with the new Head the following week – nothing further to report other than to congratulate the new Chair of Governors, Councillor T. Smith, and Vice-Chair, Councillor D. Jones; *Georgetown Primary School*: vacancy – could be an opportunity for Councillor S. Rees, if interested.**
- g) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – a Day School had been held in the Six Bells area on 20th October, 2018, featuring Women in History ‘Suffragettes’, feedback was that this had been a very successful event.**
- h) Blaenau Gwent CAB – no meeting. Clerk to write to DWP regarding concerns on proposals, with a copy to the Member of Parliament.**
- i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – would be taking part in the Christmas Lights switch-on event, handing out advice on various matters.**
- j) Tredegar Business Forum – no meeting, to be rearranged. In respect of planters, brochures available at the OVW conference had been passed to County Borough Councillor John Morgan.**
- k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – TA was progressing well, understand talks ongoing with NCB owner, BG Officers finding difficulty in ascertaining ‘end use’ for the building – upstairs ‘function room’, one side downstairs ‘bistro’. Regeneration Officers**

working with owner, architects working with BG to commence the project – referral planning application.

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

- Cymru Creations Awards Ceremony, 5.00 p.m. – Kevin was a great supporter of Town Council and Members were encouraged to attend.
Members had enjoyed a great night at the advance screening of ‘Dambusters’ – attended by Councillors H. Trollope, T. Smith and B. Willis.
For information: there were DVDs available in respect of the Bomber crash site in Tredegar, £1.00 each.
- Members were reminded of the upcoming Quiz Wizards events and were encouraged to attend.

The Chair thereupon thanked members of the public for attending and Gerraint, once again, for the excellent presentation to Council; whereupon, there being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.26 p.m.

_____ Chair