

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 5th December, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)

**E. Jones
T. Smith
D.W.A. Howells
G. James
D. Jones
P. Prosser
S. Rees
S. Trollope
M. Turner
B.G. Willis**

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

**By invitation: Cenin Renewables representatives:
Martyn Popham, Managing Director
Neil Tapper, Senior Project Engineer**

252) Apologies: Councillors A.E. Tippings, A. Jones, G. Meredith, D. Rowberry and J. Thomas

253) Declarations of Interest

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

254) Representatives of Cenin Renewables invited to speak in respect of: Welsh development, a three-wind turbine scheme on Manmoel Common (working to generate renewable electricity sustainably); and, to respond to questions raised accordingly.

The Chair extended a welcome to representatives of Cenin Renewables – Managing Director, Martyn Popham, and Senior Project Engineer, Neil Tapper, who had been invited to speak in respect of the above development.

Councillor B. Willis declared an interest in the Item, as a Member of the Planning Committee of the Local Authority, and would therefore not take part in any voting process or decision thereon.

The representatives provided a brief background to the organisation: established in 2016, Cenin Renewables operated alongside Cenin Limited having strategy of investment in

renewable energy sources such as wind, photovoltaic and anaerobic digestion, managing all power used in the Cenin plant.

Councillor S. Rees joined the meeting at this juncture (6.09 p.m.)

The representatives thereupon responded to Members questions and provided clarity on any issues raised.

- Infrastructure: the site benefited from good access, mainly being dual carriageway, and this was not a major scheme with only three turbines (maximum, the ridge would not accommodate additional numbers), requiring only three / four lorries. There could be some minor local works on the roads, e.g. traffic calming, with minimal disruption, but as the scheme progressed more information would be available.
- Planning process: this had just commenced and would take approximately two years, with a study of the site for one year. The Company had started engagement with landowners / commoners, as it was good to ascertain views and opinions. A technical study would consider various issues, such as noise (e.g. wind / tonal), distance between turbines, geographical siting, monitoring requirements, etc.
- Location: the nearest site was Parc Stormy, Bridgend; however, the next scheme proposed would be undertaken in the Rhondda area and this process was in advance of the Manmoel wind scheme.
- National Grid: Cenin tended to use the local grid; however, it was hoped that Regulations would be amended to allow the energy to be distributed locally and, although this should be possible in the future, the Company could not currently guarantee this would be fed into the local network.
- Community Payback: there was not a formalised system however the organisation, when looking at payback, considered local organisations and schools for the next twenty years throughout the life of the scheme. A fair proportion of the scheme would be made as a subsidy and would be calculated appropriately.
- School Engagement: the Company would write to all schools in an area extending an invite to visit the site, particularly as energy was now part of the school curriculum, accommodating up to fifty pupils per visit. The Company would pay for transport and encouraged local schools to visit and see the work Cenin undertake, as it was important that younger people understood the process.
- Procurement / employment: such specialised fabrication could not be undertaken locally, therefore the unit was imported from a major manufacturer, however the electrical engineers were based in Abercarn. There had previously been manufacturers in the UK, e.g. Chepstow and the Isle of Wight, but unfortunately these companies had now closed.
- European Union: this was a complex subject, which would require consideration at the appropriate time.

The Chair extended thanks to the representatives for a most comprehensive presentation and responding to questions raised. Members appreciated the offer to visit the site and hoped this could be arranged in the near future.

The representatives of Cenin Renewables thereupon left the meeting.

255) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

- Switch-on of Christmas Lights, thanks to all Members who had participated

- It had been a pleasure to be invited by Councillor M. Cross to present prizes at the Annual Horse Show and the Mayor had been very pleased to note how many youngsters were taking up managing horses
- Attended one of the highlights of the Mayoral year, Annual Dinner with the Blaenau Gwent Otters (Saturday night)
- Central Baptist: to meet knitting club, who supported charities, particularly specialist baby care in respect of stillborn babies, presenting Mayor with a cheque of £50.00 for his charity and also Mother & Toddlers who had presented a £25.00 cheque; the Mayor said these groups were outstanding. Unfortunately, the groups had recently been subject to three break-ins and now had to install a metal door. He had spoken to the Pastor, suggesting he apply for a special grant to Council for CCTV cameras to be installed (a report from Police was that the culprit had been caught but released as not enough evidence)
- Mayor's visits Christmas Eve, Clerk to liaise with Tredegar Community Band representative extending invite

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

The following recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee were presented for consideration and **APPROVED** accordingly:

- Sacred Spirit Spiritual Chapel; a start-up grant of £100.00;
- Tredegar Community Band; a start-up grant of **£100.00**, with an additional Special Grant of **£250.00**;
- Sirhowy Angling Club; as this was not a newly constituted group, a 'start-up' grant of **£200.00**.

257) Further consideration - quotations: restoration of the War Memorial

The RFO spoke to the report, explaining that it had proven difficult to compare like-for-like, although the specification she sent had outlined the materials to be used; the Officer was therefore unable to identify the difference between the quotations.

The report highlighted a number of points:

- Reluctant to guarantee gold leaf / Gilding issue, gold leaf pointing
- Moss / algae was contributing factor; both companies recommended proactive annual maintenance - Members recognised the need to keep the site tidy and the Memorial clean
- Council had used the service of one company previously
- Concerns regarding guarantee on works in respect of unauthorised cleaning; if not undertaken, guarantee could be void
- Check frequency of maintenance required for soldier
- Specification agreed following site meeting with the RFO and Local Authority Heritage Officer and his advice taken on board
- One company offered alternative to gold leaf, i.e. gold paint (ascertain of Cadw, if approval required)

Upon a vote being taken, it was unanimously agreed that

- Company B be approved to undertake the restoration project;

- Company B be approved to undertake the Annual Maintenance Contract – mid range option: Maintenance excluding soldier.

258) Grants:

Thanks from Tredegar Angling Club.

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

259) Correspondence

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

- 1) BGCBC
 - a) H. Jones Re: General Licences. Information requested on licensing of 7b Castle Street & Red Lion.
 - Observations: there were more than enough establishments in Tredegar to purchase alcohol and an additional off-licence / takeaway, taking into account the situation around The Circle, was not in the best interest of the town. Reason: anti-social behaviour in the town centre.
 - b) i) List of Licencing applications week ending 23.11.2018.
 - A. Nicholas, Lidl – Temporary Events Notice.
 - Vilamoura Restaurant - Variation of Designated Premises Supervisor.
 - Eduardo Sabino – Personal Licence.
 - Domino’s Pizza – New Premises Licence for late night refreshment.
 ii) List of Licencing applications week ending 30.11.2018.
 - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
 - a) Use of Welsh Language Survey, complete end of January 2019.
 - Noted; Clerk to complete.
- 3) Welsh Government
 - a) Notification of s137 Expenditure Limit for 2019/20.
 - b) Planning Inspectorate: Land between B4256 & Charles Street, Wauntysswg Farm: Amendments

now submitted, and any comments should now be received no later than **Monday, 17th December, 2018.**

- Noted.

Councillor H. Trollope declared an interest in the following item, as the newly appointed Secretary of the Squadron, and took no part in discussion or voting thereon

4) Plt Off W.A. Clarke Confirming 2167 Sqdn is the official Royal Air Force Association in Tredegar.

- Noted.

5) P. Morris Congratulations on a well organised and professionally run Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

- Noted.

6) Roman Builders Quote for floodlighting alteration.

- Noted; Members agreed that repositioning was unnecessary.

7) Gorlas Community Council Asking for information on social/media.

- Noted; Clerk to complete.

8) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 30.11.2018 & 06.12.2018.

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

9) **AGENDA**

None received.

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

260) Planning:

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

i) List of Delegated Items determined between 20th August, 2018 and 14th September, 2018:

None received

ii) List of planning applications received in week 47

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/2018/0323	Mr. B. Jones c/o. Mr R Hathaway Plan R Ltd. 39 Merthyr Mawr Road Bridgend	Detached dwelling, vehicular access & parking - land adjoining Sunny Rise, Merthyr Road

No objections

C/2018/0326	Mrs. S. Humphries Greggs Plc. B3 Muckleston Business Centre Eccleshall Road Muckleston	Three fascia signs, one projecting sign, two internal posters and one low level internal vinyl graphic - 12B Gwent Shopping Centre
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No objections

C/2018/0327	Mr. R. Bell, EGNL 48 Warne Street Fleur-De-Lis Blackwood	Change of use required from B1 & B2 to D2 for leisure with ancillary café facility, proposed indoor obstacle challenge centre for children, 4 Sirhowy Hill Ind. Estate, Tredegar
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No objections

(One observation: 'Environmental' consideration - a Member asked that users please leave the site respectfully, e.g. concerns had been received in respect of the cattle grid noise, due to the increased traffic - residents just asked that users be mindful when entering / leaving the site.)

C/2018/0328	Mrs. S. Humphries Greggs Plc. B3 Muckleston Business Centre Eccleshall Road Muckleston	Change of use of A1 retail unit to mixed A1/A3 use, install new shopfronts relocating the main entrance door and two air conditioning condenser units and one extract grill, 12B Gwent Shopping Centre
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No objections

d) To consider other planning matters – None received

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

- Letter of appreciation to staff who undertook the Lantern Parade Workshop

262) 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** –
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – met a fortnight previously, second round of funding had been allocated to the community
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – *Tredegar Comprehensive School* annual concert had been brilliant, and as being the last appearance by Mrs. Morgans, taking up her new position after Christmas – this had been tearful for pupils, who would really miss her, and having had such an impact on the School. Going forward, new Head to take up the ‘mantle’
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – neither Councillor Prosser nor Councillor Willis had been able to attend
- h) **Blaenau Gwent CAB** – not enough notice had been given and Councillor E. Jones had been unable to attend; however, the next meeting would be held 24th January, 2019
- i) **Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – meeting to be held at the end of the month
- j) **Tredegar Business Forum** – no meeting
- k) **VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – Nelson’s Chemist, work ongoing to flats above shops; TA, work ongoing, hopefully work to be completed within six months, ask that Tredegar Town Council receive an invite to visit prior to opening; NCB / town hall – architect appointed, progress being made, remedial works were needed due to roots making the balcony fixtures loosen; 10 The Circle taken over by Coalfields Regeneration Trust, working with the Museum as NHS Heritage Centre, and applied for additional funding.

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

- Mayor’s Christmas visits to care / residential homes; agreed, expenditure to purchase a gift for each Home, (and also for the gentleman who unlocked the town centre toilets each morning on behalf of Tredegar Town Council). The following Members confirmed attendance: H. Trollope, T. Smith, D Jones, J. Thomas, M. Turner
- Police – write to Inspector in respect of parking

To consider the exclusion of the Press and public by virtue of the matters to be discussed under the provisions of the LGA 1972 Schedule 12A

Moved, the meeting was closed to the public.

- Members outlined the need for active elected Members, particularly in respect of public events, as it had been a struggle to gain numbers required at all the events throughout the year. It was therefore agreed that the role of this Member cease with immediate effect and that, taking into account pro rata, that 50% of the Member Allowance be approved, should the former Member wish to accept.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

_____ Chair