

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 2nd January, 2019 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)

**E. Jones
T. Smith
A.E. Tippings
M. Cross
D.W.A. Howells
A. Jones
D. Jones
P. Prosser
S. Rees
D. Rowberry
J. Thomas
S. Trollope
M. Turner
B. Willis**

In Attendance: Town Clerk – Ms. C. Price

284) Apologies: Councillor G. James

Best wishes were extended to Councillor Gaynor James for a speedy recovery

285) Declarations of Interest

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

286) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate

The Mayor wished Council a 'Happy New Year!' and provided the following report:

- the Annual Christmas visits had been outstanding, thanks were extended to Tredegar Community Band and Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir; only one Home had not been expecting the Members, and the Band / Choir had performed outside. A very good response had been received on Facebook. Thanks were extended to everyone who contributed. Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent confirming arrangements. It was suggested that a poster could be compiled; Clerk to liaise with Deputy Manager of Linc Cymru home to display in own noticeboard.
- Great feedback from recipients of BG Community Connectors event held Christmas Day at the Moose, who made sure all were aware that Tredegar Town Council was part of the event. Central Baptist congregation had posted thanks to Town Council

Members who had helped out on Christmas Day.

287) 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.

288) To receive the 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.

- **Budget against Actual:** proposed virements outlined in the recommendations within the report were agreed to mitigate the projected overspends at year-end;
- **Draft Budget 2019/2020:** observations in respect of budget headings and funding allocated, as circulated to all Members, to be relayed to the RFO for amendment and presented to Council for approval, to adhere to the deadline for submission of Precept to the Local Authority.

289) To re-open the Meeting to the Public

Moved, the meeting was re-opened to the public.

290) Grants:

Thanks from Ebenezer Congregational Chapel – to be placed on TTC website.

a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations

Stocktonville Senior Citizens Welfare Association – Request for funding to go towards the costs of refurbishment of the board room, renewal of gutterings and new signs.

2008/09 May'08 CQ No. 875 £200.00: Approved.

b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) – None received.

A Member extended the thanks of Siloam Chapel for the grant awarded.

291) Georgetown Ward - Notice of two vacancies in the office of Councillor

Clerk to undertake appropriate process to publicise the vacancies within the public domain.

292) National Association of Local Councils (NALC): The National Joint Council for Local Government agreed the new pay scales for 2019-2020, to be implemented from 1st April, 2019, including a new pay spine due to the introduction of the national living wage

It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee be convened to consider the information.

293) Correspondence

- 1) BGCBC £360 Members grant from Central/West & Georgetown Ward Members.
 - Noted; Council extended their grateful thanks.
- 2) PS Pigeon Response to parking issues in Tredegar area.
 - Noted.
- 3) Welsh Government Response to queries raised regarding the South Wales Metro and Cycle Network.
 - Unfortunately, a Members expressed concern that this reply had not addressed the initial query as to why Tredegar was not included within current literature, as the map should outline the service already in place in respect of the 'X4. Clerk to pursue.
- 4) Cllr S. Trollope Letter regarding issues at the Loft.
 - Lengthy discussion ensued - recorded under Planning Item d).
- 5) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Asking for consideration being given to joining the Blaenau Gwent Period Equity Initiative.
 - Noted

6) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 28.12.2018; SE Wales RET E-newsletter Winter 2018 - ***distributed to Members***: Received.

7) AGENDA

None received.

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

294) Planning:

- a) **i) To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** – None received.
 - ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 50.
 - b) List of planning applications received in week 51.
- b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any** – None received.
- c) **To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observation** – None received.

d) To consider other planning matters – Letter regarding issues at the Loft:

- Individuals throwing bottles, damaging plants, not moving out of the way of motorists, unable to drive around them, broken glass everywhere, intimidated that debris could be thrown through windscreen.
- Facebook comments, TTC objected to granting of licence. Only Police / Environmental Health able to submit objections, praise for Town Council.
- Another Member had passed later that day, bins were still knocked over
- No indication of police presence.
- Given special licence to drink until that time of the morning, observations - covert surveillance to identify culprits.
- A Member had spoken with Police earlier that evening, six ambulance vehicles had attended throughout the night – the Police had run out of resources, being overstretched.
- It was agreed that a copy of the concerns raised be copied to the Chair of the Local Authority Licensing Committee. When people apply for licence only one objection had been received, i.e. a 'Rave' in Bedwellty House.
- Licensing Committee have discretion powers, Officers running Council, not Members, and should not have made decision
- No opportunity for Tredegar Town Council to comment, not had notification, Officers allowed licence, too late for Members to be made aware.
- If problem earlier than night with six emergency vehicles, why not closed down. It was noted that The Loft not a member of Pubwatch.

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

- Plaque, located on Park boundary wall: contact BG Officer, reiterate concerns
- Write to House Manager fabulous work, congratulations, hospitality, copy to Retained Leisure Officer, Dave Watkins

296) 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 – trip to France, number of Councillors attending, (possibly Tredegar Fabrications could be approached to manufacture a gift).

e) Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund – grants authorized; number of successful groups within Tredegar area, not the Aneurin Leisure Trust 'Parc Bryn Bach'

e) School Governing Bodies – *Bryn Bach Primary*: new Head taken ownership of 'wellbeing strategy', acquired a 'school dog' who was having a tremendous impact on pupils when interacting with the children; unfortunately due to changeover period of new Head in post decreased rating.

Tredegar Comprehensive: Mrs. Morgans now left the School, new Head had organised an 'X' Factor event, only four pupils had not been in attendance on the last day.

Primary Schools were working with Woffington Residential Home; it was very pleasing to

see pupils involved in such work, e.g. Pimp my Zimmer (accessible via Walesonline)

f) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – no further update

g) Blaenau Gwent CAB – no meeting

h) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel – no further update

i) Tredegar Business Forum – no meeting

j) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative – NCB looking for positive after-use, any time now, reported at last meeting; the TA undertaken second fit on accommodation; uncovered, in the cellar, a jail that was used to house rioters during Jewish / Irish riots; very similar bedroom to The Cambrian. Hopefully, get walkaround at appropriate time; VVP to visit then Tredegar Town Council.

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

Seren Café hosted visit by S4C, Thursday prior to Christmas on Heno, showed Tredegar in positive light, three teens from Welsh School showing people around the town. Write to Café owner, Sarah Baker; showing Bedwellty Park, Town Clock, Rugby Club, Museum, etc. speaking regarding Aneurin Bevan, programme had been really good.

Councillors H. Trollope, T. Smith and A.E. Tippings had the pleasure of watching the Tredegar Male Voice Orpheus Carol Concert, not only featuring the MV Choir but youngsters (three aged eighteen years and younger); it was a brilliant night, Members extended congratulations.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chair