

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwelty House on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present: Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)**

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

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

**319) Apologies: Councillors M. Cross, J. Thomas**

## **320) Declarations of Interest**

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

## **321) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor was sorry to inform Council, with great sadness, of the passing of Mr. Raymond Lewis; unfortunately, Mr. Lewis had passed away that week. He had previously had the privilege of presenting Mr. Lewis with an Aneurin Bevan commemorative plate on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, which had greatly pleased this gentleman – particularly as he remembered Nye Bevan so well and had been a friend. This had been gratefully received, as Mr. Lewis was lifelong teetotal, and Members considered a gift of flowers would not be appropriate on this occasion.

Another Member said that he had attended a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Rhyd Hall for a friend of Mr. Lewis and, regrettably, this gentleman had passed away also.

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

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

- Calendar of Events 2019: proposed dates
- Summer Band Concerts 2019 – Clerk to liaise with various bands regarding schedule and allocate dates accordingly
- The Bevan Festival - to commence with Armed Forces Day on 30<sup>th</sup> June and conclude with Aneurin Bevan Day on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 (invitations would be extended to external parties to participate with events throughout that week).

### 323) Grants:

Thanks from Tredegar Camera Club.

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

St. John Ambulance Tredegar – Request for funding to refurbish the kitchen/toilet.

**2017/18 Feb'18 CQ No. 810 £500.00:** *Approved accordingly;* following a brief discussion in respect of outstanding issues in respect of previous medical provision, it was considered that Council would not wish to hold any release of funds in abeyance, as a National response had been requested and should not impact, therefore, upon the good work of the local Tredegar Branch, as their continued support was greatly appreciated.

Tredegar Women's and Girls Athletic Football Club – Request for funding to purchase additional kits, equipment and the hire of winter training facilities. Group as now increased their group size adding a under 7s and 15s group to the clubs portfolio.

**2017/18 Nov'17 CQ No. 724 £200.00:** *Approved accordingly.* A Member extended her wholehearted support, as the girls were playing at regional level and the Mum's team had played Cardiff City Ladies in the FA Cup, and extended best wishes.

Tredegar Royal British Legion – Request for funding to purchase replacement regalia for officers, padre and committee which has been lost/mislaid over the years.

**2016/17 Mar'17 CQ No. 574 £200.00** (max. grant is £250.00): *Approved £250.00.*

Tredegar Twinning Association – Request for funding to promote the concept of Twinning and to encourage more participants to join the association.

**2017/18 Feb'18 CQ No. 812 £200.00:** *Approved accordingly.* Twinning representatives were doing an excellent job but were seeking support to join the committee and / or accompany the visit to France.

#### b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137)

- None received; Members requested a list of churches/chapels outstanding.

### 324) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

a) D. Griffiths Re: Community Resilience during disruptive snow conditions. Link to Met office website and advice available from BGCBC on setting up a group to help vulnerable people following disruptive weather conditions.

- Noted; more guidance would be required if Town Council considered establishing such a group and needed to be aware of what support was already in place, not only across Blaenau Gwent but neighbouring authorities.

- b) M. Howland Re: Community Asset Transfer Policy. Details on how to apply for a 50-year lease on Deighton Fields and Sirhowy Community Gardens.
- Thanks were extended to the Leader for raising this matter at a recent meeting with BGCBC in order to urge progress. It was agreed that the Clerk liaise with Members to address the bullet points outlined in the email.

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

- c) List of Licensing Applications week ending 18.01.2019  
The Loft – Temporary Event Notice 09.02.2019

- Members were made aware of an application for a Temporary Event Notice for The Loft, Queen Victoria Street, Tredegar, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The Mayor said that he had made enquiries following the previous serious concerns raised and confirmed that only the Police and Environmental Health could submit any objections.

A previous 'all night' event at this venue led to a series of Ambulances (reportedly five) attending the scene to help party goers; and, party goers leaving the venue in the morning led to a trail of vandalism throughout the town. Members emphasised that Tredegar Town Council had no powers to oppose Temporary Events Notices.

It was therefore agreed that concerns be forwarded in writing to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Police, Assembly Member and Member of Parliament, to try and prevent a reoccurrence of the situation.

A Member suggested that a response was also required to the previous correspondence sent that had highlighted the concerns of the Town Council.

The Chair said that County Borough Members had been unaware of the application; he added that he had enquired of the use of covert cameras but unfortunately these were not working.

- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Wales Audit Office Fee Scheme 2019-20.
    - Noted. A Member said that she could offer a Dementia Friends training session to Town Council, including Aneurin Leisure staff, if required (approximately 45 minutes to one hour required).
  - b) Alzheimer's Society Cymru conference 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at City Hall, Cardiff. Tickets are £20.00 including buffet lunch and refreshments.
  - c) Egni Co-op: inviting community centre, businesses and schools who are interested in reducing their bills to contact them to discuss solar panels.
    - Noted; to be placed on TTC website and forwarded to Members.
- 3) Aneurin Leisure Trust
- Asking if Council would consider supporting their Easter workshop at Tredegar Library, looking to hire an artist at £200.00 to participate in similar manner to the event Council supported last year.
- Noted; the Chair had attended the event, with children, parents and grandparents, and considered it encouraged good intergenerational work - check whether Town Council had committed funding to Aneurin Leisure in the current financial year.
- 4) L. Price
- Invoice for Deputy Mayor's visit to Orvault: Transport £150.00 and overnight accommodation £49.00 per twin room.
- Approved: expenditure for the provision of one twin room.
- 5) Wales Audit Office
- Reports: Financial Management and Governance Town/Community Councils 2017/18 and Internal Audit Arrangements at Town/Community Councils in Wales – **forwarded to all Members**
- Noted. Members expressed disappointment that the report concentrated only on failing councils; year on year Tredegar Town Council received reports from the Auditors that were faultless but did not congratulate those achieving good results. It was considered that the WAO could therefore promote the good

work undertaken by town and community councils also.

6) Cllr Smith

Request from Ken Sullivan regarding a plaque for the coal mining disasters in Tredegar.

- Noted; convene a Heritage Sub-Committee to discuss. Clerk to contact Mr. Sullivan and extend thanks for bringing the matter to the attention of Council.

7) A. Davies, A.M.

Personal gratitude for the kind words and he will continue to represent the people of Blaenau Gwent to the best of his abilities. Also grateful to Council for the hard work in putting Tredegar at the top of the political agenda and delivering for the people of our town.

- Noted.

8) Keep Britain Tidy

Great British Spring Clean / Great Big School Clean 22.03.2019 to 23.04.2019 - **added to website**

- Noted; forward to Sirhowy Woodlands representative and all schools for information.

Councillors A.E. Tippings and M. Turner to liaise in respect of a litterpick at the Aneurin Bevan Stones.

In respect of a number of possible sites, it was noted that litterpicks were not permissible on certain roads due to the speed limit. Discussion also ensued regarding culpability on any organisation providing use of hi viz / safety clothing.

It was noted that a resident had collected nine bags of rubbish: Councillor H. Trollope and B. Willis to action.

9) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 25.01.2019, 01.02.2019 & 07.02.2019; Communicorp Local Councils Update January / February 2019 Issue 225 – **distributed to Members**: Received.

10) **AGENDA**

None received.

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

### 325) Planning:

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

- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 02.
- b) List of planning applications received in week 03.
- c) List of planning applications received in week 04.

#### 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/2019/0014	Mr. I. Welch 17 Market Street Tredegar	Two storey rear extension, 17 Market Street.
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2019/0022	Mr. D. Skinner 4 Railway Terrace Trefil	Agriculture machinery storage building, Nantyhelyg Farm, Waterworks Lane.
<b>No objections</b>		
C/2019/0024	Mr. Edwards 32 Pochin Crescent Tredegar	1900mm high wall to rear boundary facing rear lane, 32 Pochin Crescent.
<b>No objections</b>		

#### d) To consider other planning matters – None received.

### 326) Vacancies - Georgetown Ward: to consider Expressions of Interest received

No requests had been received for an election in the Georgetown Ward of Tredegar Town Council and, therefore, the two vacancies could now be filled via co-option. On progressing, in accordance with the approved process, three expressions of interest for Georgetown had been received, one Independent and two eligible applicants had been selected by the Ward party.

Upon a vote being undertaken, a majority decision resulted in the following candidates being accepted:

- Mr. Kevin Phillips. Brompton Place, Tredegar; and
- Mr. Ian Wood, Walnut Close, Bedwellty Gardens, Tredegar

Thanks were extended to Mr. Edwards for his interest in the vacancies and Council very much hoped this would continue for the future.

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

- A Member had reported that the top toilets had been left open; the House Manager had expressed thanks for the information and explained this area was being used for storage
- The marble plaque had been repaired; thanks to the determined persistence of Town Council !

### **328) 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** – BG Officers to meet with all town and community councils to review The Charter. Concerns had been raised in respect of the timeliness of the budget process, with town / community councils having to agree a precept prior to the budget-setting process of Council. The Leader, Councillor T. Smith, had requested a breakdown of monies for each Town / Community Council in respect of accommodation.
- b) **Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – no meeting.
- c) **One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – Councillors T. Smith and A.E. Tippings had been unable to attend.
- d) **Tredegar Twinning** – consideration of gift for Orvault; Councillors suggested perhaps an item for the Twinning garden. Suggestions to be forwarded to Clerk. A Member informed Members of their request to amend the name of the Twinning Association to 'Tredegar & District Twinning Association' - Council were more than happy to support this amendment but emphasised that no change could be made to which town was twinned, i.e. Tredegar only.
- e) **Pen Bryn Oer Community Fund** – deadline for applications was March.
- f) **School Governing Bodies** – *Bryn Bach Primary*: new Head in place since September and it was pleasing to note the manner in taking the School forward. New curriculum being put into practice formed part of that forward-thinking and staff were happy to implement. A presentation had been undertaken and staff appeared happy with the implementation of new curriculum. Funding-wise, there was an issue with mud sliding at the top yard - Head to write to Local Authority, as this had to be met by the Council not the School. Another Member supported the comments, adding that the School was undertaking excellent work in providing a full-rounded education, not just on topics but building on skills in gearing up to KS4. Wellbeing was going to be a really good factor going forward however one concern raised had been that the qualification should be recognised on a national level, as the Welsh Baccalaureate grades had not been accepted in England based universities.  
*Glanhowy Primary*: remained in 'Green' categorisation for the second year; *St. Joseph's Primary*: the School had been awarded 'Yellow' category. Both schools were looking forward to the implementation of the new curriculum. (Clerk to write to all Schools)
- g) **Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – it was noted that the Local Authority Heritage Officer would be retiring at the end of the financial year. It was noted that there were statutory requirements in respect of heritage but a specific requirement for this work to be undertaken by a designated Heritage Officer, for example there could be an opportunity for Blaenau Gwent to 'buy in' this service. Council expressed their concerns in respect of the loss of this Officer, particularly in respect of community support whereby the Officer had provided support and guidance to various groups. Councillor A.E. Tippings declared an interest in the discussion, due to her role as a Local Authority employee. Write to heritage groups to ensure individuals were aware of the retirement. The Heritage Forum provided a good website, particularly in the sale of journals (to download or paper copy) and latest news, e.g. heritage trails, links, e.g. history,

research, etc.

**h) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – no meeting.

**i) Tredegar / Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – complaints in respect of confusion at the Christmas Lights switch-on and the lady had not liked the attitude of the Members dealing with the Panel, also, highlighted that the Panel had considered there had been little Police presence.

**j) Tredegar Business Forum** – Clerk had contacted ‘top four’ to ascertain suitable dates: Mayor asked that Clerk re-send.

**k) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – the TA was progressing well, extension requested to complete by Spring; application for town hall progressing, currently no ‘end-use’ identified but Welsh Government would be willing to overlook at present in order to secure the NCB building, reviewing finance initially to ensure it was preserved. Regeneration Team to meet with owners of the Gwent Shopping Centre with a view to drawing up a business case for funding.

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

- **Residential Development at former Sirhowy Infants School site, Tredegar** – inform Glanhowy Primary School and invite to submit proposals in respect of the street-naming; Clerk said that Members were welcome to forward any proposals to her to be forwarded to Blaenau Gwent.
- **Aneurin Bevan ‘drop-in’ session** – reminder that the workshop had been reconvened to 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.
- **Stockton Community Centre** – meeting tomorrow, 6.00 p.m. to discuss welsh speaking activities outside the school environment, as Meithrin was hoping to make use of the Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

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Chair