

TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 20th February, 2019 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present: **Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)**
 E. Jones
 T. Smith
 A.E. Tippings
 M. Cross
 D.W.A. Howells
 G. James
 A. Jones
 D. Jones
 K. Phillips
 D. Rowberry
 M. Turner
 B. Willis

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

334) Apologies. Councillors P. Prosser, S. Rees, J. Thomas, S. Trollope and I. Wood

It was with deep regret that Members heard the announcement of the sad passing of Paul Flynn, M.P. Paul was a true man of the people - showing dedication and continuous support to the community in which he lived, particularly as Labour's longest serving Member of Parliament. The tributes from everyone in Newport had been extremely touching since his passing; he would be greatly missed, not only by Tredegar Town Council, but the area of Newport as a whole.

It was agreed that the appropriate letter of condolence be sent to his constituency office.

335) Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary: Council M. Cross declared an interest in a planning matter.

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

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

- The review of the Internal Financial Controls and Financial Regulations policies placed before the Policy Sub-Committee, as reported by Officers, be unanimously recommended for approval to the next full meeting of Council.
- Risk Management Policy and Standing Orders: Clerk to undertake amendments and re-circulate, with the option for Members to approve or re-agenda, if necessary.

Members thanked the Officers for updating the Policies and outlining the in-depth list of amendments.

337) Accounts: to consider a Schedule of Accounts for payment in February 2019

The RFO spoke to the report and explained that the bank reconciliations were available for Members to view.

Schedule of Accounts

- Christmas Lighting – replacement cheque issued to reflect reduction for breakdown in services. There also had been expenditure incurred for the removal of infrastructure following the request of the owner of a number of business properties in Tredegar.
- STAR now operating as Sirhowy Community Centre Limited.
- Cenin Renewables site visit – payment process agreed. It was agreed that the pick-up/drop off point would be the shopping precinct bus stops.
- Town Clock surround – it was agreed to waive financial regulations in respect of the supply of plants for the Town Clock garden surround - REASON: to ensure quality of plants. The RFO asked that Prices' of Beaufort be agreed, as their prices had been very competitive over previous years, had been most helpful in responding to queries, and were happy to liaise direct with the gardener for the plants to be delivered on site; there was also no charge for this delivery service. This was agreed accordingly.

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

Auditor's Report 2017/2018

The RFO explained that this document outlined recommendations arising from the Auditor's Report and the course of action identified to meet each recommendation, which was accepted accordingly.

The RFO left the meeting at this juncture.

338) To receive and adopt the following Minutes of Council:

- a) Performance Review Sub-Committee - 2nd January, 2019**
- b) Civic Meeting of Council - 2nd January, 2019**
- c) Finance & Staffing Sub-Committee - 16th January, 2019**
- d) Ordinary Meeting of Council - 16th January, 2019**

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

339) Matters arising from the Minutes

Performance Review Sub-Committee - 2nd January, 2019

- War Memorial - RFO had requested a copy of the Method Statement, as instructed by CADW
- Convene a meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss grants

Civic Meeting of Council - 2nd January, 2019

- Tredegar Twinning Association – update on Twinning Quiz: 21st March, 2019, 8.30 p.m., Bowls Club (Team of six needed); and, Dinner & Cabaret: to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Twinning, to take place in the Bowls Pavilion on Saturday, 4th May, 2019. Three course meal followed by cabaret from Eve Sheratt, Tickets £15.00. A decision in respect of a gift was urgently required – Members to text any ideas to Councillors A.E. Tippings or E. Jones.

Ordinary Meeting of Council - 16th January, 2019

- Budget / Precept for the financial year 2019/2020 - the Mayor thanked Officers and Members for continuing to work together to reach a standstill precept, evidencing the unity at Tredegar Town Council and agreeing appropriate budget proposals.
- Former Councillor Geraint Meredith – wanted to pass on many thanks to Members for the kind messages received on standing down as Councillor.

340) Chair to sign Minutes

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

341) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) i) Y. Tovey Re: Town / Community Council Workshop, being held 27.02.2019 at 2.00 p.m. Miners Room, Bedwellty House, Tredegar. Confirming invitation is for Clerk and two Councillors.
ii) Agenda for Town / Community Council workshop 27.02.2019.

- Councillors T. Smith and D. Howells, and Clerk, to attend.

A Member expressed serious disappointment in the lack of consultation with the Town Council, and sporting organisations, expressing concern that the Local Authority had not arranged to meet prior to considering recreational changes in the town. The Charter was a legal document that outlined the importance of consultation, e.g. recreational facilities. No consultation had been undertaken with County Borough Members or the Town Council.

It was therefore agreed that a letter be sent to the Leader of the Local Authority, with copies to the Ombudsman and Julie Lewis, challenging the Local Authority in the manner the proposed asset transfer of recreational facilities had been undertaken and the non-adherence to the Charter, which was a legal document.

b) A. Parker Re: Welsh Government Consultation on improving Public Transport. Closing date for comments 27.03.2019.

- Noted; this was an ideal opportunity for Members and the public to highlight the lack of a bus service from Tredegar to Ebbw Vale Hospital; this was a concern as individuals were paying significant taxi fares in order to visit loved ones in Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan – particularly the elderly and those with mobility difficulties. Another Member raised an issue of the bus route, which he suggested could easily be diverted to stop at Morrison's and Ysbyty Tri Chwm to continue to Ebbw Vale

Also, the withdrawal of funding from Caerphilly CBC which would impact on the service from the bus station to Cefn Golau.

A brief discussion thereupon ensued regarding the possible rise in taxi fares due to increase licensing fees, whereupon a Member suggested that the bus pass could be recognised as part-payment for taxi fares.

It was therefore agreed that the Link be placed on TTC website for the public to access.

2) One Voice Wales

- a) Renewal of Membership: information relating to what OVW has been doing, services they offer and frequently asked questions in relation to their work; and
- b) Membership renewal cost £2309.
 - Approved, pass to RFO for payment.
- c) Senedd & Elections (Wales) Bill to introduce Votes at 16.
 - Forward to appropriate Members.
- d) Presentation from the Wales Audit Office given at OVW Larger Councils Committee meeting.

- Noted.

e) Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee: Inquiry into allotments. Closing date for responses **Friday, 1st March, 2019.**

- Noted; to be placed on TTC website and forward to appropriate Members.

f) Welsh community solar power.

- Noted.

3) The Loft:

a) BGCBC, S. Burchell - Response to concerns raised.

b) Gwent Police, K. Williams - Response to concerns raised.

- Whilst Council understood the response of the Licensing Officer, Members were disappointed at the response from the Police as, unless licensing laws had changed, the licence of drinking establishments extended to the patrons on leaving the premises and had a responsibility for those individuals.

Also, in respect of correspondence to County Borough Councillor Mandy Moore there was a need to write and explain that this Member had no connection with Tredegar Town Council and request a direct response.

It was noted that Councillors H. Trollope and B. Willis had also undertaken discussions with the Police.

4) Welsh Government

K. Skates, A.M., Minister for Economy and Transport, re: South Wales Metro and cycle network, Tredegar. Advises to contact BGCBC regarding changes Council wishes to see in the next cycle network map; Tredegar is currently not incorporated into plans for the South Wales Metro.

- The existing bus service from Tredegar to Brynmawr was not included on the West Metro map – this route was on the existing bus network but had been omitted. The Metro map was inaccurate therefore and needed to be addressed: refer to Alun Davies, A.M.

5) Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

Asking whether Council would be interested in re-establishing the Joint Committee of Local

Councils. **NB. Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council agree to JCLC reforming.**

- Town Council would be pleased to support re- establishing the Joint Committee.

6) L. Price

Tredegar Twinning Events: Quiz night at Bowls Club on 21st March, invite for Council to submit a team of six. 40th Anniversary Dinner/Cabaret evening 4th May at the Bowls Pavilion, tickets are limited to 50 so asking how many would be needed at £15.00 each.

- Agenda for next meeting of Council.

7) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

a) Local Development Plan meeting Thursday, 28th February, 2019 at 4.30 p.m. Authority Head Quarters, Brecon. Invitation to send one representative to attend the meeting – **Forwarded to Cllrs M Turner/A Tippings**

- Noted.

b) LDP meeting invite: Due to interest in the above meeting another consultation exercise is being held 14th March, 2019 at 4.30 p.m. in National Park Authority Offices, Brecon.

- Noted.

8) Royal British Legion

Certificate of Appreciation for Poppy Appeal Collection – **added to website**

- Noted.

9) HR Dept

Asking to meet with Council to what services he can offer.

- Noted.

10) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 14.02.2019 & 22.02.2019

- **distributed to Members:** Received.

11) AGENDA

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Friday, 15th February, 2019 at 10.00 a.m. Tredegar Library - **available for Members:** received.

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

342) Planning:

a) To consider

- i) **an Officer's Report (if received)** – None received
- ii) a) List of planning applications received in week 05.
- b) List of planning applications received in week 06.

b) Verbal report of the Planning Committee if any;

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

App No	Applicant	Proposal
C/2019/0026	Mr. C. Davies 40 Harford Street Tredegar	Single storey rear extension, 40 Harford Street.

No objections

C/2019/0032	Mr. D. Phillips 1 Parkville Tredegar	First floor extension to single storey extension, 1 Parkville.
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No objections In respect of a question raised, it was noted that detracting light from a neighbouring property was not a planning consideration.

C/2019/0038	Mr. N. Woolf Plymouth House Lower Salisbury Street Tredegar	Retention of change of use of garden land and associated railings, Gabion retaining wall and proposed garden shed, Plymouth House, Lower Salisbury Street.
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No objections It was noted that the proposed development would not impact on the security of Bedwellty Park.

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

d) To consider other planning matters

C/2018/0306 land adjacent to the Spirals, Dukestown Road – revised layout plan - Noted.

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

▪ Police / environmental issues – Trefil

A Member raised concern of the issue of four-wheel drive vehicles, buggy / quads, and motorbikes scarring the landscape at Trefil and animals allowed to run unrestrained. Members totally supported these concerns that the landscape was being destroyed in this area, which formed part of the National Park. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the National Park Authority, outlining concerns and supporting any joint venture that could be undertaken by the NPA and Police.

Members were also informed of a similar problem at Mynydd Manmoel in respect of

use of off-road vehicles, whereby concerns were being investigated by the Planning Officers of the Local Authority.

- Airing of film on PBC Network – Tredegar Ironworks, Richmond
A Member requested support of Town Council on receiving visitors in 2020; agreed accordingly and Members looked forward to more details in the future.

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

_____ Chair